

HM 2 THE BURNT RIVER RAILWAY HERITAGE MODULE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

This module has been constructed in sections to represent this portion of the former Grand Trunk (GTR)/CNR Haliburton branch ca 1900 through to ca 1950. (Our leaflet **4 The Victoria Railway** refers.)

The portion represented here is from mile 22 (out of Lindsay) to approximately mile 25 just north of Burnt River. (From Burnt River it is 9 miles to Kinmount, and 8 miles south to Fenelon Falls.)

This module is an accurate reproduction of the prototype in 1:87 (HO) scale, allowing only “selective compression” as to distance, content and curvature in order to allow the model to be displayed in a confined space.

The buildings, structures and track have all been “scratchbuilt” from component materials. These are mainly styrene, wood, plaster, paper, gasket cork, matte and cardboard. This module is wired for digital command control (DCC), but can be operated with conventional DC motive power. The sections are constructed of 5/8” plywood and dimensional pine, with 2” styroboard decking. The track (except for some Shinohara® turnouts, operated with Tortoise™ switch machines) is handbuilt with Code 70 rails by Micro-Engineering®. The track is mounted on cork underlay as a roadbed.

The scenery has been created from layered carved styroboard with a basic latex paint application. The greenery is by Woodland Scenics®. The tree trunks are created from natural plants or are carved from basswood. The road vehicles and figures are by various manufacturers and hand-painted as required.

THE MODULE (described in the present tense in the context of the module)

At its southerly end, the module begins at mile 21.84, where the line originally (1876) crossed the river on a single-span Howe Truss (box) trestle, replaced in 1890 by a Pratt-design through truss steel bridge. In 1952, the CNR rebuilt that bridge with a longer span, and replaced the previous pile bent supports with on-shore concrete abutments. (The bridge shown on this module.) About one mile south of the hamlet of Burnt River there is Britnell & Co.’s large lime stone quarry, better known as Rettie’s Quarry. Shown here are its superintendent’s house, gravel bunker and blacksmith’s shop. (The quarry operated from the late 1800s until 1924.)

The railway arrives at the **Burnt River** station area at mile 24.45 (located within the area now bracketed by Kawartha Rd. 44). The station dates from 1882, and is a combination station and agent’s dwelling (modelled as it was before it was trimmed back to a shorter length [1920s - 30s?]). Principal freight was local produce, livestock, lumber and (earlier) ore from the Galena Mine. Also at the station is a large cattle pen, and just to the north, a spur with a loading ramp. On the same side of the road as the station is the Wilson-Godwin House that also included the Burnt River post office, and on the other side of the road is Wright’s General Store with the “White Rose” gas station beside it.

QUICK BURNT RIVER HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

1819 – Burnt River – part of area covered by a treaty with the Chippewa Indians, land ceded to the Crown.

1835 – Survey completed, Somerville Township established. (Named after Julia Somerville, wife of 6th Lieutenant – Governor (1836-38) of Upper Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head.)

1856 – first land owner Abraham Farewell.

1876 – The Victoria Railway (Lindsay to Haliburton) reached Burnt River. (See **L&DMR leaflet: 4 – The Victoria Railway**)

1907 – Burnt River Telephone Company formed – 83 telephones by 1942.

1930 – Electricity became available in Burnt River.

NUMBERED STRUCTURES AND LOCATIONS

1 CNR bridge – 155 ft long 4 th Concession	2 Coboconk Road	3 Quarry House North half lot 14, Concession 5	4 Limestone Quarry Crusher and loading track: limestone used to build Lindsay Jail and main Toronto post office	5 Dwelling 1½ storey
6 White Rose gas station	7 Wright’s General Store – operated for 96 years, destroyed by fire 1995	8 Ice House	9 Main Street – Burnt River Road	10 Post office 1926 – 1990s Built 1890s as the Wilson-Godwin residence
11 Shed	12 Burnt River station	13 cattle pen	14 lumber loading yard	15 Hodgson’s barn
16 ore loading ramp Lead ore and zinc	17 railway tool shed	18 County Rd 44 (6 th concession line)		