

Brussels Rail Station

Location: 212 Turnberry St. North, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1873

PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT CAME and went by train from Brussels after the Southern Extension of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce railroad was opened July 1, 1873. The Wellington, Grey and Bruce company won out against the Grand Trunk company for the right to build a line through to Southampton. Before this main line was finished, however, the branch line called the Southern Extension was built. It was largely paid for by the municipalities through which it ran, hence the nickname the "Subscribers' Route." The first Reeve of Brussels, John A. Leckie, was closely involved with the railway projects. The Southern Extension ran from Palmerston, through Listowel, into Elma Township at Newry Station, then west to Brussels and north to Wingham and Kincardine.



Orange Day festivities at the train station c. 1913

Brussels once had four daily trains. The daily mail arrived by train on the Wellington Grey and Bruce line running east and west, and by stage north and south. In 1887, a six-hour Sunday School and picnic excursion to Goderich cost 70¢ return fare from Brussels, with children 12 and under riding for 35¢.

A small baggage room was added to the west of the station platform in 1887, saving the baggage man the task of carrying heavy trunks up the stairs to the freight house.

Passenger service to Brussels came to an end in 1970. The station was dismantled and part of it was moved to its present location in 1975. It was used by the Brussels Lawn Bowling Club and now is the Optimist Club clubhouse.
