



The Switch Iron



Volume 3 Number 4 July/August 2009 Transit Heritage News

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The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association
P.O. Box 2388
Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 4A6

This newsletter is published four times per year and is distributed free to members.

Getting down to BUSiness

Restoration work continues on 1941 Twin Coach model 30GS

Restoration work continued on the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's 1941 Twin Coach model 30G, bus no. 214, as part of its 2009 work priorities for its fleet of vintage buses.

Recently MTHA volunteer members Ross Smith, Jim Dudych and Dan Glowatsky worked over three Saturdays to organize parts and components, and finally fit and install the 6-cylinder Hercules engine and transmission into the 68 year-old bus.

Other work occurred late last fall when MTHA volunteer John Kapusta finished installing the driver's workstation seat, assembled and readied the passenger's seats for installation, and secured some of the interior stanchions and grab rails. A job well done by all involved!



MTHA Interim Treasurer David Wyatt expressed an interest in pursuing grant monies from government sources and corporate partners to assist with the restoration process.

Riding 'round Riverview

MTHA provides tour bus as Riverview School celebrates 100 years

By Dennis Cavanagh
MTHA Vice-President

On Thursday May 21, under cool but clear Manitoba skys I did a tour for the alumni of Riverview School.

On-board MTHA bus 751, the tour of the Fort Rouge/Riverview neighbourhood showcased how transportation built the area. The first stop over looked the Brandon Docks, which was the site of a float plane dock used by Richardson Airways. Then our tour traveled north on Osborne as mention was made of the mural on the Royal Canadian Legion building that shows an aircraft taking off from the Brandon Docks.

The tours' next point of interest was the southwest corner of the McDonald's parking lot. This area was the site of the old CNR-Fort Rouge shops. It was noted that the west side of Osborne was built up for workers of the railway.

The tour continued along Osborne following

the old street railway right of way, known as the Parkline route, which once lead to a rollercoaster, picnic grounds, concessions and the city's first small zoo. A local park with a model streetcar has been developed at Jubilee.

Our tour took the off ramp onto Churchill Drive, a street which nows follows the old Spadina spur line. This spur went west to Pembina Highway then south to the Agricultural College, now known as the University of Manitoba.

The tour continued west on Jubilee and up to Rathgar Avenue. At this point the discussion centered on the future Rapid Transit project. To conclude, the tour went east on Morley Avenue to the Riverview Health Center, the site of the old Municipal Hospitals that were built at the turn of the last century.

Finally it was back to school where everyone on-board was very pleased and enjoyed the discussons about this neighbourhood which remains vibrant with well-maintained historic homes sheltered by an extensive urban forest.



MTHA Board Meeting

About Us

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is a non-profit charitable organization whose members volunteer to restore old transit vehicles for historical purposes, and provide the restored transit vehicles for public parades and displays.

The MTHA also collects transit related memorabilia. If you wish to donate vintage items, please contact:

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.

P.O. Box 2388
Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 4A6

Executive

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. executive members are:

Alex Regiec
President

Dennis Cavanagh
Vice-President

Guy Fontaine
Treasurer

David A. Wyatt
Interim-Treasurer

Ross Smith
Secretary

Welcome



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. welcomes the following new members:

Al Brunsel
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Alvin Slavinsky
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Minutes

Saturday, April 25th, 2009 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by David A. Wyatt, MTHA Interim Treasurer

Present

Ron Alexander, Dennis Cavanagh, Ian Moore, Pat Rogoski, Murray Penner, Phil Rawluk, Peter Elwick, Terry Wark, Franz Wark, Al Brunsel, Bob Cooper, Alex Regiec, and David Wyatt.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am..

Introduction of New Members & Guests

Dennis Cavanagh welcomed new members to the MTHA and introduced Al Brunsel to the group.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 28th March 2009 meeting were reviewed.

Upcoming Activities

Dennis Cavanagh outlined the upcoming activities, including: Out of town visitors were discussed: Rob Chew from TRAMS in Vancouver, June 4-6, 2009, and Andrew Grahl from MTA in New York City June 20th.

The upcoming Heritage Winnipeg Doors Open event was discussed. The MTHA is to provide a shuttle service, and to display 111 at The Forks Market. Volunteer schedules were confirmed.

Riverview School Event March 21st was discussed. Dennis Cavanagh volunteered to operate 751 for the neighbourhood tour. Phil Rawluk and Ian Moore volunteered to operate and display 111. Motion to participate in the event by Alex. Seconded by Wade. Carried.

Correspondence

1) Copy of the Transit Social Committee minutes received. 2) Bill Luke has written a photographic history of Western Flyer, Flyer, New Flyer which is now available. 3) Ross Smith received an email from Wayne Lees at Oak Lake, who offers to donate an ex-Winnipeg 1941 Ford transit bus. 4) Alex reported our initial quotation for storage insurance this year is \$1,924. Ron brought a copy of the Car Club calendar to review. 5) Winnipeg Transit is expanding its fleet from 535 buses to 545 in 2009, and from 545 to 555 in 2011. By 2011 they will need the space on track 36 currently occupied by our vehicles (unless a new garage is built).

President's Report

Charity funding received from City of Winnipeg Employees and Retirees Charitable Fund (ERCF). Thanks to everyone who contributes.

Winnipeg Foundation grant application pending. We will hear May 28th.

New Horizons (Federal government) seniors program grant funding. Alex described "Take a Trip Down Memory Lane" seniors program proposal.

Motion by Alex: Institute MTHA annual membership dues of \$15.00. Notice will be given November 2nd, for payment on December 31st. ERCF contributions are credited against dues. Honorary MTHA members are exempt. Seconded by Dennis. Carried.

Organizational structure - Creation of new executive positions:

Vice-President Operations: Phil Rawluk
Vice-President Communications: Wade Razella
Vice-President Gaming: Mike Kubas
Vice-President Maintenance: vacant
Motion to adopt: Alex. Seconded by Wade. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

David Wyatt presented the books as of April 30th, 2009. Motion to adopt: Wade Razella. Seconded by Alex Regiec.

David reported on a meeting with Peter Cox in Edmonton regarding the donated MCI trolleycoach builder's plate. Outstanding is issuing a charitable receipt for the donation, which requires a justifiable value. Peter Cox believes the donation is worth \$1500. It was suggested that Mike's General Store on St. Anne's Road be consulted.

Communications Report

Wade reported on the updated website. E-Mail lists for directors was discussed. Wade called for article and photo contributions for the Switch Iron. Wade recommended an on-line donation form linked to paypal which charges 3% commission. Wade proposed an on-line store by year's end, selling items like T-shirts. Wade and David discussed transferring administration of the mtha-l mailing list to Wade. **Over...**

Upcoming Events

Cruz' In Downtown & more...

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association plans to enter three buses into this year's Cruz' In Downtown parade. The parade will be held on August 8th and will run from Polo Park to the Pony Corral on St. Mary Avenue downtown.

Also, the MTHA plans to showcase its fleet at the annual Staff Appreciation Bar-B-Que for Winnipeg Transit employees this summer.

Finally, after taking a brief summer break, Wednesday night work parties will start up again in September. Volunteers are welcome to drop by and assist in restoration work on buses 214, 565, 953 and 1768. Check the MTHA website at www.mtha.ca for more details.



Visitors to the MTHA

Welcoming Out-of-Town Guests

It has been a busy spring and summer for the MTHA as it hosts many out-of-town guests. Mainly made up of Transit employees from other systems and/or bus enthusiasts, the MTHA has been pleased to provide tours of its vintage equipment to:

Steve Mataluzzi of Montreal, Andrew Gold, Shane Friesen, Peter McLaughlin from Calgary Transit, Martin Parsons of Edmonton, Rob Chew from TRAMS of Vancouver, and Andrew Grahl from the MTA New York City.



Minutes continued...

Al Brunsel gave a report on the workings of the ERCF. We discussed promoting the ERCF (and the MTHA as a designated recipient) to ATU members at the next sign-up. Could also be promoted on busdriver.ca

Acquisitions

David reported that an email was sent to Edmonton Transit asking for a donation of a BBC trolley bus. Discussion that the fleet may go to an unnamed Argentine buyer.

Ron reported on his trip to the Reynolds Museum in Stettler, Alberta. The 1926 Fort Garry buses were no longer there, and the curator did not know what happened to them. The museum holds a small fleet of buses on loan from their owners. The owners reserve the right to "borrow" them back from the museum for promotional and other purposes.

Alex reported on an MC-5A (ex-GGB) in Carberry.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Open for all to see (and ride)

MTHA vintage bus display and free shuttle part of Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association joined with Heritage Winnipeg in support of its 2009 Doors Open program.

During May 23rd and 24th, Doors Open allowed Winnipeggers the opportunity to tour and explore many interior spaces of the city's rich collection of historic buildings.

The MTHA's iconic 1937 Twin Coach was on full display at the Forks Market, attracting over 1000 visitors!

In addition, the MTHA provided it's 1971 General Motors bus (751) and the Vintage Locomotive Society provided their 1980 Orion bus (Prairie Dog Central) as free shuttles connecting the Forks with buildings in St. Boniface, Point Douglas, the North End and West Kildonan.

A very special thank you goes out to the following volunteers: Wade Razella, Al Brunsel, Phil Rawliuk, Linley James, Doug Belcher, Brian Darragh, Murray Penner, Pat Rogoski, John Panting, David Wyatt and Alex Regiec.

Cindy Tugwell, Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg, expressed the following sentiments:

"On behalf of everyone at Heritage Winnipeg, I would like to thank the MTHA for participating in this year's Doors Open event!

Your contribution was greatly appreciated and helped to make this year's event a success!

The feedback I received was all very positive and I think we can work on making this partnership even bigger and better next year."



Top right picture:

Brian Darragh and John Panting standing next to bus 111 at the Forks.

Middle right picture:

Large crowds continued to stop by and visit the vintage 1937 Twin Coach.

Bottom right picture:

Doug Belcher welcomes Doors Open patrons aboard the Prairie Dog Central bus before venturing off to St. Boniface.

The bus stops here...

...a free ride to the Doors Open treasures beyond downtown

DOORS OPEN
WINNIPEG
MAY 23 & 24, 2009
FREE CONNECTOR SHUTTLE



Top left picture:
Bus 751 arrives at the Fire Fighters Museum.



Top right picture:
Bus 751 stops at St. John's Cathedral in the North End.

Middle left picture:
Wade Razella after learning that he's driving the first trip with all MTHA members on-board... no pressure!



Middle right picture:
Bus 751 leaves Ross House Museum on-time.



Bottom left picture:
Al Brunsel enjoyed his two trips behind the wheel of GM bus 751.



Bottom right picture:
John Panting offers Linley James a few tips on steering and braking before the start of the next trip!



From The Photo Album

If you have a photograph of a vintage transit vehicle from anywhere in Manitoba that you would like to share, please send it to the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. P.O. Box 2388 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4A6



White Ribbon Bus Lines Limited bus 34, a 1950 General Motors model TDH-5105, passes through busy traffic at the intersection of Portage & Main, travelling northbound toward Higgins Avenue and then eastward into the City of Transcona.
Courtesy of William A. Luke of Spokane, Washington, USA.