



The Switch Iron



Volume 3 Number 3 May/June 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.

Helping with Winnipeg Transit's Driver Recruitment ...

1937 Twin Coach at Garden City

On Saturday, April 4th the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association joined with Winnipeg Transit to help out at its Driver Recruitment Program located in the Garden City Shopping Centre.

Al Stephen, Transit's Recruitment Coordinator, was pleased that the display of the vintage 1937 Twin Coach encouraged some people passing by to stop in and sign-up to become a Winnipeg Transit bus operator.



Television's Less Than Kind ...

Bright lights, late night for bus 107

Production of the second season of "Less Than Kind" recently got underway in Winnipeg, and the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was asked to provide one of its vintage coaches for filming.

Bus Operator Joe Zizic and MTHA President Alex Regiec recently spent 5 hours working with the crew of the television show. This Canadian comedy follows the lives of four characters and their lives in Winnipeg. The show is broadcast on CITY-TV.



Top right picture: Joe Zizic operates bus 107 as TV crews prepare the interior of the coach for filming.

Bottom right picture: Action! The TV crew films a scene on-board bus 107 as it travels down Corydon.

Lower left picture: The crew busy at work filming on the set located on Wellington Crescent.



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
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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:

Linley James
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Minutes

Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary

Present:

Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Doug Belcher, Dennis Cavanagh, Ian Moore, Pat Rogoski, Manny Jacob, Murray Penner, Steven Stothers, Chris Cassidy, Phil Ravliuk, Ross Smith, Peter Elwick, Alex Regiec, and David Wyatt.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am..

Introduction of New Members & Guests

Alex Regiec welcomed new members to the MTHA and introduced Peter Elwick to the group.

Review of Minutes

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

Upcoming Activities

Alex Regiec outlined the upcoming activities, including hosting visitor Steve Mataluzzi from Montreal, having bus 111 at the Garden City Shopping Centre and delivering food hampers for JCFS of Winnipeg.

President's Report

The Winnipeg Foundation has sent a confirmation of receipt for our application for a Grant to funding a Museum Feasibility Study. The e-mail indicated that a member from the Foundation's grants team will be in contact with us for further information. It also indicated that our application will be considered by the Foundation's Board of Directors at its May 28th meeting.

Treasurer's Report

David Wyatt presented the monthly financial statement for the MTHA. David reviewed the statement explaining the revenue expenses, and current balance of \$7,934.20. Ron Alexander motioned that the financial statement be adopted as presented. Peter Elwick seconded. Carried.

Correspondence

The MTHA has received an e-mail from Wayne Lees of Oak Lake, Manitoba asking if the MTHA is interested in a donation of a 1941 Ford bus originally operated by Winnipeg Electric Company?

This inquiry will be followed up by Ross Smith and Alex Regiec.

New Business

Ross Smith, Jim Dudych and other mechanics will install the engine into bus 214, the 1941 Twin Coach on Saturday April 25th.

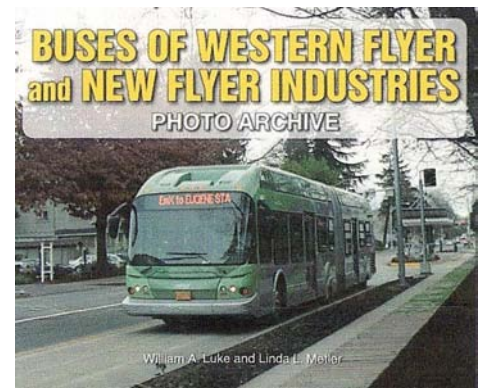
Alex Regiec indicated that volunteers are required on Wednesday, April 1st to help wash bus 111 before it goes out to Garden City Shopping Centre.

Other Items

Dennis Cavanagh invited all members to join him in taking bus 107, the 1984 Flyer model D901, out for a test drive after the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.



NEW BOOK BY BILL LUKE & LINDA METLER

"Buses of Western Flyer and New Flyer Industries" is the newest book by Bill Luke and Linda Metler.

The book features 150 pictures, 24 in colour, of buses manufactured between 1930 and the present by New Flyer and Western Flyer of Winnipeg.

The book's pictures show the historical progress of the company through many challenges over the years. Captions tell not only about the buses and their special features, but also about the various bus companies and transit systems.

This is a must buy for the bus enthusiasts! The book can be ordered through McNally Robinson in Winnipeg.

LETTER from the President

MTHA celebrates 20 years of excellence and...

Rides a wave of enthusiasm & dedication

It is important for any third sector organization to stop and take a reflective look at its accomplishments and look toward its future. This year the MTHA celebrates its 20th anniversary, and I am proud to report that the state of the organization is strong. Here are the highlights:

1. Long-term Financial Viability

The main focus for the MTHA over the last two years has been to secure a stable financial footing for the organization. Key to this goal was obtaining our Tax Charitable status from Revenue Canada. After this, we were then able to source on-going operating funding, and apply for Project Grants from local Foundations and Government.

2. Organizational Integrity

The MTHA has a knowledgeable and experienced group of individuals on its Board of Directors, and enjoys strong leadership provided by its executive made up of its President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee Chairpersons.

3. Engaging in our Community

Our mandate encompasses much more than just restoring old buses and collecting vintage transit memorabilia. We're also charged with the responsibility of displaying this history to our fellow citizens. To that end, we are partners and supporters of community-based initiatives and programs, such as Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open, the Christmas Cheer Board, and visiting seniors groups and schools.

4. Commitment of Volunteers

The women and men volunteering with the MTHA are making a significant contribution toward preserving Winnipeg's rich Transit history. I am amazed by their enthusiasm and dedication, harnessing boundless energies to preserve important historical artifacts, participate in community activities and build a showcase Transit museum for our City!

Thank you! My hope is that this enthusiasm is contagious and the MTHA continues to grow. Please, do not hesitate to get involved!



Welcoming Out-of-Town Guests

Visitors to the MTHA

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 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.



Community Outreach

Food hampers delivery

For the second year in a row, the MTHA has used its vintage buses to help Jewish Child and Family Services of Winnipeg to deliver food hampers to its clients around the City of Winnipeg in time for the Passover holiday.

Buses 107 and 751 were used to cover off the North End, West Kildonan Garden City, and downtown, West End, Fort Rouge, Crescentwood, River Heights and Tuxedo areas.

Community Service

Doors Open

The MTHA 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 of the interiors of the city's rich collection of historic buildings. In addition to displaying the 1937 Twin Coach at the Forks, the MTHA also provided bus 751 as shuttle connecting the Forks with buildings in St. Boniface, Point Douglas and West Kildonan.



Did you know that you can donate through the City of Winnipeg's

Employee & Retiree Charitable Fund

Transit employees or retirees: Did you know that you can contribute through the ERCF to the MTHA?

By adding an earmarked donation of \$2-5 biweekly through your ERCF payroll deduction, you'll be helping the MTHA in its efforts to restore and preserve vintage Transit buses.

For further information on how to contribute, please contact Al Brunsel at Fort Rouge Garage or Andris Balodis at North Garage for details.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is a non-profit and registered tax charitable organization.

INDUSTRY FOCUS

Winnipeg Transit New Flyer D40LFRs

Winnipeg Transit has taken delivery of 33 brand new New Flyer model D40LFR buses. These ultramodern coaches feature air-conditioning, state-of-the-art computer diagnostic systems, and incorporate Transit's new stop enunciator system and on-board audio/video surveillance system. Another 30 buses are expected to be delivered later this summer.



Brandon Transit New Director & E-Z Riders

The MTHA congratulates and extends a warm welcome to Tim Sanderson in his appointment as the new Director of Transportation for the City of Brandon. Tim worked for many years at Nashville, Tennessee's Transit system and had originally started his career at Winnipeg Transit.

Brandon Transit also recently took delivery of three new Eldorado National E-Z Rider II buses.



Greyhound Canada - Manitoba Division New Winnipeg depot

After a two years of planning and construction, Greyhound Canada Transportation Corporation will move into its new Manitoba Division offices and bus depot this summer. The new facility is located next to the James Armstrong Richardson International Airport and provides new inter-modal transfer opportunities for intercity bus passengers and airline travellers in Manitoba.



2009 - future: New Winnipeg Bus Depot at the International Airport.



1925 - 1964: Winnipeg Bus Depot on Graham Av. at Hargrave St.



1964 - 2009: Winnipeg Bus Depot on Portage Av. at Balmoral St.



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 R

Pinhole Camera Pictures...

Noted Winnipeg artist and photographer Tracy Peters spent an afternoon capturing images of bus 751 with her pinhole camera in August 2007.

Traditional film-based photographic techniques - including pinhole photography - are what Tracy uses to create images, which are often recreated memories of past experiences, including riding Winnipeg Transit!

Tracy's work has been exhibited in solo, group, and juried exhibitions, including the Pavilion Gallery Art Museum, Outworks Art Gallery, Vault Gallery and the Adelaide McDermot Gallery.

