



The Switch Iron

Volume 1 Number 1

May 2007

Transit Heritage News

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Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is a non-profit 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.
c/o 421 Osborne Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3L 2A2

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

Inaugural run

Of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association newsletter

By Alex Regiec
President MTHA

Welcome!

This is the first edition of the official newsletter of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association.

Called the "The Switch Iron", this newsletter takes its name from a common piece of transit equipment recognized by streetcar motormen, transit bus operators and vehicle mechanics.

The purpose of this newsletter is to act as a means of communication between the Association and its membership.

The content of the newsletter will highlight MTHA meetings, upcoming participation in special events and other association activities.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter.

125th Anniversary

2007 marks the 125 year of public transit in Winnipeg

By Jonathan Borland
Winnipeg Transit

On October 20th 1882 public transit was successfully tested in Winnipeg with regular service starting the next day. The first service in Winnipeg consisted of four horse drawn street cars on tracks. 125 years later with a fleet of 533 buses Winnipeg Transit continues to provide the citizens of Winnipeg with efficient, reliable, and affordable public transit.

Winnipeg Transit is located one block south of Confusion Corner on Osborne St. It is serviced by the route 16 Osborne with a stop at the top of the Property. Parking is available on the surrounding side streets as on base parking is extremely limited.

On Saturday June 2nd, from 10am to 2pm, Winnipeg Transit will celebrate the 125th Anniversary with an Open House. Come and tour the facility and see how they are able to travel some 26 million kilometres per year while operating the fleet for up to 22 hours per day. See the collection of heritage photographs and restored vehicles on display including a 1941 Twin Coach that is being rebuilt by the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association.



MTHA Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 17th, 2007 at Fort Rouge Garage

Present:

Ben Konowalchuk, Guy Fontaine, Ross Smith, Dennis Cavanagh, John Kapusta, Ron Alexander, Terry Wark, Franz Wark, Tom Dudych, Alex Regiec, and Pat Rogowski.

Regrets:

Jim Hunter, Jim McInnes, Murray Penner, David A. Wyatt, and Jon Kathwarron.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:45.

Agenda

A motion was passed to amend the regular order of business to allow for the election of officers.

Subject Reports continued

Bus # 565

Ron Alexander said that this unit will be taken to an accredited muffler garage and a proper exhaust system will be installed in the near future.

Bus # 751

Alex Regiec asked if this unit was operational, and Guy Fontaine indicated that it had been donated to the MTHA in working order. A check of the electrical system needs to be done.

Old Business

Ben Konowalchuk indicated that he spoke to the Fire and Paramedic Department about using their property on McPhillips & Templeton. He reported that they unfortunately can not make a decision until they appoint a new Chief.

Tom Dudych suggested we approach the Mid-Western Railway Association and VIA Rail about space located under the Tracks at Union Station.

Ben Konowalchuk also spoke to a contact at the City's Real Estate Division about the old Public Works Departments property at Waverley & Cheverier. He indicated that another City Department was going to move into that site and it would not be available for storage. Alex Regiec indicated that he would follow up with a call to City's Real Estate Manager Jerry Comeau.

New Business

Ben Konowalchuk reported that he changed the location of the insurance agency to Bird's Hill Insurance Brokers Limited on Main Street & Grassmere Road.

Alex Regiec presented a draft document outlining a 5-year business plan for the MTHA. The plan offered suggestions for both short-term and long-term initiatives for consideration and discussion by the Board of Director at their next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Election of Officers

The Board of Directors elected Alex Regiec as the new President unanimously. Two members were nominated for Vice-President; Ron Alexander and Dennis Cavanagh. A vote was held and Dennis Cavanagh was elected Vice-President by a vote of 9 to 2. Guy Fontaine and Ross Smith were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 20 February 2007 meeting were circulated, reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Guy Fontaine circulated the 2006 year end financial statement for the MTHA and was proud to report that the Association finished in the black. Guy also reported that the MTHA holds accounts at both the Bank of Montreal and the Assiniboine Credit Union.

Subject Reports

Bus # 111

Guy Fontaine indicated that he would install the starter in the unit next week.

Bus # 214

Board members continued discussing the inconvenience of the move from G to Track 36, but decided nothing can be resolved about the matter at this time



Long serving past-President Benny Konowalchuk passes the keys to President-elect Alex Regiec.

Public Works Week

MTHA to participate in the 2007 Public Works Week Expo

The Public Works Week Expo has been running for the past 8 years and has been recognized by the American Public Works Association for the last three years as the "Best Event in Canada".

On Saturday May 26th, from 10am to 4pm, at Kildonan Park, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association will display its 1937 Twin Coach that was rebuilt and restored by Association members in 1991.

There are over 450 volunteers who help make the Public Works Week Expo a memorable event.

The MTHA encourages members and their families to attend this special event.

On the information super highway

MTHA unveils a brand new web site

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association recently rolled out onto the information super highway with a splendid new web site.

Another section of the web site features upcoming special events that the MTHA will be participating in for 2007, and also has a large collection of bus pictures in the Photo Gallery.

The MTHA web pages feature history about its origins and pictures of the founding members. It also highlights the benefits of membership in the Association and showcases the past and current projects and activities, including the rescue and restoration of vintage transit vehicles and the hobby of model building.

Finally, the web site contains links to other transit heritage groups and museums across Canada. The web site can be found at:

<http://www.mts.net/~amregiec/history.html>

Twin Coach nears completion

Bus # 214 will be on display at Transit Open House

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association will display its 1941 Twin Coach model 30G bus # 214 at the Winnipeg Transit Public Open House on Saturday, June 2nd, 2007.

MTHA members have been diligently working at restoring this coach back to its original lustre.

Remaining work includes installing the drive train, braking system and seating. Volunteers are always welcome to help in the restoration of this vintage vehicle.



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.
c/o 421 Osborne Street, Winnipeg, MB R3L 2A2



In this builders photo, a 1950 Can-Car-Brill model T48A at the Port Arthur factory awaits delivery to the Winnipeg Electric Company. Thanks to Peter A. Cox of Edmonton, Alberta for sending us this photo.