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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

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125 years of public transit in Winnipeg

Large crowd joins celebration

A large number of citizens turned up on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at the Fort Rouge Transit Base to help celebrate the 125th Anniversary of their public transit service.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was on hand to display its collection of restored vintage vehicles and large collection of transit-related memorabilia.

Also on display was MTHA member Pat Rogoski's 1/24 scale detailed model of a New Flyer D40 bus.

MTHA members also lead the tours of the facility showing the public how Transit is able to travel some 26 million kilometers per year while operating the fleet of 533 buses for up to 22 hours per day.

More story and pictures on page 3...

A trip down memory lane...



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association displayed two vintage Twin Coaches and a 1941 Ford bus next to the line-up of Winnipeg Transit's contemporary vehicles.

MTHA Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 23rd, 2007 at Fort Rouge Garage

Present:

Ben Konowalchuk, Dennis Cavanagh, John Kapusta, Ron Alexander, Alex Regiec, Jim McInnes, and Murray Penner.

Regrets:

Terry and Franz Wark, Jim Hunter, Pat Rogoski, David A. Wyatt, and Jon Kathwarren.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:00.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 17 April 2007 meeting were circulated, reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Guy Fontaine was away from the City on business and no report was available at this time.

Subject Reports

Bus # 111

It was reported that Guy Fontaine had installed the starter in this unit in preparation for the Public Works Expo.

Alex Regiec indicated that he would have the bus licensed and registered on time for the Expo on May 26th.

Ron Alexander and John Kapusta indicated that they would organize members to come out and wash the bus on May 23rd.

Benny Konowalchuk mentioned that the MTHA also participates with this bus in the annual Toy Run charity in September.

Bus # 214

Ron Alexander mentioned that the MTHA mule could be used to move this bus from Track 35 to the wash rack, and to the display area for the 125th Transit Open House on June 2nd.

John Kapusta felt that a 2' X 6' piece of lumber could be attached to the bus to act as a temporary bumper while moving this bus.

Subject Reports continued

Bus # 565

Ron Alexander said that this unit will be washed at the same time that the other two buses are washed in preparation for display on June 2nd.

Bus # 751

Alex Regiec indicated that this bus will not be ready for display at the Transit Open House. Benny Konowalchuk stated that the batteries were dead, and that this bus would require a lot of cleaning in order to be displayed.

Old Business

Alex Regiec indicated that he needed to follow up with a call to City's Real Estate Manager Jerry Comeau about the Waverley & Chevrier storage yard.

Dennis Cavanagh reported that he spoke to the new Fire Department's Chief at their 125th Celebration at the Forks. He indicated that we should speak to the new Chief about using their property on McPhillips & Templeton.

New Business

Bus # 111 would be driven to Kildonan Park on Friday, May 25th in preparation for the Public Works Expo on Saturday, May 26th. Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, David Wyatt and Alex Regiec will man the display.

Buses # 111, 214 and 565 will be put on display at the 125th Anniversary Open House at Fort Rouge Garage on Saturday, June 2nd. Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Ross Smith, Alex Regiec, David Wyatt, Dennis Cavanagh and Pat Rogoski will be on hand to man the display and conduct tours of the facility.

Alex Regiec unveiled a 3 ft X 6 ft "History of Public Transit in Winnipeg" display board that will travel with bus # 111 when on display to the public.

Alex Regiec had also reported that John Fehr, President of Beaver Bus Lines, was interested in donating his 1960 GMC suburban transit bus to the MTHA in exchange for a tax charitable receipt.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 20:45.

Celebrating 125 years of public transit in Winnipeg **Displays, tours, food & fun**

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.

The Winnipeg Electric Co. continued to operate a fine fleet of streetcars, trolley coaches and buses through the twentieth century.

125 years later with a fleet of 533 diesel buses Winnipeg Transit continues to provide the citizens of Winnipeg with efficient, reliable, and affordable public transit.

It was this strong heritage that many members of the public came to explore and celebrate on Saturday June 2nd at Winnipeg Transit's 125th Anniversary Open House.

This event showcased a variety of "climb-on" vintage and contemporary transit buses.

Other activities of the day included facility tours, test drive of a transit bus, displays of vintage transit memorabilia such as old tickets, passes, uniform hats, fareboxes, changers, and photographs, and hot dogs and drinks served up by friendly staff working at the "Bar-B-Que Bus".



A colourful event



On the grounds of the Fort Rouge Transit Base the displays of both vintage and contemporary buses were located conveniently close to the centre park island where the "Bar-B-Que Bus" volunteers prepared hot dogs and served cold drinks to the public.



Transit Open House organizer Jonathan Borland and MTHA President Alex Regiec take a break from their busy schedules to enjoy a laugh and survey the crowd.



A large number of people took in the on-site display of both vintage and contemporary buses.

On the right, Transit Operations Manager Keith Martin and MTHA member John Panting take moment to survey the large crowd that were enjoying the day's events.



For those interested in the mechanical side of the vintage fleet, MTHA staff opened the back engine compartments for display and inspection.



The MTHA Twins and Ford buses beamed brightly under the wonderful Saturday sunshine as the public took to exploring a glimpse into Winnipeg's rich Transit history. In addition to buses # 111 and 565, the MTHA rolled out # 214 for public preview.





MTHA members David Wyatt (left) and Dennis Cavanagh and Transit staff Darlene Searles (right) inspect a model of a Winnipeg Electric Company Tow-Truck built by a gentleman visiting from St. Pierre Jolys, Manitoba.



MTHA members join Bill Bremner of East Selkirk, Manitoba for a group picture in front of bus # 111.

From left to right: Ross Smith, John Kapusta (kneeling), Alex Regiec, Bill Bremner, Pat Rogoski and Ron Alexander.

Bill generously donated a set of track cleaning brushes that were originally used by the Winnipeg, Selkirk and Lake Winnipeg Railway Company to the MTHA collection.



MTHA members John Panting and Dennis Cavanagh helped to answer many questions from the public about the vintage buses on display, including bus # 214.



Brightening up a rainy day

1937 Twin Coach displayed at 2007 Public Works Week Expo

Despite a constant downpour, a large number of families braved the heavy rainfall to take in the displays offered at the 2007 Public Works Expo on Saturday, May 26th, 2007.

Held in the lush surroundings of beautiful Kildonan Park, 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”.

This family-oriented event showcases a variety of public works equipment and supports Winnipeg Harvest at the same time.

Activities include aerial bucket truck rides, children’s tree climbing and miniature train rides, and a “climb-on” equipment display.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association displayed its 1937 Twin Coach that was rebuilt and restored by Association members in 1991.

There were over 450 volunteers from various City of Winnipeg Departments, Manitoba Hydro and the MTHA who helped make this year’s Public Works Week Expo a memorable and successful event.



The wet weather didn’t dampen spirits as many people took the opportunity to explore the Public Works Expo displays and discover Winnipeg’s public transit history inside of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association’s bus # 111.



MTHA members Ron Alexander and John Kapusta set up the “History of Public Transit in Winnipeg” display board” next to the 1937 Twin Coach.



Families visiting the Public Works Expo at Kildonan Park had the opportunity to explore old and new as the MTHA and Winnipeg Transit displayed their vehicles.



Manitoba Hydro was also on hand to display its wares including a vintage service truck featuring the Winnipeg Electric Company’s logo.



Tour of Transit in Manitoba

Members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association hosted a delegation of bus enthusiasts visiting from southern Ontario.

As seen in the picture on the left, the group stopped by the Beaver Bus Lines garage to see the company’s collection of 1960s era GM transit buses.

From left to right: Simon Yiu, Alan, MTHA members Brian Schuff and Dennis Cavanagh, Beaver Bus Lines President John D. Fehr, Manny Jacob, Luke Olszewski, MTHA Member David A. Wyatt, Felix Tse, and MTHA President Alex Regiec.

The group also visited and toured Winnipeg Transit, with special thanks to Manager of Operations Keith Martin for his assistance.

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 photograph, Alex Daneluk stands next to streetcar 636 advertising the purchase of Victory Bonds during the Second World War at the Assiniboine and Main Garage. This picture was provided courtesy of Bill Bremner of East Selkirk, Manitoba.