

# The Switch Iron

Volume 2 Number 2

April 2008

Transit Heritage News

## 1941 Twin Coach model 30GS

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

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## Restoration work in progress on 214

As part of its 2008 work priorities for it's fleet of vintage buses, restoration work resumed on the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's 1941 Twin Coach model 30G known as bus no. 214.

This former Winnipeg Electric Company coach was found at Grand Marais, Manitoba and was brought back to Winnipeg in 1998.

MTHA volunteer members have worked on restoring this coach back to its original lustre, including recently organizing and laying out the interior seating plan, securing the seat frames to the floor and attaching the seat cushions to the frames.

Other restoration work to date has included structural refurbishment, exterior body work and skin replacement, rebuilding of the cabin floor and walls, wiring (using original Twin Coach wiring diagrams) and lighting installation, painting and decal application.

Remaining work includes installing the drive train (engine and transmission), finishing the braking system and connecting the electrical wiring.

Volunteer members are always welcomed to participate in the restoration work parties held on Wednesday nights.

*...continued on page 3*



On the right, Manitoba Transit Heritage Association members (from left to right) John Panting, David Wyatt, Dennis Cavanagh, and Ron Alexander pause for a break after laying out the seating plan for the interior of bus 214.

Above, the transformation of the vehicle from wreck-to-structure rebuild-to-exterior body work and painting. The bus awaits installation of the drive train and braking system.

# MTHA Board Meeting

Thursday, March 26th, 2008 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary

## Executive

The Manitoba Transit  
Heritage Association Inc.  
executive members are:

Alex Regiec  
President

Dennis Cavanagh  
Vice-President

Guy Fontaine  
Treasurer

Ross Smith  
Secretary

## New Mailing Address

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

## Present:

Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Ross Smith,  
Guy Fontaine, Dennis Cavanagh, Dick McQuire,  
Ian Moore, John Panting, Terry Wark, Pat Rogoski,  
Alex Regiec, and David Wyatt.

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:00.

## Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 24th January 2008 meeting  
were reviewed. Motion to adopt by Dennis  
Cavanagh; seconded by Ian Moore. Approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Guy Fontaine presented the MTHA Financial  
Statement highlighting activity to the end of March.  
Motion to adopt by Alex Regiec; seconded by  
David Wyatt. Approved.

## President's Report

The forms for the Registered Charity Application  
and the Tax Information Returns were filed with  
the Canada Revenue Agency.

## Old Business

### Vehicle Log Books:

Each bus now has a binder book which each  
MTHA member has to fill in when doing a vehicle  
inspection, maintenance work or logging drive  
times.

### Bus Refurbishment:

Bus 214 had its seats fitted. Need to construct  
wheel well seat frames.

Bus 28 will have vinyl decals applied to its sides,  
and a MTHA name plate attached to the front  
end.

Bus 751 will have a MTHA name plate attached  
to its front end.

### Bus Acquisitions:

Bus 951 - Ron Alexander has had contact with  
City about purchasing this bus from the Winnipeg  
Fire Paramedic Service

## New Business

### Show & Shine Activities:

Buses 111 & 751 have been requested for display  
at the Red River Exhibition. A delegation from  
the MTHA will meet with Kevin Clifford of the RED  
River Exhibition Association to discuss the details.

Bus 111 & 28 to participate in the Cruz' In  
Downtown parade of vintage vehicles. Dennis  
Cavanagh will organize.

### Fund Raising Opportunities:

Ross Smith contacted the Wellington Senior's  
Home about bus tours and awaits a reply.

Bus 28 to be used to deliver hampers for Gwen  
Sector/Jewish & Child Family service organizations  
on April 13th. A donation of \$500 would be made  
to the MTHA. Motion to adopt by Alex Regiec;  
seconded by John Kapusta. Approved.

Volunteers to drive are Guy Fontaine, Patrick  
Rogoski, Ron Alexander, and John Panting.

Two requests from Senior Citizen groups were  
received regarding the display of Bus 111. The  
MTHA will follow up with them about dates.

The MTHA will operate a modified shuttle for the  
upcoming Canadian Institute of Planners  
Conference using bus 111. A donation would be  
made to the MTHA for this service in July.

Bus 111 will be used to conduct downtown  
Heritage Tours and one convention trip in  
association with Heartland International Tours in  
August. Motion to adopt by Guy Fontaine;  
seconded by Patrick Rogoski. Approved.

### Other Items

Guy Fontaine indicated that Fort Garry Industries  
is interested in sponsoring the MTHA website.  
Alex Regiec will draft a letter to FGI in this regard.

### Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.



## Welcome...

The Manitoba Transit  
Heritage Association Inc.  
welcomes the following  
Honourary and new  
Members:

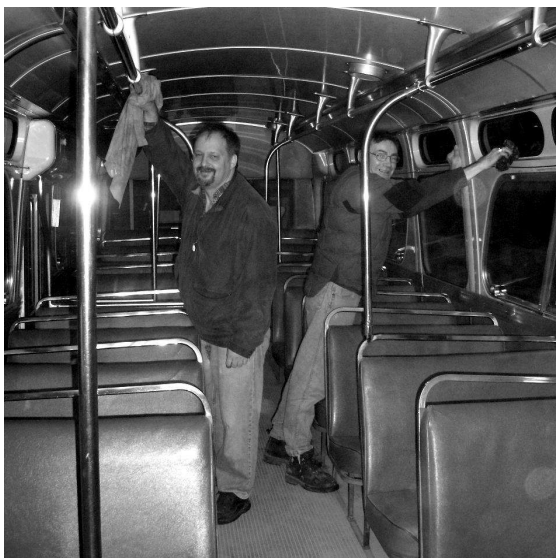
Dick McQuire  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Peter Elwick  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



From Page One...

## Wednesday night work parties...



Starting at the top left and in clockwise order: Manitoba Transit Heritage Association members Ron Alexander and Guy Fontaine prepare to install the driver's seat in bus 214; bus 751 goes for a "buggy bath"; John Panting, Pat Rogoski and Jim Jerome decal and vinyl wrap bus 28; and David Wyatt and Dennis Cavanagh scrub down the interior of bus 751.

See you at  
the Wednesday  
night work parties!



MTHA and Heartland International Tours present...

## Winnipeg's new Transit Heritage Tour

Welcome aboard a bus that travels through time! This fascinating tour takes you on a journey into Winnipeg's glorious past stopping at Union Station, the Upper Fort Garry Gate, Portage and Main, Newspaper Row, Old Market Square, Waterfront Drive, and many other prominent historical sites in the Exchange District and downtown. You'll know right away it's the transit heritage tour as a fully restored 1937 Winnipeg Transit Bus, from the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, is your transportation! Have your vintage transit souvenir ticket stamped by the driver and get ready to explore the city!

Your guide will also point out important transit heritage sites along the route that are still around today. You'll also view vintage transit photos and get a heritage newspaper to keep as your own!

Reserved departure dates are Sunday, July 20th and Sunday, August 10th from 1pm until 2:30 pm. Pickup is at the Travel Manitoba Explorer Centre at the Forks. Ticket cost per person are \$29.00 + 5% GST for adults (includes youth, students and seniors) and \$14.00 + 5% GST for children under 12. Tours go rain or shine; tickets must be purchased in advance and are non-refundable.

## HEARTLAND

Please call Heartland Travel at 989-9630 to book your ticket!

## 1950 Canadian Car-Brill model T-48A

### Trolley to be displayed at Red River Ex



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association will display its 1950 Canadian Car-Brill T-48A trolley coach known as bus 1768 at this year's Red River Ex.

This former Winnipeg Electric Company vehicle was the last trolley coach to operate in the City of Winnipeg, running its last trip on Metro Transit's *NORTH MAIN-McADAM* route on the evening of October 31st, 1970.

MTHA volunteer will undertake a basic clean-up of this coach, including attaching some seat cushions back to their frames, cleaning the interior cabin floor and walls, reconnect the bumper and glass replacement.

MTHA members are encouraged to volunteer for this historic display at the Red River Exhibition from June 13th until June 22nd.



Starting on the top left and in clockwise order: Manitoba Transit Heritage Association President Alex Regiec stands beside trolley coach 1768 at its rural storage site; the interior of 1768 looking toward the front of the bus; a close-up shot of the driver's work station; and a view of the rear interior section of the vintage trolley coach.





# MTHA Letters to the Editor

## A letter from Ron Alexander...

Hi!

My name is Ron Alexander. I worked at Winnipeg Transit since 1950 and retired May 31st, 1991.

I started in the body shop, then drove bus for 13 years, and came back to the body shop to do frame work. Stayed for holiday relief, so I spent time driving bus and working in the body shop, eventually I got back permanently. I ended up as the damage estimator before I retired.

I co-founded the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association with my friend and co-worker John Kapusta.

We have successfully rebuilt three vintage buses, salvaged two operable buses from the wreckers ball, and now want put together a history book about public transportation. Not only will it be about the transit buses, but all buses that served the Winnipeg area and anything of importance to public transit in the City.

If you can help us with this important project, then please me at 774-5350 or Alex Regiec at 986-6935.

Help make a success of this venture.

Ron



### Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. *Fleet Roster*

*Updated to: 22 March 2008*

Original Owner:	Fleet No.	Year	Manufacturer	Model	Serial No.
Winnipeg Electric Company	111	1936	Twin Coach	23R	95582
	*501	1936	Dodge/Lawrie	(?)	4024R9
	*135	1938	Twin Coach	30GS	96045
	214	1941	Twin Coach	30GS	108770
	565	1946	Ford	Transit 69-B	661161X
	*707	1947	Can-Car Brill	C-36	CCB-CD36-47-2329
	*1768	1950	Can-Car Brill	T-48A	8151
Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission	*747	1950	Can-Car	CD44ATC	15148
Metro Transit	751 (ex-132)	1971	General Motors	T6H-4521A	T6H4521814
Winnipeg Transit	**112	1962	General Motors	TDH-4517	TDH4517CO39
	**114	1962	General Motors	TDH-4517	TDH4517CO41
	***953	1981	Orion	01.501	0341
	*** (t.b.a.)	1984	Flyer Industries	D901-10240	(?)
Beaver Bus Lines Limited	28	1961	General Motors	TDH-4517	171
Brandon Transit	*35	1957	General Motors	TDH-3501	TDH3501-327
	*n/a	1957	General Motors	TDM-3302	TDM3302

#### NOTES:

- \* Denotes buses awaiting restoration.
- \*\* Denotes buses that have been scrapped.
- \*\*\* Denotes buses identified for possible acquisition; negotiations on-going.

# 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



Winnipeg Electric Co. bus No. 204, a 1941 Twin Coach model 30GS pictured here at the Fort Street garage adjacent to the majestic Fort Garry Hotel seen in the background.

*Courtesy of Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Collection.*