



# The Switch Iron



Volume 2 Number 3

June 2008

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 six times per  
year and is distributed  
free to members.

## System a bit of an oddity

# Bus Licence Plates in Manitoba

**By Manny Jacob,  
MTHA Member**

Manitoba is a bit of an oddity insofar as how buses are registered here. The only buses that get any type of special plate are those designated as a Public Service Vehicle (PSV). This generally refers to highway buses in line haul or for hire service. Presently, companies like Grey Goose and Beaver Bus Lines are frequent users of these plates. The current design for this type of plate is a standard PSV plate (PAA-PZZ series) with the addition of a blue on white "PB" decal in the upper left corner. In Manitoba, bus plates are to have the validation stickers applied to the REAR plate.

Manitoba is also unusual in that we have almost no PSV buses registered in the International Registration Plan (IRP). PSV plates used on such vehicles have either the blue on white "CAVR" (for Canadian Agreement on Vehicle Registration, the 1982-

2001 agreement which governed inter-province bus and truck travel in Canada only) decal in upper left (for plates issued from 1997-2001) or the common blue on clear "Apportioned" decal that is applied in the bottom center of the plate. So unique are Apportioned Buses in this province, that we have only confirmed the existence of ONE such plate, affixed to Brandon Bus Lines coach #117.

Until last summer, no such plates had been observed. I would appreciate if readers could check the plates on any and all Manitoba PSV buses for the presence of an "Apportioned" decal. If any such plates are observed, I would be grateful for a clear, close-up photo of the plate and the bus or bus company.

From 1983-1997, Manitoba used a maroon on cream colour scheme for PSV BUS plates.

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On the right,  
MTHA bus 565 displays  
a Vintage auto plate.



# MTHA Board Meeting

## About Us

### 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:

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### Executive

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. executive members are:

Alex Regiec  
President

Dennis Cavanagh  
Vice-President

Guy Fontaine  
Treasurer

Ross Smith  
Secretary

### Welcome



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

Manny Jacob  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Doug Belcher  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

## Minutes

### Wednesday, May 7th, 2008 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Dennis Cavanagh, MTHA Vice-President

### Present:

Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Dennis Cavanagh, Manny Jacob, 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 26th March 2008 meeting were reviewed.

### Treasurer's Report

No report.

### President's Report

The forms for the Registered Charity Application and the Tax Information Returns were received by the Canada Revenue Agency in Ottawa.

A letter was sent to Fort Garry Industries regarding possible sponsorship for the MTHA website.

A change of address form was filed with the Companies Office of the Province of Manitoba.

### Old Business

Bus 111 requires a tune-up and a safety inspection.

Bus 751 requires a tune-up, greasing, brake and underbody inspection.

Bus 28 needs an underbody inspection and check of the oil and fluid leak.

Bus 214 needs the seats installation finished and the motor and transmission to be installed.

Bus 565 requires the electrical system to be hooked up and an exhaust system installed.

There has been some interest expressed about holding Saturday work parties. A couple of Saturday work parties will be tried and evaluated to see how members respond to them.

### New Business

Bus 111, 751, 953 and 1768 will be put on display at the Red River Exhibition from June 13th until June 22nd. A sign-up for shifts sheet will be distributed to MTHA members with the newsletter next week.

Bus 28 was used to deliver hampers on April 13th to needy Winnipeggers.

Alex Regiec will contact Heartland International Tours about only doing one Heritage Tour this summer in August. The MTHA is committed to doing a tour with the Travel Writers Convention.

The City Planning Conference will be notified that the MTHA will be unable to conduct a shuttle service for them, but will be able to showcase bus 111. Motion to adopt by Alex Regiec, seconded by John Panting. Approved.

Contact has been made with Manitoba Hydro, regarding the possible storage of some MTHA vintage vehicles.

Pat Rogoski has also contacted a friend who has a property in the St. Boniface Industrial Park about the possible storage of the MTHA vehicles that are currently stored outdoors.

### Other Items

Old Winnipeg Transit pictures were recently received from Mr. Michael Brady of Blackpool, England and were distributed for review around the table.

### Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 20:20.



## 1981 Orion bus arrives at MTHA

Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Pat Rogoski, and Alex Regiec picked up a 1981 Orion I bus from the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Department on Friday, May 2nd.

The bus was originally part of the Winnipeg Transit fleet until 2001, when it was sent over the Fire Paramedic Department for possible use in Hazmat response service. However, the department decided that the bus was no longer required and approached the MTHA about acquiring the bus for preservation purposes.

"Despite a few body blemishes here and there, that bus is in excellent condition," declared Ron Alexander after inspecting the vehicle at the McPhillips Street yard.

As for a name for the vehicle, Pat Rogoski offered "the sound of this bus reminds me of the Persephone, the boat from the Beachcombers TV show!"



Dubbed the Persephone, bus 953 is a 1981 Orion I which was originally part of the Winnipeg Transit fleet, later a part of the Fire Paramedic service, and is now in the care of the MTHA bus preservation program.

## MTHA Mailbox

### A letter of appreciation...

Dear Mr. Regiec,

Please convey our sincere thanks to the members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association who were involved in delivering the Passover hampers to needy individuals and families. Their support in enabling us to provide help to adults with mental health problems, newly arrived immigrant families, the frail elderly or others who may be dealing with challenging financial circumstances is greatly appreciated.

We hope that the newly established partnership in providing this assistance will continue next year. We are very grateful for your involvement in this initiative.

Yours sincerely,  
Emily Shane  
Executive Director  
Jewish Child & Family Services



From left to right, MTHA members John Panting, Dennis Cavanagh, Alex Regiec, Patrick Rogoski, David Wyatt and Ron Alexander spent a Sunday afternoon delivering 80 food hampers to needy individuals across the city using Manitoba Transit Heritage Association bus 28.



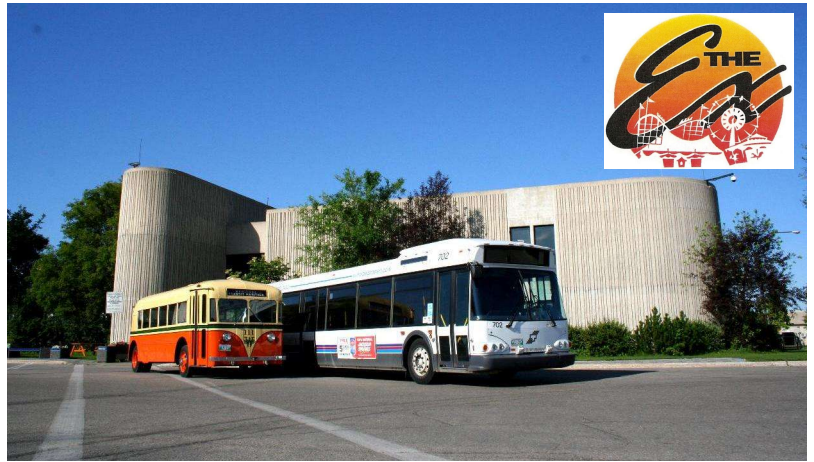


## MTHA & Winnipeg Transit team up at the Red River Ex...

Old will meet new as both the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association and Winnipeg Transit team up to display their vehicles at the 2008 Red River Exhibition.

From June 13th to June 22nd, the MTHA will display vintage buses 111, 751, 953 and 1768, the last electric trolley to operate in Winnipeg, along with numerous items of transit-related memorabilia.

Winnipeg Transit will have bus 904 on display along with volunteer recruitment officers ready to sign-up members of the public to a career as a transit operator.



## MTHA hosts out-of-town visitors...



David Onodera, Secretary for the Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation and Director of Transit for the City of Regina, Saskatchewan, joined MTHA members on a supper excursion with bus 28 on Tuesday, April 29th.



From left to right, Prairie Dog Central volunteers Linley James and Doug Belcher brought BC & Alberta rail historians Jim Brown, David Johnson, John Harwood, and Bill Watson to meet the MTHAs Pat Rogoski, Brian Schuff and Dennis Cavanagh on May 3rd.

## Greyhound announces a new bus terminal for Winnipeg

Greyhound Canada Transportation Corporation and the Winnipeg Airports Authority recently announced the building of a \$6.5 million bus terminal at the Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport.

This new facility will replace the outdated and badly worn-out bus depot currently located on Balmoral Street and will provide Greyhound with a modern state-of-the-art building for its passengers and parcel operations.

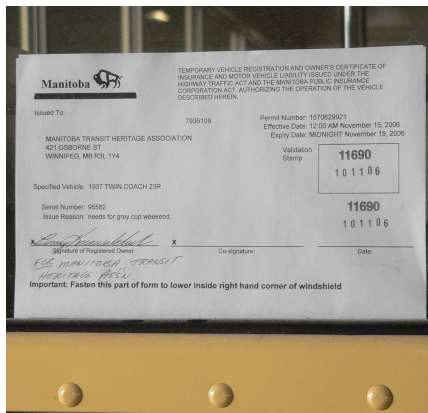
Mel Levandoski, General Manager for Greyhound in Manitoba, stands next to an architects drawing of the new bus terminal expected to open in 2010.

This new facility replaces the old bus depot which was built in 1964.





# MTHA Feature Article



Continued from page one...

## Manitoba bus licence plates

Other types of buses, such as school and transit buses use ordinary passenger plates. On transit buses, the back plate tends to get badly worn from repeated trips through the bus wash and where the diesel soot acts as an abrasive.

From 1983-1997, many buses in the Winnipeg Transit fleet received plates in the AEA-AEH range, which were normally reserved for provincial government autos. Exception: Some school buses have been registered as a PSV BUS, but this is a rare exception as 99% of school buses in Manitoba get regular passenger plates.

Other registration applications for buses in Manitoba are Vintage auto plates (such as Vintage plate 735 shown on MTHA's refurbished bus 565) or temporary operation paper window permits as sometimes seen on preserved MTHA buses that are shown in parades or displayed at "show & shine" events and seen at the top of this page.

Buses being delivered new from manufacturer to a customer are known to be "in transit" or in a "Driveaway" situation. Manitoba does have a special type of plate for these applications, although dealer (D prefix) plates are also used. Driveaway plates will be either a CT (CAA-CZZ range) or PSV (PAA-PZZ range) plate with a blue on white "DA" decal in the upper left corner. Next time you see a brand new bus on the streets or highways, check the window for the Driveaway plate. I would be grateful for photos that MTHA readers could supply.

Lastly, Manitoba's bus operations also present an interesting plate situation when it comes to the van & trailer sets. Since the trailers carry goods for a fee, they receive special PSV trailer plates in the PAL series. These plates are quite a rarity as only slightly more than 200 plates have been issued in the past 10 years. The photo in the upper right corner shows the usage of the PAL 156 plate on a "Grey Goose Express" trailer.



On the left, the standard Public Service Vehicle plate with the addition of the blue on white "PB" sticker in the upper left corner along with rear validation stickers.

On the right, a PSV plate with "CAVR" decal that were used in the 1982-2001 time period.

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# From The Photo Album

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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



Winnipeg Electric Co. "Selkirk Streamliner" bus No. 621, a 1947 MCI Courier 100A seen leaving the Union Bus Depot destined for Riverside, Manitoba.  
*Courtesy of William A. Luke of Spokane, Washington, USA.*