



The Switch Iron



Volume 2 Number 4 September 2008 Transit Heritage News

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The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association
 P.O. Box 2388
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 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 Canada R3C 4A6

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

Streetcar 356...

MTHA Joins Restoration Project

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has agreed to join Heritage Winnipeg's efforts to restore streetcar 356. MTHA Board Member David Wyatt, will sit on the Streetcar Committee established by Heritage Winnipeg.

Heritage Winnipeg is a non-profit charitable organization established in 1978 to promote the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the city's historical buildings.

A five year plan for the completion of the project by the Streetcar Committee of Heritage Winnipeg, has been developed.

The Committee is now ready to look for funding for its proposal to rehabilitate Car 356.



On The Move...

Above, streetcar 565 is towed from Winnipeg Transit's Fort Rouge Garage to it's current home at the Winnipeg Railway Museum. The streetcar had been stored at FRG from 1989 until 1996.

MTHA qualifies as a Registered Charity

**By Alex Regiec,
MTHA President**

In a recent letter from the Charities Directorate, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. learned that its application to the Canada Revenue Agency has qualified for tax-exempt status as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada.

Persons wishing to donate to the MTHA will now receive an official receipt which will allow them to benefit from the tax incentives associated with gifting to a charity.

This special status will now allow the MTHA to apply for funding from various foundations and government programs.

Transit Museum Building Project

Fundraising will begin this fall in keeping with the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's Board of Directors goal to build a Transit Heritage Museum in Winnipeg in the next five years.

The proposed facility is envisioned to be a moderate-sized Museum and Interpretive Centre featuring vintage vehicles from the 1930s to the 1980s, information documenting the industry's historical development in Manitoba, displays of memorabilia including uniforms, tickets, badges, timetables and maps, and an active workshop area where vehicle restoration would be on view to the general public.

MTHA News

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:

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.
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Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 4A6

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 new members:

Wade Razella
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mike Kubas
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Steve Stothers
Winnipeg, Manitoba

2008 East St. Paul Legion Show & Shine

Pat Rogoski, his mother Elizabeth, and Dennis Cavanagh coordinated an appearance of bus 111 and bus 28 at the 2008 East St. Paul Legion Show & Shine display of vintage vehicles on Sunday, August 10th.

The MTHA members marshalled the buses in Winnipeg and drove them out to the townsite of Birds Hill to join 200 other classic vehicles on DeVries Avenue at the Perimeter Highway.

While on display, the two buses generated a lot of interest from the crowd of nearly 3,000 people. Pat, Elizabeth and Dennis had spent seven hours answering numerous questions about the vintage buses.



1942 MCI Trolley Coach builder's plate

Homourary member Peter Cox of Edmonton, Alberta recently sent a special donation to the MTHA.

In May 1966, Peter trudged through ankle-deep mud at a scrapyard on Springfield Road to rescue the builder's plate from 1942 MCI Trolley Coach. The coach was a one-of-a-kind that was built by Motor Coach Industries during World War II for the Winnipeg Electric Company.

Peter felt it important that the plate be given to the MTHA for display in its future museum. An appraiser has been retained to help determine the plate's value.

MTHA & Transit Social Committee team up

Winnipeg Transit Employees' Social Committee and the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association have entered into an agreement to work together on special events and fundraising.

The Social Committee is a dedicated group of individuals, ranging from bus operators, maintenance workers and office staff, who organize social various events for the benefit of fellow employees. These events have included an annual Christmas party, a baseball tournament, and golf tournament, retirement parties and staff appreciation bar-b-ques.

MTHA Board: Next Meeting Sept. 16th

The next meeting of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association will take place on Tuesday, September 16th at 7 pm in the Foreman's room at Fort Rouge Garage.

On the agenda will be the bus history book, possible acquisition of a 1958 GM bus, fundraising, membership recruitment, bus maintenance and potential projects for 2009.



1958 General Motors model TDH-5105

Bill Luke visits Winnipeg

William A. Luke, respected bus industry journalist and historian, recently travelled from his home in Spokane, Washington to visit with friends and colleagues at Winnipeg Transit, New Flyer Industries, and the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association.

Bill's visit was due in part to his current work on a book about the history of New Flyer, including its early years as Western Flyer Coach. The highlight of his trip, according to Bill, was being picked up for supper in the MTHA's 1937 Twin Coach at the bus depot.



On the left, David Wyatt, Bill Luke, Pat Rogoski, and Dennis Cavanagh prepare to board bus 111 in lane 3 at the bus depot.

MTHA President visits TRAMS in Vancouver

MTHA President Alex Regiec met with Abnus McIntyre, Treasurer of the Transit Museum Society of Vancouver, British Columbia (TRAMS) in mid-May.

TRAMS was established in 1986 to restore, preserve and operate historical vehicles significant to the history of public transit in British Columbia.

In addition to collections of photos and artifacts, there are a number of operating vehicles currently preserved. TRAMS also works with the City of Vancouver to operate the Downtown Historic Railway.



On the left, Angus McIntyre and Alex Regiec stand in front of BCE 3405, a 1948 Can-Car Brill deisel bus.

MTHA visits Creative Retirement Manitoba Centre

On August 28th, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's 1937 Twin Coach model 23R bus made a guest appearance at the Creative Retirement Manitoba centre on Sherbrook Street.

A group of twelve senior citizens joined John Kapusta and Ron Alexander for a journey down memory lane. The group enjoyed a brief discussion about the history of Transit in Winnipeg before departing on a 20-minute trip on the vintage bus via Sherbrook to Notre Dame and return via Maryland.



On the left, a happy group of seniors after arriving back at their centre from a trip on bus 111.

Summer Activities... Ten Days of Fun at the Red River Exhibition

Folks attending this year's Red River Exhibition enjoyed a special treat on the midway - a display of buses ranging from 1937 to the present.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, together with Winnipeg Transit, entertained thousands through the display of vintage buses - including the last electric trolley coach to operate in Winnipeg - and the "Invero" one of the most modern buses in the current fleet.

MTHA and Transit volunteers were on hand to answer many questions, with Transit recruiting a few new drivers!



Summer Activities... Public Rides on Bus 111

Downtown Transit Heritage Tours



The general public was welcomed aboard a bus that travelled through time on the first ever Downtown Transit Heritage Tour.

The journey started at the Forks and travelled past Union Station, the Upper Fort Garry Gate, Portage & Main, Old Market Square, Newspaper Row, Waterfront Drive, St. Boniface Cathedral and many other prominent historical sites.

The first tour on July 20th carried 15 passengers, and the second tour on August 24th saw 23 passengers on board the MTHA's bus 111. An on-board guide was provided by Heartland Tours & Travel.



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



Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission bus 423, a 1954 Flxible -Twin Coach, passes streetcar 488, a 1911 streetcar built by the Winnipeg Electric Company, at the Hudson's Bay store on Portage Avenue at Vaughan Street.
Courtesy of William A. Luke of Spokane, Washington, USA.