



# THE SWITCH IRON

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Editor: Alex Regiec

MTHA:  
All baggage must be tagged before  
boarding bus.

DESTINATION:

VIA:

NAME

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) is non-profit museum and registered charitable organization whose volunteers collect and preserve historic public transit memorabilia and classic vehicles. The MTHA is a proud member of the Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation.

## The MTHA's Fixed Route: Celebrating the history of Public Transportation

By Alex Regiec

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS ...



*Trolley Bus picture that is part of the MTHA's photograph collection.*

### ... the 2018 Transit Calendar

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) has once again partnered with Winnipeg Transit to produce the 2018 Transit Calendar. The new calendar will feature many pictures from Winnipeg Transit and its predecessors past, along with a few pictures of fully restored MTHA vintage buses. The calendar is distributed free to all Winnipeg Transit employees, to Transit retirees through the ATU Local 1505, and to all members of the MTHA. Calendars are available for purchase to the public at Transit's Customer Service Office at 414B Osborne Street.

When it comes to public transit history, few know the industry's past better than the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association. Walking by the MTHA's museum collection on display this summer, including many models in the fleet formerly part of Winnipeg Transit, is like time travelling into the past. Row after row of vintage antique buses were lined up in chronological order at the Pony Corral's Sunday Night Cruise held in August. At each bus, small groups of the general public eagerly explored the gleaming steel giants of Winnipeg's public transportation history, asking MTHA volunteers questions and snapping pictures. Doors open to the vintage buses and as the public climbed on-board MTHA volunteers talked about the wood stoves heating the streetcars, the eight-and-a-third cent cost for a bus ticket, or the electric trolley bus poles that kept falling off the overhead wires, stalling the vehicle mid-route, sending everyone into laughter. It obvious to see what makes taking a journey on public transport so memorable.

#### THE BEGINNING

The idea for the Manitoba Transit heritage Association began when retired Transit employees Ron Alexander (late) and John Kapusta were travelling through rural Manitoba in the summer of 1987 scouting for old Studebaker automobiles. Instead the pair stumbled across an old electric streetcar that had been long forgotten in a wooded area of a farm field. This chance find led the men to discuss creating a bus, trolley and streetcar preservation group, and together with other Winnipeg Transit retirees they formally established it in 1989.

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## Annual General Meeting of the MTHA

HELD ON MAY 23, 2017 AT NORTH CAR HOUSE IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

### RECORDED BY:

Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary

### PRESENT:

Alan Brunsel, Linley James, Alex Regiec, Ross Smith, Roger Hamelin, David Wyatt, Pat Rogoski, Elizabeth Peters, Kuba Golebiewski, Anna Golebiewski, Jim Legg, Logan Poole, Tom Dudych, Murray Penner and Dennis R. Cavanagh.

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 19:09.

### MINUTES OF MEETING:

**MOTION:** Jim Legg moved the approval of the minutes as read. Ross Smith seconded. Carried.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT:

**2017 Events:** Alan Brunsel highlighted the upcoming events for 2017 and the need for MTHA volunteers:

- June 4 - Pride Parade
- June 24 - Great Plains, A Train & A Bus Canada 150 Celebration
- August 4 - Pioneer Days in Steinbach, Manitoba
- August 27th - Pony Corral Sunday Night Cruise
- September 9 & 10 - Fab 50s Ford Club weekend

**MC-9 Update:** Alan Brunsel reported that the safety inspection has been completed by Greyhound Canada. He noted Greyhound mechanic has inadvertently dropped two windows breaking them, so they were waiting for new ones before the bus can be delivered.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

**Financial Report:** Alex Regiec reminded the Board of Directors that the 2017 Operating Budget had been approved at their meeting in January.

Alex reported that MTHA has \$9,250.76 CAD cash in the bank.

Activity for the month of May amounted to \$2,229.77 in expenses and \$411.00 in revenue.

**MOTION:** Alex Regiec moved that the financial report be approved. Roger Hamelin seconded. Carried.

**Other Financial:** Alex reported that three corporate sponsors have renewed their memberships. These corporations include New Flyer Industries/Motor Coach Industries and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505.

Alex reported that the Vintage Licence Plate policy had been renewed with Manitoba Public Insurance.

Alex also reported that a request was received from the Manitoba Museums group regarding a request for 150 artifacts from various group for their Canada 150 project.

Alex reported will the MTHA will be partnering with Nostalgia Broadcasting Cooperative (CJNU 93.7 FM) that the MC-9 motor coach is decorated a promotional vehicle.

### MAINTENANCE STATUS:

Jim Legg reported on the status of bus #565 including that the wiring is finished, that the front left tire shock links are missing, and that he is working on resolving the oil pressure problem.

Jim Legg also reported that the Orion bus #983 requires new batteries, which he will arrange to replace soon.

Ross Smith reported that the wooden cabinets on the Museum bus #983 would be removed in order to install the rubber flooring. The interior wall displays are to be

professional designed and installed at later date.

Tom Dudych reported that the paint shop at Winnipeg Transit was looking at painting the 1954 General Motors bus #188 (ex-Regina & Los Angeles) into orange and cream colours.

### NEW BUSINESS:

David Wyatt reported on the presentation he and Ross Smith did for the Manitoba Antique Auto Association was a well received and great success. Additional presentations are planned at The Gwen Sectar Creative Living Centre, Shaftsbury Retirement Centre, Riverwood Retirement Centre.

Alex Regiec reported on the status of the MTHAs Canada 150 Event "The Great Plains, A Train and A Bus". Seventy one people have signed up to attend, each contributing a donation of \$73 covering the costs of the event. The plan is to meet at Union Station where the group will catch The Canadian VIA train at 11:45 AM and arrive in Portage La Prairie at 1:20 PM. A motor coach, donated by Beaver Bus Lines and driven by Alan Brunsel, will meet the group there and take them for lunch at the Boston Pizza. Then the bus will return to Winnipeg via Highway #26. David Wyatt and Alex Regiec will lead the tour and have prepared a souvenir brochure for attendees.

### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on October 24th at 7:00 PM at the North Car House.

### ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION:** Al Brunsel moved to Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 20:00. ■



KEEPING THE MUSEUM COLLECTION SAFELY ON THE MOVE

# MTHA Volunteers work tirelessly to keep our rich Transit history maintained

A team of maintenance volunteers has been busily working on completing the restoration of the 1946 Ford Transit and 1954 General Motors transit buses. During the past year Ross Smith has led a very dedicated maintenance group, which includes Jim Dudych, Wayne Smith, Jim Legg and Don Glowatski.

### DEDICATION AND HARD WORK

Jim Legg has been particularly active dedicated to working on Bus #565 including finishing all of the necessary electric the wiring required to make the unit functional, repairing the front left tire shock links and on resolving the oil pressure problem.

Jim has also change the battery set on 1979 Orion bus #963 requires new batteries, which he will arrange to replace soon.

Ross Smith also lead a group that removed the old wooden cabinets on Museum bus #963 in order to install the new rubber flooring. The interior wall displays

are to be professional designed and installed at later date.

Jim Dudcyh has been coordinating with Winnipeg Transit's paint shop to donate paint work on the 1954 General Motors bus #188 (ex-Regina & Los Angeles) changing it's colours into the classic orange and cream livery.

### PROVINCIAL SAFETY INSPECTION

The 1984 Motor Coach Industries model MC-9 required a Safety Inspection for its passenger licence in order to carry passengers. This was carried out by Greyhound Canada in their Provincially sanctioned shop by their certified mechanics.

### VINTAGE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

The MTHA maintenance volunteers also performed the necessary annual inspections and repairs that keep the antique fleet in safe operating condition so that the MTHA can display these vehicles at various events in 2017 ■



Jim Legg diligently works on bus #565



1954 General Motors model TDH4512.



Jim Dudych performing a repair to the roof of bus #963.



Ross Smith & Wayne Smith.



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## Fixed Route: Celebrating the history of Public Transportation



Ross Smith (left) and David Wyatt (right) delivering a presentation at Simkin Centre.



The MTHA's successful Canada 150 celebration fan trip to Portage La Prairie.

### THE MISSION

John and Ron's vision manifested itself in the goals of "restoring old transit vehicles for historical purposes; to create a transit museum for the display of vintage transit vehicles; to provide restored vehicles to transport senior citizens, disabled persons, school children and other such groups for tours and outings; and to provide restored transit vehicles for public parades and displays". Their vision was fulfilled in 2017 at the following events:

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS

On April 5th, 2017, Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteers David Wyatt and Alex Regiec delivered a presentation about Transit History to the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Church Seniors Group. Then on April 23rd, 2017, MTHA volunteers Ross Smith and David Wyatt also delivered a presentation to the senior residence of the Simkin Centre.

### SUNDAY NIGHT CRUISE AT THE PONY CORRAL

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association displayed its fine fleet of vintage buses as the featured club at the Pony Corral Restaurant on Grant Avenue & Wilton Street on Sunday, August 27th, 2017 from 4 PM until 10 PM.

The Sunday Night Cruise was sponsored by the Pony Corral Restaurant & Bar and the Piston Ring Company and featured antique automobiles, hot rod cars and fifteen vintage transit and highway buses. Thousands of people were in attendance to take the fine display of classic vehicles.

### PIONEER DAYS PARADE IN STEINBACH

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association attended The Pioneer Days Parade in Steinbach, Manitoba on August 4th, 2017. Held on that City's Main Street, the MTHA brought the 1956 Western Flyer Coach "Scenic Cruiser" and the 1983 MCI model MC-9 for everyone to enjoy. The Scenic Cruiser won the "Best Antique In Show" prize!

### LABOUR DAY PARADE

The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505 working together with the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided a vintage Transit bus and coach for display at the annual Labour Day Picnic & Walk held in Central Park on September 4th, 2017.

### PASTA & A PINT NIGHT WITH CJNU RADIO

Staff & Volunteers of Winnipeg's home of Nostalgia Radio, 93.7 FM CJNU hosted a night of fun at their annual Pasta & A Pint Night at the Viscount Gort. It was here that the MTHA unveiled the Cruiser Bus.



CJNU Staff & Volunteers at Pasta & A Pint Night

### CANADA 150 - THE GREAT PLAINS, A TRAIN AND A BUS!

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) celebrated the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation by hosting an Association fundraiser event that saw a group of forty members and friends travel by VIA Rail's "The Canadian" to Portage La Prairie and by Beaver Bus Lines back along historic Highway #26 to Winnipeg on Saturday, June 24th, 2017.

All donations raised from the event were used to fund restoration and museum related projects of the MTHA.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADIAN TRANSIT HERITAGE FOUNDATION

On March 18, 2017 the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation, a federally incorporated non-profit association whose mission is to be the voice and resource for Canada's transit heritage. The intent is to complement the activities of both organizations and develop opportunities to work together to enhance the quality and value of member services.



# Fixed Route: Celebrating the history of Public Transportation



Vintage Winnipeg Transit buses at the Pony Corral.



MTHA volunteers getting ready for the Sunday Nigh Cruise.



CJNU President Tom Dercola poses with the bus at Goldeyes Event at the Assiniboia Downs.

As a not-for-profit charity and museum group, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association takes a “hands on” approach to displaying its collection of vintage buses by offering outreach visits to senior centres, schools and by participating in various community festivals, parades and antique vehicle show & shines.



Members of the Goldeyes Baseball Club sign the bus.



MTHA fan trip to Skinner's Lockport for hot dogs and chips.



The Scenic Cruiser in the Pioneer Days Parade in Steinbach.



The 1937 Twin Coach on display at a Winnipeg Goldeyes game at Shaw Park.



- In 2017, Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteers took the historic vintage vehicles to:
- World Autism Awareness at The Legislature
  - Goldeyes Transit Driver Appreciation Day
  - Pioneer Days Parade in Steinbach
  - Sunday Night Cruise at the Pony Corral
  - Goldeyes Turn Back The Clock Night
  - Labour Day parade & Walk
  - Fab 50s Ford Club Cruise to the Half Moon
  - Fab 50s Ford Club Show & Shine at Garden City
  - Winnipeg Santa Claus Parade



CROSS PROMOTIONAL PARTNERSHIP

# Carefree Highway: The Joys of Summer Cruiser hit the Road

By Alex Regiec

It began with a lunch hour meeting over corned beef on rye and coffee at Nathan Detroit's Sandwich Pad in the Lombard Square and resulted in the "Joys of Summer Cruiser".

Tom Dercola, President, and Adam Glynn, Manager, of CJNU Broadcasting Cooperative met with Alan Brunsel, President, and Alex Regiec, Treasurer, of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) in May to explore promotional opportunities between the two non-profit and volunteer driven organizations.

Key in the discussion was the concept of using one of the MTHA's classic buses as part of the partnership.

Dan Chase, Director of Sales & Marketing, of the Goldeyes Baseball Club was welcomed into the discussion and brought in the talented folks of John Henry Creations to craft an exterior design for the bus.

Together in partnership, CJNU 93.7 FM, the Goldeyes, and the MTHA have transformed a vintage motor coach into the "Joys of Summer Cruiser" decaling it with an attractive "Memories Are Made Of This" livery. Today this cosmopolitan cruiser simply cannot be missed as it hits the road with CJNU personalities making stops at community events, baseball games, car shows and street festivals across the city.

"Where other radio stations have mini vans ... mine has a BUS!" An exuberant Tom Dercola, President of CJNU 93.7 FM, declared.

Winnipeg's Motor Coach Industries built this iconic silver-sided diesel highway bus in 1983. This MC-9 model, also known as the Crusader II, was one of the company's most popular units, with over 6,400 buses produced between 1978 and 1990. Started in 1932 as Fort Garry Motor Body & Paint Works, MCI was recently purchased by New Flyer Industries

making Winnipeg a leader in bus engineering and manufacturing.

This immaculately maintained motor coach was previously owned and operated by Northern Bus Lines of Flin Flon, Manitoba, and was recently donated to the MTHA for long-term preservation and display.

CJNU is a community radio station operated by Nostalgia Broadcasting Cooperative which is owned by its members, and supports local non-profit organizations by broadcasting live on location. The MTHA is a non-profit registered charitable organization whose members volunteer in the restoration, preservation and display of Manitoba's largest collection of antique transit vehicles.

"It's fun to watch people's heads turn or cameras snapping as I drive the bus around the city," beamed Alan Brunsel, President of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association. "This bus is definitely an eye-catcher!". ■



*The MTHA/CJNU/Goldeyes "Joys Of Summer" Cruiser seen on display at the Winnipeg Goldeyes "Fan Appreciation Night" at Shaw Park on August 24th.*



URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEMS

## New buses for Winnipeg Transit & Selkirk Transit

Winnipeg Transit has taken delivery of order of thirty full-sized transit buses from New Flyer Industries. The NFI model XD40 Xcelsior arrived between late August and early October and are numbered 170-199 in the fleet.

Selkirk Transit has placed an order for another Yaxing model Vicinity B30A 9.2m long transit bus.

The City expects to take delivery of the new bus and have it in service in January 2018. ■



Winnipeg Transit #192, a 2017 New Flyer model XD40.



Selkirk Transit #1662, a 1947 CanCar-Brill model T44.

COMMUTER BUS SERVICE

## Kasper assumes operation of historic Selkirk-Winnipeg route



Kasper #3 at Selkirk bus stop on its first day of operation.

On Tuesday, September 5th, 2017 Kasper Transportation of Thunder Bay, Ontario assumed operation of public transit service on the 113 year old Selkirk-Winnipeg commuter line.

The new company represents the 6th carrier to operate the route, deploying 15-passenger Sprinter and 24-passenger cut-away buses to handle service demand.

Changes to the schedule include offering an 30-minute peak period service and 60-minute midday departures operating via Main Street Highway #9. One morning and afternoon peak trip will operate via Henderson Highway #204.

A flat rate fare structure replaces the former zone fare system, with the option of purchasing tickets online. ■

INTERCITY CONNECTIONS

## Jefferson Lines returns to Winnipeg

After discontinuing service between Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2010, Jefferson Lines announced it's return beginning on Wednesday, August 16th, 2017.

The new schedule will operate five days per week, from Wednesday to Sunday. Jefferson Lines will be

located in the Greyhound Canada Terminal at the Winnipeg International Airport and will connect with Greyhound's mainline national service. Jefferson provides a key link to Grand Forks and Fargo, North Dakota, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ■



Jefferson #1840 arrives in Winnipeg on its inaugural trip.



### NOTICE OF EVENTS: 2017 SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Saturday, November 18th, 2017

The MTHA is placing two vintage buses into the 2017 Santa Claus parade - the 1971 General Motors ex-Winnipeg Transit bus and the 1984 MCI Motor coach with CJNU & the Goldeyes.

### LIVE CJNU BROADCAST ON THE BUS FOR WINNIPEG HARVEST

Tuesday, December 19th, 2017

CJNU announcer Frank Stecky will be joined by staff, volunteers and other station personalities as he broadcasts his morning show live from onboard the MTHA-CJNU-Goldeyes Cruiser gathering monetary and food donations in support of Winnipeg Harvest.

We look forward to your support.

# 93.7 FM

For the very best in Nostalgia Music



All your favourite nostalgia music and feature programs are found at just one spot on your radio dial — 93.7 CJNU. Our power has been boosted to 500 watts to give you clear reception throughout Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Any time you want to hear the very best easy listening, nostalgia music from the past 80 years, as well as special feature programs from or about years gone by, tune in CJNU Nostalgia Radio at our new spot on the dial, 93.7 FM.



## 93.7 NOSTALGIA CJNU RADIO

93.7 CJNU NOSTALGIA BROADCASTING COOPERATIVE INC.  
ON THE AIR ON THE WEB ON MTS TV 1350 A - One Lombard Place  
93.7 FM CJNU.CA | CHANNEL 725 Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X3  
NOSTALGIA COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT RADIO Phone: 204.942.CJNU (2568)  
RADIO E-mail: info@cjnu.ca



## FLASHBACK FROM THE ARCHIVE



*This wonderful photograph comes to the MTHA courtesy of William A. Luke.*

*Bill Luke of Spokane, Washington is a friend and supporter of the MTHA and we are grateful that he has shared many wonderful pictures from his collection with us, many of which have appeared in our annual Transit Calendars over the past few years.*

*Bill took this picture of Metro Transit's 1956 General Motors model TDH4512 taken on Main Street near Broadway in early 1960s.*

*The MTHA has acquired a 1954 General Motors "Old Look" model bus, and plans to restore it to the Metro Transit livery for public display.*