



The Switch Iron



Volume 4 Number 1

Summer 2010

Transit Heritage News

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The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association
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This newsletter is published four times per year and is distributed free to members.

Trip Down Memory Lane

MTHA community outreach program receives funding support from the Government of Canada and the Winnipeg Foundation

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has received significant funding from the Government of Canada's New Horizons Program for Seniors and the Winnipeg Foundation for its "Trip Down Memory Lane" outreach program.

This funding allows the MTHA to begin work on the outreach program, which aims to recruit retired employees of Winnipeg Transit, Beaver Bus Lines, and Greyhound as well as senior citizen bus enthusiasts among the general public to become involved in restoring a vintage bus into a rolling museum.



The MTHA has provided seniors many hours of enjoyment reliving old memories when the vintage Transit coaches stop by to visit their recreation centers.



Ron Alexander, founding member of the MTHA, serves as ambassador for the "Trip Down Memory Lane" program encouraging seniors to get active, join the MTHA and participate in displaying the buses.

The MTHA has recently retained the services of a program coordinator and communications coordinator (see page 6) who will work with the Amalgamated Transit Union and various Senior Citizen groups and organizations to recruit retirees.

The second phase of the program will see the MTHA display the rolling Museum Bus, along with various other buses from the its fleet, at senior citizen facilities and centers, schools, The Forks and at various special events in and around Winnipeg by the late summer of 2010.

Museum Bus

Work Set to Begin on 1981 Orion coach
Conversion into a Rolling Museum Bus

As part of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's "Trip Down Memory Lane" program, work will soon begin on a conversion project to transform the 1981 Orion bus 953 into a Rolling Museum Bus for display in our community. A steering committee of the Board has been formed to guide and oversee the project implementation.



It's not just **History**... it's a **Journey**!

MTHA Minutes of Meeting

Saturday, March 13th, 2010 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary

Present

Ron Alexander, Dennis Cavanagh, Murray Penner, Ian Moore, Pat Rogoski, Ross Smith, Guy Fontaine, Linley James, Doug Belcher, John Panting, Manny Jacob, Tom Dudych, Cindy Tugwell, Nancy Kurmann, Christian Cassidy, Steven Stothers, Wayne Smith, Gary Goodman, Mike Kubas, Wade Razella, Peter Elwick, Joe Zizic, Travis Koch-Gensorick and Alex Regiec.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Membership & Guests

Motion by Wade Razella "To accepted Cam Schneider, Gary Goodman and Wayne Smith as new members." Seconded by Mike Kubas. Carried.

Alex Regiec introduced Cindy Tugwell from Heritage Winnipeg who spoke about the upcoming Fundraising Dinner and the activities of the Streetcar 356 Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Motion by Ian Moore "To accept Treasurer Report as presented". Seconded by Ron Alexander. Carried.

Communications Report

Alex Regiec introduced Nancy Kurman who spoke to the group about her work on the MTHA communications, imaging and retail merchandising.

President's Report

Alex Regiec presented the 2010 Business Plan for the MTHA. Highlights include organization priorities, schedule of events and programs, budget and non-cash assets listing. Motion by Wade Razella "To accept and adopt MTHA 2010 Business Plan as presented". Seconded by Ron Alexander. Carried.

Alex also spoke about possible building and storage locations including discussions with the City of Winnipeg's Real Estate Division regarding surplus buildings on Pandora Avenue and William Avenue.

Finally, Alex reported on the donations of a checker trailer and bus 643 from Winnipeg Transit. Discussions for the 1958 General Motors "old look" are on-going.

Working Sub-Committees

MTHA members volunteered to serve on the following Board sub-committees:

Bus Inventory & Location Committee - Tom Dudych, Dennis Cavanagh, Guy Fontaine, Alex Regiec, Peter Elwick, Ron Alexander and Brian Schuff.

Building Committee - Alex Regiec, Linley James, Chris Cassidy and Mike Kubas.

Museum Bus Committee - Pat Rogoski, Ross Smith, Alex Regiec, Ron Alexander, Murray Penner and Ian Moore.

New Business

Ron Alexander asked that a committee be established to develop a listing of the location of antique buses across Manitoba.

Tom Dudych added that the MTHA needs to form a sub-committee to determine which vehicles it wants to keep in its collection and which vehicles it would like to obtain. He pointed out that there are duplicate models in the collection and that the MTHA should only keep one example from each decade.

Peter Elwick spoke about the Glenwood Arena in St. Vital and its upcoming summer functions. He offered to speak with the coordinators about a possible MTHA bus display.

Wade Razella talked about upcoming improvements to the MTHA website, including a section for making donations through PayPal, a retail page for selling of MTHA items such as tee-shirts, mugs and toy buses, a link to pictures posted on the MTHA site on Flickr, and a bulletin board/forums section.

Manny Jacob suggested that the MTHA should approach Greyhound Lines about the possible donation of a Motor Coach from the Grey Goose division.

Doug Belcher reported on the Prairie Dog Central Railway bus and a MTHA partnership with PDCR for the bus.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Next General Meeting

Saturday, August 10th at 10:30 a.m.
Fort Rouge Garage.





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

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization whose members volunteer to restore old transit vehicles for historical purposes, and provide the restored transit vehicles for public parades and displays.

2010 Executive & Board of Directors

Alex Regiec
President

Dennis Cavanagh
Vice-President

Guy Fontaine
Treasurer

Ross Smith
Secretary

Wade Razella
Communications Chairperson

Phil Rawluk
Community Outreach Chairperson

Ron Alexander
Founding Member

John Kaputsa
Founding Member

Terry Wark

Tom Dudych

John Panting

Linley James

Pat Rogoski

Mike Kubas
Winnipeg Transit Social Committee Rep.

Randy Tonnellier
Winnipeg Transit Working Conditions Committee Rep.

Al Brunsel
Winnipeg Employees/Retirees Charitable Fund Rep.

Ed Mantie
New Flyer Industries Rep.

The MTHA gratefully acknowledges support from its Corporate, Government and Community Partners:



MTHA Restoration & Preservation

Bringing it back to life

Volunteers restore 1946 Ford bus back to operational condition

New and veteran volunteer members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association have completed work on the restoration of bus 565. The 1946 Ford Transit model 69-B has been brought back to operational condition thanks to the hard work of MTHA veterans Guy Fontaine and Ross Smith, and new volunteers Cam Schneider and Wayne Smith. All four MTHA members are retired Winnipeg Transit maintenance staff who want to stay active by keeping the heritage buses running for display.

Work on the bus included installing a new muffler and tail pipe system, wiring the bus and making all electrical connections, work on the carburetor and installing new shock absorbers.

Busy at work on bus 565 are from left to right: Ross Smith, Wayne Smith, Guy Fontaine and Cam Schneider.



On the right, bus 565 undergoes an under body, frame and suspension inspection while sitting over the pit.

This 1946 Ford Transit model 69-B was purchased by the Winnipeg Electric Company in 1946 and operated on the streets of Winnipeg until its retirement in 1960.

The bus was sold to a group in the Interlake Region of Manitoba where it was used as a school bus until the late 1960s.



Trip Down Memory Lane

Antique Bus Display at Garden City Shopping Centre

On April 9th and 10th, and as part of its Trip Down Memory Lane Program, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association successfully displayed bus 111 at the Garden City Shopping Centre. MTHA Vice-President Dennis Cavanagh gathered a team of volunteers made up of retirees Ron Alexander, Joe Zizic, Doug Belcher and Pat Rogoski to encourage seniors to join the MTHA.



Food Hamper Delivery

The MTHA delivers to Winnipeggers in need

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, in partnership with Winnipeg's Jewish Child & Family Services, once again delivered food hampers to many Winnipeggers in need. MTHA Volunteers included Murray Penner, Doug Belcher, Guy Fontaine, Phil Rawluk, Alex Regiec, Dennis Cavanagh, Wade Razella and Joe Zizic using bus 751 to deliver food hampers around the city.



2010 Transit History Calendar

Limited copies still available

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has a limited number of 2010 Transit History Calendars still available. A complimentary copy of the calendar is being distributed free to all MTHA members with this newsletter, and additional copies are available at a cost of \$3.00 each. Please contact Alex Regiec for additional copies.



Transcona Hi Neighbour

MTHA and New Flyer display 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser in local Festival Parade

On Saturday, June 5th, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, in partnership with New Flyer Industries place the 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser into the 2010 Transcona Hi Neighbour festival Parade.

MTHA volunteers Ross Smith, Ron Alexander and John Kapusta prepared the coach in advance of the Parade by performing a complete tune up on the engine, adjusted the air brakes and clutch, and fuelled the coach.

Dennis Cavanagh and Alex Regiec washed the coach the night before and drove the bus in Parade on Saturday morning.

Twenty employees and their families from New Flyer Industries volunteer their time on the Saturday to ride along with coach and walk beside it to hand out candies to children standing along the Parade route.

The vintage 1956 highway coach was admired and photographed by many along the Parade route, and at one point received loud applause from the large crowd which had gathered in downtown Transcona.



Movie Filming

The production of "The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom" uses MTHA buses 30 and 751 in two movie scenes

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided two of its vintage buses (Bus 28 a 1960 GM and Bus 751 a 1971 GM) for the film production of "The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom".

MTHA volunteers included Wade Razella, Doug Belcher and Alex Regiec who spent a whole day each on the set of the movie.



Ride for Dad

MTHA displays buses 111 and 751 at fundraising event for Prostate Cancer Research

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association showed support for the "Ride for Dad for Prostate Cancer Research" with buses 111 and 751 on Saturday, May 22.

MTHA volunteers included Dennis Cavanagh, Pat Rogoski, Manny Jacob, Phil Rawluk, Mike Kubas, Linley James, Guy Fontaine and Alex Regiec.



Our Collection ...

The MTHA historic collection, with restored vehicles and memorabilia representing six decades of public transit history ...

1937



Twin Coach 23R

1941



Twin Coach 30GS

1945



Ford 69-B

1946



CCF-Brill T-48A

1950



Western Flyer T-36 2L

1956



Western Flyer T-38/40

1958



General Motors TDH-4517

1960



General Motors T6H-4521A

1961



Orion I

1971



Flyer D901-10240

1981



1984

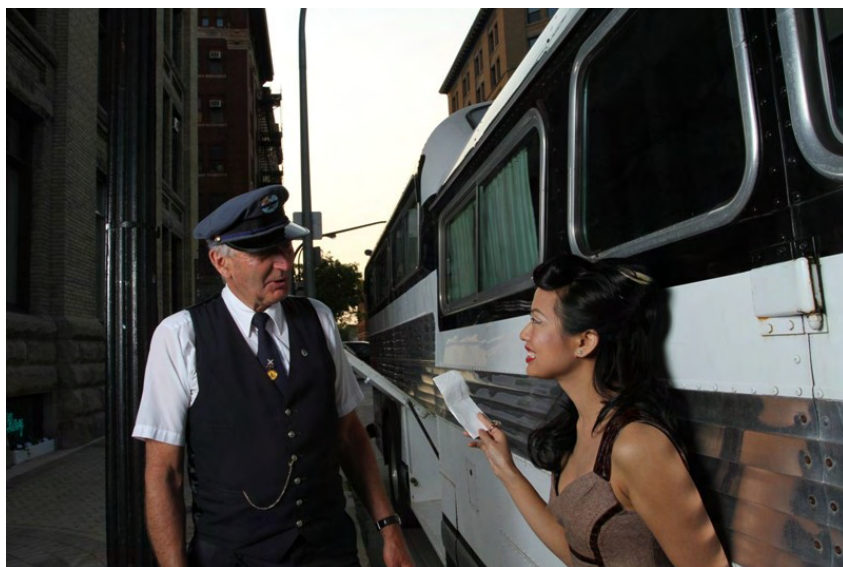


Local Professional Photographer enlists MTHA to
Provide Vintage Highway Coach for ...

... 1950s Era Photo Set

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided its 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser to local professional photographer Nik Thavison on Sunday, June 13 for a classic 1950s era picture shoot.

Granted a permit by the City of Winnipeg's Film and Special Event Office, the coach was parked on McDermot Avenue at Arthur Street where Nik photographed professional models Kailynn, Claudette and Lannie. MTHA volunteer Doug Belcher was also featured in the photo shoot.



Public Transit in Japan

MTHA President Travels to Asia and Discovers an Interesting Mix of Public Transport and Transit Heritage

By Alex Regiec

Your President was very fortunate this past April to have had an opportunity to travel to far east Asia and experience public transit in Japan.

I rode on buses in the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto and Kawagoe, experienced being pushed onto the crowded subway in rush hour Tokyo, and travelled on the Shinkansen (Bullet Train) from Tokyo to Kyoto, a journey of 600 km in 2-and-a-half hours! I am pleased to share a few pictures of my trip with you. Enjoy.



A Bureau of Transportation Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TOEI) bus travels down Meguro-dori (street) toward Central Tokyo.



Tokyo Shitamachi Bus - a sightseeing tour bus operated by TOEI approaching the ancient Senso-ji Temple in the Asakusa district of Tokyo.



Located at the very busy Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo, this original 1950s era subway car stands on display as both a museum and sitting shelter for the public.

Perhaps the MTHA could do this with an old Streetcar for Winnipeg?



An estimated 3.5 million passengers ride every day on Tokyo's Yamanote Line, with its 29 stations. In comparison, the New York City Subway carries 5.08 million passengers per day on 26 lines serving 468 stations and the London Underground carries 2.7 million passengers per day on 12 lines serving 275 stations.



The Tokaido Shinkansen is a high-speed rail line, opened in 1964 between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka. It is operated by the Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central) and has a top travelling speed of 270km/hr!

Kyoto is a city in the central part of the island of Honshu, Japan. It has a population of nearly 1.5 million people and was formerly the imperial capital of Japan. The UNESCO World Heritage Site Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto includes 17 locations (mainly Buddhist and Shinto Temples) in Kyoto. The Kyoto City Bus, pictured on the right, provides five main tourist routes that provide a quick and convenient link to the heritage sites.



Known as "little Edo" meaning little Tokyo, the City of Kawagoe (population 335,000) is located about 60-minutes by Train from Central Tokyo. Kawagoe is famous for it's sweet potatoes (including sweet potato ice cream, candy and beer) and for its well preserved traditional architectural warehouses.

Above, an orange Tobu-Line bus operates through central Kawagoe toward the main bus station.

On the left, the Koedo Loop Bus provides a good sightseeing tour on a restored vintage coach through the older and historic districts of Kawagoe. Yet another idea for the MTHA buses?



Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission bus #619 seen stopped at the corner of Donald and Graham next to the Moore's Taxi headquarters. This bus was a 1953 Mack model C47DT which carried 47-passengers. This unit was retired from active service in 1967.

Photograph Courtesy of William A. Luke, Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

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 R3C 4A6