



The Switch Iron

Volume 2 Number 1

February 2008

Transit Heritage News

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association sets agenda for the new year

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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.
c/o 421 Osborne Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3L 2A2

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

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Vice-President Dennis Cavanagh welcomes Cincinnati, Ohio bus operator Jim Bainter to Winnipeg, Canada and provides him with a tour of the 1937 Twin Coach which was built in Kent, Ohio.

It's 2008 and time to get rolling...

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has identified the top work priorities for its small fleet of vintage buses in 2008.

Everything from basic oil & fluid changes to electrical wiring to engine and drive train work will be undertaken this year.

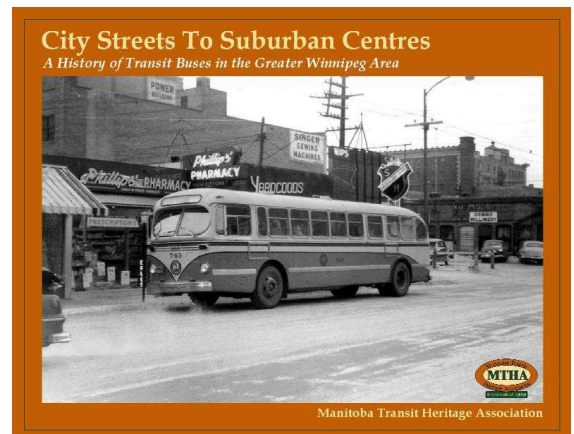
Members and volunteers are welcomed to participate in work parties to be held on Wednesdays and some Saturdays at FRG.

A complete list detailing the work to be done on each individual bus, and the dates for the work parties is available on Page 3.

Transit history book to be published

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. formally endorsed a project to undertake the research, writing and publication of a history book detailing the transit buses that operated in Greater Winnipeg from 1918 to the present.

The book, to be called "City Streets to Suburban Centres: A History of Transit Buses in the Greater Winnipeg Area" will feature stories, black & white and colour pictures, maps and samples of various transit related items such as passes, tickets and transfers. The MTHA hopes to have the book available by Christmas 2008.



Cincinnati bus operator visits MTHA

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association recently hosted Jim Bainter, a bus operator from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jim has been travelling across Canada during his holiday visiting various transit properties and bus preservationist societies photographing equipment and sharing stories.

His journey began in Cincinnati and included stops in Washington, Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, Seattle and San Francisco.

MTHA Board Meeting

Thursday, January 24th, 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

Present:

Ron Alexander, John Kapusta, Ross Smith, Dennis Cavanagh, Ben Konowalchuk, Jim McInnes, Tom Dudy, Ian Moore, John Panting, Terry Wark, Pat Rogoski, Alex Regiec, and David Wyatt.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:05.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 10th October 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

No report at this time.

Old Business

Bus Maintenance:

- Bus 111 requires an oil & fluid change, and need to investigate the squealing noise (differential?)
- Bus 751 also requires oil & fluids change, greasing, under body inspection, corroded panel replacement, and painting.
- Bus 28 needs an under body inspection, frame inspection and application of vinyl decals.

Bus Refurbishment:

- Bus 214 needs the seats installed, the engine and drive train installed, bumpers, and brake valve work.
- Bus 565 requires completion of the electrical wiring, and an exhaust and muffler system installed.
- Bus 1768 need to move trolley to FRG and begin cleaning and preparation for painting. Need to contact TRAMS in Vancouver regarding electrical restoration.

Bus Insurance & Licencing:

Alex Regiec motioned to purchase the insurance policies for buses 111, 751 & 28. John Panting seconded. Adopted.

Bus Acquisitions:

- Bus 951 maybe available for purchase from the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.
- Bus 107 maybe available from Winnipeg Transit when it is no longer required for service.

Schedules

Work nights would be on Wednesdays, with a select few on Saturday afternoons and business meetings on the second Thursday of every month.

New Business

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has the opportunity to participate in a number of special events this year. The following items were discussed:

Show & Shine Activities:

- Buses 111 & 28 possibly operate a portion of the Selkirk run to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the route in May.
- Bus 111 & 751 to appear at the City of Winnipeg's Public Works Expo held at Kildonan Park in May.
- Bus 111 & 28 to participate in the Cruz' In Downtown parade of vintage vehicles.
- Bus 28 to be used to deliver hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board in 2008.

Revenue Raising Opportunities:

- Bus 111 could be used to show & Shine at various seniors and nursing homes this summer. Ross Smith and Alex Regiec will coordinate.
- Bus 565 to be used to conduct downtown Heritage Tours in association with Heartland International Tours.
- A detailed proposal was presented to undertake the Wednesday senior shuttle bus for the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre using bus 751. The work would involve operating 52 days per year for remuneration. Alex Regiec motioned that the MTHA undertake the shuttle work as proposed. Terry Wark seconded. Defeated 11-2.
- A proposal to operate a 1 night shuttle for the upcoming Canadian Institute of Planners Conference using buses 751, 28 and 111 was presented. A donation would be made to the MTHA. Ian Moore motioned that the MTHA undertake the 1 night shuttle. Ross Smith seconded. Adopted.
- Alex Regiec motioned that the MTHA undertake the writing and publication of a book entitled "City Street to Suburban Centres: A History of Transit Buses In Greater Winnipeg" as a fundraiser. David Wyatt seconded. Adopted.

- A request to bring bus 111 to St. Andrews Church on Canada Day was declined because it was outside the city.

Other Items

Ross Smith raised the possibility of hosting a bus convention, and will explore the idea with Dennis Cavanagh.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.



Welcome...

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

Barry Strike
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Doug Belcher
Winnipeg, Manitoba

MTHA Work & Meeting Schedule

The following list highlights upcoming work party and regular business meetings for the MTHA. Please post this list in a handy reference place, and call either Alex Regiec or Dennis Cavanagh to confirm your attendance.

Description	February	March	April	May	June
<p>Bus 111 1937 Twin Coach model 23R</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil, filter and fluid change - Investigate source of squealing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brake adjustment - Differential work 		12 19 26			
<p>Bus 214 1941 Twin Coach model 30GS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install seating - Mount engine & drive train <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrical wiring 			30	14 21, 28	7
<p>Bus 565 1946 Ford Transit model 69-B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil, filter and fluid change - Exhaust system & muffler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrical wiring, Horn 			16 26 30		
<p>Bus 28 1960 GM model TDH-4517</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil, filter and fluid change - Under body inspection - Frame inspection 	27	12	9		
<p>Bus 751 1971 GM model T6H-4521</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil, filter and fluid change - Under body inspection - Body panel replacement - Paint 	27	12			18 25
<p>Regular Business Meeting -locations to be announced</p>		6	10	8	12

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

Officials on hand for the official send off included:

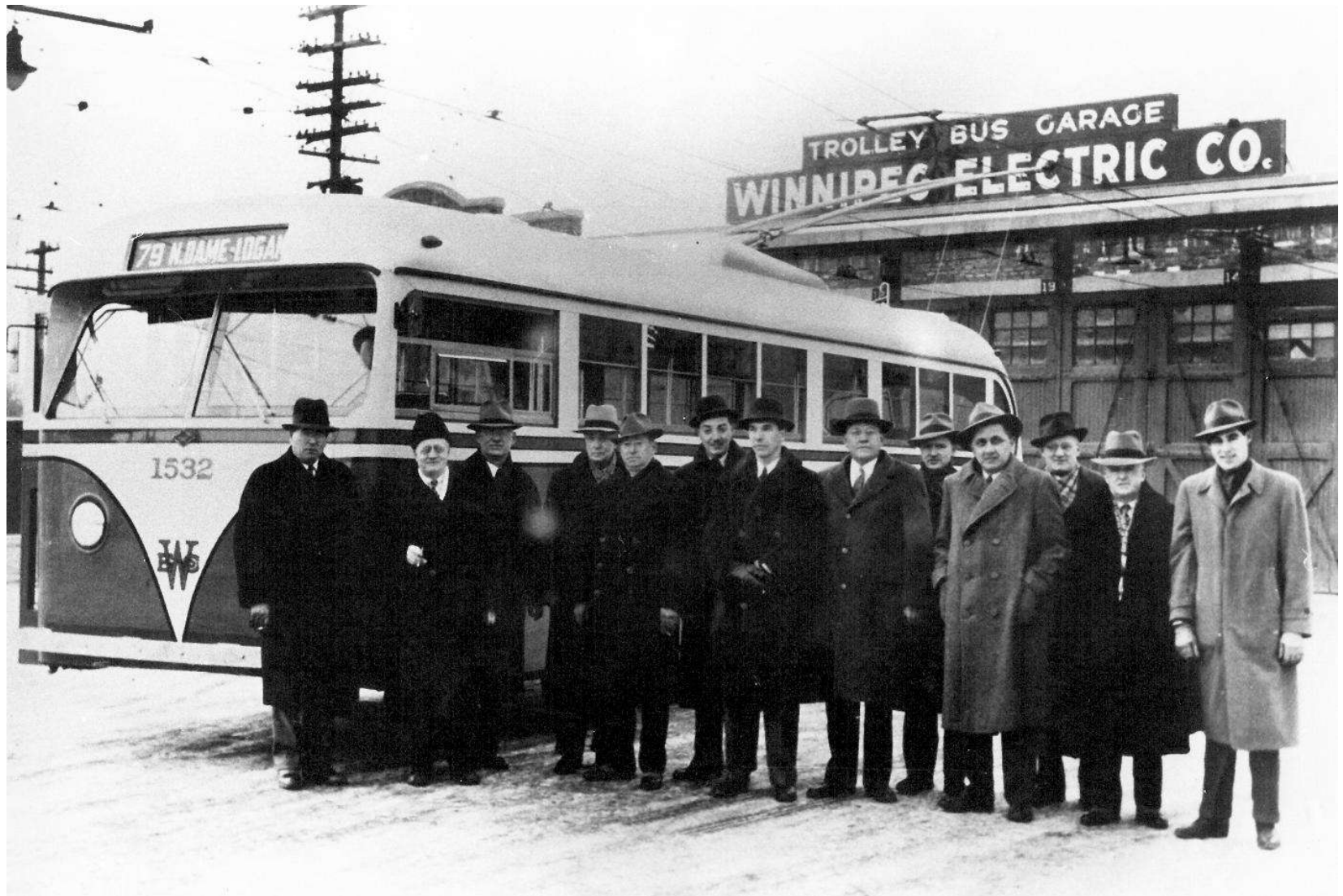
Motor Coach Industries
D.F. Scinski - President
Harry Zoltok - V-President
D.D. Clark - Sales Mgr.
George Mason - Engineer

Westinghouse Co. Ltd.
B.O. Austin (Pittsburgh)

Industrial Development Board of Manitoba:
Ald. R.A. Sara
F.C. Pickwell

Winnipeg Electric Co.
C.H. Dahl
S. Sigmundson
W.J. Jones
Allan Couch
C. Dempster

Tony Byrne was the first operator.



Winnipeg Electric Co. 1532, a one-only trolleybus built by Motor Coach Industries, was delivered on Friday, February 20, 1943. This picture was provided courtesy of Chirs Mason of Winnipeg, Manitoba.