



Tall, sleek, and handsome! The MTHA proudly displays it's two Western Flyer vintage highway coaches at the Transcona Hi Neighbour Parade.

## on the road, again! Transcona Hi Neighbour Festival Parade

On Saturday, June 1, 2013 the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association placed the 1956 Western Flyer "Scenic Cruiser" and the 1958 Western Flyer "Air Force" coaches into the 2013 Transcona Hi Neighbour Festival parade.

The vintage buses were admired and photographed by many along the parade route, and at one point received loud applause from the large crowd which had gathered in the old downtown area of Transcona.



Many MTHA members volunteered for the Transcona Hi Neighbour Parade, including: Dave Dickenson, Todd Cucheron, Gary Goodman, Vera Kolodrupsky, Alan Brunsel, Elizabeth Rogoski, and Peter Elwick.



# association news

## Presentations, displays and much more



### bus model presentation

#### Beaver Bus Lines

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012 the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association presented Beaver Bus Lines with a scale model of coach #89. MTHA member (and Beaver Bus employee) Pat Rogoski, on the right in the picture, designed and applied the decals to the model and together with MTHA President Alex Regiec, on the left in the picture, presented it to John Fehr, President of Beaver Bus Lines.

The model was painted by Rick Chupa of Cellar Dwellar Hobbies.

### annual activities

#### 2012 Santa Claus Parade

On Saturday, November 17, 2012 the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association placed the 1971 General Motors "Fishbowl" transit bus and the 1958 Western Flyer "Air Force" coach in the 2013 Winnipeg Santa Claus Parade.

Both buses had destination signs which read the "North Pole Express" and "North Pole Local" respectively.



### Manitoba CancerCare Car Show

In support of Cancer Care Manitoba, MTHA members attended a Car Show on Saturday, May 18th at Bluewave Energy, 450 Sheppard Street from 11:00 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Ty, a grade 12 student from Kildonan East Collegiate put the show together for a Take Action project for school; the \$10 entry fee going towards Cancer Care Manitoba.



**editor's desk**

Charter bus deregulation and the road ahead

The Province of Manitoba Department of Infrastructure and Transportation is deregulating the charter bus business.

In a media announcement released on Friday, April 26, 2013, the provincial government heralded - *Legislation Would Modernize Regulations For Charter Bus Services.*

"There would be more opportunities for charter bus operators to launch routes and Manitobans would have better access to bus services under proposed legislation introduced by the provincial government today," Minister Ashton announced.

Interesting. Transport Ministers are on the front lines of politics, where policy meets the road. Typically Transport Ministers attempt to walk a fine line between ideology and what needs to get built or run. We have all read stories of the backroad to nowhere being paved while there are big potholes on the Trans-Canada, right? Or how a bus company was denied abandonment of a non-remunerative route because it served a certain politicos riding, right? I don't know whether everything Minister Ashton is doing for the bus industry makes sense, but it appears he doesn't mind being at odds, strangely enough with local Manitoba bus companies.



**"Once the charter door is wide open ... it may undoubtedly lead to cherry-picking."**

**On the left: The cover of a 1936 Manitoba Bus Schedule produced by the Manitoba Bus Owners' Association representing 19 bus companies serving all Manitoba.**

The intercity bus industry in Manitoba has undergone a series of reforms over the last number of years, which include the provincial government first deregulating parcel express service in the 1990s, and then deregulating scheduled line-haul service just a couple of years ago. It is the latter action which has left me, and many of the local bus companies, confused in regard to the Minister's recent statement connecting the launching of new routes with the deregulation of the charter bus business?

Once the charter door is wide open, allowing entry to competitors from

Ontario, Saskatchewan and possibly North Dakota and Minnesota without fair reciprocity for Manitoba carriers in those jurisdictions, it may undoubtedly lead to cherry-picking.

Why is the Minister so zealous in leading the charge for this change? In such a small market, wouldn't a graduated reduction and promotion of locally based companies make more ideological and common sense rather than putting these very businesses and the jobs they generate at risk?

*Alex Regiec, MTHA Treasurer  
Editor, The Switch Iron Newsletter*



**Steering the MTHA bus**

"The Association is in good hands with Al Brunsel taking the wheel," remarked outgoing President Alex Regiec. "He brings a new vibrancy to the MTHA, and will engage the membership to do great things."

**behind the wheel**

Alan J. Brunsel, MTHA President

At a meeting of the MTHA Board of Directors on March 16, 2013, Alan Brunsel was elected President. Al has served for one year as a Vice-President, and as the representative for the City's Employee Retirees Charitable Fund on the MTHA Board.

Al brings many years of experience working at Winnipeg Transit first as a Bus Operator, Transit Controller and currently as Transit Supervisor.

Alex Regiec, who had been President of the MTHA for the past 6 years, announced his resignation effective March 30, 2013. Alex will remain on the MTHA Board as Treasurer & Past President.

**association news**

Sunday Nights at the Pony Corral

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association plans to regularly attend the Sunday Night Cruise hosted by the Pony Corral Restaurant at 400 Wilton Street at Grant Avenue.

From May through to October, MTHA volunteers plan on bringing numerous MTHA vintage buses to display, including the 1937 Twin Coach, the 1956 Western Flyer Coach “Scenic Cruiser”, the 1971 General Motors “Fishbowl”, and the 1984 Flyer D901 Transit bus. Many antique car enthusiasts enjoy touring the old buses, kicking the tires and looking “under the hood”.

Other activities scheduled for this summer include:

- August 17 - Vintage bus display at Prairie Dog Central Railway's Planes, Trains and Automobiles event
- August 24 - Vintage bus display at Osborne South Business Improvement Zone Street Festival
- September 7 - Vintage Bus Club Fundraiser Trip to Lockport {Club Members and their spouses only}
- November 16 - Vintage Buses in Santa Claus Parade



**Cruising at the Pony**  
 Al Brunsel, Elizabeth Rogoski and Ian Moore enjoy displaying the '56 Scenic Cruiser at the Pony Corral.

**from the photo album**

Eagle Bus Lines

Eagle Bus Lines Limited was based at 399 Archibald Street in St. Boniface, Manitoba. At the height of its operations in the early 1970s, the company owned nine highway coaches which were primarily used for charter services. Eagle Bus Lines also provided a daily scheduled operation from Winnipeg via St. Anne, Richer, Hadashville, Prawda, McMunn and Falcon Lake to West Hawk Lake. The route was a very popular service for summer cottagers until its cancellation in 1992.



**Pride of the fleet**  
 Pictured at the Archibald Garage, Eagle Bus Lines #31 was a 1974 Motor Coach Industries model MC-8.