



Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, Inc.

THE SWITCH IRON

August 2015

Volume Eight

Issue Number One

Editor: Alex Regiec

MTHA:
BAGGAGE IDENTIFICATION TAG
 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 Association's volunteers are revved up for a summer full of activities and displays ...



"Farewell to the D40" fan trip participants pose for a group photo at the New Flyer plant



MTHA Volunteers ready for the Sunday Night Cruise



Presentation to Wade Razella



For more details about the events featured in these pictures, please turn to page 6.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SWITCH IRON:

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Enjoy looking back through time at some great photographs taken by long-time MTHA friend and supporter William A. Luke of Spokane, Washington.

Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & NEWS THAT TRAVELS

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is on the road again this summer and is busy attending various community events, car show displays and parades. See where we've been and where we're going with the classic buses.

MTHA President Alan Brunsel's message to the membership.

Also, MTHA Historian David Wyatt's report on the 2015 BHA Convention in Quebec City.

Continued on Page 6

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your 2015-2016 MTHA membership fees are due. Please remit \$25.00 with the application form found on the back page. If you have already sent in your dues, then please fill out the form to help us update our mailing list.

Thank You!

Continued on Page 8



Regular meeting of the MTHA Board of Directors

HELD ON MAY 4, 2015 AT BRANDON GARAGE IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

RECORDED BY:

David Wyatt, MTHA Historian

PRESENT:

Al Brunsel, Linley James, Dennis Cavanagh, Tom Dudyck, David Wyatt, Pat Rogoski, Peter Elwick and Logan Poole.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 19:07.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Bus 62: Waiting for Jim to bring 62 to FRG where the fuel tank will be removed and the good tires replaced with scrap tires. This will ready the unit for scrapping, and allow us to redeploy the tires.

Flin Flon buses: Acquisition is under way. The buses will be acquired in exchange for a charitable tax receipt in the amount of CAD \$75,000.00 (which will be CAD \$25,000.00 for the MC9 and CAD \$50,000.00 value for the P41 Canuck). The current owner will road-test both buses and ready them for the road trip to Winnipeg (approx 10 hours according to Google maps). Greyhound Canada has further offered to donate bus passage for the team (Al Brunsel, Logan Poole, and Roger Hamelin) to get to Flin Flon. The MTHA has space to store the units. Alternately Exclusive Bus Lines may be able to store one unit.

Proposed MTHA-Winnipeg Transit agreement: This has been proposed to David Wardrop, Director of Transit. Initial concerns centred around insurance and liability for visitors to the proposed Saturday displays on the apron of North Garage. It is our understanding that the MTHA is already insured for this activity.

Wade Razella: It was proposed that the MTHA prepare a gift for Wade in recognition of his generous financial support for the MTHA the last several years. Al proposed an expenditure of approximately \$170 for the gift, based on a proposed framed photograph.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Al Brunsel presented on behalf of Alex Regiec.

We have approximately CAD \$15,000.00 in the bank.

Our donation agreement with New Flyer is at an end. Al and Alex plan to meet with New Flyer to see if New Flyer might consider sponsoring the MTHA for an additional period of time.

We plan to apply for grant funding. The Winnipeg Foundation was mentioned as a possible funder.

The ongoing funding received from members and supporters through the Winnipeg Transit employees and retirees charitable fund is declining some. There was discussion of attending sign-up to encourage new members to join.

Current taxes are completed and filed.

Current insurance is renewed for the 2015 operating season.

MAINTENANCE STATUS:

A brief overview of the operational maintenance requirements of our buses was discussed. Various units were discussed for oil changes, cleaning points, tune-ups and other routine items. Discussions also took place about the carburetor for 111 (1937 Twin), and the wiring and other issues for 565 (1946 Ford).

Fleet Clean-up Day: It was decided to hold a work party day for all

members to wash and wipe down vehicles on Saturday May 23rd. Al Brunsel will send out an email message.

EVENTS:

August 9, 2015 - MTHA Weekend at the Pony Corral. Our goal is to bring out as many units as possible.

Transcona Hi Neighbour Festival
We are not planning to participate in this event this year.

The Pride Parade organizers have significantly increased the cost of participating this year and have made changes that will make participation problematic. Therefore the executive decided to pass.

Farewell to the D40 Charter. This is a Canadian Transit Heritage Association event. Alex is coordinating any MTHA logistical participation.

JOHN BAKER COLLECTION:

Discussion took place around the acquisition of the collection, housing the collection, and the timing of the acquisition. Tom asked if it was an option to pass the collection on to an archives. Al agreed to contact Winnipeg Transit about the possibility of using the safe in North Garage. The collection currently sits in approximately 44 boxes (mostly file-storage boxes) plus several loose items. It is planned to collect the items from Lorie Baker this summer, perhaps in June or July.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: Logan Poole proposed a "Men of the Heritage Club" calendar. There was no seconder.

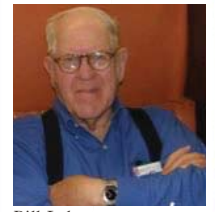
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Al Brunsel moved to Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 20:00. ■



WILLIAM A. LUKE, JOURNALIST & BUS HISTORIAN

Time travelling with snapshots from Bill Luke's fine photography collection



Bill Luke

William A. (Bill) Luke has been involved in the bus industry for his entire life. He grew up in northern Minnesota and began his career working for the Jefferson Transportation Company (now Jefferson Lines) based in Minneapolis. After 20 years at Jefferson, Bill moved to Spokane, Washington to become the assistant manager of Empire Lines. He has also served as a transit commissioner for the City of Spokane.

Together with his wife, Adelene, Bill establish *Bus Ride* magazine in 1965, which has become the prominent trade journal of the bus industry. Bill has travelled extensively across the United States, Canada and 70 countries around the world exploring, learning and writing about bus transportation.

The Luke's sold the publication in 1996, however Bill continues to travel, serve as a consultant and write. He is

the author of numerous books about the bus industry and its history.

Bill and Adelene have been married since 1953 and still live in Spokane.

Bill has graciously shared many of his fine photographs recently with the MTHA. With Bill's permission, it gives us great pleasure to offer you a look at the first group of pictures in this issue (and there are many more pictures to be featured in future issues). ■



Beaver Bus Lines #29, a 1960 General Motors model TDH-4517, leaving for Selkirk, Manitoba.

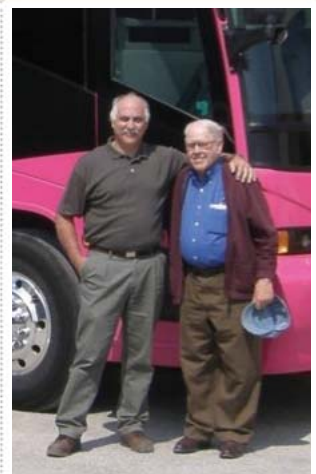
SELKIRK BUS					
WEEKDAYS		SATURDAYS ONLY		SUNDAYS ONLY	
Leave Selkirk	Leave Winnipeg	Leave Selkirk	Leave Winnipeg	Leave Selkirk	Leave Winnipeg
6:45am	7:00am	6:45am	7:00am	7:50am	8:00am
7:20	7:30	7:20	7:30	8:30	8:40
7:50	8:00	7:50	8:00	9:00	9:10
8:20	8:30	8:20	8:30	9:30	9:40
8:50	9:00	8:50	9:00	10:00	10:10
9:20	9:30	9:20	9:30	10:30	10:40
9:50	10:00	9:50	10:00	10:45	10:55
10:20	10:30	10:20	10:30	11:00	11:10
10:50	11:00	10:50	11:00	11:15	11:25
11:20	11:30	11:20	11:30		

Trips marked "L" operate Northbound to East on Stevens North on Cut-off to No. 1 Highway to No. 9 (Main Highway) to Selkirk. Southbound trips operate in reverse direction.

Beaver Bus Lines timetable for November 8, 1948.



Beaver Bus Lines #19 departs the Union Bus Depot on Graham & Carlton/Hargrave, circa 1960.



John Fehr & Bill Luke at Beaver Bus

All photographs © Copyright by William A. Luke. Used with permission.



Bill Luke's pictorial history of Winnipeg Transit



Metro Transit #101, a 1956 General Motors "Old Look".



Metro Transit's CCF-Brill electric trolley #1768.

Winnipeg's Transit System has featured many different types of bus models from various manufacturers.

Since the late 1940s, Bill Luke has been able to document most of the buses used in Winnipeg over the years.

Additional Winnipeg photos will also be featured in the next issue.



Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission #413, a 1954 Flexible-Twin Coach model FT2D-40.



Metro Transit #814, a 1966 Mitsubishi-FUSO Japanese bus.



A 1960 Canadian-Car model TD51-60 "Boxcar" rounds the corner at Portage & Memorial near the Hudson's Bay store.



A 1969 Western Flyer Coach D700.

All photographs © Copyright by William A. Luke. Used with permission.



On the road with Bill Luke's picture collection

Bill Luke has photographed all of the intercity motor coach carriers that have operated in Manitoba since the late 1940s.

In this issue, we will feature Bill's documentation of the once mighty regional carrier called Grey Goose Bus Lines which was based in Winnipeg.



Grey Goose #142, a 1971 MC-7, destined to Toronto.



Grey Goose #28, a P-41 "Canuck", in its original blue & silver livery, circa 1960.



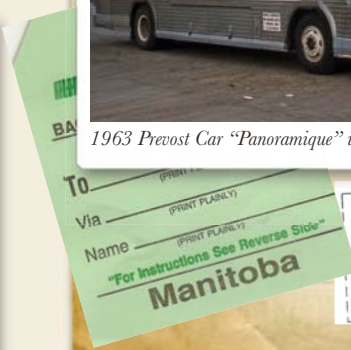
1963 Prevost Car "Panoramique" in Morris, Manitoba.



1966 Western Flyer Canuck 500.



Grey Goose #203 destined to Regina via Gainborough.



Grey Goose #108, a 1967 Western Flyer Coach model Canuck 600, destined to the "Lakehead" or Thunder Bay, Ontario.

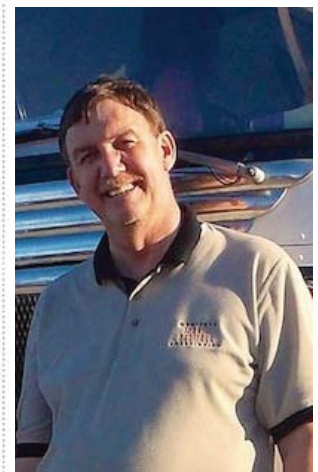


Cover of a 1962 printed timetable.

All photographs © Copyright by William A. Luke. Used with permission.



The MTHA fleet on display surrounded by a sea of onlookers at the Sunday Night Cruise at the Pony Corral Restaurant



Alan J. Brunsel, President

SUNDAY NIGHT CRUISE AT THE PONY CORRAL

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association displayed its fine fleet of vintage buses featured at the Pony Corral Restaurant on Grant Avenue & Wilton Street on Sunday, August 9th, 2015 from 5 PM until 10 PM.

The Sunday Night Cruise was sponsored by the Pony Corral Restaurant & Bar and the Manitoba Hot Rod Association and featured antique automobiles, hot rod cars and eleven vintage transit and highway buses. Thousands of people were in attendance to take the fine display of classic vehicles. ■

CTHF / MTHA FAREWELL TO THE D40 EVENT

With the high floor era in Winnipeg scheduled to end in late 2015, the Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation (CTHF), in conjunction with the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) sponsored a fan trip on a Winnipeg Transit New Flyer D40 bus. The seven hour fan trip included a visit to with the MTHA historic fleet, the new Brandon Avenue garage (where the ex-Ottawa artics are kept), a visit to Beaver Bus Lines (ex-GO Transit Orion V buses), a ride on the Busway, viewing the electric bus charging station (New Flyer XE40) at the Airport and numerous other photo stops. A half-hour lunch stop was made at Polo Park Shopping Centre.

The fan trip started at the Balmoral Station (Portage Avenue and Balmoral Street) at 9:30 AM on Saturday, May 30th, 2015 returned at 5:00 PM. ■

PRESENTATION TO WADE RAZELLA

The MTHA honored long time general member and former Board of Director Wade Razella for his commitment and generous donations to our organization.

President Alan Brunsel and Treasurer Alex Regiec presented Wade with a nicely framed Transit History picture in acknowledgment. The presentation took place on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at Wade's workplace during his coffee break. ■

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD

The Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at Transit's Brandon Garage. Over 25 members and guests were in attendance. The Annual General Meeting reflected on the past year's work of preserving and exhibiting the vintage heritage bus fleet, reviewed the organization's finances, set a plan for 2015, and after the meeting, allowed members to mix and mingle over donuts and coffee. ■

Check our website for future events at:

www.mtha.ca

President's Message

Hope that everyone is having a good summer. I was very pleased at the number of volunteers that came out to the Pony Corral. We were able to take out every running bus in the fleet. Hope that next year we can have an even bigger event at the Pony Corral.

Our next major event is the South Osborne BIZ Sidewalk Festival. Unfortunately I will be away for that event, but I am sure Alex would appreciate any help he can get. Let's try and have a turnout like we did for the Pony Corral.

Now that we have acquired the P-41 Canuck and the MC 9 from Northern Bus Lines, Alex and myself are working on a fund raiser that would involve a road trip and a train trip. Watch the MTHA website for more information.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. ■



40 members from across North America attended the Bus History Association Convention in Quebec City.



Dennis takes the wheel of the "Canuck"

2015 BUS HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

By David A. Wyatt, MTHA Historian

This year's convention for the Bus History Association took place in the Quebec City area in June. Approximately 40 delegates met to talk about and visit bus companies and transit systems in Québec, Lévis, Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan, and Saguenay. The province is the home of Novabus and Prevost bus builders.

First up was a 200 km road trip north to visit Société de transport de Saguenay. Novabus is bus of choice in Saguenay and STS operates both Classic and LFS models.

Day two was spent on the south side of the St. Lawrence, in and around Lévis. Transit on the south side is handled by Société de transport de Lévis. The STL in-house fleet is all Novabus, with 40- and 60-ft units. Their BRT routes are branded le Lévisien and connect Lévis with Québec.

The highlight of the convention was a tour of the Prevost coach factory. Prevost is proud of its long history as a premiere coach builder and their H3-45 and X3-45 coaches are found all across North America. One major customer is Diversified in Fort McMurray. Another is Greyhound. The factory is an unusual layout, with two rows of work bays off a central midway. Twice a day, all in a 1 hour window, every unit is pulled out of its work bay, transported up or down the aisle, and inserted into another. The whole procedure is a complicated as an RCMP musical ride.

The day was rounded out with visits to two charter coach companies, Autocar Excellence in

Lévis and Autobus Fleur-de-Lys in nearby Charny.

Day three was another road trip, to visit Régie de Transport en Commun de Shawinigan Société de Transport de Trois-Rivières, and charter line Autobus Bell-Horizon. We toured Trois-Rivières in a preserved GM "new look" from YUL Charters.

On day four we toured the garages and offices of Réseau de Transport de la Capitale, Québec City's transit system. This year marks the 150th anniversary of transit there. RTC services are branded into several categories, including Métrobus [Bus Rapid Transit], leBus [regular bus], eXpress [peak-hour directional express], Écolobus [Old Québec shuttle], as well as late night and taxibus routes. Their four BRT routes (using green-liveried artics) carry almost 40% of their ridership. RTC is an all-Novabus fleet, including older Classics and newer 40-ft and 60-ft Novabus LFS's.

The day was completed with visits to Québec City charter coach companies Autobus Laval and Autocar Intercar. In addition to charter work Intercar operates scheduled bus service to Saguenay and their distinctive black-green-orange coaches are a common sight in the region.

Each day in between the garage visits there were scheduled stops at key locations, transit terminals and bus stations, to photograph buses in action. If you're thinking of joining the BHA the next five conventions (in June each year) are Milwaukee (2016), Vancouver (2017), Cincinnati/Dayton (2018), Ottawa (2019), and Washington DC (2020). ■

Busses donated by Northern Bus Lines

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) has graciously accepted the generous donation of two vintage motor coaches from Northern Bus Lines of Flin Flon, Manitoba.

MTHA President Alan J. Brunsel and MTHA Board members Logan Poole and Roger Hamelin met with Mr. Reg Hiebert, President of Northern Bus Lines, in Flin Flon on Friday, July 17th, 2015 to accept the donation.

After ten hours on the road, Al, Logan and Roger drove the 1966 Western Flyer Canuck P-41 and the 1983 Motor Coach Industries MC-9 coaches to their home in Winnipeg.



En Route to Winnipeg

From the Photo Archive



The late Peter A. Cox of Edmonton, Alberta was a friend and supporter of the MTHA and we are grateful that he shared many wonderful pictures from his collection with us, many of which have appeared in our annual Transit Calendars over the past few years.

In remembrance of Peter, we share this fabulous picture that he took of Metro Transit #607 (a 1953 Mack model C47A) rounding the corner from southbound Main Street onto westbound Broadway on May 17, 1966.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Your 2015-2016 MTHA membership fees are due.

Please remit \$25.00 with the application form below.

If you have already sent in your dues, then please fill out the form below to help us update our mailing list.

Thank You!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



MAIL TO:
MANITOBA TRANSIT HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION, INC.
Attention: Alan Brunsel - President
P.O. Box 2388 Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3C 3A6

Please fill in your particulars below and remit this form with cheque, money order or cash payment in the appropriate amount in Canadian or US funds.

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE/STATE: _____ POSTAL CODE/ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I consent to receive electronic communications (e-mails) from the MTHA about its activities, programs and events.)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE/AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$25 REGULAR \$5 JUNIOR (INDICATE D.O.B.): _____

CHECK IF WILL MAKE A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MTHA THROUGH THE CITY OF WINNIPEG'S EMPLOYEE RETIREES CHARITABLE FUND (ERCF) OF \$25 OR MORE DURING 2015. IF CHECKED, THEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016 IS WAIVED. (SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION WITH THE ERCF.)

DO YOU WORK IN THE BUS INDUSTRY? YES NO IF YES, COMPANY NAME: _____

ARE YOU RETIRED FROM WORKING IN THE BUS INDUSTRY? YES NO

PLEASE NOTE: FAILURE TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT DUES WILL RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

