



# THE SWITCH IRON

January 2016

Volume Nine

Issue Number One

Editor: Alex Regiec



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 Year in Review ...fan trips, car shows, displays, parades ... we got around in 2015!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE SWITCH IRON:

#### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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

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#### TRAVEL 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.

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#### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 MTHA Annual Report & Year End Financial Statements.

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#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

MTHA Membership renewals are due and must be in by February 26, 2016.

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#### 2015 WINNIPEG SANTA CLAUS & GREY CUP PARADE



*Ex-Winnipeg Transit #751 sported over 6000+ LED lights for the Santa Claus Parade.*



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) partnered with Winnipeg Transit to enter a decorated vintage Transit bus in the Santa Claus & Grey Cup Parade.

Forty MTHA members and Transit employees and their families rode our 1971 General Motors bus in the parade on Saturday, November 28, 2015.



## Looking back at where we went & what we did ...



MTHA bus #318 on the movie set of "Lovesick" on Pacific Avenue in Winnipeg



On display at the Sunday Night cruise at the Pony Corral Restaurant on Grant.

### LIGHTS ... CAMERA ... ACTION!

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association vehicles continue to be used by the Manitoba film industry with the most recent appearance in the movie production of "Lovesick".

On Monday, September 28th, MTHA President Alan Brunsel spent the evening with bus 316 (1988 MCI "Classic") filming in Chinatown on Pacific Avenue.

### TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

MTHA President Alan Brunsel met with Mr. Robert Bullen, a retired Winnipeg Electric/Winnipeg Transit employee on September 16th. After picking up Mr. Bullen and his family in the luxurious 1956 Western Flyer Coach "Scenic Cruiser", Alan provided them with a private tour of the many vintage Winnipeg Electric/Winnipeg Transit vehicles restored by our Association.

### NEW FLYER'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association attended New Flyer Industries 85th Anniversary on September 12, 2015.

Held at the main office and plant on Kernaghan Avenue, the MTHA brought the 1956 Western Flyer Coach "Scenic Cruiser", the 1966 Western Flyer P-41 Canuck and the 1985 Flyer D901 transit bus to this special event for staff and their families.

### SUNDAY NIGHT CRUISE AT THE PONY CORAL

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

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, a visit to Beaver Bus Lines, a ride on the Busway, viewing the electric bus charging station at the Airport and numerous other photo stops. The fan trip started at the Balmoral Station (Portage and Balmoral) at 9:30AM on Saturday, May 30th, 2015 returned at 5:00 PM. ■

Check our website for future events at:

[www.mtha.ca](http://www.mtha.ca)

### JOHN E. BAKER COLLECTION DONATED TO THE MTHA

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has accepted the donation of the archives of the late transit historian and founding MTHA member John E. Baker. The collection of photographs, slides, books, magazines, papers, research, drawings, original documents represents a life's work studying and preserving the history of transit in Winnipeg. It has been cared for and organized by John's widow Lorie Baker and it is her gracious donation that brings it to the Association on Tuesday, December 29th, 2015.

### NORTHERN BUS LINES DONATES TWO BUSES

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) 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.





WILLIAM A. LUKE, JOURNALIST & BUS HISTORIAN

# Travelling back through time with Bill Luke's great photography collection



Bill Luke

William A. (Bill) Luke has been involved in the bus industry for 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 Adeline have been married since 1953 and still live in Spokane.

Bill has graciously shared many of his fine photographs with the MTHA. Once again it gives us great pleasure to offer you a look at a second group of his pictures, included in this issue are prints of Greyhound Canada, Winnipeg Transit and various local Manitoba bus companies. ■

NORTHLAND GREYHOUND LINES			
WINNIPEG — FARGO — MINNEAPOLIS		CHICAGO — DETROIT — MONTREAL	
Read Down		Read Up	
STATIONS			
2:00 Lv. Winnipeg	Ar. 7:45	7:15	
8:30   8:45 Ar. Fargo	Lv. 7:15	8:15	
9:30, 4:30 Lv. Fargo	Ar. 6:45	8:35	
4:30, 10:55 Ar. Minneapolis	Lv. 12:45	1:45	
7:45, 12:30 Lv. Minneapolis	Ar. 11:55	9:35	
8:30, 1:25 Ar. Chicago	Lv. 11:00	9:30	
10:15, 6:15 Lv. Chicago	Ar. 6:50	6:50	
11:10, 7:14 Ar. Hammond	Ar. 5:55	5:51	
12:14 Ar. Kalamazoo		2:51	
7:35, 5:00 Ar. Detroit	Lv. 11:30	10:00	
10:30, 7:15 Lv. Detroit (E.T.)	Ar. 10:40	9:45	
12:15, 8:49 Ar. Leamington	Ar. 9:08	7:13	
3:16, 11:30 Ar. St. Thomas	Ar. 8:00	4:00	
7:05, 1:28 Ar. Hamilton	Ar. 5:30	12:30	
8:50, 5:10 Ar. Toronto	Lv. 12:40	10:40	
8:50, 10:00 Lv. Toronto	Ar. 7:30	8:15	
3:25, 5:00 Ar. Prescott	Lv. 11:30	12:45	
3:25, 5:00 Lv. Prescott	Ar. 11:30	12:45	
8:45, 7:15 Ar. Ottawa	Lv. 9:15	10:00	
1:35, 1:50 Lv. Prescott	Ar. 11:30	12:45	
8:45, 9:30 Ar. Montreal	Lv. 7:00	7:30	

N.B.—FIGURE IN BLACK FACE DENOTE P.M.  
FIGURES IN LIGHT FACE DENOTE A.M.

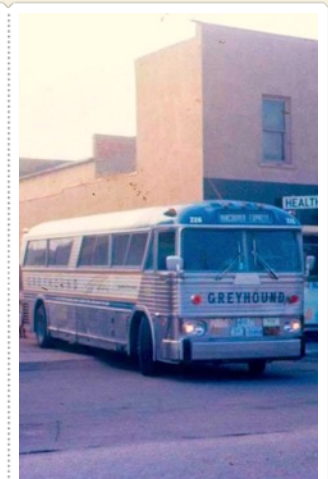
Northland Greyhound Lines timetable for 1936.



A Greyhound Lines of Canada MCI Courier 95 seen leaving Winnipeg for Kenora, circa 1960.



Greyhound Lines of Canada #345, a 1970 Motor Coach Industries model MC-6 "Supercruiser" on the TransCanada Highway.



Greyhound #226, a 1965 MC-5A.

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# Bill Luke's pictorial history of Winnipeg Transit



Metro Transit #503, a 1955 CanCar "Green Hornet".



Metro Transit's #551, a 1960 CanCar "Box Car".

Winnipeg's Transit System has featured many different types of bus models from various manufacturers including Canadian Car Foundry, General Motors, and Flyer Industries.

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



Metro Transit #158, a 1960 General Motors model TDH5301, new to the Hudson's Bay store.



Metro Transit #178, a 1963 General Motors bus leaving Polo Park.



A 1978 Flyer model D800 featuring Winnipeg Transit's 100th anniversary.



Winnipeg Transit #384, an ex-Calgary Transit bus.

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# Bill Luke documented many Manitoba bus lines

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 many local Manitoba bus companies operating out of both Winnipeg and Brandon.



Eagle Bus Lines #19 destined to St. Anne's, Manitoba.



Caribou Bus Line #544 parked in front of Grey Goose Bus Lines #31 on Hargrave Street.



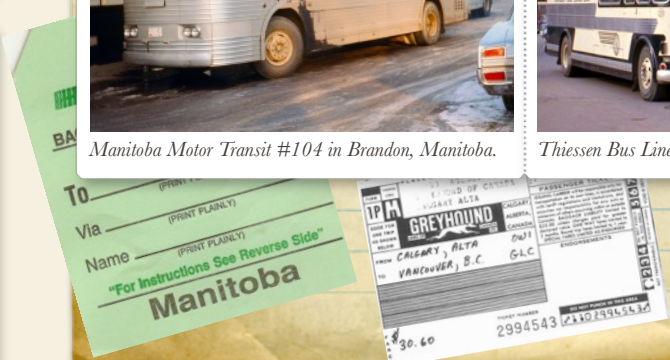
Manitoba Motor Transit #104 in Brandon, Manitoba.



Thiessen Bus Lines #20.



Red River Motor Coach #19 arriving in Winnipeg



Moore's Trans Canada Bus Line #19, a 1956 Western Flyer Coach model T36-2L "Scenic Cruiser" on charter duty.



**MOORE'S TAXI LTD.**

*Bus Schedule*

Effective September 15th, 1952



DONALD AT GRAHAM      62-3386      WINNIPEG  
UNION BUS DEPOT      62-7273      WINNIPEG

Cover of a 1952 printed timetable.

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



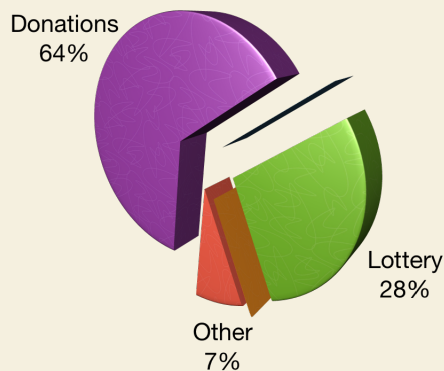
# 2015 Annual Financial Report

## UNAUDITED 2015 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE MANITOBA TRANSIT HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

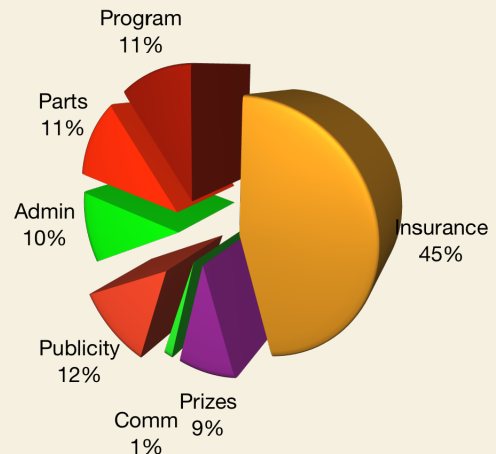
Description	Dollars
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Donations (ERCF Transfer, Farebox, Program & Corporate)	\$6,441.50
Grants	\$0.00
Gaming & Raffle (50/50 Lottery)	\$2,851.00
Interest	\$3.00
Other Revenue (Membership Fees, Calendar Sales)	\$751.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$10,046.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration (Post Office Box, Stationary, Office Equipment & Professional Services)	\$1,388.44
Rent - Storage	\$0.00
Insurance (D&O, SRI and Storage, Vehicle License)	\$5,989.00
Communications (Internet & Phone)	\$176.14
Equipment, Materials & Parts	\$1,508.46
Lottery Prizes	\$1,167.00
Artifacts, Preservation & Maintenance	\$647.82
Programming (Vehicle License, Fuel, Driver Stipend, Volunteer Meals, Advertising)	\$1,396.24
Publicity	\$1,656.15
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,929.25</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-\$3,882.75</b>

**NOTE:** Cash in the Bank was \$11,553.62 as at 31 December 2015.

**REVENUE:**



**EXPENSES:**





# 2015 Annual Financial Report

## NON-CASH ASSETS

### SUMMARY OF VEHICLES & MEMORABILIA OWNED IN 2015 BY THE MTHA

Description	Value	Status	Original Owner(s)
<b>VEHICLES</b>			
1936 Twin Coach 23R (95582) Bus 111	\$50,000.00	Operable	Winnipeg Electric Company
1936 Dodge/Lawrie (4024R9) Bus 501	\$500.00	Unrestored	Winnipeg Electric Company
1941 Twin Coach 30GS (108770) Bus 214	\$5,000.00	Partial Restore	Winnipeg Electric Company
1946 Ford Transit 69-B (66116X) Bus 565	\$5,000.00	Partial Restore	Winnipeg Electric Company
1947 CCF-Brill C-36 (CCB-CD36-47-2329) Bus 707	\$500.00	Storage Shed	Winnipeg Electric Company
1950 CCF-Brill T-48A (8151) Bus 1758	\$500.00	Partial Restore	Winnipeg Electric Company
1954 GMC TDH-4801 (TDH4801-249) Bus 200	\$20,000.00	Operable	Los Angeles Municipal Transit Co. & City of Regina, Saskatchewan
1956 Western Flyer T36-2L (MBPGSIN6458) Bus 20	\$196,000.00	Operable	Grey Goose Bus Lines/New Flyer
1958 Western Flyer T38/40 (RD115412) Bus 75	\$107,000.00	Operable	RCAF/New Flyer Industries
1963 GMC SDM-4517 (C006) Bus 33	\$5,000.00	Unoperable	Beaver Bus Lines
**1964 Western Flyer P-41 Canuck (3966) Bus 111	\$50,000.00	Operable	Northern Bus Lines
1971 GM T6H-4521A (T6H4521814) Bus 751	\$5,000.00	Operable	Metropolitan Winnipeg "Metro" Transit
1980 Orion 01.501 (90810167) Bus 651	\$5,000.00	Operable	VLS Prairie Dog Central
1984 Flyer D901A (D102403025) Bus 107	\$5,000.00	Operable	Winnipeg Transit
**1984 MCI MC-9 (1M89CM6A9DP038668) Bus 112	\$25,000.00	Operable	Northern Bus Lines
**1994 TMC (1TUMDTGAXRR830046) Bus 62	\$50,000.00	Unoperable	Beaver Bus Lines
<b>PARTS</b>			
Bus Parts	\$60,000.00		
<b>ARTIFACTS</b>			
Uniforms, Badges, Passes, Tickets, Manuals & Pictures	\$50,000.00		
<b>Total Equity Value</b>	<b>\$639,500.00</b>		

**NOTES:**

- Vehicles highlighted in light orange indicate fully operational as of January 1st, 2016.
  - Vehicles identified in light blue have been partially restored but are not yet operational.
  - Vehicles in white are unrestored and will be re-assessed for historical value or scrapped.
- \*\* Bus donated by Northern Bus Lines in July 2015 to MTHA collection.



# From the Photo Archive



This wonderful photograph comes to the MTHA courtesy of Wally Young of Victoria, British Columbia.

In this scene we see Metro Transit #1582 (a 1948 Pullman model 44CX) trolley bus traveling northbound on Salter Street at Perth Avenue.

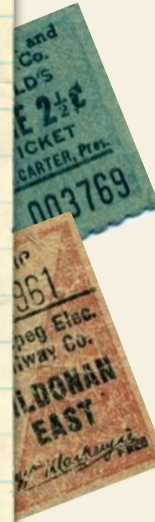
## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

**Your 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 2014. IF CHECKED, THEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE YEAR 2014 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. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2016 IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 26, 2016.

