



The Switch Iron



Volume 3 Number 1 February 2009 Transit Heritage News

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

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

On the information super highway

MTHA unveils a brand new web site at www.mtha.ca

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association recently rolled out a splendid new web site onto the information super highway.

The new MTHA web pages feature history about the origin of the Association and many pictures of members and their activities. It also highlights the benefits of membership in the Association and showcases past and current projects and

community outreach program activities, including the rescue and restoration of vintage transit vehicles and the hobby of model building.

The new web site was designed by MTHA member Wade Razella and contains links to other transit heritage groups and museums across Canada. The web site can be found at: <http://www.mtha.ca>

On the road with folks from the MTHA and ATU Local 1505 delivering Hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board

On Saturday, December 20th, 2008 members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association along with members from the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505 helped make the Christmas season a little more happier for some as they use bus 751 to deliver food hampers to needy individuals and families on behalf of the Christmas Cheer Board.

By using a large bus the MTHA and ATU delivered 25 hampers to folks in the Elmwood, East Kildonan and Valley Gardens neighbourhoods. After meeting for breakfast, the 10 volunteers from both organizations trudged through the heavy snow fall to deliver the food hampers.



Bus 751 was reliable and warm

The 1971 General Motors TDH-4517A didn't disappoint as it trudded through snow and kept its occupants warm.

On the loading dock...

From left to right:
 Dennis Cavanagh,
 Ron Alexander,
 Laurence Lavalle,
 Patrick Rogoski,
 Alex Regiec,
 Kai Madsen,
 Spencer Ready
 and Rick Hirt.



Missing from the picture were Manny Jacob and David Wyatt.



MTHA Board Meeting

About Us

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association 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.

The MTHA also collects transit related memorabilia. If you wish to donate vintage items, please contact:

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.

P.O. Box 2388
Station Main
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 4A6

Executive

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. executive members are:

Alex Regiec
President

Dennis Cavanagh
Vice-President

Guy Fontaine
Treasurer

David A. Wyatt
Interim-Treasurer

Ross Smith
Secretary

Welcome



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. welcomes the following new members:

Linley James
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Minutes

Saturday, January 24th, 2009 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Dennis Cavanagh, MTHA Vice-President

Present:

Ron Alexander, Dennis Cavanagh, Ian Moore, Terry Wark, Pat Rogoski, Wade Razella, Doug Belcher, Jim Mdnnes, Murray Pene, Chris Cassidy, Steven Stothers, Dick McQuire, Bob Cooper, Phil Rawliuk, Mike Kubas, Alex Regiec, and David Wyatt.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am..

Introduction of New Members & Guests

Alex Regiec welcomed new members to the MTHA and introduced Phil Rawliuk, Doug Belcher, Bob Cooper, Christian Cassidy, Mike Kubas and Steve Stothers.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the 16th September 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Correspondence

David Wyatt indicated that the MTHA had received a letter from Peter Cox of Edmonton regarding his donation of a builder's plate from the 1942 MCI Trolley. David has corresponded with Mr. Cox and is working out the details for a tax receipt.

President's Report

The application for a Grant for funding a Museum Feasibility Study was completed and submitted to the Winnipeg Foundation.

A application was made to the ESSO/Imperial Oil Foundation with respect to the property located at 425 Osborne Street. Alex also mentioned that contact had been made with the owner of the Gateway Packers site, that contact will also be made with Greyhound Canada regarding the Grey Goose Garage on Bumell Street.

Alex tabled a request from Don Finkbeiner of Heartland International Tours & Travel requesting the MTHA participate in 6 downtown tours in 2009. Discussion included Wade Razella raising issue of equipment condition, Ian Moore expressing the need to have the buses safetied, Doug Belcher mentioned the cost of a commercial licence,

David Wyatt asked about the cost versus revenue ratio for the tours and Pat Rogoski suggested we delay doing tours for one year. Ian Moore motioned that the MTHA not participate in the tours for 2009, but prepare for participation in the 2010 season. Seconded by Doug Blecher. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

David Wyatt presented the financial statement for the MTHA. The MTHA has 3 bank accounts, two held at the Assiniboine Credit Union and one at the Bank of Montreal. David reviewed the statement explaining the revenue expenses, and current balance of \$7,741.20. Alex Regiec motioned that the financial statement be adopted as presented. Ron Alexander seconded. Carried.

David also asked that the Bank of Montreal account be consolidated into the Assiniboine Credit Union for convenience. Alex Regiec motioned that the Bank of Montreal account be closed and deposited into the ACU. Murray Penner seconded. Carried.

Dick McQuire asked about signing authority on the accounts. Bob Cooper motioned that signing authority for the accounts be limited to President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Interim treasurer and one Past-President. Ron Alexander seconded. Carried.

New Business

Steven Stothers made a presentation to the members about the work currently be undertaken by Heritage Winnipeg Inc. to restore Streetcar 356. Heritage Winnipeg has formed a working group, of which David Wyatt is the MTHA representative, and has applied to various foundations for funding resources. Steven has visited the Seashore Transit Museum in Boston to study their streetcar restoration program. The MTHA has agreed to support and help Heritage Winnipeg in its efforts to restore streetcar 356.

Bob Cooper suggested that we ask for some of the old radio handsets which are being scrapped to add onto our vintage transit buses.

Alex Regiec indicated that a 1984 Flyer D901 was being donated to the MTHA from Transit and that a 1962 GM Fishbowl suburban is also being donated to the MTHA from Beaver Bus Lines.

Other Items

The MTHA will establish a committee to begin work on the Transit History Book and David McDowall of Heritage Winnipeg was suggested as a possible contact.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

MTHA adds two buses to vintage collection

A 1984 Flyer Industries D901A and 1962 General Motors SDM-4501

Members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association recently welcomed news of the addition of two vintage buses to their collection.

Bus #33, a 1962 General Motors model SDM-4501, served on the Winnipeg to Selkirk run for many years for Beaver Bus Lines Limited. More recently the bus was used to carry students to St. John's Ravenscourt School. This bus ranks as one of the oldest running General Motors buses in service in Canada!

Bus #107, a 1984 Flyer Industries model D901A, was originally ordered by the Chicago Transit Authority however ended up in the fleet of Winnipeg Transit. This bus represents one of the last few remaining D901s in active service in North America! This section represents the first Flyer-built bus in the MTHA collection.

Both buses are in very good mechanical shape and are still operational. The MTHA intends to add these to its collection vintage vehicles which will be housed in a proposed Transit Heritage Museum for Winnipeg. There are now 7 operable vintage vehicles in the MTHA collection.



Bus #33
1962 General Motors
model SDM-4501

Photograph courtesy of Alex Regiec Collection



Bus #107
1984 Flyer Industries
model D901A

Photograph courtesy of Peter McLaughlin Collection



2009 MTHA Directors & Membership report

Alex Regiec - President
Dennis Cavanagh - Vice-President
Guy Fontaine - Treasurer
David A. Wyatt - Interim Treasurer
Ross Smith - Secretary
Wade Razella - Communications Chair
Mike Kubas - Gaming Chair
Ron Alexander
John Kapusta
Ben Knowalchuk
Tom Dudych
Terry Wark

The membership of the MTHA has grown to 55 volunteers, with new members always welcome to join.

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. P.O. Box 2388 Winnipeg, Manitoba R



Three Metro Transit Canadian-Car/Brill electric trolley coaches spend the night stuck on Portage Avenue between Donald Street and Hargrave Street across from the Eaton's Department store during the now famous March 1966 snow blizard..

Courtesy of Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Collection