



The Switch Iron

Happy Holidays



Volume 3 Number 6 December 2009 Transit Heritage News

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New Flyer donates coaches

Restored 1950s buses added to MTHA museum collection



New Flyer Industries presented the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association with a 1956 Scenic Cruiser deck-and-a-half bus, and a 1958 conventional motor coach at a ceremony at the manufacturer's Transcona headquarters on Thursday, October 29th.

The two fully-restored coaches will be added to the MTHA's growing museum collection of vintage buses and will be displayed at various community events beginning in 2010.

These buses represent an important part of New Flyer's history and Manitoba's bus heritage.



Fully restored 1956 and 1958 Western Flyer motor coaches.



MTHA founding member Ron Alexander and New Flyer's Director of Marketing Amy Miller in front of the splendid coaches.



Left to right: Paul Soubry - President & CEO New Flyer, Alex Regiec - President MTHA, and Hans Peper - Vice-President New Flyer.

Federal Government Funding

New Horizons Program funds MTHA's "Trip Down Memory Lane" outreach

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has received notification from the Government of Canada's New Horizons Program for Seniors that it has been granted \$11,000 to fund an outreach program.

The outreach program, called "A Trip Down Memory Lane" aims to recruit retired employees of Winnipeg Transit, Beaver Bus Lines, and Greyhound as well as senior citizen bus enthusiasts among the general public to become involved in restoring a vintage bus into a rolling museum. The museum bus, along with other restored vintage buses, will be displayed at senior's citizen facilities, schools and various special events in and around Winnipeg in 2010.



Interior of a rolling museum bus in Vancouver's fleet, that includes display cases, historic pictures and a reverse-seating movie theatre.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association
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This newsletter is published four times per year and is distributed free to members.

It's not just **History**... it's a **Journey!**

MTHA A Message From Your President

It's not just history... it's a journey!



As winter slowly settles on us after another busy summer, I find myself reflecting on the activities over the past months: remembering the many stories told by people who had stopped by to see our vintage buses. My colleagues and I find great pleasure in travelling across the city to attend various parades and displays. While setting up the vehicles at various venues

is always challenging, I have the most fun listening to the folks who share their experiences about their journeys taken on our historic buses from a time when they were actually in service!

Standing next to the historic buses and talking about the wood stoves on-board the streetcars, the eight-and-a-third cent cost for a ticket, or the electric trolley bus poles which kept falling off the wires that still has everyone laughing, it's fairly obvious to see what it is that makes taking a journey on public transit so memorable.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is actively committed to preserving public transit's memorabilia and vehicles - which have survived the test of time - and also documenting the memories of passengers, drivers and managers who have lived the public transport story or continue to write its chapters.

The past year brought excitement with the generous donation of two timeless and classic coaches from New Flyer Industries. Next year holds even more promise as we embark on our "**Trip Down Memory Lane**," a new MTHA program funded by a grant from the Government of Canada.

So as you prepare for your winter activities, I hope that you'll take the time to enjoy the articles in this edition of the **Switch Iron** and rediscover your memories of journeys on public transportation.

I hope that you'll join us in our journey through history and I look forward to hearing your stories.

Happy Holidays.

Alex Regiec
President and Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc.



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

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. 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.

2010 Executive & Board of Directors

Alex Regiec
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dennis Cavanagh
1st Vice-President

Guy Fontaine
Interim Treasurer

Ross Smith
Secretary

Wade Razella
Vice-President Communications

Phil Rawluk
Vice-President Community Outreach

Ron Alexander
Founding Member

John Kaputsa
Founding Member

Benny Konowalchuk
Past-President

Terry Wark

Tom Dudych

John Panting

Linley James

Pat Rogoski

Mike Kubas
Winnipeg Transit Social Committee Rep.

Randy Tonnellier
Winnipeg Transit Working Conditions Committee Rep.

Al Brunsel
Winnipeg Employees/Retirees Charitable Fund Rep.

Ed Mantie
New Flyer Industries Rep.



Welcome

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

Bill Gordon - Winnipeg Transit
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ed Mantie - New Flyer Industries
Winnipeg, Manitoba

MTHA Minutes of General Meeting

Saturday, October 17th, 2009 at Fort Rouge Garage

Recorded by Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary

Present

Ron Alexander, Dennis Cavanagh, Murray Penner, David A. Wyatt, Ian Moore, Pat Rogoski, Ross Smith, Guy Fontaine, Linley James, Doug Belcher, Jim McInnes, John Panting, David Wyatt, Mike Kubas, Wade Razella, Peter Elwick, Travis Koch-Gensorick and Alex Regiec.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Membership & Guests

Motion by Wade Razella: To accept Bill Gordon of Winnipeg Transit and Ed Manite of New Flyer as new members. Seconded by Mike Kubas. Carried.

Alex Regiec introduced Jeff McKay and Beth Azore from Edgeland Films who are producing a documentary for MTS Cable TV on the History of Transit in Winnipeg. The pair gave an overview of their project and asked for the MTHA membership to be part of the documentary.

Treasurer's Report

Motion by John Kapusta: To accept David Wyatt's Treasurer Report as presented. Seconded by Mike Kubas. Carried.

David also reported on the activities of the Streetcar 356 Committee. He indicated that Heritage Winnipeg had secured a \$33,000 grant from the Provincial Government. An assessment report on the streetcar indicated that it was in very rough shape, that the structure was twisted and there was a need to reconstruct the body. Also a second streetcar was located in Grand Marais, Manitoba but it was being used as part of a cottage.

Communications Report

Wade Razella reported on the website, e-mail account set-up, the possibility for using PayPal for on-line retail sales and donations, and the establishment of a Flickr account for the display of pictures taken during MTHA activities.

Wade also spoke about his plan for a communications strategy for the MTHA.

Community Outreach

Phil Rawluck reported that Bus 751 would be prepared for the 2009 Santa Claus Parade on November 14th. It was once again a joint float entered by the MTHA and Winnipeg Transit, with bus 751 decorated with over 2,100 red LED Christmas lights. Also, the 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser would be entered in New Flyer's float but driven by Dennis Cavanagh.

Phil mentioned plans for a Christmas Lights Tour on December 16th, in association with the Nor'west Co-op Community Health Centre, for recent immigrant children.

New Business

Ron Alexander reported on the old Winnipeg Electric Company tow truck located in West St. Paul. He indicated that he would get a few members together and go out to have a look at the vehicle and report back to the Board.

Alex Regiec reported on the transfer of ownership of the 1956 and 1958 Western Flyer coaches from New Flyer Industries, and bus 33 which is a 1962 General Motors fishbowl from Beaver Bus Lines. A problem with the serial number on the 1956 Scenic Cruiser has delayed the transfer, but Alex is working with Middlechurch Insurance, New Flyer and Manitoba Public Insurance to resolve this issue.

All four sections have been safely stored and parked for winter at various storage locations around Winnipeg.

Doug Belcher reported on the Prairie Dog Central Railway bus and asked if the MTHA could look at a partnership with PDCR for the bus. Doug and Alex will review developing a business plan and report back to the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Next Meeting

For the Executive and Board of Directors only
Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage.



Our Story...

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association (MTHA) is a non-profit charitable organization whose members volunteer in the restoration, maintenance, display and operation of Manitoba's largest collection of vintage buses.

The idea for the MTHA began when retired transit employees Ron Alexander and John Kapusta were travelling through rural Manitoba in the summer of 1987 scouting for old Studebaker automobiles and instead stumbled across an old electric streetcar. This chance find led the pair to discuss creating a bus and streetcar preservation group, and formally establishing it in 1989.

Our Mission

To restore old transit vehicles for historical purposes; to create a transit museum for the display of transit vehicles; to provide restored vehicles to transport senior citizens, disabled persons, school children and other such group for tours and outings; and to provide restored transit vehicles for public parades and displays.

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Inc. is registered under the Corporations Act of Manitoba and is a Registered Charity under The Income Tax Act (Canada).

Our Collection Timeline...

Our historic collection grew significantly in 2009, with restored vehicles representing six decades...

1937



Twin Coach 23R

1941



Twin Coach 30GS

1945



Winnipeg Electric Company

1946



Ford 69-B

1950



CCF-Brill T-48A

1956



Western Flyer T-36 2L

1958



Western Flyer T-38/40

1960



General Motors TDH-4517

1961



Metro Transit

1971



General Motors T6H-4521A

1981



Orion I

1984



Flyer D901-10240

We Got Around...

Community Outreach

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provides support and outreach assistance to other non-profit organizations and service agencies in our community.

In 2009, the MTHA assisted in the delivery of food hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board and Jewish Child & Family Services.

The MTHA also scheduled visits to various senior centers for "trips down memory lane" and provided a Christmas Lights Tour for recent immigrant children.

Public Display

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteer members participate and attend a number of activities in our community.

MTHA vehicles are used for operation of historical tours of the downtown area, annual parades, and show & shine displays.

Some of the events that the MTHA attended in 2009 included: Cruz' In Downtown, Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open, and the 100th Annual Santa Claus Parade. In previous years the MTHA has also attended: 2006 CFL Grey Cup Parade, 2007 City of Winnipeg's Public Works Expo, Winnipeg Transit's 125th Anniversary, East St. Paul Show & Shine and the 2008 Red River Exhibition.

Film & Television

MTHA vehicles are used by the Manitoba film industry in movie and television show production. In 2009 MTHA buses were featured in the television show "Less Than Kind" and in the movie "The Don Cherry Story".

Previous movie work has included being on the set of "High Life" and "The Box Collector".



Our Strength...

Members & Volunteers

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association is made up of retired and current employees of Winnipeg Transit, Beaver Bus, Greyhound, New Flyer Industries and many streetcar and bus enthusiasts from the general public.

In 2009 our dedicated volunteer members spent hundreds of man-hours restoring, maintaining and operating the vintage buses.

Our Partners...

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and individuals for partnering with us in 2009:

- New Flyer Industries Canada ULC
- City of Winnipeg - Transit Department
- Winnipeg Employees/Retirees Charitable Fund
- Beaver Bus Lines Limited
- Heartland International Travel & Tours
- Gwen Sectar Creative Living Centre
- Mr. Peter Cox - Edmonton, Alberta
- Heritage Winnipeg Corporation
- Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp.
- Downtown Winnipeg BIZ



History of the streetcar on TV

MTHA provides history to local Film company for television documentary

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association has been working with Edgeland Productions of Winnipeg on a television documentary about the Winnipeg electric Company.

Producers Jeff McKay and Beth Azore met with the Board of the MTHA to discuss their project, and have been interviewing various members for their project.

MTHA photographs and vintage bus 111 have been used in the television production. The documentary is expected to air on MTS Cable television.



Important Dates

2010 MTHA schedule of meetings and events - mark your calendars!

MTHA Meetings:

Saturday, January 30th, 2010

Annual General Meeting 10 a.m. to 12 noon
All members welcome to attend.
Fort Rouge Garage - Sign Up Room

Thursday, February 25th, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

Saturday, March 26th, 2010

Maintenance Work Party 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - Meet front Office foyer

Thursday, April 22nd, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

Saturday, May 22nd, 2010

Maintenance Work Party 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - Meet front Office foyer

Thursday, June 24th, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

Thursday, August 26th, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

Thursday, October 28th, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

Saturday, November 27th, 2010

Maintenance Work Party 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - Meet front Office foyer

Thursday, December 16th, 2010

Executive & Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Fort Rouge Garage - 2nd Floor Boardroom

MTHA Special Events:

All members welcome to participate.
Events and dates are subject to confirmation.

April 2010 - Middle weekend

Food Hamper Delivery - t.b.a.

May 2010 - Last weekend

Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open
Possible Vintage Bus Display at North Garage - t.b.a.

June 2010 - t.b.a

New Flyer Industries
Possible Company Event with Scenic Cruiser - t.b.a.

August 2010 - First weekend

Cruz' In Downtown
Parade of Vintage Vehicles - t.b.a.

September 2010 - First weekend

Downtown Winnipeg BIZ Cidovia
Vintage Bus Display on Broadway - t.b.a.

November 2010 - Middle weekend

Hydro - Jaycees Santa Claus Parade
Winnipeg Transit/MTHA Float - t.b.a.

Wishing you health and happiness this Holiday Season and prosperity in the New Year.

From the Board of Directors
Manitoba Transit Heritage Association

100th Annual Santa Claus Parade

The MTHA, Winnipeg Transit and New Flyer partner with buses

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association in partnership with Winnipeg Transit entered bus 751 in the 2009 Manitoba Hydro-Jaycee Santa Claus Parade. In addition, Dennis Cavanagh, Vice-President of the MTHA, enjoyed driving the beautifully decorated 1956 Scenic Cruiser as part of New Flyer Industries' parade entry.



Bus 751 was outfitted with a power inverter and 2,100 red energy efficient LED Christmas lights. A special "Thank you" goes out to Egon Kesterke, Dean Kalinski, David Thomas, Shane Kohler, Ivan Granger, Mike Hammond, Wayne Worth, Mike Deroche, Bob Cooper and Brent Munro. Also, many families and friends enjoyed being on-board bus 751 which was safely driven by Al Brunsel. Thanks to Phil Rawluk who donated boxes of candy canes which were handed out to children along the parade route.



Christmas Lights Tour Provided for recent immigrant children

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided bus 107 for a Christmas Lights tour for a group of recent immigrant children. Phil Rawluk organized the event with the Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre in Winnipeg's North End. Ron Alexander dressed up as Santa Claus to distribute gifts much to the delight of the youngsters! A reporter and camera man from CTV News were also along during the event.



Pursuing new partnerships

MTHA and Motor Coach Industries explore opportunities

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was recently contacted by Motor Coach Industries, North America's largest manufacturer of highway coaches, to begin exploring opportunities to partner with bus preservation and the establishment of a transport museum in Winnipeg.



Transit History 2010 Calendar

Winnipeg Transit & MTHA partner

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association partnered with Winnipeg Transit to produce the new 2010 Transit History Calendar. The calendar is distributed free to all Transit employees and MTHA members, and is available to the general public at a cost of \$3.00 each. Calendars can be purchased at the Fort Rouge Garage front desk.





Grey Goose Bus Lines # 20, a 1956 Western Flyer Coach model T-36 2L, parked at the Burnell Street Garage in the late 1960s. This coach was rescued and restored by New Flyer Industries in 1996 and was donated to the MTHA in 2009 for its museum collection.

Photograph Courtesy of Greyhound Canada Transportation Corporation - Manitoba Division

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 R3C 4A6