



MANITOBA
TRANSIT
HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION

THE SWITCH IRON



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Keep Your Head Up Kid: The Don Cherry Story - The Sequel

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's
'37 Twin Coach & '56 Scenic Cruiser in movie

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association vehicles continue to be used by the Manitoba film industry with the most recent appearance in the production of "Keep Your Head Up Kid: The Don Cherry Story – The Sequel".

On Thursday, June 9th, MTHA volunteer Joe Zizic accompanied bus 111 (1937 Twin Coach) to Portage La Prairie. Joe spent much of the day filming with the movie's crew at the local hockey arena and driving along a city street.

Then on Sunday, June 26th, MTHA volunteers Phil Rawluk, Manny Jacob, David Wyatt and MTHA President Alex Regiec spent the day with bus 20 (1956 Western Flyer "Scenic Cruiser") filming at the old Shriner's Children's Hospital on Wellington Crescent and Academy Road.

The movie chronicles a minor league defenseman's journey from obscurity to fame as coach of the Boston Bruins and onto iconic status as the opinionated commentator on Hockey Night In Canada.



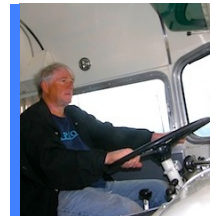
Actor Jared Keeso with Phil Rawluk.



Joe Zizic spent a long day on the set.

Minutes of Meeting

May 24th, 2011 at Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre



Recorded by Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary.

Present:

John Kapusta, Ron Alexander, Guy Fontaine, Ross Smith, Murray Penner, Joe Zizic, Christian Cassidy, Ian Moore, David A. Wyatt, Manny Jacob, Linley James, Doug Belcher, Alex Regiec, Phil Rawluk, Garry Goodman and Todd Cucheron.

Call to Order:

Alex Regiec welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Membership:

Alex Regiec reported that the MTHA has joined the following organizations:

- Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA)
- Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation (CTHF)
- The Bus History Association (BHA)
- Manitoba Classic & Antique Auto Club (MCAAC)

Treasurer's Report:

Guy Fontaine reported that the 2010 Registered Charity Information Return has been filed with the Canada Revenue Agency.

Revenues and costs are stable, with the account balance at \$10,266.45 as of April 30th, 2011.

MOTION: Murray Penner moved and Joe Zizic seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. CARRIED.

Museum Bus Report:

Linley James and Manny Jacob reported on the progress of the Museum Bus Project. There was discussion about which bus to use; it was suggested to use bus 643. It was agreed that the concept of using an articulated bus was impractical as Guy Fontaine explained the challenges associated with maintaining such a bus.

Linley and Manny also stated that more volunteers are required to assist with the project, in particular with mechanical and electrical matters.

2011 Bus History Association Convention:

Alex Regiec reported on his meetings with Kevin Nichol of the BHA regarding the BHA Convention in Winnipeg on Monday, June 13th, 2011.

The itinerary includes:

08:00 – Pick up delegates at Charter House Hotel & Travel to Motor Coach Industries for plant tour.

10:45 – Arrive at Winnipeg Transit for facility tour and showcase of MTHA vintage buses.

12:15 – Lunch Break at City Place

14:00 – Arrive Beaver Bus Lines for garage and fleet tour.

13:00 – First group arrives at New Flyer Industries for plant tour.

13:45 – Second group arrives at New Flyer Industries for plant tour.

17:00 – First group arrives at Airport

17:30 – Second group arrives at Charter House Hotel.

18:30 – Airport shuttle leaves Charter House Hotel.

Trolley Bus Proposal to MB Hydro:

Alex Regiec reported that there is an opportunity to submit a proposal to Manitoba Hydro regarding operating a trolley bus at The Forks. In speaking with Jackie Britton of Manitoba Hydro, it was learnt that Manitoba Hydro has been searching for a signature project that it could contribute to The Forks site.

Alex indicated that he and David Wyatt would follow-up with Ms. Britton.

Storage Issues:

Alex Regiec reported that Greyhound Canada has served the MTHA with 30 days notice regarding the lease of space at 301 Burnell Street. The notice came as a surprise, and Alex will follow-up with Peter Hamel at the Greyhound Manitoba office.

Special Events:

The MTHA has been asked by George Fatouros to provide bus 751 for his daughter's wedding on Saturday, June 4th, 2011 from 11am until 4pm.

The MTHA will also provide buses 111 and 20 for the filming of the movie "Keep Your Head Up Kid – The Don Cherry Story" on Thursday, June 9th in Portage La Prairie and on Sunday, June 26th in Winnipeg.

The MTHA has been asked by Gosia Sawicka to provide bus 20 for her wedding on Sunday, July 9th, 2011 from 11am until 4pm.

Greyhound Canada has requested the use of bus 20 on Wednesday, July 27th for its "Face of Excellence" program to transport the company's Chairman and President to the Air Museum.

Other events on the calendar include The South Osborne Street Festival, Ciclovía, Gwen Sector Race Track excursion, and Al Brunsel's daughter's wedding.

Alex Regiec requested some assistance during the summer months.

MOTION: Ian Moore moved and Ron Alexander seconded that Manny Jacob be appointed as Alex's executive assistant for \$100 per month. CARRIED.

Adjournment:

MOTION: David Wyatt moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 PM.



President's Message

Meeting new people, hearing great stories, strong volunteerism and another busy summer at the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association ...

By
Alex Regiec, MCIP

New Faces & Great Stories.

At writing time, the summer sun is shining and a gentle breeze blowing through the window from the outside. On this very quiet and peaceful Sunday morning I find myself reflecting on the activities of the past couple of busy months: remembering the many stories told by people who had stopped by to see our vintage buses. While setting up the vehicles for display is always challenging, I have the most fun listening to folks share their stories about working for or riding on public transportation.

Standing next to the historic buses and talking about how a snow blizzard turned a two hour drive from Brandon into a six hour adventure, or how the electric trolley bus poles kept falling off the wires that still makes everyone laugh, it's fairly obvious to see what it is that makes taking a journey on public transit so memorable.

2011 BHA Convention.

This summer my colleagues and I found great enjoyment in hosting the 2011 Bus History Association's Annual Convention here in Winnipeg. In particular, we enjoyed meeting a diverse group of people whose interests range from working in the industry to riding buses or simply photographing them.

My compliments go out to the dedicated members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association who volunteered their time to make this convention such a success. Ross, Jim, Phil, Doug, Manny, Peter, David, Pat, Rob, Travis - a big thank-you for all of your assistance and hard work!

The Don Cherry Story Movie.

This summer also brought an opportunity for our members to participate in the filming of a major movie in Winnipeg.

Wedding Bells & Vintage Buses.

Finally this summer the MTHA had an opportunity to be a part of three wedding parties, with the vintage buses adding a special touch to the celebrations.

Summer Relaxation.

So as you prepare to pull out your flip-flops and slide into some shorts, I hope you'll take time to enjoy the articles and stories in this edition of the Switch Iron newsletter. Summer is here and it's time to indulge in some outdoor living and relaxation.

Enjoy!



Actor Stephen McHattie, who plays coach Eddie Shore in The Don Cherry Story, and MTHA President Alex Regiec stand next to the 1956 Scenic Cruiser.

Flying off into the sunset ...

Documenting the last days of Grey Goose Bus Lines



By Manny Jacob

The Grey Goose name is a significant one in Manitoba, which dates back to 1924. In 1961, Grey Goose was purchased by Abraham J. Thiessen and merged with Thiessen Bus Lines and the combined company became known as "Grey Goose Bus Lines Ltd.". For years, and as the operations of Grey Goose continued to grow, Manitobans were treated to the sights and services of these historic vehicles on the streets and highways across this great province. However, changes were afoot beginning with the 1974 purchase of Grey Goose by Laidlaw Transportation. In the years that followed, public ridership has unfortunately not been kind to Grey Goose and line haul service in the province had dwindled to almost nothing by the early 1980s. In 1997, Laidlaw acquired Greyhound Transportation and seamless ticketing and some terminal commonality between Grey Goose and Greyhound in Manitoba and Ontario were achieved in the 1990s but the Grey Goose name soldiered on. In 2007, First Group PLC of Britain bought Laidlaw for \$3.5 billion and following this the decision had been made to eventually phase out all Grey Goose equipment by attrition. "Grey Goose" vehicles went out of service and new purchases by Greyhound for operation in Manitoba and elsewhere were delivered with full Greyhound lettering and logos. As a result of all of these changes, the Grey Goose buses and trailers we still see are in dwindling numbers and are facing extinction.

My early childhood memories of Grey Goose were of their large silver buses parked in front of the station in Beausejour in the first half of the 1980s. I suppose this gives away my relatively young age, but nevertheless the memories are what they are. Although a family move to the east resulted in my absence from the Manitoba bus scene for many years, in 2007 I returned to find very few remnants of the Goose. The purpose of this article is to document those remnants as a permanent printed reference. Readers now and in the future are invited to contact the author or MTHA for updates.

The majority of the remaining Grey Goose buses are beautiful MCI 102DL3 models in the 200, 300 and 1000 series. The 1991-92 Prevost H3-40s (range 236-243) have been disappearing quickly since 2007 and none remain in Manitoba after the late 2010 disappearance of long-inactive 236. Parcel trailers are tandem axle and either unmarked white, or are marked "Grey Goose Express" and feature the famous goose logo. Vehicles assigned to Grey Goose are currently in various stages of change.

The following page features a table listing the latest status of all vehicles from the Grey Goose fleet.



Grey Goose # 27, a 1950 MCI Courier model 100, arriving at the bus depot on Graham at Hargrave in Winnipeg in 1952. Photo courtesy of William A. Luke



Grey Goose 347
Winnipeg, Manitoba
February 26, 2011
photo by Manny Jacob

Grey Goose # 347, a 1998 MCI model 102DL3, on charter duty in Winnipeg in February 2011. Photo courtesy of Manny Jacob

Remaining Grey Goose fleet roster as of March 2011

Model	Number	Lettering, scheme	License plate	Last observation
MCI 102DL3	244	Greyhound, swoosh	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #C-90464	January 2011
MCI 102DL3	245	Grey Goose, swoosh	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #C-90461	Towed for scrap May 2010
MCI 102DL3	246	Grey Goose, swoosh	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #C-90462	Sept 2009
MCI 102DL3	250	Greyhound, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAD 696	January 2011
MCI 102DL3	251	Grey Goose, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAD 697	Dec 2010
MCI 102DL3	252	Grey Goose, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAD 698	March 2011
MCI 102DL3	253	Greyhound, plain white	Manitoba class PB #PAH 748	March 2011
MCI 102DL3	254	Greyhound, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAG 308	March 2011
MCI 102DL3	255	Greyhound, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAB 044	Dec 2010
MCI 102DL3	256	Grey Goose, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAG 249	March 2011
MCI 102DL3	257	Greyhound, plain white	Manitoba class PB #PAB 045	January 2011
MCI 102DL3	344	Laidlaw Z, no lettering	Manitoba class PB #PAJ 362	January 2011
MCI 102DL3	345	Laidlaw Z roofline only, Greyhound lettering	Manitoba class PB #PAJ 363	Dec 2010
MCI 102DL3	346	Greyhound, plain white	Manitoba class PB #PAJ 369	Feb 2011
MCI 102DL3	347	Grey Goose, swoosh	Manitoba class PB #PAJ 370	Feb 2011
MCI 102DL3	1063	Swoosh, no name	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #G-98610	June 3, 2007
MCI 102DL3	1064	Full Greyhound	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #G-98605	Dec 2010
MCI 102DL3	1065	Full Greyhound	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #unknown	Dec 2010
MCI 102DL3	1069	Grey Goose, swoosh	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #unknown	Mar 2011
MCI 102DL3	1074	Full Greyhound	Alberta Class 1 "PRP" #unknown	Jan 2011
Parcel trailer	3026	Grey Goose Express lettering, goose logo	Alberta trailer plate #X542-42	Feb 2011
Parcel trailer	3027	Plain white, NO lettering, NO logo	Manitoba PSV trailer plate #PAL 156.	July 18, 2007
Ford Econoline VAN	103	Laidlaw style block lettering, Z	Manitoba class PB #PAU 620.	May 16, 2008

Note 1: 1066 in same scheme as 1063 (swoosh, no name) but I have been unable to find evidence this bus ever had Grey Goose lettering.

Note 2: Grey Goose express trailers 3003-04 reported retired by May 2008 while 3013 still in service at that time.

Note 3: Grey Goose bus 252 observed and photographed at the station in North Bay, Ontario on August 3, 2006. The goose had strayed far from home indeed!

Note 4: 1000 series buses were reassigned from Greyhound Canada fleet and re-lettered to Grey Goose. All expect 1069 lettered back to Greyhound.



2011 Bus History Association Convention – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Notes & Photos from Kevin Nichol, BHA Convention Co-ordinator, and
More Photos from Nik Thavisone, Manny Jacob, David Wyatt & Alex Regiec

The BHA decided to explore the Canadian Prairies by hosting its annual international bus convention in Regina and Winnipeg

Initially, when the Regina convention was announced, it was planned to be a two-day convention. However, an invite from Alex Regiec of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association to have a third day in Winnipeg was too tempting to turn down. The BHA had last visited Winnipeg in 2001 and with two bus-manufacturing facilities in the city, it always makes for a great convention location.

Logistically, it created a challenge to get members from Regina to Winnipeg, a distance of about 560 kilometres (350 miles). With some people finding their own way (Greyhound, Air Canada, etc.) there was still a demand for car pools for most people. Bernie Drouillard did a great job of arranging rides for everybody and people made it to the hotel by Sunday evening.

The MTHA really went out of their way to make the BHA feel at home. Two buses were donated for our use during the day (ex-Winnipeg Flyer D901 # 107 and T6H-4521A # 751). With the bus companies and bus manufacturing facilities that were planned to

visit, it made for a very long but enjoyable day. The weather forecast was not promising but for the most part, the rain held off. The MTHA has a very impressive historical collection. In addition to the two buses that we rode on, there were 4 other buses from their fleet on display at the Winnipeg Transit garage.

While at the Winnipeg garage, unfortunately bus # 107 experienced an electrical malfunction as was unavailable for the rest of the day. Winnipeg Transit allowed use of bus 674 (NFI D40). This became the second bus for the rest of the day.

The BHA visited the Beaver Bus Lines garage after lunch on the Monday of the convention. Beaver Bus Lines is a favorite company of bus fans, having been family owned since 1972. In addition to the tour and charter service buses that Beaver has (both MCI and Prevost), transit buses are also a large part of the fleet which are used for the SJR contract service as well as the suburban line run between Winnipeg and Selkirk.

The BHA toured both the New Flyer and MCI plants during our day in Winnipeg. In 2001, the BHA visited MCI but we were turned down in our request for New Flyer. This time, with the help of the MTHA and their relationship with New Flyer, Alex Regiec was able to arrange a tour.

Our day concluded with BHA members enjoying a ride on the "Scenic Cruiser" to the Airport and new Greyhound Terminal.

(BHA Convention Continued)



Steve Kunka, Senior Manager at MCI, explains the coach manufacturing process to Kevin Nichol, BHA Convention Co-ordinator, during the plant tour.



Ross Smith, MTHA Secretary, arranged for the MCAAC 1918 Ford Model T bus to be on display at Winnipeg Transit during the BHA Convention.



While at Winnipeg Transit the 2011 Bus History Association delegates were free to explore and photograph the display of both vintage and modern buses. Included in the lineup, the MTHA's 1937 Twin Coach, 1946 Ford Transit, 1956 Western Flyer "Scenic Cruiser", and 1958 Western Flyer RCAF coach, along with Winnipeg Transit's newest addition – a NFI D40LFR. Further in the background were two Winnipeg Transit NFI D40 high floor buses.



MTHA member Peter Elwick (in bright orange raincoat) prepares to load passengers on the 1937 Twin Coach.



MTHA member Doug Belcher smiles for the camera after parking bus 751 at Winnipeg Transit. He assisted in driving bus 751 for the BHA delegates for the afternoon portion of the convention

(BHA Convention Continued)



Left to Right:
Alex Regiec, MTHA
President, and
Beaver Bus Lines’
John Panting,
Operations
Manager, and
John Fehr,
President, welcome
delegates to the
Archibald garage.



BHA Delegates enjoy their ride on MTHA bus 751; a 1971 General Motors model T6H-4521A. The bus shuttled delegates throughout the convention.



The two “Jimmies” – MTHA bus # 751 parked next to Beaver Bus Lines # 40 at the Archibald Garage.

Convention delegates had the opportunity to ride in luxury on the MTHA’s 1956 Western Flyer “Scenic Cruiser” for a trip to the Airport and new Greyhound bus depot.



BHA delegates also had the opportunity to tour the New Flyer plant in Transcona.

A NFI XD40 for Mississauga’s MiWay is loaded for transport to the finishing facility.



After a long day of tours, the BHA delegates concluded their itinerary with a visit to the new Greyhound bus depot at the Winnipeg International Airport.

Farewell to the 800s CHARTER: Winnipeg Transit 1989-1991 D40s



The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association and Winnipeg Transit are proud to present a farewell charter to our 800 series D40s. Built by New Flyer from 1989 through 1991, the 800 series D40s once represented 90 buses (#801-890) and formed a significant part of Winnipeg Transit's fleet. The 800s currently (as of June 28, 2011) represent 17 of only 49 remaining orange high floor buses in the fleet and have been disappearing quickly in recent months. Sadly, all will be retired shortly and none will be saved for the Transit Heritage vintage fleet. Join us on this historic trip as we say goodbye forever to the 800 series D40s.

Date: Saturday, August 20, 2011

Time: 10AM (please arrive by 9:30), back to garage by 3PM.

Start/finish location: Winnipeg Transit, 421 Osborne.

Map/itinerary: Details TBD, will include lunch stop (attendees pay their own).

Cost: Donation suggested \$10-15 per person to help us defray expenses.

Attendees: Subject to cancellation if there is insufficient sign-up by August 1.

Contact: Phil Rawliuk (453-2190) or Manny Jacob (railbus@golden.net)





Left to Right: Ross Smith, Wayne Smith and Guy Fontaine continue to do restoration work on bus 565 – the 1946 Ford Transit 69-B.

Restoration of Bus 565

Work continues on the full restoration of bus 565, the 1946 Ford Transit model 69-B. Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteers Ross Smith, Guy Fontaine, Jim Dudych, Don Glowatsky, Cam Schneider, and Wayne Smith have recently performed the following work on the bus:

- Adjust the clutch
- Adjust the Brakes
- Adjust the Carburetor
- Grease the Chassis
- Repair Marker Lights
- Change Flasher – Turn Signals
- Service Air Cleaner
- Flush Power Steering Fluid

Further work will include fixing the hub locks, bleed the power steering, repairing the air compressor and finishing electrical connections.

MTHA News

Food Hamper Delivery: Helping Seniors in need

For the forth-straight year in a row, volunteer members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association assisted with the delivery of food hampers to needy senior citizens.

Working in partnership with the Gwen Sectar Creative Living Centre and the Winnipeg Jewish Child & Family Services agency, the Transit Heritage volunteers loaded 55 hamper boxes onto bus 751 and set out across the city.

The main focus of this year’s deliveries was in the West Kildonan, Garden City, downtown and West Broadway neighbourhoods.

The hampers are delivered in advance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, and attempts to reach out to those seniors who are shut-in or physically unable to obtain the special foodstuffs for the holiday.

The challenge for our volunteers is to make the deliveries in a timely fashion so as to insure that the frozen food products do not thaw.

Transit Heritage volunteers this year included Murray Penner, Doug Belcher, Joe Zizic, Phil Rawluk, David Wyatt, Alex Regiec and Manny Jacob.



Left to Right: Linley James, Doug Belcher and Manny Jacob help to load bus 751 with food hampers.

Wedding Bells and Vintage Buses

Wedding Bells were ringing as the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided transportation for two weddings recently in Winnipeg.

On Saturday, June 4th, 2011 bus 751 was used to take the wedding party of

Melanie Fatouros and James Richardson to the Exchange District for pictures.

On Saturday, July 9th, 2011 the wedding party of Gosia Sawicka and Michael Fazio will use the 1956 Scenic Cruiser during their ceremony.



The Bride was beautiful and the groom a bit nervous as the bridal party staged bus 751 in the Exchange District as a backdrop for their wedding photos.

Bus Industry News

Selkirk Transit finally on the move

After six years of study by a Task Force and consultant report, the residents of Selkirk can now enjoy the benefits of a municipal transit system.

At a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 26th in the City's Fire Hall, civic and provincial

representatives officially opened the Selkirk Transit System.

Federal funds assisted with the purchase of two new buses and bus stops, and the Province will provide 50-50 cost sharing assistance for operation of the system.

Left to Right: Greg Dewar, MLA for Selkirk, Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson, Deputy Mayor Duane Nichol, and Hon. Ron Lemieux, Minister for Local Government cut the ribbon signaling the start of the Selkirk Transit System.



In Memoriam – Ollie Lester

It was with great sadness that members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association learnt of the passing of Ollie Lester on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. Ollie was hired by the Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission as the first black bus driver. After retiring from the Provincial Government, Ollie kept busy by driving for Beaver Bus Lines until age 82.

Brandon Bus Lines to operate scheduled services

Brandon Bus Lines, owned and operated by Gordon and Natalie Hrechka of Brandon, Manitoba, began operation of three former Grey Goose routes on Sunday, June 12th.

The company is using three large vans and

trailers on the Winnipeg-Koostatak, Winnipeg-Steinbach-Sprague, and Winnipeg-Pine Falls routes.

Brandon is largely a charter operator, however has been running the Brandon-Minnedosa-Russell route for the past year.

Brandon Bus Lines will operate vans and trailers on the scheduled runs to Pine Falls, Koostatak and Steinbach and supplement with buses on busy days.



Quebec orders New Flyer

New Flyer Industries Inc. announced on June 21, 2011 that it has been selected to supply up to 27 heavy duty transit buses for the City of Sorel, Quebec, of which 12 are firm orders and 15 are options. This award marks the first sale of New Flyer low-floor buses to a Quebec-based transit agency since 1970, and is a direct outcome of the appointment of A. Girardin Inc. of Drummondville, Quebec to sell and support New Flyer.

New Flyer will provide La Régie de la Gare de Sorel the latest generation 40-foot Xcelsior model buses, powered with clean, efficient diesel engines. Girardin will provide local pre-delivery inspection services, field support, and parts support.



Passing the mechanical safety ...

From left to right: Mechanics Dwayne Blair, Mike Hebert, Don McIvor, Chris Leins, Derek Michno, Ianon Iacobiuc, and Arthur Costa give the thumbs up to the 1956 Western Flyer "Scenic Cruiser".

Attaching the license plates ...

MTHA member Manny Jacob, aided by fellow MTHA member Phil Rawluk, carefully drills holes for the new license plates on bus 20.

**SWITCHIRON
From the Photo Album**



David A. Wyatt
These electric trolley buses were photographed in Valparaiso, Chile in January 2011 by Transit Heritage member David Wyatt. These Pullman-Standard trolley coaches are 60 years old.

