



THE SWITCH IRON

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A trip down memory lane

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's Senior's Outreach program continues rolling ...

By Alex Regiec

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association continues with its community outreach program "Trip Down Memory Lane" by offering recently restored historic buses to local seniors organizations for group outings.

On Wednesday, August 17th, MTHA volunteer driver Doug Belcher accompanied a group of seniors from the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre on a "Trip Down Memory Lane" with the recently restored 1956 Scenic Cruiser.

The group was picked up at their Gwen Sector building on Main Street at Smithfield in north Winnipeg and enjoyed a ride through Portage & Main and out Portage Avenue west. They ended up at the Assiniboine Downs for a buffet supper and evening at the Races.

The MTHA's "Trip Down Memory Lane" program has received financial support from the Government of Canada, and more recently from the Winnipeg Foundation.



Doug Belcher welcomes everyone aboard.



Seniors enjoying the comfortable ride

Greyhound Canada's "Faces of Excellence" July 27, 2011

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was asked by Greyhound Canada to provide "vintage styled" transportation service for the company's "Faces of Excellence" program, which was hosted on July 27, 2011 at the Winnipeg Aviation Museum.



Doug Stern, a senior Greyhound driver with over 35 years experience, receives his Safety Award from senior company executives: From Left-Right, Stuart Kendrick (VP), Bill Blankenship (CEO) and Dave Leach (President).



Peter Hamel, Greyhound's Regional Manager for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and NW Ontario, welcomes guests to the "Faces of Excellence" program event.



Executives from the Greyhound Corporation's head office in Dallas, Texas and staff of the Manitoba Division of Greyhound Canada take a moment for a picture in front of their "vintage ride", the historic 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser. The vintage highway coach had been outfitted with classic old "Greyhound Lines" decals for this special occasion.



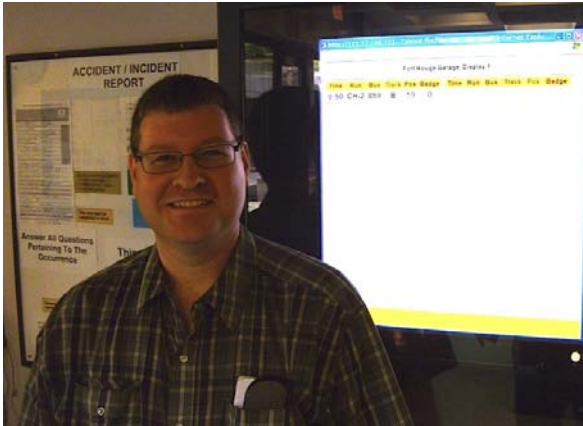
MTHA President Alex Regiec thanks Greyhound's senior executive team for their support of the Associations' bus preservation efforts.



MTHA volunteer Phil Rawluk exchanges a few short stories about handling the 1956 Scenic Cruiser with veteran Greyhound driver Glen Nott.

Farewell to the 800s “Bus Fan” Trip August 20, 2011

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteer Manny Jacob planned, organized and coordinated the first-ever MTHA “bus fan trip” on August 20, 2011. Well attended, the event attracted “bus fans” not only from Winnipeg but also from Alberta and Ontario. Congratulations and “Thank You” to Manny for hosting such a successful event!



After many weeks of preparation, Manny can hardly contain his excitement as the charter assignment appears on the dispatch board at Fort Rouge garage signaling the start of the bus fan trip.



Guests on the bus fan trip gather for a picture in front of Winnipeg Transit bus 859 on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.



Doug Belcher and Linley James review the special status of bus 859, which was used on Linley’s wedding day.

MTHA founding member John Kapusta enjoys the day’s trip aboard the smooth and comfortable high-floor transit bus.



Travelling from afar for this event were:

Left to Right, Andrew Gold from Calgary Transit, Sean Riley from GO Transit Toronto, and Sherman Wong of York Region Transit in Ontario.



A special “thanks” goes out to Phil Rawluk who donated his time as a Winnipeg Transit operator to drive the charter fan trip.

MTHA News

Wedding Bells and Vintage Scenic Cruiser

Wedding Bells rang for a second time this summer as the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association provided a “vintage ride” to a wedding party recently in Winnipeg.

On Saturday, July 9th, 2011 the 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser shuttled the wedding party of Gosia Sawicka and

Micahel Fazio from their hotels to St. Mary’s Cathedral in the downtown.

After the ceremony, the couple and their bridal party were taken to the CBC Building, Portage & Main and throughout the historic Exchange District for wedding day pictures.



The Bride and groom together with their bridal party staged a group picture with the 1956 Scenic Cruiser at the famous corner of Portage & Main in Winnipeg.

RCAF Coach Restoration

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association volunteers Ross Smith, John Kapusta and Jim Dudych have recently performed the following work on the 1958 Western Flyer model T38/40 (Air Force Coach):

- Adjust the clutch
- Adjust the Brakes
- Adjust the Carburetor
- Grease the Chassis
- Charge the Battery
- 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 applying original RCAF decals.

From the photo album

Brandon Transit

A collection of Orion I’s depart from the former downtown transit hub in front of the old Eaton’s department store on Rosser Avenue in the Spring of 1988.

Photo by Alex Regiec

