



THE SWITCH IRON

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Maintenance & Restoration

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's
Volunteers busy keeping buses rolling along ...

By Alex Regiec

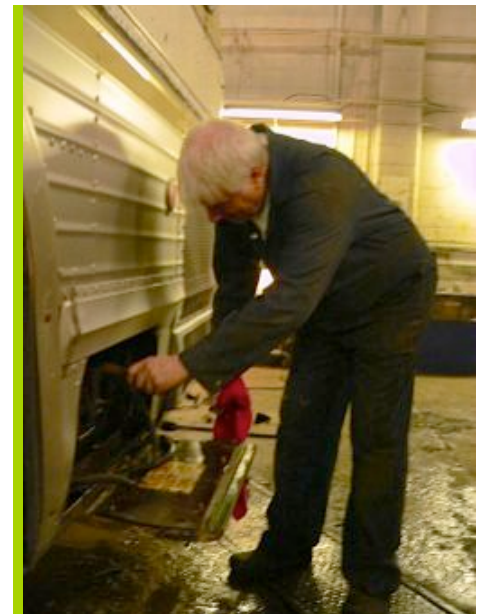
A team of maintenance volunteers has been busily working on completing the restoration of the 1942 Twin Coach and 1946 Ford Transit buses. During the past year Ross Smith has led a very dedicated maintenance group, which includes Jim Dudych, Guy Fontaine, Wayne Smith, Cam Schneider, Richard Lavois, Al Godin, Tom Williams and Don Glowatski.

Their work has included installing a new muffler and tale pipe, new front-end shock absorbers, a new gas tank, repairing the air compressor and completing the electrical wiring on bus 565.

Ross' team has also reinstalled the freshly chromed bumper back onto bus 214, and mechanically "tuned up" the 1958 Western Flyer T-38 "Air Force" coach.

In addition, major maintenance work was done and a safety inspection completed on the 1956 Western Flyer T-36 2L "Scenic Cruiser" by the mechanics at Greyhound.

Finally, throughout the year another group of volunteers have regularly washed, fueled and serviced all eight of the MTHA's operable buses. This group included Manny Jacob, David Wyatt, Linley James Phil Rawluk, Doug Belcher and Alex Regiec.



Ross Smith , MTHA Secretary and Maintenance Coordinator, changes the battery in bus 33 (1963 GMC ex-Beaver Bus Lines #33.).

MTHA News

Snapshots of the volunteers of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association hard at work maintaining and servicing the eight operable coaches throughout the past year.



Jim Dudych has been busy working on mechanically servicing the 1971 GM bus, the 1984 Flyer D901 and the 1988 New Flyer D40. He was in-charge of hauling the 1980 Orion and the 1960 GM coach to the scrap yard.



Ross, Wayne, Guy and Cam continue to work on the restoration of the 1946 Ford Transit bus.



MTHA President Alex Regiec checks the oil and fluid levels on the 1937 Twin Coach.

Phil Rawluk and Linley James pre-soaked bus 111 with soap and watch as Doug Belcher washes down the 1937 Twin Coach. Alex Regiec secures the elevated ladder Doug is standing on.

Every MTHA bus is washed and cleaned before each display or event.



Turning a few heads while fuelling the 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser at a local Shell Gas Bar one night just before a major display event in the summer of 2011.



MTHA 2nd Vice-President Manny Jacob fastens a new antique license plate to the 1956 Western Flyer Scenic Cruiser.

Manny has recently outfitted the entire fleet with antique plates realizing a saving on insurance.

MTHA News

Museum Bus Project Update

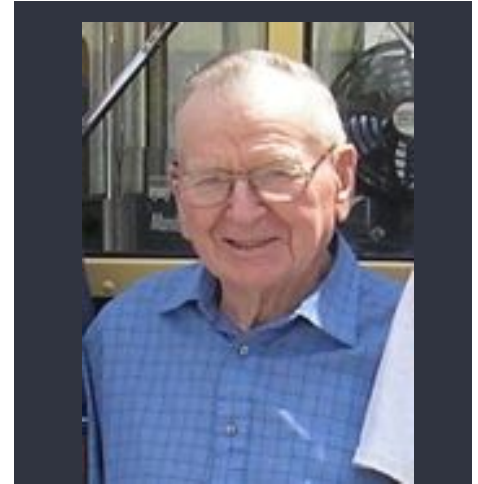
After much discussion over which MTHA bus to commit to the project, a decision was made to use the 1979 Orion I bus which was recently donated by the Vintage Railway Society to the MTHA.

Work then continued on the Museum Bus Project, with mechanical repairs to the

vehicle solving an engine stalling problem, removal of the interior seats, construction of a display cabinet, and the finalization of the exterior design which was sent off to Lightvisions for printing. Rather than paint the bus, the exterior will be fitted with a vinyl wrap featuring original Winnipeg Transit colors and Museum Bus decals.



The 1979 Orion 01.501, ex-Prairie Dog Central bus, will feature the original Winnipeg Transit orange & cream color livery and Museum Bus decals. Since this diesel section never operated in the Transit fleet, a special number, 963, was devised for vehicle identification. The bus is expected to be on display in early April 2012.



In Memoriam – Bill Bremner

It was with great sadness that members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association learnt of the passing of Bill Bremner on Saturday, November 26, 2011. Bill had worked for the Winnipeg, Selkirk & Lake Winnipeg Railway Co. and the Winnipeg Electric Co. Bill had been a volunteer with the MTHA.

Congratulations to recent retirees ...

Congratulations to MTHA volunteers Mike Kubas and Dennis Cavanagh on their recent retirement from Winnipeg Transit.

On Friday, January 20, 2012 both men finished their last scheduled trips for Winnipeg Transit after over thirty plus years of exemplary service.

Dennis Cavanagh was one of the original founding members of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association in 1989, was Vice-President for five years, and continues to service on its Board.

Mike Kubas also served on the MTHA's Board as Social Committee liaison.



Dennis Cavanagh, MTHA board member and 30-year veteran Bus Operator for Winnipeg Transit, was joined by his wife Sharon and daughter Melissa on his last day driving.

Manitoba Transit Heritage Association Merchandise



Cotton blend golf shirts with embroidered MTHA logo.



MTHA travel mug and ceramic coffee mug. Available summer 2012.

BUS INDUSTRY News

Rapid Transit scheduled to arrive in Winnipeg

Winnipeg's first rapid transit line, the southwest Transit corridor, is scheduled to open on Sunday, April 8th, 2012.

The 3.6 km transitway runs from Main Street/Queen Elizabeth Way along the CN Railway mainline and through Fort Rouge yards to Jubilee Avenue.

The southwest Rapid Transit corridor will feature a high-speed roadway for buses and three major stations with many amenities for passenger comfort and convenience including all-weather canopy covers, heated shelters, electronic information displays and specially marked rapid transit buses.



Brand new NFI D40LFR units recently delivered to Winnipeg Transit have been outfitted with the special Rapid Transit color scheme.

Harkness Station is the first stop along the new southwest Rapid Transit corridor. The stations feature large canopy covers to protect passengers from the elements such as rain, and have heated shelters for the winter months. The station platforms are wide and fully accessible.

From the photo album

Israeli Buses

MTHA President Alex Regiec travelled to the Middle-East in late October 2011 and managed to photograph a few buses while on vacation.

Pictured on the right is an Egged Israel Transport Cooperative Society's articulated city bus operating on King George Street in Jerusalem.

This section of street features Bus Rapid Transit, where the buses travel in a center lanes physically separated from regular traffic. These special lanes have Transit stations located every second block or so along the route.

