



**THE SWITCH IRON**

MANITOBA  
TRANSIT  
HERITAGE  
ASSOCIATION



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## Transit Museum Day

Crowds of Winnipeggers visit the MTHA's first ever display of heritage buses

Over four hundred Winnipeggers attended the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's one-day exhibition of its unique and historic collection of restored vintage buses on Saturday, June 23rd, 2012. The exhibition took place in the north yard of the former Grey Goose Bus Lines garage at 301 Burnell Street.

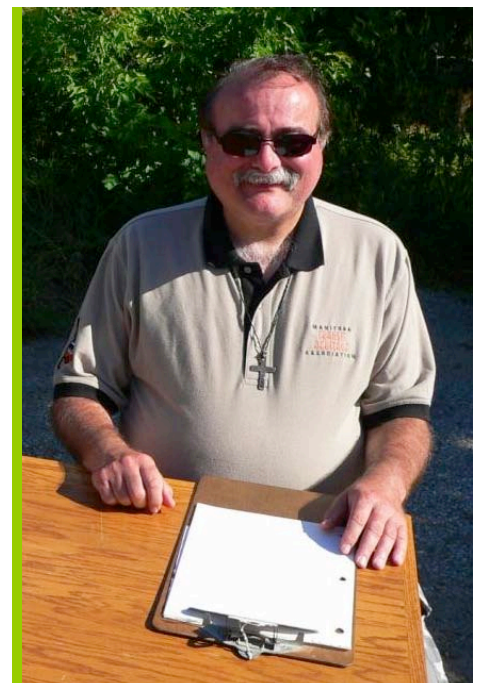
Visitors were able to tour one of the largest collections of vintage transit and highway buses in Canada. The display included:

- 1937 Winnipeg Electric Company "Twin Coach" transit bus;
- 1950 Winnipeg Metro Transit "Canadian Car" electric trolley bus;
- 1956 Grey Goose "Western Flyer" highway coach;
- 1958 RCAF "Western Flyer" coach;
- 1963 Beaver Bus Lines "General Motors" suburban transit bus;

- 1971 Winnipeg Transit "General Motors" transit bus;
- 1984 Winnipeg Transit "Flyer" transit bus;
- 1989 Winnipeg Transit "New Flyer" transit bus.

Volunteers from the Association were on hand to guide visitors through the collection and shared stories about the bus industry in Winnipeg and Manitoba.

Never before in Winnipeg was it possible to see and enjoy so many vintage buses together at one location. Many of them had been out of the public eye for decades. Association President Alex Regiec said "Our volunteers were very excited to show off their amazing collection of historic vehicles to the public. They are very proud of their work restoring and caring for such an important part of our City's history."



Gary Goodman, MTHA volunteer, welcomes guests to the first annual Transit Museum Day.

# Minutes of Meeting

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Grey Goose Lines Garage 301 Burnell Street



## Recorded by:

Ian Moore, MTHA Board Member.

## Present:

Ian Moore, Manny Jacob, Linley James, Al Brunsel, Tom Dudych, David A. Wyatt, Pat Rogoski, Linley James, Phil Rawluk, and Alex Regiec.

## Call to Order:

Alex Regiec welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:29 AM.

## Membership:

MOTION: Ian Moore moved and Manny Jacob seconded to accept the minutes for the March 31, 2012 Board of Directors meeting and the June 23, 2012 Annual General Meeting minutes. CARRIED.

## Reports:

### *President's Report:*

• Alex Regiec reported that Manny Jacob will be acting President during his vacation from July 8 until July 23, 2012. Vice-President Phil Rawluk will be the main contact between the MTHA and Winnipeg Transit.

• The new web site is up and running at [www.mtha.ca](http://www.mtha.ca)

• The MTHA has received two pieces of correspondence; a letter from Gwynneth E. Morice of Calgary, Alberta regarding donating her great-uncles memorial banners, and from Ted Greenhalgh expressing his appreciation of Transit Museum Day.

### *Financial Report:*

• Alex Regiec provided a report on the Financial statements ending on the 30 June 2012.

MOTION: Al Brunsel moved and Manny Jacob seconded the acceptance the financial reports as presented. CARRIED.

## New Business:

### *Club Activities Report:*

• Phil Rawluk provided the Board with an overview of recent club activities and mentioned the upcoming Trains, Planes and Automobiles event at the Prairie Dog Central Railway on Saturday, July 14. RCAF 119A35-1815 (75) will be taken out to the PDC compound for display.

• Al Brunsel also informed the Board that he and Dave Dickinson drove bus 20 to New Flyer Industries Staff Bar-B-Q on Thursday, July 5.

• Al Brunsel brought it to the attention of the Board that the Employee Retiree Charitable Fund (ERCF) is hosting it's annual bus pull for charity at City Hall in October and requested the display of an MTHA historic bus at that event.

MOTION: Alex Regiec moved and Manny Jacob that the MTHA support the request from the Employee Retiree Charitable Fund and provide up to two vintage buses for display during the annual charity bus pull in October. CARRIED.

### *Fleet Storage Report:*

• Alex Regiec reported that he received notice from Greyhound Lines regarding vacating the Burnell Street garage by July 7, 2012. He also reported on a conversation he had with Peter Hamel, General Manager for Greyhound.

• Alex Regiec reported that he had scouted out three potential new locations, including sites on McPhillips, Regent and Gunn Road.

• Linley James, Manny Jacob, Ian Moore and Al Brunsel offered to assist with the rental inquiries.

## Museum Bus Project:

• Linley James reported that once the drawings had been redrafted and submitted, it should take about two weeks to turn around to print and install the external vinyl wrap.

• Alex Regiec reported that he would work on the revised drawings and send them to Lightvisions and Linley James.

• Tom Dudych reported that his brother Jim had completed the roof repairs and prepared the bus for the external vinyl wrap.

• David A. Wyatt presented to the Board a plan regarding the interior display for the museum bus, including a product from Lightvisions that will allow for the customization of the display to suit whatever each event may require.

## Adjournment:

MOTION: Tom Dudych moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:29 AM.

**NOTE:** This was the last time a meeting of the MTHA Board of Directors was held at 301 Burnell Street; the building was torn down on September 21, 2012.



# Taking it to the streets ...

After more than a year in development, the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's Transit Museum Bus Project nears completion

By: Alex Regiec, MCIP

## Which Bus To Use?

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

## Getting down to Business

Volunteers of the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association have been hard at work converting a former transit bus into a mobile museum on wheels.

Mechanical repairs were first made to the bus, followed by the preparation of the exterior of the coach for vinyl

wrap and finally work on the interior for the museum displays.

## Available for Public Display

The Transit Museum Bus will interpret the City of Winnipeg's rich and colorful public transport history of streetcars, trolleys and buses.

This mobile museum will hold the most extensive collection of urban transit materials in Winnipeg, including pictures of streetcars, trolleys and buses, tickets and passes, driver's uniforms and other related memorabilia. The interior of this museum on wheels will present a

compelling exhibition featuring the theme of public transit as an important part of the development of our city, and will be made available to teachers and educators through school visits.

The Government of Canada's New Horizons Program and the Winnipeg Foundation provided funding for the project.

A special thank you to MTHA volunteers Linley James and Manny Jacob for their hard work as project managers.



Detailed plans had been prepared by MTHA volunteers in advance of beginning work on the Museum Bus Project.



Notes from sunny California ...

## A visit to the Greyhound Lines Historic Fleet in Los Angeles

### MTHA President Alex Regiec and Historian David A. Wyatt toured vintage gems from the iconic company's past

Early on Thursday, July 12, 2012 Manitoba Transit Heritage Association President Alex Regiec and Historian David Wyatt left their hotel near LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) to begin a 2-hour journey by public transit to Greyhound Lines terminal garage in east downtown Los Angeles. The duo's journey began with a walk to the LAX Lot C Transit Terminal to catch Metro Transit's Route 102, which took them to Metro's brand new Expo LRT line at Exposition Boulevard and Western Avenue. The speedy Light Rail arrived at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Vermont station in downtown where the two transferred to Metro Transit Route 60 to travel through the warehouse district of Boyle Heights arriving safely at 1716 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Greyhound Lines terminal garage, home of the iconic company's historic antique fleet.

A long time Greyhound bus enthusiast, Alex Regiec arranged the visit with Dave Phillips who is the Vice President of Package Express at Greyhound Lines in Dallas, Texas. A year earlier, Dave who is also involved with the Bus Museum in Hersey, Pennsylvania, enjoyed riding on the MTHA's 1956 Western Flyer bus during Greyhound's Faces of Excellence event in Manitoba.

The tour was given by Louis Jaurequi who is Greyhound's Operations Manager at the Los Angeles terminal garage. The Historic Fleet includes a 1914 Hupmobile, a 1931 Mack model BK, a 1937 Yellow Coach model 743 (predecessor to General Motors), a 1947 General Motors PD-4151 "Silverside", a 1948 ACF-Brill model IC-41, a 1954 General Motors PD4501-001 "Scenicruiser", a 1968 Motor Coach Industries model MC-7, and a 1984 Motor Coach Industries model MC-9.

This was truly a special opportunity to visit and photograph this unique collection of historic American road cruisers up-close. Alex and David were allowed to board each of the eight coaches in the antique fleet. Their gracious host readily answered all of their questions during a tour that lasted about three hours.



The second level interior of Greyhound's famous Scenicruiser, king of the road in the 1950s.

Notes from sunny California ...

## A visit to the Greyhound Lines Historic Fleet in Los Angeles

This page features a few pictures of Greyhound’s Historic Fleet based in Los Angeles. These vehicles are often used by the Hollywood movie industry and have appeared in many films over the years.



1914 Hupmobile, the vehicle that the “Greyhound Story” began with in Hibbing, Minnesota.



1931 Mack model BK which featured kerosene lamps as the rear lights!



1937 Yellow Coach model 743, the predecessor to the General Motors line of buses and coaches.

1948 ACF-Brill model IC-41 which was used by Southeastern Greyhound Lines. A similar bus was used by Winnipeg Electric on the Winnipeg to Selkirk route in the late 1940s.



1954 General Motors model PD5401-001 “Scenicruiser” was the iconic coach in the 1950s.



1984 Motor Coach Industries model MC-9 was the mainstay and dependable workhorse of the Greyhound fleet in the 1980s and 90s.

Alex Regiec and David Wyatt wish to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dave Phillips and Louis Jaurequi of Greyhound for arranging this special visit and tour. Thank you!



David Wyatt and Travis Gensorek-Koch attend to the display of heritage items at Fort Rouge Station during the Rapid Transit Open House.

### Rapid Transit Open House

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association was asked by Winnipeg Transit to participate in its Staff Appreciation Day in advance of the Grand Opening of the new Rapid Transit Line on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The theme of the Staff Appreciation Day was "Transit – Past, Present and Future".

The MTHA set up a complete display of Transit Memorabilia (passes, tickets, uniforms, badges, artifacts) and antique buses at the Fort Rouge Station along the new Transitway line.

Over 1,000 Transit employees and their families attended the event, with the MTHA providing rides on the antique buses including the 1937 Twin Coach (bus #111) on the new Transitway.

## MTHA News

### Annual General Meeting in Brandon

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association held its Annual General Meeting in the City of Brandon on Saturday, June 9, 2012.

Fourteen members from Winnipeg boarded a coach donated by Brandon Bus Lines and made the 2-hour journey to the Wheat City. Five Brandon based members joined the group for meeting.

The activities for the day including the AGM Business meeting followed by a luncheon at Mom's Family restaurant (located on the City's picturesque golf course), a tour of Brandon Bus Lines garage, and a tour of Brandon Transit garage and a city tour on their 1955 General Motors vintage coach.



A group of MTHA members from Winnipeg made the trek out west to Brandon for the AGM. Many new members were recruited from the wheat city.

### Trains, Planes and Automobiles

On Saturday, June 14, 2012 the Vintage Railway Society hosted a special display of various transportation modes from days gone past at its Inkster Junction Station and storage facility located in Rosser, Manitoba.

This event featured the Prairie Dog Central steam locomotive and train, vintage airplane models, and numerous antique automobiles including the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association's 1958 Western Flyer Coach.



The MTHA's 1958 Western Flyer Coach (bus #75) made an appearance next to the Prairie Dog Central Locomotive at the Trains, Planes and Automobiles event in Rosser, Manitoba.

## MTHA News

### Sunday Nite Cruise at the Pony Corral on Grant

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association regularly dropped by the Sunday Nite Cruise hosted by the Pony Corral Restaurant at 400 Wilton Street at Grant Avenue.

Our volunteers brought numerous MTHA

vintage buses to the display, including the 1956 Western Flyer Coach "Scenic Cruiser", the 1971 General Motors "Fishbowl", and the 1984 Flyer D901 Transit bus. Many antique car enthusiasts enjoyed touring the old buses, kicking the tires and looking under the hood.



Left to Right: Al Brunsel, Elizabeth Rogoski, Ian Moore, John Kapusta and Alex Regiec display the 1956 Western Flyer Coach at the Pony Corral on Sunday, August 5, 2012.

### South Osborne Sidewalk Festival

The Manitoba Transit Heritage Association, together with Winnipeg Transit, was invited to participate in the second annual South Osborne Sidewalk Festival.

The MTHA assembled and displayed the entire Transit bus Heritage Fleet on the front drive of 421 Osborne Street.

Over 500 people stopped by to see the

display of Transit memorabilia (passes, tickets, uniforms) and vintage buses, including the last electric Trolley to operate in Winnipeg.

The sidewalk festival stretched from Mulvey Avenue in the north to Jubilee Avenue in the south, and featured street performers, a petting zoo, horse drawn wagon rides, and a local merchants sidewalk sale.



Winnipeg Transit's Historic Fleet on display during the South Osborne Sidewalk Festival.

# BACK TO THE 80S

## THE FUN DAY ...

Sunday, 12 August, 2012  
City Tour + Pony Corral Show & Shine  
2pm - 5pm  
Fort Rouge Transit Garage 421 Osborne Street  
(No Parking Available at FRG)




### Back To The 80s

On Saturday, August 12, 2012 the MTHA took a city tour and displayed 2 of our more modern buses. We made our way through the city making various photo stops, visited Jim's Vintage Garage Museum in Headingly, and dropped into the Pony Corral for the Sunday Nite Cruise.



## Membership Fees due!

At the Annual General Meeting held in Brandon, Manitoba on Saturday, June 9, 2012, the MTHA Board of Directors approved the implementation of annual membership fees. Please see the insert in this newsletter for the registration form and fee structure details.

## From The Photo Album



All The Smart Cats Ride Metro Transit ...

### **Transit Trolley Coach 1768**

Electric trolley coach service began in Winnipeg in 1938, the first city in western Canada to implement this technology. Pictured above is Metro Transit trolley coach # 1768, seen here in service on St. Mary's Road. Trolley 1768 was the last electric bus to operate in Winnipeg on October 30, 1970.

The MTHA current owns and displays this authentic trolley coach, which is awaiting a full restoration.