



WCRA NEWS

MAY 2018

**THOMAS IS ALMOST
HERE—GET TICKETS!**

CN IN BC'S NORTHWEST



GENERAL MEETING

The **General Meeting** of the WCRA will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Rainbow Creek Station in Burnaby, Willingdon and Penzance, at 1930 hours. Entertainment will be a video of vintage steam—including Great Northern—in the 1950's.

ON THE COVER

A CN train of empties thunders over the Skeena Crossing bridge eastbound (between Terrace and Smithers) on April 4, 2018—CN 2897 / 2849 provide the power. (Don Evans photo)

MAY CALENDAR

- **West Coast Railway Heritage Park open daily 1000 to 1700**
 - Bill Miner Escape Room open by reservation every day
- Friday, May 4—Newsletter deadline for the June issue of WCRA News
- Saturday May 5—Admission by Donation Day at the Heritage Park, many special activities will be offered
- May 4, 5 and 6—Railway Modelers Meet at Simon Fraser University Burnaby Campus info at <railwaymodellermeeofbc.ca>
- Thursday, May 10—Drive in Movie Night—**Jumanji 2**—Show at dusk, \$20 per carload. Concession open and mini rail rides available prior to the show
- Sunday, May 20—Annual celebration of the arrival of Locomotive 374 into Vancouver, loco will be outside, bands and cake—Locomotive 374 Pavilion in Yaletown
- May 19, 20, 21 and May 26, 27—**Day Out With Thomas** at the Heritage Park, grounds open 0830 to 1800 each day, NOTE—museum exhibits closed on Day Out With Thomas dates
- Tuesday, May 29—WCRA General Meeting, 1930 k, Rainbow Creek Station
- Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 3 noon—Rotary International Conference at the Heritage Park, NOTE private function these times, museum closed to public

The West Coast Railway Association is an historical group dedicated to the preservation of British Columbia railway history. Membership is open to all people with an interest in railways past and present. We are a non-profit British Columbia society, registered as a Canadian charity. Membership prices are as follows, **Please note that GST must be added to all fees:**

Senior \$50 (\$52.50), Individual \$55 (\$57.75), Family \$65 (\$68.25) **E Members (electronic newsletter only) are \$35 (\$36.75) Senior, \$40 (\$42.00) individual and \$50 (\$52.50) family.** Other categories are:
- Junior Member (age 18 and under) \$ 30 (\$31.50)
- Sustaining Member \$100 (tax receipt) **plus** membership type regular fee
- Life Membership \$700 (\$735) individual life / \$1,200 (\$1,260) family life

All memberships include the monthly newsletter, Heritage Park admission (except Special Events), mini rail rides and discounts on food and merchandise. The Association holds a monthly meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 1930 hours in Burnaby at Rainbow Creek Station in Confederation Park. Apply through www.wcra.org or mail to WCRA, PO Box 2790 Stn. Term., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X2.

FROM THE EDITOR

A note from your editor to let you know that my Rotary International work and other activities continue to have me travelling and away from more normal activities in our local area. They also have me stretched for time for several of the usual projects.

However, it is not all bad—as you see in this issue we had considerable time in the Northwest area of BC recently (between Prince Rupert and Smithers, Terrace and Kitimat), affording many opportunities to observe much of CN's Northern line in action. Lots of traffic has been observed, including two-mile long container trains, several trains of Northeast coal and more. See several photos in this issue—including our cover photo showing the Skeena River Crossing. It was still winter in early April!

And, as I sit here typing at this moment I can hear the steam whistles of the Strasburg Railroad, which is hosting a great Spring 2018 HeritageRail Alliance conference. Next, ahead in May, we will spend the best part of two weeks in Alaska and have reservations on the Alaska Railroad's *Coastal Classic* and *Denali Star* trains.

So, there will be much reporting to come and you can look forward to hearing about the HRA Conference next issue, and Alaska Railroading in the July issue. Thanks to you all for your patience in the delinquent timing of these few issues. Things will get back to normal in the summer after the Rotary Governor term ends June 30th.

Don

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting notes will be caught up next month—sorry (Ed.)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to membership:

- Chris Blackwell and Family of Langley
- Gemma Evans and Family of Squamish
- Michael Hayter of Langley
- Duncan Humphries of Port Moody
- Changhee Lee and Family of Coquitlam

- Tiffany Li and Family of Port Coquitlam
- Laura Liang and Family of Burnaby
- Joselyn Porcuincola & Will Skrivan and Family of Richmond
- Derek & Tamara Seib and Family of North Vancouver
- Heather Shannon and Family of West Vancouver
- Megan Tadeson and Family of Squamish
- Stephen Toews and Family of Burnaby
- Brittany VanDyck and Family of Squamish

Welcome back to membership:

- Sean Beddows of Surrey
- Dan & Allison Green and Family of Squamish
- George & Sharlene Jian and Family of Garibaldi Highlands
- Randy Reinsch of Delta
- Angie Smith and Family of Garibaldi Highlands (J.D.)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If your label reads 04/30/18 it is time to renew your membership.....if it reads 01/31/18 this is your last issue of WCRA News. We need all of you as members, please renew today.

WCRA TRIVIA #351 - By Ryan Cruickshank

What are the only two islands in the Caribbean that have a railway system?

(Answer on page 15)

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – Mileage Rate

The reimbursement rate for use of your vehicle while doing Volunteer activities for 2018 remains unchanged from 2017. **The rate is \$0.55/km.** This rate is in line with Canada Revenue Agency guideline for allowable reimbursements. (J.D.)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those volunteers who took the time to record and submit their 2017 Volunteer Hours. As of the March 28th cut-off a total of 21,000 hours were reported by you for the 2017 year. Of those 14,000 were for Activities at the Heritage Park.

Once again thank you for your support through your Volunteer Activities. **Volunteers are the heart and soul of the WCRA.** (D.S.)

HO MODEL OF CPR / WCRA FP7 #4069

As noted in the March Newsletter, Rapido Trains is producing proper GMD FP7 models in HO scale with a variety of paint schemes and road numbers with road specific details. Included is

the WCRA's very own CPR #4069 in Maroon & Grey with Block lettering. Rapido's previously announced order deadline for the FP7 is April 30th, 2018 with an MSRP price of \$249.95 for DC and \$359.95 for DCC Sound. Delivery date is quoted as "late 2018".

In addition to our fiends at Central Hobbies (page 14) taking pre-orders, Britannia Models is also offering pre-order pricing for both types if you order by April 30th!

The FP7 and other products can be ordered online from Britannia Models www.britanniamodels.com or by calling Britannia at (604) 465-5074. (J.D.)

COLLECTION

No reports received for this issue, sorry.

WEST COAST RAILWAY HERITAGE PARK

Home of the Royal Hudson



Thomas the Tank Engine is almost here! Your favourite cartoon character returns to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park for five dates again this year, May 19, 20 and 21 (Victoria Day Weekend) and then May 26 and 27. Tickets are on sale for very reasonable prices at \$26 (off peak) and \$29 (peak).

The Day Out With Thomas "Big Adventures Tour" will see the full size Thomas perform for crowds all day, providing one ride on a scheduled departure time with each ticket. But tickets are good for all day admission to the site, and the train ride is just one of more than ten feature attractions to take in. These include Thomas videos and storytelling, a store with special event only Thomas merchandise, photos with Thomas, live entertainment, bouncy castles, Thomas train play tables, crafts, letters to Thomas and his many railway friends,

and much more. Meet Sir Topham Hatt in person, watch Thomas on the big screen and enjoy Thomas story reading.

Also available will be the famous West Coast Mini Rail rides (extra charge), great food and lots and lots of fun for everyone. Tickets are now selling on line through **wcra.org**—order yours today! (J.C.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

So—can you help—will you help? The Heritage Park is looking for volunteers in many capacities for the summer.....these include heritage interpretation, tea house greeters and servers, gift shop and guest services, forge operators, beanery staff and more. Please talk to the Heritage Park if you can help—604-898-9336.

HERITAGE PARK MINIRAIL OPEN ... ENGINEER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

West Coast MiniRail is an extremely popular attraction at the Heritage Park. By the time you read this, the Heritage Park MiniRail will be operating and needs volunteers to help with its operation. Again this year our aim is to do more running and less standing with the MiniRail providing the means of transportation letting riders off at each of our stations and promoting the attractions surrounding each.

The stops on the system are ***Twin Cedars / Roundhouse*** - the station closest to the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre (This is the main boarding point featuring the BCER shelter replica), ***Wilkie*** - Home to the Garden Railway, ***Mason Station*** - Where the station exhibition can be enjoyed and provides access to the North end of the Park, and ***Silver Fox*** - Serving Mac Norris Station, Howard Lyttle Park, Brightbill Heritage House and railcar exhibits). Pick-up from the enroute stations is dependent on space on the train.

The MiniRail is its own best marketing tool, but only if it's zipping past as guests arrive through the Gate. This requires that we have a regular schedule. We must have at least one MiniRail volunteer committed to being on duty **every** day.

Able to help and want to be on the schedule? - email Jeremy - jeremy.davy@wcra.org or call **604-315-5349** and book your volunteer day(s) – the season goes till the end of the summer. It's a rewarding and fun way to participate and help our guests enjoy everything the Heritage Park offers.

All West Coast Mini Rail engineers must be certified to operate on the Park track. Need training? We can do that too—again just contact Jeremy and the necessary training sessions can be arranged. (J.D.)

MINI RAIL AND PUMP CAR

This year we will supplement the West Coast Mini Rail by also operating the pump car for a fun experience on our tracks. Having things that move on rails is core to our guest experience, and so both will be in full operation., The mini rail, of course, will operate daily, schedule for the pump car is yet to be finalized.

Volunteers are needed for both—contact Jeremy Davy <jeremy.davy@wcra.org> if you can help operate the mini rail, and Gord Bell <generalmanager@wcra.org> re the pump car. Operating and Safety training will be provided. will be provided.

DRIVE IN MOVIES RETURN FOR 2018

The popular Drive in Movie nights are back at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. The dates and shows lined up for the 2018 season are as follows:

- Thursday, May 10 – *Jumanji 2*,
- Friday, June 22 – *Pitch Perfect 3*,
- Friday, July 6 – *Hitman's Bodyguard*,
- Friday, August 17 – *A Knight's Tale*,
- Friday, September 7 – *Bedtime Stories*
- Friday, October 5 – *Avengers Infinity War*

All showings start at Dusk, price is just \$20 a car load. Concession will be open and MiniRail available one hour prior to dusk. Mark the dates! (T.C.)



OLD & NEW TECHNOLOGY MEET

The Canadian Internet Marketing Conference was held during April at the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre. Here there was a chance for old and new technology to share the stage—as witness this photo of the Royal Hudson and the latest SUV offering from Tesla side by side! (G.B.)



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 31 TO JUNE 3

It's a good month for the conference business at the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre...following the Canadian Internet Marketing Conference in April, and Day Out With Thomas in May, Rotarians from around BC will gather for the annual Rotary International District Conference May 31 through June 3, 2018. Note that the Heritage Park will be closed for regular visitor business on June 1 and 2, re-opening around noon on June 3.

LOCOMOTIVE 374 PAVILION

Our visitor count for March was 2,840. We had 565 more people than last March. Spring has arrived and it is feeling a little warmer in the Pavilion. It will be nice to switch to our spring coats and attire and lose our Winter gear.

May is our favourite month at the Pavilion. On May 20 at 10 AM we will be moving the 374 locomotive outside and steaming her up. A 50 Piece Brass Band will be playing from 12 noon to 3 PM. A few short speeches and cake will be served. Jugo Juice will be giving out free juice and the Roundhouse Community Centre Staff and Volunteers will be face painting the children. Now, if only the weather cooperates.



Ryan Cruickshank exhibited a rare model of locomotive 374 at the March meeting.....

We now have 22 Volunteers. Some only work one day a month, others two days a month, and the rest come in weekly. There are always people away on holidays or participating in family events. Life can be very busy. Optimally it is nice to have at least two people on each shift. We are not quite to that point yet. We are still missing that extra body on Tuesdays to

Thursdays. If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call (778-875-3573). I guarantee you will enjoy working at the Pavilion if you like meeting and helping people.

We are located at the corner of Davie St. & Pacific Blvd. Just across from the Canada Line Yaletown/Roundhouse Station. The Pavilion will be switching to Summer Hours shortly - 10 AM to 4 PM. Come down for a visit and check us out. (G.G.)

CELEBRATE VIA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH RAIL TRAVEL TOURS

Rail Travel Tours is offering some special tours with VIA Rail on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary year. Book with Rail Travel Tours and come along, and you will get both great rail travel and benefit the WCRA at the same time.

SPRING IN THE CDN MTNS – VANCOUVER -PRINCE RUPERT *-Book now to
confirm your spot!*

Friday June 8 – Saturday June 16, 2018

Travel round-trip from Vancouver to Prince Rupert by rail and experience two of Canada's most scenic rail journey's including VIA Rail's *CANADIAN* and the *JASPER –PRINCE RUPERT* train. Start with your departure on the Eastbound Canadian to enjoy views of the lower mainland before you overnight in your assigned sleeping car accommodation. The following day you will enjoy breakfast and lunch prepared by VIA Rails' onboard chefs in the full-length dining car. The remainder of the time will be enjoyed in the dome car to see the views of Pyramid Falls, the headwaters of the Fraser River and the Rocky Mountains before arriving in the resort town of Jasper to overnight here.

The following day there will be some free time to shop in Jasper before boarding and enjoying the roundtrip journey of the Jasper -Prince Rupert train. The all daylight trips on this train in Northern BC will be enjoyed from the Panorama Dome car with meals served right at your seat while you enjoy the Rocky Mountains between Jasper – McBride enroute to Prince George and the stunning Coastal mountains from Houston to Prince Rupert where you will enjoy a full day visiting attractions here. Hotel stays for a total of 2 nights in each Jasper, Prince George and Prince Rupert and attractions such as the Cow Bay shopping area of Prince Rupert, the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site, Maligne Lake Tour and more are all included

Train Section - \$4,195.00 -or Train Cabin - \$4,895.00 Per Person Double Occupancy prior to GST.

- Single supplement \$500.00. **FINAL PAYMENT DEADLINE April 20, 2018**



SUPERIOR FALL COLOURS & HERITAGE OF ONTARIO

-Sold out last year

Thursday September 27 to Monday October 1, 2018

This 5-day, 4-night tour roundtrip from Toronto features daytime travel and hotel stays each night traveling by Budd Rail Cars, buses, and boats enjoying the beautiful fall foliage and heritage experiences on this always popular tour. While the highlight will be travel on VIA Rail's *Sudbury- White River* to see pristine parts of the Canadian Shield from this Rail Diesel Car remote service (the last of its kind in Ontario) the package also includes a planned visit to the former CPR steamship the *SS Keewatin* and lunch cruise on the Muskoka lakes Navigation Company's *Wenonah II*.

Tour also includes a visit to Dynamic Earth to learn about Nickel Mining in the area and the unique Sudbury basin, Northern Ontario Railway Museum, White River Museum, Muskoka Heritage & Boat Centre and experience, A "Bear named Winnie" presentation in White River where this now famous bear cub, was first adopted. Package includes hotel stays, rail and bus trips, heritage attractions, most meals and additional heritage presentations.

Price \$1,145.00 CDN Per Person Double Occupancy prior to HST.

- Single supplement \$400.00. **FINAL PAYMENT DEADLINE AUGUST 14, 2018**

These comprehensive packages, offered through our partner Rail Travel Tours include hotel stays, rail travel on VIA Rail's services, transfers, heritage attractions, meals on the train, a detailed tour information kit with maps and rail route guide, visit to heritage attractions, cultural presentations and more! For more details and to reserve space with a \$250 per person deposit call toll free **1-866-704-3528**.

FEATURE ARTICLES

FROM WCRA NEWS—APRIL 1983

Thanks to Craig McDowall

Special Report from Craig McDowall: CP Rail's 'used car' lot.

CP Rail Business Cars #12 & #19 were put up for sale in the middle of March on a 'bid by invitation' basis. Apparently head office deemed both cars surplus to their needs and initially considered scrapping both but an appeal from our good friend Gary Anderson of the Cranbrook Rail Museum and substantial interest from other parties resulted in CP changing their mind.

Craig traveled to Nelson and Revelstoke to see both cars with an eye towards making a possible bid on one. Car #19 in Nelson is being replaced by Car #4 from Vancouver. Car #19 is absolutely immaculate inside and out (I sound like a used car salesman on Kingsway!). It was 'general shopped' 3 to 4 years ago and kept in great shape by the maintenance crews in Nelson who took great pride in her condition. This included their installing a new washroom and shower facility in the coach in the past three months. The car's Tuscan Red exterior and the black roof were both repainted in the past year, complete with Canadian Pacific gold leaf lettering! The Nelson crews apparently got serious heat over this from head office as it was supposed to be lettered CP Rail! The coach is on friction bearing wheels sets and will be sold without the interior furnishings. It still retains the celestory roof configuration.

Car #19 is in Revelstoke and will not be replaced as plans call for the division superintendent to use an auto or hi-railer. Car #12 was 'general shopped' two years ago at Drake Street, including having its celestory roof covered over to the arch configuration. Car #12 has roller bearing trucks but the exterior and interior have not been as well maintained as Car #19 in Nelson. However the interior furnishings will be included in the sale of this coach. Both cars were in division service as recently as three months ago.

Apparently CP Rail has only invited bids from Canadian parties but there are rumours that one Canadian party is planning to 'flip' the car by selling to a US party. The WCRA and CRHA put in a joint bid on a taxable donation basis as opposed to a cash bid. Sources at CP Rail said, before the bids were to close on April 11, that \$10,000 would be the minimum bid accepted (which is probably close to scrap value). Apparently the City of Nelson was considering the

possibility of bidding on the Nelson car as a piece of Nelson's history. Notification of successful bidders has not been announced as of April 22nd.

Three new SD-40-2's were sighted on the Vancouver waterfront, which are part of a 50 unit order from GM and are numbered in the 6000 series.

CP and SOO make a 'solid' deal as they combined to find a market in the US for 45,000 tons of fertilizer out of Medicine Hat to St. Louis MO. Six solid trains of 75 covered hoppers each made the trip on CP to North Portal SK where The Soo took over the train to head south.

Yard switcher GP 9 #8660 'hit the dirt' on April 9th in Kamloops with all wheels off the rails. Damage was minor.

E & N

The E & N 'left them standing in the aisles'. About 20 ticket holders were left standing on the platform on Tuesday April 4th because the train was SRO (sold right out). VIA had put a second RDC on the Easter weekend run but pulled it off on the Tuesday run without realizing the need for a second car on April 4th (the end of the long weekend). People were left stranded on the platforms in Nanaimo, Ladysmith and Duncan. In addition, 12 people had to stand during the trip as 90 boarded the 78 seat RDC in Courtenay!

CN

Our interior trusty correspondent, R.J. Bennett, reports a giant ballast train left Kamloops with two GP-38's and GP9 pulling 99 ballast cars heading for McAbee siding.

CN power in Victoria as of March 25th were three units: SW 8 #7156 and GMD-1's #1000 & 1002.

Don McQueen sent us a note that a directive has been issued by CN's Great Lakes and St. Lawrence regions to remove ALL wooden M of W cars asap. CN is moving a large number of its eastern wood cars to London for scrapping.

CN has put a large number of stations, bunk and section houses, section shelters and car sheds up for sale in the Prairie Region. The passenger stations are located in Ethelbert, Grandview, Ochre River and Ste Rose du Lac.

Club News

Help wanted. We need someone with carpentry skills to build a carrying case for the Historic Photo Display. All materials will be supplied. This case is needed as the boards are becoming damaged by virtue of not being protected during transit. If interested, please contact Grant Ferguson.

BC Transit

The new ALRT elevated line along Terminal Ave has had some test runs, first in the middle of the night, and then during the day in the first two weeks of April. And unofficial word has it that the two cars used for testing were NOT part of the first order of cars from back east but were two on loan from the Detroit Transit System and were repainted in time for all the media hoopla as the Socreds go for re-election.

CP

Hazardous shipments were banned from the Vancouver waterfront during Queen Elizabeth's recent visit to Vancouver, including propane tanker shipments to Vancouver Island. Related to this ban is the civic opposition to CP's waterfront operation and has blocked development permits resulting in a new waterfront plan being developed that would remove CP's operation altogether.

A real 'barn find'! What is believed to be the oldest existing coach built for the CPR, and one that could have been on the first transcontinental passenger train to Port Moody in July 1886, was located near Blairmore AB at the Greenhill Mine Site in February. This coach was built in 1882 by Harian & Hoolingsworth of Wilmington Delaware, specifically for the CPR, and was in regular service for 31 years until 1913. It was then bought by the Alberta government and refurbished as a mine rescue car where it was used to carry rescuers and specialized equipment to mining disasters throughout the province. It was then sold to Blairmore Iron Works as scrap in 1938 but when it reached the scrap heap, it had its wheels removed and was set up as a Assay Office at the Greenhill Coal Mine. The mine closed in 1957 and the coach was just left there and was only discovered by rail fans late in 1982, complete with office papers left in the car the day the mine closed! Transport Alberta started to build a new road through the mine site and was going to destroy the car as it was in the way. The Alberta Pioneer Association heard about the car and after getting organized, had only five days to remove the car from the mine site. But they couldn't find a safe place to store it. They had already arranged for a flat deck truck to carry it off site but with time running out, appealed to the public through the Calgary daily papers. The Heritage Park in Calgary came through and offered to store it at the Heritage Park until May 1st of this year giving the immediate reprieve needed. The car was moved on Feb. 26th and is now at the Heritage Park. Further updates to follow.

BC Steamship Corporation

Maggie's Back! Princess Marguerite made a grand entrance back into operation for 1983 with a series of special cruises in April. The ex-CPR 'pocket liner' received a new coat of paint and some interior refurbishing in March and grandly sailed out of the Victoria Inner Harbour towards her first official duties for this summer. The season started off with two triangle cruises between Seattle-Victoria-Vancouver in mid April and during these cruises, on April 16th she did a five hour cruise of the Gulf Islands from Victoria. On April 17th

after arriving in Vancouver, she then did a cruise of Howe Sound. And on April 21st, she is scheduled for the first time to sail from Seattle's Pier 69 through the locks and canals to Lake Washington where she will officially open the boating season on Lake Washington.

BN

A train of a different colour (all white consist), traveling from Texas to Washington state, became a 'closely watched' train. The train's cargo (supposedly nuclear armaments) was powered by two GP-39-2's, #2703 & 2704. This special movement was kept to a 35 MPH speed limit and it garnered much TV coverage, protests and security galore. As the train neared its final destination at Bangor WA, the protestors attempted almost anything to stop it but a large security force prevented any real trouble. But to BN, it was just another hazardous shipment.

RAILWAY NEWS

As noted, your editor spent some time in the Northwest part of BC in April, and we hope you enjoy the cover photos of CN action on their north line. However, our rail news notes were not with us—so we will double up next issue to catch up. We close with apologies for this abbreviated issue, and promise a catch up issue next month when I have the newsletter files and data with me once again.

So, signing off for now—but more future coverage to come as we are off to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the Strasburg Railroad once again, HeritageRail Alliance provides some great opportunities to get a refreshed perspective on our industry of railway preservation—so its off to learn some more!

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our Old Location
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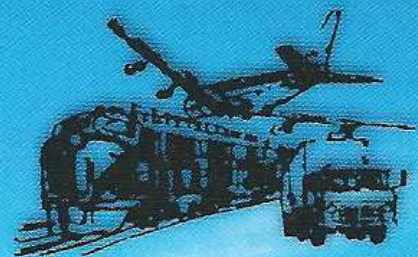
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CREDIT LINES

Editor Don Evans
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Contributors:

G.B.	Gordon Bell	J.C.	Jennifer Chisholm
T.C.	Tammie Cassaretti	J. D.	Jeremy Davy
G. G.	George Game	D.S.	Donna Simon

Send contributions to the WCRA PO Box, direct to the editor at #28 - 2133 St. Georges Ave., North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 3K5, on the Internet to <news@wcra.org>, phone news to (604)988-3435(res) or fax to (604) 986-7660. Check us out on the Internet at <www.wcra.org>

Contact us: 604-800-722-1233 Heritage Park 604-898-9336
CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre 604-898-9336
wcra.org

BACK COVER

Top—CN westbound stack train along the Skeena River west of Terrace, BC—locos 2197 / 2200 power this train that was near two miles in length. Sat., April 7, 2018

Bottom—CN SD75! #5761 works a rock train at Terrace, BC Sat. Apr. 7, 2018

TRIVIA ANSWER

The two islands are Cuba and St. Kitts. Note it was William Cornelius Van Horne (General Manager and subsequently second president and Chairman of the Board of CPR), who constructed the first railway across Cuba in 1902.



**CANADIAN COUNCIL
FOR
RAILWAY HERITAGE**

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