



# **WCRA NEWS**

## **AUGUST 2017**

# **POLAR EXPRESS 2017 TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

## **LOCOMOTIVE 374 IN PLANTS!**



## GENERAL MEETING

The **General Meeting** of the WCRA will be held on **Tuesday, July 25 at 1930 hours** at Rainbow Creek Station, corner of Willingdon and Penzance in Burnaby.

Entertainment will be announced at the meeting

## ON THE COVER

CN's unique railcars (ex BC Rail) ready for the day's run southbound from Lillooet along Seton and Anderson lakes on a sunny June 30, 2017—a large crowd is waiting at the station to board. (Don Evans photo)

## AUGUST CALENDAR

- **West Coast Railway Heritage Park open daily 1000 through 1700k.**—mini rail in operation
- Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29—High Tea in the Tearoom, Heritage Park—servings at 12, 2 and 4PM each day, reservations at 604-898-9336
- Friday, August 11—Newsletter deadline for the September 2017 issue
- Friday, August 11—Drive in Movie at Heritage Park, Guardians of the Galaxy 2, 8:00PM
- Sunday, August 20—Roundhouse Summer event at David Lam Park (Vancouver Yaletown), WCRA will have a table—1400—1700 hours
- Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26—High Tea in the Tearoom, Heritage Park—servings at 12, 2 and 4PM each day, reservations at 604-898-9336
- Friday, August 25—Drive in Movie at the Heritage Park, Rocky Horror Picture Show
- Tuesday, August 29—WCRA General Meeting, 1930 hours, Rainbow Creek Station

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](http://www.wcra.org) or mail to WCRA, PO Box 2790 Stn. Term., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X2.

## EDITORIAL

### BACK IN THE SADDLE

Well, it's good to be back home after much travel—however reflecting back, the four weeks in Africa (with a stop in Istanbul en route) really was a trip of a lifetime. With it come many memories, a greatly increased understanding of other parts of the world, and a desire to do more trips like this one. As Bill Johnston so aptly put in his commentary last month, travel really does offer so many opportunities to meet and greet strangers warmly, to understand their cultures better—and to see and experience some very different things. We were received warmly everywhere we went, learned and enjoyed many new places, had several unique experiences and yearn for more.

Speaking of Bill, my thanks again to him for taking on the editorship of the July issue—he did a great job and allowed us to continue our 40 year record of never missing a monthly issue of WCRA News.

So now, a very different sort of travel commences for us as we embark on many journeys in our home Province in our new role as Rotary Governor for District 5040 for the next year. By the time you read this we will have completed trips to Williams Lake, Terrace and Smithers, and the Prince George area as well as Mackenzie. Thanks so much to the many of you who have called or e mailed to wish us well in the new journey—we truly appreciate it. While we do all this, WCRA News will continue to be produced—so you can look forward to reports of sightings and experiences from other parts of BC.

Next issue—a report on the Royal Livingstone Dinner Train ride will cover just one of our rail experiences on our recent trip to Africa. We hope you enjoy the read.

*Don*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### FROM THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING

**Chair Bill Johnston** called the meeting to order with 21 members and guests, This did not constitute a quorum.:

- The meeting started with a moment of silence in memory of **Henry Reimer**, who passed away in May
- President & CEO **Gordon Bell** introduced his new role, and noted that **Craig McDowall**

was now back to being a board member. He also noted that he has selected **Rob Kirkham** as our new CFO. More on these changes on page 6.

- Gord provided a combined Heritage Park / Operations report
  - New staff member Bart is active as part of our restoration crew
  - Ashley has been brought on as Conference Services Supervisor
  - Tammie is now aboard as our Volunteer and Education Program Coordinator
  - The BC Maritime Employers recently held another longshore workers training program at our facilities in Squamish
  - Robert recently completed the update to our Safety Management System and it has been accepted by Transport Canada
  - The restoration of our Great Northern Transfer caboose is underway, work is being done in the PGE Carshop
  - The volunteer lounge and lunchroom in the CarShop is now open including a new shower facility
  - The first Heritage Park Drive in Movie night was a success
  - Steam will operate on the mini rail on our July 1 Canada Day celebration
  - Work is underway to assemble the materials to start on the heritage schoolhouse project
- **Ryan Cruickshank** presented a Trackage report and a show and tell featuring hand made standard gauge model trains coach and combine by Ernie Penney, serial numbers 44 and 45
- **Bill Marchant** reported that work continues on BCER 960, the last of the resistors is being installed and then the hood will go on
- **George Game** reported a busy month at the Locomotive 374 Pavilion with an average of over 200 a day at the moment
- **Bill Marchant** provided a Trackage Report noting that West Coast Express would operate a train on Canada Day
- Entertainment was a vintage slide show from **Bill Marchant's** collection

## **MEMBER NEWS**

Long time member, supporter and former PGE / BC Rail conductor **Henry Reimer** passed away on June 4 in Vancouver. He had lived for many years in the Yaletown area and was a frequent visitor to the Locomotive 374 Pavilion as well as a volunteer at the Heritage Park whenever he was able. We have many of his mementos at both of our locations.

Many of us remember Henry as our conductor on several of WCRA's tours on BC Rail over the years, including some of our BCR System tours in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Your editor was in attendance at the funeral for the **Honourable Grace McCarthy**, which was held at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver with full honours and an overflowing crowd. Amazing Grace was the spark behind British Columbia's tourism growth and she was a huge fan of the Royal Hudson and other major projects over the years.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to membership:

- Lauren Baldwin & Kevin Henshaw and Family of Squamish;
- Phil Breden of North Vancouver;
- Dylan Goven and Family of Vancouver;
- Jenna Handley & Mike Law and Family of Garibaldi Hlds;
- Michael Hill of Vancouver;
- Ginny Humphreys and Family of Squamish;
- Michelle Kegaly and Family of Squamish;
- Helena Kern and Family of Garibaldi Hlds;
- Mark Kitamura and Family of Richmond;
- Adam & Rachel Miller and Family of Vancouver;
- Jess Palmer and Family of Squamish;
- Sarah Patton and Family of Victoria;
- Jodie Petruzzellis and Family of Squamish;
- Jean-Marc & Danielle Savoie and Family of Squamish;
- Stephanie Toevs and Family of North Vancouver;
- Jennifer Wong and Family of Squamish

We welcome back to membership:

- James Barton and Family of West Vancouver;
- Ella Bosomworth and Family of North Vancouver;
- Jared & Mel Ewart and Family of Garibaldi Hlds

(J.D.)

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If your label reads 6/30/2017 it is time to renew your membership.....if it reads 3/31/2017 this is your last issue of WCRA News. We need all of you as members, please renew today.

## WCRA TRIVIA #343 - By Ryan Cruickshank

The **Kettle Valley Railway** was the *Canadian Pacific Railway's* subsidiary and second route through the Kootenays and Boundary country. Eight of the way stations were named after Shakespearian Characters. Can you name them all?

(Answer on page 26)

## VANCOUVER TRAIN EXPO 2017

Vancouver Train Expo for 2017 has been announced for November 11 and 12, 2017 at the PNE Forum building. This is Vancouver's biggest train show with 44,000 square feet of model trains in all scales, society displays, modelling displays and vendors. WCRA will be there as usual with our tables and likely the popular mini rail trains to ride.

## BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2017

The West Coast Railway Association board of directors met June 7, 2017 and appointed its officers as follows:

- Chair    Bob Philip
- Vice Chair    Don Patrick
- Secretary—Treasurer    Jeremy Davy

Committee Chairs:

- Finance Committee    John Day
- Governance Committee    Corinne Lonsdale
- Railway Relations Committee    Hugh Little
- Fundraising Committee    Don Evans

## SENIOR STAFF CHANGES

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Gordon Bell** as our new President & CEO. Gordon has been our Chief Operating Officer and General Manager at the Heritage Park for several years. This promotion adds the responsibility for all Association operations, including fundraising, finance, and Locomotive 374 in addition to his Heritage Park responsibilities.

Gordon Bell announces the selection of **Rob Kirkham** as our new Chief Financial Officer. Rob has been in banking for much of his career and was the Squamish Manager for Scotiabank. He also has a strong community background as a former Councillor and Mayor of Squamish.

## COLLECTION

### WORK CONTINUES ON CPR 8000

I spent an hour looking at the unit one day and just jotted down items that came to my mind. This is not the complete list - I will add items later.

There have been suggestions that others could help - now is your chance!  
Here is a list of essential tasks that can easily be done by anyone with a bit of time; no labour required at the unit.

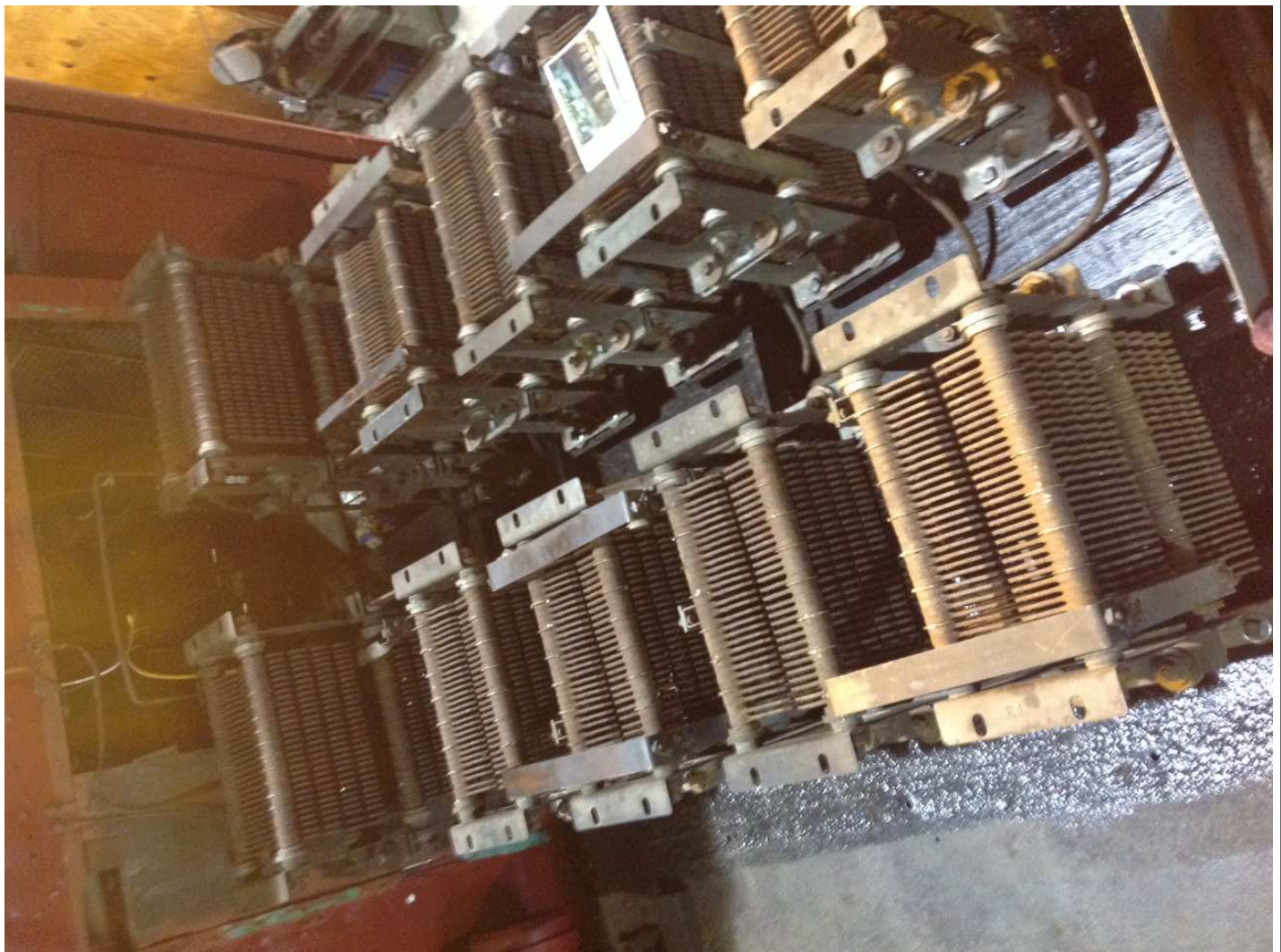
- \* Obtain a steel locomotive bell
- \* Obtain a correct fuel filler cap to match the existing on the left side.
- \* Obtain a single note horn.
- \* Find a source to refurbish the cab gauges.
- \* Find photos of the original cab layout.

- Obtain a flag holder.
- Obtain missing marker receptacle for front left.
- Obtain missing electrical switches for the cab.

Some research is required to determine the correct items listed above. The research could be a task; obtaining the item could be a second task for a different person. If you want to help us, please let me know which task you want to do - any help would be appreciated. (G.R.)

### **BCER 960 UPDATE**

The beat goes on... The resistors, all ten sets, are now back up on the front deck and bolted down with their refurbished original square head hardware. Some realignment adjustments required since the deck rails were knocked slightly out over the decades, but now looking good. All electrical connections carefully cleaned up and greased before respective cables attached to the appropriate resistors. Down the middle the cable covering / cat walk is refurbished and ready to drop in. Plenty tight, working between the resistor banks securing inside resistor footings to the rail brackets plus attaching the cables... I should have lost a few pounds for this back and hips aching task. (photo shows resistor banks before covering)



Caulking is underway on rear hood pieces ...lots of possible places for water to get in that we want to at least diminish. We'll be doing this task on the front hood soon enough, as we only await a final electrical vetting of our resistor wiring before said hood, side panels plus drop doors go back up the front deck. (M. McG.)

### **RAILWAY POST OFFICE CAR GETS SPRING CLEAN UP**

The WCRA's Railway Post Office car, Canadian Pacific 3704, got a nice clean up prior to the Day Out With Thomas event. For three days in May, volunteers from the Canada Post Van – Fraser Heritage Club worked at the Park to wash, do paint touch ups, clean the interior and add three new display cases with antique items. Lighting was also improved and some new photos added to the exhibit.

Thanks to all who helped with this and went on to volunteer in the RPO car at Day Out With Thomas. (J.D.)

### **6520 HANDLES THOMAS**

CN FP9A #6520 handled all trains at Day Out With Thomas this year—but not without some key repairs just prior to the event. Repairs included replacement of a worn out rocker assembly, troubleshooting a corroded wire that was preventing a reset from emergency, and fixing what turned out to be a broken wire that was preventing the locomotive from loading. Special thanks to **Mike Lloyd** who came to the rescue on these issues. As a result of this effort, #6520 ran flawlessly for all five days of Thomas operations. (R.MacB.)

### **BART COLLINS JOINS RESTORATION CREW**

We welcome Bart Collins to the staff at the Heritage Park, he is now part of the restoration and mechanical team. Bart is a former BC Rail Carman who is a welder and fabricator, and also enjoys woodwork. He has started work doing some upgrades to the sleeping car Bell Isle.

### **LOOKING FOR LOCOMOTIVE EXPERIENCE**

The Operations department is looking for a part time or on-call person with locomotive experience (both electrical and mechanical) to help keep our operating fleet in service. If you have this experience and are interested, please talk to Robert Macbeth. (R.MacB.)

### **PGE 561 HANDLES MARITIME EMPLOYERS TRAINING SESSIONS**

Our ever faithful PGE RSC-3 locomotive #561 was at work again for two weeks of training service for the BC Maritime Employers—as we once again provided railway training for longshore workers at our Squamish facilities. (R.MacB.)



# WEST COAST RAILWAY HERITAGE PARK

## *Home of the Royal Hudson*



### DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

Thomas the Tank Engine paid his annual visit to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in May, and performed on centre stage (the mainline) for five days.

We did roughly 9,500 people this year . . . a bit down from last year . . . weather was great but hot on all five days . . . was very warm on the train the Sunday of the long weekend but we made adjustments for the following weekend (even though the temp hit 35 degrees) by using industrial sized fans in the coaches and over 1000 bottles of water distributed to onboard passengers. Gord had five food concessions set up including our own mobile kitchen and they all did well. Tammie did a great job on rounding up volunteers for the event—our sincere thanks to all who helped. (M.C.M.)

Thanks to the Canada Post Heritage Club for their help with Letters to Thomas. They set up the letter writing room, and helped 1,474 children write and mail their letters. Of course, all get a reply back. Thanks to the 17 Heritage Club members who participated this year. (J.D.)

### DRIVE IN MOVIE SERIES

**The Drive in Movie series** is a huge hit at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. Load up your family and friends and join us at the Drive In for one of our upcoming shows. Gates open at 8pm and movies start at Dusk (9:30pm) Cost is \$20 per carload. Walk ins are \$5 per person

July 21 – Goonies

August 11 – Guardians of the Galaxy 2 (This is also Hot Rod night, anyone arriving in a Hot Rod is Free)

August 25 – Rocky Horror Picture Show

September 8 – Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (G.B.)

### OFF THE RAILS CATERING

The West Coast Railway Heritage Park's mobile kitchen is now out in the community generating funds for the restoration and preservation of BC Railway Heritage. Currently operating at the A Frame Brewing Company on a daily basis and working on special event catering at the Heritage Park and other locations on the weekends.

This is a new venture that is off to a very strong start and certainly helps increase the return our new kitchen asset can generate. (G.B.)

## **POLAR EXPRESS NOW ON SALE**

It may seem too hot to be talking about the Polar Express but tickets are selling fast and we have a special surprise for everyone buying tickets on the night time ride. The 6pm ride is only available 4 times through the entire event and it offers a premium Polar Express experience. If you come every year or if it's your first time, this year may be the best year to book into a 6pm ride and experience what it's like to arrive at Santa's house at the North Pole. Go to [www.wcra.org](http://www.wcra.org) to book your tickets today—four weekends, eight days available. (G.B.)

## **SEA TO SKY ADVENTURE and RECREATION**

Save the dates of September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and be sure to come up and enjoy this great event... And, don't worry - you can bring all your friends and family because admission is FREE. Squamish is the outdoor recreation capital of Canada and at the Sea to Sky Adventure and Recreation Expo you can check out new gear from every outdoor recreation activity imaginable. Come early and stay all day, enjoy many iterative demos and meet local adventure icons. (G.B.)

## **RESTORATION WORK AT THE HERITAGE PARK**

**Rust never sleeps and restorations never stop.**- Currently at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park the GN Transfer Caboose is undergoing a complete cosmetic restoration. **Brodie Moffet** is working on this project 40 hours per week and making great progress under the direction of CMO Robert MacBeth and the collections committee.

In addition the Colonist Car continues to see great progress with the installation of the first wooden bunk and much of the fine woodworking completed. Special thanks to **Blaine Thomson** for his dedication to this project. (G.B.)

## **NEW EXHIBIT SIGNAGE**

Through the creative work of **David Walmsley** you will begin to notice improved exhibit signage throughout the tour route. We are always looking to improve the guest experience and this signage project is certainly going to help.

## **CANADA DAY CELEBRATED**

The West Coast Railway Heritage Park opened its doors on Canada Day to celebrate 150 years of Canadian history and experienced it's busiest Canada Day on record with over 500 visitors enjoying the parks exhibits, mini rail and play zone. This was one of our Free Community Days (thanks to the financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia). It was even noted in the North Shore News and was one of their contest winners with a photo at the Royal Hudson of a North Shore family.

There was even steam on the mini rail, as **Trevor Mills** steamed up the mini rail 4-4-0 and had it out performing live (photo, Bob Hunter)



## **TEA ROOM DOING WELL**

Just wanted to give an update as to how the Tea Room project (in the Mac Norris Station) is going. We have now done three High Teas this year and by all accounts it is being received really well. For me it has been a project and dream for many years. I would have never guessed that it would be coming together in such a beautiful setting with the support of so many amazing volunteers, staff and incredible donations. Much of what the Tea Room has been set up by has been donations as well as some of my personal collection.

We are busy now with the summer themed High Teas and will be offering seating in the Henry Pickering railcar as well as the Tea Room itself. To date we have had about 4 work parties and have had a good turn out of volunteers to sort, set, wash, wax, organize, plan and brainstorm next steps. We have also divided up some tasks to keep moving forward.

- **Barb Stover** has been busy helping every step of the way and is a master at Tea Room set up and laundering of the linens as well as helping at the Teas from everything from brewing tea to serving to clean up.
- **Judy Crowston** has been making our 'Signature Loganberry Jam' for our teas, She has grown the berries in her own garden. If you have not had a sample yet be sure to come to one of our tea's as the Jam is pure GOLD.
- **Judi Rhodes** has been helping with set up and ironing as well as jumping in to help cut sandwiches, brewing and plating.
- **Aaron Gruber** is a super fussy plater of the three tier plates (exactly what we need) as well as helping pick up donations of tables, chairs and other tea items.
- **Kyle Harris** has been helping with pick up and delivery of items and also was seen working as a server, all dressed up fancy too.
- **Robert MacBeth** is a professional Tea Brewer and organized a great system for back room where the Tea is prepared.
- **Darlene Neilson** creates incredible cookies and details them to match the theme of each Tea. I can hardly wait to see what she comes up with for our Strawberry theme next month.
- **Dan Neilson** has been observed a number of times rushing cookies up the Sea to Sky to arrive just in time for the event.
- **Dale Gruber** has helped us with baking and preping and sorting and advertising and running errands for our teas.
- **Kim Muller** has taken on the project of some marketing within 14 minutes of a posting on Face Book she got us a dream donation of a Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer! That is way too exciting. She is also researching other themes so we can do some kid friendly Teas in the early fall.
- **Polly Prozny** is skilled at taking my last minute requests for computer help, she has done some very nice tea menus and handouts for us. Speaking of computer help Selinda and Jenn know first hand how the computer is a challenge for me and they look after the reservations and posters.
- **Cheryl Sayle** of has been arranging and donating all of the beautiful flower arrangements each month.
- **Lucas Teas** gives us the high end loose leaf teas at cost and he promotes us.
- **Dave Lentinello** has helped, even with a broken hand, with setting and clearing and the entertaining of guests.
- **Ashlie Metcalf** has moved tables and chairs and tables and chairs and tables and chairs and will probably move more again.
- **Lloyd and Lorraine Black** continue to support by watching for and getting us donations of fine china and other items.
- **Julian Harries-Jones** is helping with the food prep and creation in the kitchen. We are looking forward to some new additions to the menu.
- **Jordan Muller, Katelyn Muller and Emily Zimmer** were at our last Tea and we had many comments on what a great job they did.

- **Elaine MacBeth** has made us some of the coziest cozies of tea pots ever!
- **Jessica Jones, Kolaiah Nelson and Lidia Baker** have volunteered as servers and have been great supporters of the Tea Room by bringing some class to the joint.
- **John and Loretta Jellis** have donated special items, including the fridge as well as some baking of our scones on occasion. My favorite piece is a silver 3-tier stand that used to be part of the BC Rail food service, it is very special.
- **Ashlee and Hayley Simon** have been remarkable 'Brewers of Tea'. I also hear they are interested in helping be servers soon while Donna and Jeremy watch for sales on the products we use and keep me informed so we can take advantage of the deals.
- **Cat Jamieson** has been working in the back ground preparing the Room including doing touch up painting in the room and sprucing up the gardens around the Station. Cat is also a cheerleader to keep us going.
- **David Wamsley** is always encouraging and is the go to guy for some of the special items which will need some restoration and then will get to come into the room.
- **Donna Fouchalk** has helped with planning and donations of linens, china and serving items. She is also very helpful with promotion and putting up posters around town as well as coming to Tea at times.
- **Marshall and Max Nelson** also work in the background with shopping and packaging. They along with **Mitchell McArthur** have helped with waxing and washing the Pickering.
- **Julie and Miles Jensen** have worked on serving, planning and promotion of the Instagram profile.
- **Christian Smith** is a favorite server, seater and greeter.
- **Dai Yates, Ernie and Lynn Ledgerwood** get the award for biggest supporters of the Tea as they have all been to each of the weekends so far which is very much appreciated.
- Finally **Gord Bell** has been instrumental in product testing and has diligently made sure the 'goodies' are all good.

I am 100% positive I have forgotten to mention others and for that I apologize. This shows what a diverse and committed group of volunteers can do—thanks to you all.

Thank you all again for the great opportunity to create this fundraiser for the Heritage Park. I'm positive that we will continue to grow this into a fixture of the park (J.N.)

### **PICK UP TRUCK NEEDED**

Our old pick up truck that serves as a utility vehicle at the Heritage Park is on its last legs (after serving us for several years). If anyone has a pick up truck that they no longer need or use, consider donating it to the Heritage Park. A tax receipt for the value would be provided. (R.MacB.)

## LOCOMOTIVE 374 PAVILION

Our visitor count for May was 5,702. We had 1,447 more visitors than last May. The Tourism Passport Program improved our Visitor Count numbers substantially.

The Visitor Count for June was 5,385. We had 1,089 more than last June. Summer is here!

374 Readied for Anniversary Party:

**Norm Wilson, Peyton Liscomb** and I were in the Pavilion on a Tuesday evening to oil and lubricate the engine for her Anniversary Party. **Tom Pruden** informed us that it had not been done since 2000. This was a learning experience for all of us. We had a great time exploring the engine looking for any place that might need some lubrication. **Phil Breden** (from CP) and **Trevor Mills** advice was a great help. Thanks guys!

The May 21st 374 Outside Event was held under warm and sunny weather. What a treat after the last seven months of Winter. The **Little Mountain Brass Band** was great as always. We supplied 4 Costco Slab Cakes and Marble Slab supplied a frozen Ice Cream Cake. Bonnie and Sylvia said it was hard to cut. Everything went as planned except for the power needed to run the boiler. For the third year the Roundhouse Power was below standards. We only had steam for about 35 minutes and then the breaker blew and could not be reset. Hopefully they will have it fixed before next year.

On June 2nd, **Silvana Schramm** (past Summer Volunteer) visited the Pavilion. She had recently returned from Brazil with her Permanent Resident Status. Hopefully she will find some time to help us out in the future. Her plans right now are to explore BC and then start looking for a job. We wish her all the best.



### July 1 - Canada Day 150

We had 450 guests who came in to get Flags, Lapel Pins, Tattoos and a Cupcake for Canada's 150 Birthday Celebration. Volunteers Bonnie and Barbara served the Cupcakes, Michael and Margaret entertained and informed the guests, Peyton and myself did the Tattoo's, handed out Pins and Flags.

It was a perfect day. Weather was great!

**Downsizing & Spring Cleaning:**

If you have any train books or train memorabilia that you would like to donate to the WCRA for fundraising please drop them off at the Pavilion. Many of our members have helped raise funds for the association this way. Thanks to all that have helped in the past! Please give me a call if you need help delivering them or bring them to the next WCRA Meeting.

We have now added two new Volunteers to our crew. Welcome **Phil Breden** and **Michael Hill**. Please give me a call (778-875-3573) if you would like more information on Volunteering at the Roundhouse—One or two days a month would help us out greatly. This is our busiest time of the year for visitors at the Pavilion. You will not be working alone and no prior knowledge of the 374 or trains is needed. You will meet people from all over the world including enthusiastic Rail Fans.

We are located at the corner of Davie St. & Pacific Blvd, across the street from the Canada Line Yaletown/Roundhouse Station. Free parking and a coffee is available for Volunteers at the Roundhouse. Summer Hours are 10 to 4. Please drop in for a visit! (G.G.)

**ROUNDHOUSE SUMMER EVENT IN YALETOWN**

The Roundhouse Community Centre will participate in a summer event to be held in David Lam Park in Yaletown on Sunday, August 20. The event is open to everyone and will be from 1400 hours to 1700 hours in the afternoon. The WCRA (through the Locomotive 374 Pavilion) will participate with a table and exhibits / brochures etc. Volunteers to help would be appreciated for this nice afternoon. (G.G.)

**THANKS**

I just wanted to give credit for two Locomotive Oil Cans received from **Ian Smith** and the **CHRA**. These will be a welcome addition to the 374 Pavilion. It is always nice to improve and change our displays. Also thanks to **Tom Pruden** who brought in an Oil Can and Signal Lamp. He found these in the garage and noticed they were labeled 374 on the bottom. He figures his dad had them while restoring the engine. They have now returned home after many years.

Thanks also to **Phil Breden** for a HO Locomotive ( 1995 - Present ). David has assembled a very comprehensive collection of locomotives and this adds to his display. Phil will be coming in on weekends to help out.

## **FEATURE ARTICLES**

### **CPR 374 STEAMS IN GATINEAU FOR CANADA 150**

It's amazing what can be done with plants! Canada 150 celebrations in Gatineau, Quebec centred around a number of iconic Canadian scenes constructed entirely of plant materials. One of them was a scene of CPR 374 with two coaches pulling into a railway station. **George Game** was so intrigued he flew back just to see.....below and back cover are some photos of the amazing creation!



For more info and pictures of other scenes in the event go to [www.gatineau2017.ca/en](http://www.gatineau2017.ca/en)

**FROM WCRA NEWS—JULY 1977**

**Thanks to Craig McDowall**

**BCR**

C425 #804 (ex Erie Lackawanna 2454) was slightly modified and repainted last spring.



Modifications include headlights moved from upper cab to nose, 2 ditch lights built into the nose and a bell and horn cluster added to the upper cab. The new paint scheme included a yellow/orange stripe on the frame edge (which is the 13th paint variation!). M630 #710 is still in PGE colours.

Federal Industry, Trade and Commerce department officials will meet with BC Rail directors and the Provincial Economic Ministry on July 20th to discuss a long term solution to problems facing the Railwest car plant in Squamish. Following an emergency meeting of BCR directors in Prince George, the Provincial Development Minister, Don Phillips telegraphed Senator Ray Perrault requesting a meeting. The BC Government has offered to subsidize a Railwest bid for an expected order by CP Rail and CNR of 200 to 600 ballast cars. But even if RW lands the order, it would only keep the plant operating until next February.

Ex CPR #3716 and her train began a tour of the the Interior & Okanagan leaving CP waterfront yard for the first display stop at Port Moody. Second tank car (CGTX #14087) has been added to the train. It was a former chemical tank car. #3716 reportedly made special action runs for the Publicity Department of the Provincial Government in the Oliver area on July 6th while on the Okanagan tour.

## **CP**

CP's first solid train carrying almost 5000 tons of wood chips arrived at Pacific Coast Terminals in Port Moody in late April. The spruce chips are being exported to Japan from the Cariboo and Interior and were transported in 100 specially designed open top gondola cars.

CP has ordered 24 SD 40-2 diesel electric locomotives from GM valued at \$15 million.

Business car 'Shaughnessy' is now back in service after an extensive and costly rebuild at the Drake Street Roundhouse.

Steam crane #414326, tender #415574 and idler car #402488 were all spotted in the Coquitlam yard on May 22nd. All were previously assigned to Victoria, although the crane car had been previously transferred from Nelson.

## **CN**

The last mixed train on the Mountain Region, #298-297 between Prince George and McBride will be withdrawn on July 23rd.

CN leased 31 units to Conrail in July and another 25 units to AT & SF.

On Saturday July 9th at 16:00 hours, SW 1200's #1277 & 1275 mu'd nose to nose and pulling a 77 car cut from the BCR interchange collided head on with SD40's #5078, 5081 & 5082

running light on a caboose hop. #1277 suffered a badly bent frame and front end damage, 1275 suffered end damage and both loco's and several cars were derailed ripping up 800 feet of track. Toward the rear of the BCR transfer, in the west portal of the Lonsdale tunnel, one empty potash car climbed onto another and a few cars derailed. No serious injuries were reported. The SD 40's apparently sustained only very minor damage but the 1277 may be have seen her final days. The unit was stripped of her trucks and fuel tanks onsite and the ends were torched off before being loaded on a flat car by the Port Mann Auxiliary Crane. CN estimated the damage at \$150,000 indicating the 1277 was really close to a write off.

A 'single story' steel caboose with no cupola was seen in Vancouver reportedly on display.

CN Business Car 97 was spotted at the CN station on July 1st. This car was built by Barney & Smith for the SP & S in 1915 and after a number of rebuilds over the years was sold by the CB & Q to CN in 1976.

### **Lake Whatcom Railway**

A recent item in the WCRA News mentioned that log trains were being run on the Lake Whatcom Railway. Further details have become available. Park WA was the site of a railway log dump for Bloedel/Donovan who had trackage rights on the Northern Pacific to Park. The logs were towed to a mill at the north end of Lake Whatcom. Recent operations attempted to recover sunken logs at the dump site using scuba divers to attach inflatable air bags to the sunken logs. The logs were then loaded with a crane onto BN log cars and moved over the Lake Whatcom Railway behind ex NP -6-0 #1070 to the BN interchange at Wickersham.

### **White Pass & Yukon**

WP & Y Mike #71 and a second unidentified steamer were spotted sitting on flat cars in a Seattle railyard on July 2nd. Both looked very rusty and could have previously inundated with water.

## **EXPLORING THE GREAT CITIES OF EUROPE—BY RAIL**

Story and photos by **John Day**

I think it's fair to say that most people who travel to Europe on vacation plan to spend some if not all of their time in one or more of the great cities of that continent. So much to see, so much history to absorb.

There's more than one way to get around these cities: guided walking tours (perhaps on a stopover on that latest fad, the river cruise), sightseeing buses, including the relatively new hop-on, hop-off variety, and of course the good old ageless method – shanks' pony.

My favourite method, when I have a day or two to spend in many cities, is by rail. While

most cities of any substance have a useable underground or metro railway, many others have well-developed surface tram networks that provide you an up close and personal view of the real city, not just the historic centre of town, but the places where people live, work and play. I've recently had an opportunity to enjoy several of these cities: here are four of them.

Vienna has a huge (24 daytime routes) surface tramway that covers the entire city, except the old centre of town which is off limits to most vehicles. The trams complement a five line rapid transit system (U-Bahn) as well as suburban railways (S-Bahn). The trams penetrate the suburbs and in fact several routes are confined to the suburbs, feeding into the U-Bahn system without entering the central area. A 24-hour day ticket costs €7.90, a little over \$10, but is great value for its convenience and the area it covers. The 24 hour ticket can be purchased as an add-on to the City Airport Train link running between the airport and central city, from ticket machines in metro (U-bahn) stations and major tram stops, or from one of the many Wiener Linien ticket office located at key locations in the city including Hauptbahnhof (main railway station) and Wien Mitte/Landstrasse (downtown terminal for the airport express). And yes, they speak English! (Tip: if your hotel is adjacent to the Hauptbahnhof, or if you are planning an onward journey by rail, the City Airport Train is a less convenient, and much more expensive, way of travelling from the airport. Instead, take the regular railway trains that leave frequently from the airport station for Hauptbahnhof. The fare is only €3.90 compared to €12 on the CAT.)

Prague (photo below) is another favourite city with a huge surface tram network. Unlike Vienna, the trams penetrate right into the centre of the old city and on some streets are the only



vehicles allowed. Prague also has three heavy metro lines that reach into the various parts of the city; line C runs through Hlavní Nádraží (main station) and there are trams nearby. A 24 hour ticket can be bought

from the ticket machines in Metro Stations and major tram stops for 110 Czech Crowns, about \$6.25. As is the case in Vienna, tickets must be validated upon first use, either at the entrance to the subway, or in the little machines on the streetcars and buses.

A city not on everyone's radar is Bratislava, Slovakia's most important city and capital. It is a more compact city than either Vienna or Prague, having an area population of about 650,000. Nonetheless, it is possible to see most of the city by tram, and where the streetcars don't go, a large trolleybus network will take you. Most stops have sophisticated ticket machines that will sell you a 24 hour ticket for just €3.50, about \$5.25. There is no metro or underground railway in Bratislava so the streetcars do all the work; they do traverse an 800 metre tunnel under the castle which dominates the city, and they also cross the Danube on a relatively new alignment. Three streetcar routes terminate at the main railway station, though they are a little hard to find as they are at a lower level outside the station building.

Bern, Switzerland's federal capital, also has a metropolitan area population of 650,000 or so. The entire old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and at least part of it is penetrated by the city's tram system. While not as extensive as the other cities mentioned, the tram system has recently been extended, equipped with new rolling stock, and has plans for further extensions. The few busy inner city routes (photo below) that do not have trams are served by



modern trolleybuses. Bern is a fiercely expensive city to visit, but worthwhile nonetheless. My last visit involved a stay at an Ibis Budget hotel on the outskirts, fortunately served by tram #9 which was visible from my hotel window. (photo below shows what is really meant by “articulated!”), imposes a 5.30 SFr (\$7.00) daily room tax – but from this, you receive a public transport pass valid for the duration of your stay. If you are not staying in Bern but wish to make use of the system, you should consult the tourist information office in Bern Station as the offerings are numerous and complex.



This is only a sampling of the many cities that are possible to extensively sightsee by rail-based public transport. Others include Amsterdam, Brussels, parts of Berlin, Budapest, Dresden, Leipzig...the list is long.

Before you go, consider downloading system maps onto your phone or tablet, and saving these for offline access later. You can get paper maps in most cities but the immense detail on, for example, the Vienna map with just under 30 lines and over 1,000 stops can be overwhelming. The best Vienna map is here: [https://www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2016/gesamtnetzplan-wien-dez2016\\_201611.pdf](https://www.wienerlinien.at/media/files/2016/gesamtnetzplan-wien-dez2016_201611.pdf) and a good map of Prague is here: [http://czech-transport.com/images/metro\\_tram\\_daily\\_stops.pdf](http://czech-transport.com/images/metro_tram_daily_stops.pdf). The other cities mentioned have similar online maps available.

So, what are you waiting for? Europe's great cities await, and there is a lot more to see in them than what the sightseeing companies will show you. Travel by surface rail is cheap, interesting and fun! Doesn't this Vienna car look inviting!



## RAILWAY NEWS



### PRINCE GEORGE—SQUAMISH TRAINS REDUCE FREQUENCY

CN has reduced the weekly runs of trains 570 / 571 to six days a week from daily....Train 571 and 570 will now depart every day except Mondays from both terminals.

### TRESPASS AND CROSSING PROBLEMS INCREASE

CN has launched Canada Rail Safety Week to raise awareness of the tragic consequences of trespassing on railway rights of way. Last year there were 202 recorded trespass incidents in Canada resulting in 65 fatalities. The sad part is that the general population just doesn't see anything wrong or dangerous about wandering along the tracks. Incidences of young people walking the tracks wearing headphones abound—no way to see or hear an approaching train.

## **CN WANTS RENT FOR WEST VANCOUVER SEAWALL**

CN has launched court action against the District of West Vancouver arguing that the District has not paid rent for use of its property and has built things that encroach on the railway's land. The Seawall is part of the lease that CN has with the Province of BC (the BC Rail transaction). In years past the popular seawall was covered in a nominal lease amount to Pacific Great Eastern Railway and BC Rail, at rates from \$75 a year to \$900 a year in the 1990's. CN wants \$3.7 million a year, West Vancouver has offered \$12,500 a year but contends it should not have to pay anything as it has substantially upgraded the land with increased rip rap and stabilized the shoreline at its own expense. CN claims that parking spaces, landscaping, walking paths and sidewalks constitute trespass and must be removed. (SDHSE)

## **SD60F'S RETIRED**

CN has retired its entire fleet of 62 SD60F locomotives (5500 series). The cowl bodied locomotives were built by GMDD between 1985 and 1989. The only cowl style locomotives remaining in freight service on the railway are now GE Dash 8-40CM types (CN 2400's and BCOL 4601—4624. (SDHSE)



## **BEAVER SHIELD BACK**

CP's most recent repainted locomotives are again sporting the company's "Beaver shield" which was re-adopted by the railway. The newly painted locomotives have a simplified version on the shield in solid colour (gold) as opposed to the former version with shading.

## **CANADA 150 TRAIN**

CP will operate a Canada 150 train across the country, using its trio of classic F units and cars from its Royal Canadian Pacific fleet. The train will start its trip from Port Moody on July 28. Consist will be ten heritage Tuscan red cars and a stage car for live entertainment at stops along the way.

One car will be named "Spirit of Tomorrow" and children will be invited to write their hopes for the Canada of tomorrow on cards that will be affixed to the car. The car will then also be used on the annual Holiday Train.

From Port Moody, the 24 day trip will make stops at Revelstoke, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and will end at Ottawa on August 20. Hours at the two BC stops are 1500 to 1800 hours. (SDHSE)



## CANADIAN NOTES

VIA's CANADIAN has been having timekeeping woes again this summer, with many trips hours late and impacting Vancouver bound passengers who are missing cruise ship departures. In addition, the lengthy trains have resulted in no equipment for a backup fifth trainset compounding into departure delays in some cases.

The Canadian has been operating very long trains, more recently (since the following spottings) with three F40PH-3 locomotives and close to 30 cars making for quite a sight as stainless steel streamliners go.....

- #2 June 6 6410 / 6441 with 25 cars
- #2 June 9 6401 / 6445 with 25 cars
- #1 June 10 6417 / 6432 with 26 cars
- #2 June 13 6418 / 6459 with 25 cars
- #2 June 30 6419 / 6454 with 29 cars

(J.M., T. M.)

## CHURCHILL TRAIN CUT OFF

In a blow to VIA's Hudson Bay service to Churchill, Manitoba, service over the route has been suspended due track damage. Northern Manitoba has lost all rail service in this development, both freight and passenger. Omnitrac, operator of the Hudson Bay Railway, says flooding that submerged a section of the track on May 23 has caused unprecedented and catastrophic damage to the line. Track bed has been washed away in 19 locations and five bridges are visibly damaged. Checks need to be done on another 30 bridges and many more culverts. The damage is expected to take months to repair and estimates see the line closed well into 2018.

## RDCs TO VERMONT

A commuter rail service being established in northwestern Vermont has purchased 12 ex VIA RDC's from the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Agency. The cars were sold to Dallas in 1993 and remanufactured, and served Trinity Railway Express for many year between Dallas and Fort Worth. VIA Rail bid to buy the cars back but was outbid by the Vermont Agency. (BL)

## OTHER RAIL NEWS

GARIBALDI, Ore. – In a poetic twist to the strained return of a well-known logging 2-8-2, privately owned Saginaw Timber Co. No. 2 will return to the Pacific Northwest, where it spent all of its working career. Its new home will be along the shores of the Pacific Ocean on the



Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad, sources close to the negotiations told Trains News Wire Wednesday. Skip Lichter's 1912 Baldwin locomotive will move from North Freedom, Wis., and the Mid-Continent Railway Museum it has called home since 1982, to Garibaldi, Ore., in late September, the sources said. Litcher chose the tourist hauler on the former Southern Pacific Tillamook Branch from 19 potential locations across the country to move the engine after he and Mid-Continent could not reach an agreement to run the engine at North Freedom again.

The locomotive, which last ran regularly in 2000, will travel on three tractor-trailers: one for the engine, one for the tender, and one for parts and supplies. The engine is ready to run, but most likely it will be 2018 before it begins operations at Oregon Coast Scenic.

Litcher, who restored the engine himself, went looking for a new home for No. 2 after an arbitrator ruled that the museum violated its agreement with him to run the locomotive for 15 years after it was back in service. As part of that ruling, the museum paid Litcher \$200,000 in March and also must pay for the move to Oregon, an expensive journey that will most likely reach into six figures. The museum is disputing another part of the ruling, repayment of Lichter's legal fees. No. 2 has been in the Midwest since 1962 when it was moved east to Michigan's Cadillac & Lake City tourist line. Its presence at Mid-Continent further burnished the museum's status as a premier preservation operation, fielding multiple locomotives, wood cars, and a scenic route. The museum continues to work on its own iconic steam locomotive, Chicago & North Western 4-6-0 No. 1385, which is receiving a new boiler.

The arrival of the locomotive in Oregon places it back into its traditional Pacific Northwest territory. Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad further establishes itself as a citadel of steam power with two-truck Heisler No. 2, Craig Mountain Lumber Heisler No. 3 (set to steam again this fall) and famous McCloud River Railroad 2-6-2 No. 25. In addition, it will soon host the much-anticipated return of "Skookum," a rare logging 2-4-4-2. Now Saginaw Timber No. 2 will join this fleet, back home again, safe among her own.

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**ISSN 1204-07  
Vol. 57 Issue 8**

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**TRIVIA ANSWER**

The KVR was opened in 1915 and ran until 1989 (with portions being abandoned from 1961). The Chief Architect was a Scots engineer by the name of *Andrew McCulloch* who used *Shakespeare's* character names of **Othello, (King) Lear, Jessica, Shylock, Portia, Iago, and Romeo** from the town of Hope eastward 31 miles to the Coquihalla summit with **Juliet** on the other side separated from Romeo. (note CBC's 8-episode 1974 miniseries "The National Dream" was filmed partially on KVR's Myra Canyon section just east of Kelowna and the Coquihalla Gorge near Hope). Othello, King Lear and Romeo & Juliet are obvious, while Iago was also from *Othello* and Jessica, Shylock and Portia from *The Merchant of Venice*.

**BACK COVER**

Top—the classic PCC styled old Vienna trams will soon be no more, as newer Flexity cars arrive and enter service in this European city. (John Day photo)

Bottom—CPR 374 made of plants is part of a Canada 150 Exhibition in Gatineau, Quebec ) (George Game photo)



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WCRA News acknowledges the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia



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Published monthly by West Coast Railway Association  
PO Box 2790 Stn. Term., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X2  
[www.wcra.org](http://www.wcra.org)

ISSN 1204-072X  
Vol. 57 Issue 8

Canada Post, Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40007853