



WCRA NEWS

MARCH 2018

**DAY OUT WITH THOMAS TICKETS
NOW ON SALE FOR MAY 2018**

**HAIDA GWAI TOUR IS BACK
APRIL 27 TO MAY 8, 2018**



GENERAL MEETING

The **General Meeting** of the WCRA will be on Tuesday, February 27 at Rainbow Creek Station in Burnaby, Willingdon and Penzance, at 1930 hours.

Entertainment will be a video on the massive Santa Fe 2-10-4 Texas type 5000 series steam locomotives, provided by Joe Naismith.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the WCRA will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at Rainbow Creek Station in Burnaby, Willingdon at Penzance.

ON THE COVER

Thomas the Tank Engine steams up to the Mac Norris Station at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. The 2018 version of the ever popular Day Out With Thomas returns to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park May 19, 20, 21 and May 26, 27. Tickets are now available on line at www.wcra.org

MARCH CALENDAR

- Friday, March 9—Newsletter deadline for the April issue of WCRA News
- **West Coast Railway Heritage Park re-opens March 15, 2018 at 10AM**
 - Bill Miner Escape Room open by reservation every Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- Sunday, March 18—Western Rails Annual Show at Cameron Rec. Centre in Burnaby (see page 6 for more info) - 0900—1600 hours
- Tuesday, March 27—WCRA General Meeting, 1930 k, 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 or mail to WCRA, PO Box 2790 Stn. Term., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X2.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Bill Johnston with 27 present, Jeremy Davy acted as secretary to the meeting:

- A moment of silence was held to recognize the passing of three long time members—**Norm Shepherd** (33 years), **Alan Cruickshank** (37 years) and **John Lighthall** (25 years)
- Two board members were also acknowledged—**John Day** on the passing of his mother and **Marian Robson** on the passing of her late husband
- Nominations were opened for two elected positions for the board of directors, nominated were **Christian Vazzaz** and **Don Evans**. Given no other nominations, they were declared elected by acclamation.
- **Gordon Bell** reported on activities from Squamish:
 - He noted a good start to the 2018 year in fundraising, up from the previous two years at this time
 - Gord noted that things at the Heritage Park are quiet as the Park is closed this year,
 - Tickets to *Day Out With Thomas* 2018 are now on sale
 - Strong events bookings are in place for 2018
 - Rail operations are quiet at this time, the locomotives are all inside for the winter, some minor repair work has been carried out on S3 /6503
- **George Game** reported on the Locomotive 374 Pavilion, volunteers are needed to fill in some gaps. The annual celebration of the arrival of Loco 374 in Vancouver will be held May 20th
- **Bob Hunter** provided a Show and Tell, with a historic Dave Willkie photo.
- Bob also let us know that **Rapido Trains** is bringing out a high quality HO scale model of the FP7A—decorations include our own CPR 4069 (see page 8)
- **Bonnie Game** announced a 2018 Haida Gwaii tour which **Keith Anderson** will lead, with all proceeds to WCRA (see page 13)
- **Jeremy Davy** was wished a Happy Birthday (with cake!)
- The Annual General Meeting was announced for Tuesday, March 27
- **Bill Marchant** provided a Trackside Report—noting many items, including that CP SD30C-ECO #5014 was the unit involved in the ethanol tanker truck collision at Port Coquitlam
- **Don Evans** provided the entertainment, with images from the recent HeritageRail Alliance conference in Minneapolis, and also of Victoria Falls in Africa including the Royal Livingstone Dinner Train and the Zambia Railway Museum

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Jack Peake of Lake Cowichan back to membership.

(J.D.)

MEMBER NEWS



SINGH BILN RETIRES FROM SRY

Long time member **Singh Biln** retired from SRY Rail Link effective Friday, February 2 after ten years with the railway and over 43 years of railroading. Singh will reside in Squamish which means we will expect to see more of him at the Heritage Park—only good news for WCRA!

Singh had a long career with BC Rail, including as their Chief Mechanical Officer, and then also a short time as WCRA's CMO before he landed the great job that he has had at SRY.

We congratulate Singh and look forward to seeing him more frequently.

Alan Cruickshank—we reported last issue on the passing of Alan and the service held in New Westminster. Subsequently a significant article on Alan's toy train collection appeared on page 3 of the Vancouver Sun's February 1, 2018 edition.

Packed away in a Surrey warehouse are more than 6,000 pieces of his toy train collection as well as five vintage cars. The collection's future will see it divided among his five children, making it uncertain as to where the pieces will all end up.

John Lighthall—WCRA lost another long time member and active volunteer when John Lighthall passed away the afternoon of February 2 at the age of 86 years. He was a lifelong resident of Vancouver, and leaves behind his wife of 62 years Fay, and family. John has been a very active volunteer with WCRA (with Fay also in many cases), and loved the mini rail as well as volunteering at the Locomotive 374 Pavilion. In lieu of flowers the family requested donations in memory of John be made to WCRA. A service was held on Saturday, February 10th in Vancouver.

Marcie Philips - some of you who go back a long time may remember Marcie Philips—who did the books for the Heritage Park back in its earliest of days along with husband, Art Plant, who helped at the Park in many capacities. Marcie passed away in Squamish January 5, 2018.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If your label reads 01/31/18 it is time to renew your membership.....if it reads 11/30/17 this is your last issue of WCRA News. We need all of you as members, please renew today.

WCRA TRIVIA #349 - By Ryan Cruickshank

What is the significance of Canadian Pacific's H24-66 Trainmaster #8905?

(Answer on page 23)

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS

Nominations were accepted at the January General Meeting for two WCRA positions on the WCRA Board of Directors. Nominated were **Christian Vazzaz** and **Don Evans**. As there were no further nominations, both were declared elected by acclamation. The two will join the board for a three year term.

2016 VOLUNTEER HOURS – Reporting ends February 28th.

Time has nearly run out for submitting your hours and the WCRA relies heavily on the hours generously donated by our volunteers carrying out the activities of the Association. They are part of the supporting information requested when seeking funding from other organizations.

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2017 volunteer hours. If you still have not submitted them, please do so as soon as possible. With the exception of attending General Meetings, ALL the time you spend volunteering for WCRA counts ... At the Heritage Park or being a Custodian at the 374 Pavilion, Serving on a WCRA Committee, Attending Board of Directors meetings, Working on WCRA related activities at home ... **All hours are important and all hours count.**

Reminder ...

Volunteer hours for work performed **at the Heritage Park** are required to be reported by WCRA to BC Safety and Transport Canada annually and to be included in the Park's Safety Management System statistics.

*As a minimum - Please separate your hours into **PARK** and **OTHER** when you report them.*

Please advise **Donna Simon** of the time you have donated. You may do so by email at hours@wcra.org or by calling 604.815.0812 (604-484-2791 toll free from Vancouver calling area) – both phones have voicemail. If you prefer to send your information by snail mail you can send it to Donna at PO Box 2535 Garibaldi Highlands BC V0N 1T0.

To all Volunteers ... thank you for your support of the WCRA through your donation of your time. (D.S.)

WESTERN RAILS 2018 – the 36th annual edition of *Canada's Largest Railroadians Show* will be at the Cameron Recreation Complex, 9523 Cameron Street in Burnaby (behind Lougheed Town Centre) on **March 18th 0900 to 1600**. The Show attracts not only those who are into Collectables, Models, Railroad Hardware & Timetables but also those who just like trains. It doesn't matter if you're buying, selling, or just looking there is something here for everyone. Again this year operating model layouts (representing TT Scale to G Scale) will be also be featured.

Fare: Families \$20.00; Adults \$8.00; Seniors & Youths \$4.00; Children 5 & under free.

Western Rails 2018 is presented by the West Coast Railway Association. Further information is available on request by emailing westernrails@wcra.org or phoning 604.484.2791. (J.D.)

HELP WANTED at Western Rails

Have some spare time March 17th or 18th??? Your help would be appreciated with the following activities at the show:

WCRA Display Tables

Saturday Mar 17th &/or Sunday Mar 18th help is needed with:

Display Setup on Saturday Afternoon 1500 to 1800;

Staffing the Display on Sunday 0900 to 1600;

Western Rails Show Operations

Saturday Mar 17th &/or Sunday Mar 18th help is needed with:

Hall Setup on Saturday Afternoon 1300 to 1800;

General Show duties on Sunday 0700 to 1600 (Admission Ticket Sales, Raffle Ticket Sales and Site Security);

Take down on Sunday 1600 to 1800.

If you can help out with any of these activities, contact Jeremy Davy or Donna Simon at 604.815.0812 (toll free from Vancouver Area 604.484.2791) or email westernrails@wcra.org. (J.D.)

**36th
Annual**



**36th
Annual**

CANADA'S LARGEST RAILROADIANA SHOW

Sunday March 18th 2018

9:00am until 4:00pm

Cameron Recreation Complex

9523 Cameron St. Burnaby BC

– behind Lougheed Town Centre –

Vendors buying, selling and trading ...

Models, Collectables, Photos, Timetables, Keys, Locks,
Lanterns, Buttons, China, Telegraph equipment, etc

Plus see operating model layouts

Show Entrance Fares Cash only please

Adult \$8.00 ... Senior (60+) & Youth (6-15) \$4.00

Family (max 2 Adults & 3 Youths) \$20.00 ... Child (under 6) free



INFORMATION ... email westernrails@wcra.org, or
phone (604) 484-2791 (Has voice mail – Please leave message)

Western Rails 2018 is presented by the
West Coast Railway Association



ROYAL HUDSON SONG DESIGNATED A CANADIAN FOLK SONG

Congratulations to **Dave Baker** on the continued success of his Royal Hudson song. The song is now regularly performed by choirs and groups around the world. Now, it has won an official recognition as a Canadian Folk Song. The song was written by Dave in 1976, and subsequently arranged for choirs by Vancouver composer and arranger Larry Nickel in 2005. It was the published by Cypress Choral Music and the rest is history.

COLLECTIONS

HO SCALE MODEL of CPR / WCRA FP7A #4069 ANNOUNCED

Ontario model railway manufacturer Rapido Trains has announced production of the EMD FP7A in HO Scale. The models are available in a variety of road names, paint schemes, and numbers including WCRA's "CPR FP7A #4069" in the correct Canadian Pacific maroon and grey "block" paint scheme.

Rapido's museum quality products are available on a "pre-ordered / reservation" basis only with an order deadline of April 30, 2018. Delivery date is "late 2018" Prices are \$249.95 for traditional DC or \$359.95 for Digital Command Control (DCC) with Sound.

To order contact Bill or Hal at Central Hobbies 604-431-0771; also see their website www.central-hobbies.com (R.H.)

BC FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE TO RESTORE SHAY #1

The BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan, BC is restoring its narrow gauge Shay #1 that was manufactured in 1920 and brought to the Cowichan Valley as a brand new locomotive. It worked for a variety of companies in the Valley and finally belonged to the Osborn Bay wharf operation.

After it retired it was obtained by Mr. Wellburn who was the originator of the Discovery Centre and in fact provided a great deal of the artifacts for the Centre. It was operating on our park railway up until 1998 when it lost it's certification. It had sat idle for the last 18 years until we disassembled it in the fall of 2016 and sent it off to have it boiler rebuilt—or in this case, a new one built but still using some parts of the old boiler.

The new boiler is now being constructed at Geo Tech in Crofton BC. Geo tech is experienced in building and rebuilding boilers for the forest industry, pulp industry and other operations as well. Fundraising is underway and we have raised approximately \$95,000 of the \$125,000 required to finish the project.

Once completed it will become our primary locomotive to operate our narrow gauge, in the park rail operation. It is our hope to have the project complete by the fall of 2018. (J.P.)

WEST COAST RAILWAY HERITAGE PARK

Home of the Royal Hudson



Thomas the Tank Engine will return to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in May—five dates again this year, May 19, 20 and 21 (Victoria Day Weekend) and then May 26 and 27. Tickets will go on sale the week of January 15, 2018 and prices this year will again be very reasonable 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 Friends and 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.

Tickets are now selling on line through wcra.org—order yours today!

(J.C.)

CN ROUNDHOUSE & Conference Centre

Make your next event memorable at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park

The West Coast Railway Heritage Park has a wide selection of space available for events such as anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, and memorials.

Options include:

- The CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre is the largest event venue on the Sea to Sky corridor. Guests are undeniably impressed by dining next to our unique collection of railcars including up to 8 heritage trains such as the famous Royal Hudson steam train. There are 7 sets of large wooden train doors that can be opened up letting the outside in, spectacular on a sunny day. There is also the Canron Upper deck—an indoor/outdoor patio with spectacular views, ideal for a sunset cocktail or late night hors d'oeuvres.
- The John Hardie Mitchell Gallery overlooking the Royal Hudson, is an ideal space for smaller events such as a cocktail party or off-site meeting.
- Our restored railcars the Alberta, or British Columbia are beautiful spaces for an intimate catered dinner or smaller meeting. Each car features a large living room with comfortable tables and chairs with large panoramic windows as well as a dining room, lounge and galley.
- Our Mac Norris Station is also available for special occasions and meetings. There are two sides to the station; the Heritage Tea Room and the Station Waiting Area. The Waiting Area can be set up boardroom style while the Tea Room is ideal for a sit down meal or buffet. On a nice day we can even hold a meal on the outside station platform.

Impress your guests by holding your next event at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park surrounded by Canada's railway heritage. Be sure to consider the West Coast Railway Heritage Park when planning your next event. Contact Jennifer at 604-524-1011 or jenn@wcra.org for pricing and availability. (J.C.)

FUNDRAISING

CN ROUNDHOUSE TRACK 2 SPONSORED

We are pleased to report another major donation, this one the naming of Track 2 in the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre (the track which the historic 1890 railcar British Columbia occupies). The track is sponsored by **Liz Haan** and **Bill Holt** and is named in recognition of William Holt, MD.

The recognition plaque has been installed and reads as follows:

TRACK TWO

William Holt Plaque M.D. F.R.C.P.(C.)

Bill, a native Vancouverite, became fascinated with trains at an early age. He started collecting HO brass steam engines at the age of 8 before branching out to ON3 and O scale later in life. His love of modelling steam continued into his 80's. He was the volunteer prototype model checker for Pacific Fast Mail when their models were manufactured in Japan and Korea. His day job, Director of Burnaby Psychiatric Services, was demanding & fraught with drama. He built the program and ran it for over 25 years, providing much needed services for the most vulnerable Burnaby residents and their families. Retreating into his model railway workshop kept him sane and safe from politicians.

Trains were his passion, a dominant force in his life.

Our sincere thanks to Liz and Bill for their generous support. (K.T.)

IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS—A NICE WAY TO REMEMBER SPECIAL FRIENDS

Don't forget that the West Coats Railway Association is a registered Canadian charitable organization, and thus issues official Canadian charitable tax receipts for any and all donations that we receive. As in the recent passings of long time members like John Lighthall and Alan Cruickshank, friends were encouraged to make a donation to the West Coast Railway Association in lieu of flowers.

In such cases, WCRA kicks in its "In Memoriam" program and notes donations identified as in memory of <name> and provides a listing of donors back to the family so they know who contributed in memory of their loved one.

This way donations go to an organization the deceased person loved and respected, and are put to productive use for future generations through our projects.

LOCOMOTIVE 374 PAVILION

Our visitor count for January was 1,845. We had 66 more people than last January. The constant rain is keeping people indoors and off the street.

The 374 Crew has suffered a great loss with the passing of **John Lightall**. John liked to make everyone believe he was a grumpy old man. But, when I worked with John on the Dinosaur Train he could not wipe the grin off his face. You could see how much he enjoyed the children. He was a real softy underneath with a heart of gold. When I dropped into the 374 with supplies, John would always ask me if I was checking up on him. He loved being at the Pavilion and working at the Park. He will be missed by all.

A special thanks to **John Day** for creating a 374 Engine Display for our N-Gauge Layout. It looks great! John also helps out with our model trains maintenance. Keeping our rolling stock moving is almost a full time job. Our engines do not like the cold and dampness of the Pavilion in the Winter and need constant cleaning and repairs. The children love this model railway and this addition makes it even better.



I would like to welcome two new Volunteers to the 374. **Nicole Bleau** and **Cristina Jacob** have joined our outstanding team and will be working the Wednesday shift. Welcome Aboard! If you are in the area, please drop in and say hi.

We almost have a full compliment of Volunteers at the Pavilion. If you would like to help, please give me a call at 778-875-3573. Any time given will be appreciated. A day or two a month would really help us out. We are located at the corner of Davie St. & Pacific Blvd. Just across from the Canada Line Yaletown/Roundhouse Station.

The Pavilion is currently on Winter Hours (Dress Warm) - 11 AM to 3 PM. Lets hope for an early Spring! (G.G.)

HAIDA GWAII TOUR RETURNS

Our most popular tour of recent times is back for 2018, thanks to member Bonnie Game and her work as a travel professional. Bonnie is donating her time and all proceeds will come to WCRA. So—come along with us April 27 to May 8, 2018 on this great 12 day tour.

A Fully Guided Cultural Experience—great travel and wonderful scenery.

Day 1, Fri. April 27: Vancouver to the Rockies

Meet your guide and fellow passengers at Vancouver's Pacific Central Station by 7:00 pm. Everyone boards the train at 8 pm, and settles in for an 8:30 pm departure. Enjoy the ride as *The Canadian* winds its way through the lower Fraser Valley. By nightfall you are well into the Coastal Mountains and the Fraser Canyon before you retire for the night.

Day 2, Sat. April 28: The Rockies & Jasper

Awake in the heart of the Rockies and enjoy the fantastic scenery all day. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the dining car. By 4 pm you disembark and overnight at the charming Whistler's Inn in Jasper for the night. (*dinner on own*)

Day 3, Sun. April 29: Jasper to Prince George

At 12:15 pm board the *Skeena* train and journey through Yellowhead Pass and northwest through the Rocky Mountain Trench. Enjoy the rugged splendor of Jasper National Park and the Canadian Rockies. Arrive in Prince George at 7 pm and overnight at the Prince George Ramada Hotel. (*meals on own*)

Day 4, Mon. April 30: Prince George to Prince Rupert

Up early to go to be at the train station by 7:30 am to depart at 8 am and continue your journey west to Prince Rupert. This trip is the most scenic of rail journeys and called *VIA Rail's* best kept secret. You pass wild rivers, mountains, gorges, high bridges, and small towns. Arrive in Prince Rupert at 8:25 pm for your stay at the Prince Rupert Prestige hotel for the next 3 nights (*Breakfast included, food available for purchase on train*)

Day 5, Tues. May 1: Prince Rupert

Today there will be a private group tour of the Northern Pacific Cannery National Historic Site. The site features exhibits, architecture, historically-inspired cuisine and the pristine wilderness surrounds that tell the story of an industry that played an integral role in BC's history. The seafood chowder is highly recommended!

Day 6, Wed. May 2: Prince Rupert

Today is a free day to explore Prince Rupert at your leisure with an optional tour of the Museum of Northern BC. Prince Rupert is famous for its wilderness, wildlife, seafood, colourful historic homes and culture.

Day 7, Thurs. May 3: Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii

Everyone meets back at the hotel and transfers to the ferry terminal to board the 10 am daytime ferry to Skidegate. You will arrive at 5 pm and be met by your local guide and transported to Queen Charlotte City for dinner. After dinner you will be transferred to Engelhard's Oceanview Lodge in Masset, your home for the next 5 nights.

Day 8, Fri. May 4: Haida Gwaii

After breakfast, your guide will pick you up at 9 am and you will start your Islands tour of Naikoon Provincial Park, Agate Beach, Tow Hill and North Beach. Guests are on their own for dinner. *(breakfast and lunch included)*

Day 9, Sat. May 5: Haida Gwaii

After breakfast, your 9 am tour begins with visiting Port Clements Settlers Museum, Yakoun River, Haida Canoe and Golden Spruce Trail. The evening is capped off with an included authentic native dinner, cooked in a local's home. This is a trip highlight with rave reviews. *(breakfast, lunch and dinner included)*

Day 10, Sat. May 6: Haida Gwaii

After breakfast, at 9 am your tour of Greater Masset begins with Delkatla Nature Sanctuary, Totem poles of old Masset, Tluu Xaada Naay Society, and the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum. For dinner this evening you will have a private authentic Haida dinner and long house dance. *(breakfast, lunch and dinner included)*

Day 11, Sun. May 7: Haida Gwaii

After breakfast, depart at 9 am for your tour of Skidegate, the Bill Reid carving shed and Haida Heritage Centre and Museum before returning back to the Lodge at around 5 pm.
(breakfast and lunch included)

Day 12, Mon. May 8: Haida Gwaii to Vancouver

On this the last day, early morning is free before you are transferred to Masset airport for your Pacific Coastal Airlines flight at 11:30 AM arriving in Vancouver (YVR) at 2PM

Note—Some trail and beach walking is required.

Tour includes: ViaRail private accommodations, hotel accommodations, tour escort and guides, museum admissions, all transportation, return flight from Massett BC to Vancouver and all taxes.

All fares, schedules, and itineraries are subject to change without notice at any time. West Coast Rail Tours is not responsible for services cancelled or modified by travel partners.

Pricing—\$3,340 Double Occupancy, \$4,050 Single Occupancy

This tour will likely sell out quickly—call Bonnie Game today at 604-802-0490 or e mail bogame@cruiseshipcenters.com (B.G.)

FEATURE ARTICLES

FROM WCRA NEWS—SEPTEMBER 1977

Thanks to Craig McDowall

WCRA News

A tour of CN's new Port Mann facilities on Saturday, Oct. 1st has been arranged by Grant Ferguson. The tour will take approximately two hours and will include the Car Shop, Diesel Shop and possibly the Yard Tower. We need to confirm how many will be attending by Sept. 28th, so please call Grant at 987-5926

Canadian Pacific

CP Rail Business car #12, normally assigned to Revelstoke, is in Vancouver for repairs and winterization.

CP Rail has ordered 100 cushioned under-frame newsprint box cars from National Steel Car Corp. in Hamilton. Total value of the order is around \$3.5 million and the cars have been ordered to meet increased demands from the newsprint industry.

CP is having new food, newstand and ticket facilities constructed on the concourse of Windsor Station in Montreal. Total cost is \$500,000 and work will be complete by year end

GMD GP9 #8834 is the first E&N unit to be equipped with ditch lights

MLW S4 #7113, leased to Crown Zellerbach for May and June, was returned to CP on June 19th. However, CZ's Alco RS3 #4097 broke down again and #7113 returned to CZ on June 21st until #4097 is repaired.

CP Business Car 'Alberta' was spotted on the eastbound Canadian, east of Kamloops at 02:15 (now there's a real rail fan!) on August 29th coupled behind the F units.

The American Freedom Train coaches purchased by the B.C. Government's Travel Industry Dept., were seen passing through Kamloops on the tail end of a mixed CP freight in the very early morning of August 29th and they arrived in Vancouver later that day.

CN

CN Train #2 left Vancouver on Sept. 18th with three private coaches from New York via Montreal. The cars were the 'Shenandoah' (a sleeper in brown Pennsy paint), 'American General' (a sleeper in UP paint) and the 'Pennsylvania' (an open platform business car).

A 100 car unit sulphur train derailed west of Hope on August 30th with only 15 cars remaining on the track. The sulphur caught fire and a water bomber had to be called in to help douse the flames. Damage was estimated at \$3 million and the main line was closed for two days. According to CN, one of the causes was 'excessive speed'. A problem developed over the succeeding two weeks concerning disposal of ten million pounds of sulphur that was spilled from the wreck. The location was in 'unorganized territory' and CN initially sought permission to bury the sulphur in the dried up Popkum Lake on Crown Land but this was refused by the BC Fish and Wildlife Dept. CN then hired a salvage company to remove it by truck. This was done using 20 dump trucks but complaints poured in to the municipal office that the sulphur was being dumped on five acres of prime farmland by a creek! The salvage company stated it might be there for six months until he can sell it. Meanwhile, CN has issued a stern order requiring all train crews to adhere to speed limits throughout the system. The union has interpreted this as a 'go slow' order.

CN will have completed repairs to the Cisco Bridge by Oct. 1st. The bridge's deck caught fire after a derailment on August 4th. Fortunately the damage wasn't so severe that the bridge span had to be replaced.

BC Rail

BC Rail has reached agreement with two more construction firms: Chinook Construction and Miller Contracting, involved in the Dease Lake line when they were called off the job after Premier Bennett halted work. The settlement cost BCR almost \$3 million. Swan Wooster Engineering was hired to provide an independent assessment of of the costs incurred when the

contracts were terminated early.

Ex CN heavyweight passenger car 'Alma Lake' stored at the Drake Street coach yards for the past two years has been repainted CP tuscan red and re-lettered 'Nootka Lake' for service on the Royal Hudson next year.

BC Government

The BC Department of Travel and Industry has purchased five executive coaches, the 'Preamble Cars', of the American Freedom Train at a cost of \$100,000. The coaches are complete with fittings and consist of a staff sleeper, a staff diner and generator car, two Victorian lounge cars (parlour and private office) and a observation platform press car. They will be used initially in connection with the Captain Cook Bi-Centennial Commemorations being held in 1978. They will be re-painted in the traditional CPR colours with the job being done at Railwest in Squamish by the BCR paint shop crews. The first trip that these cars will be utilized will be the 'Captain Cook Invitational' trip (to publicize the upcoming celebrations) and pulled by the Royal Hudson in the spring of 1978. The exact routing is still being finalized but it will include Eastern Canada as well as the USA.

AMTRAK

The Pacific International left Vancouver on Sunday, September 18 using old equipment to accommodate football fans from BC and northern Washington state travelling to Seattle for the NFL season opener of the Seahawks. The train had seven coaches including a diner. The F40PH engine needed a heater car as the coaches were the old steam heated cars. AMTRAK will add extra coaches to all Seahawk Sunday games.

Etc. Items

Skyline Travel has announced a rail fan trip via Amtrak to Klamath Falls, OR on Thanksgiving weekend. Details at 685-6102

A small railway museum is being organized by the City of Cranbrook through a LIP grant and a locally funded 'Project Society'. A 200 foot spur has been built next to the CP Cranbrook station and they have acquired an old CP coach which is presently being restored in the Cranbrook yard and will be outfitted with local memorabilia and CPR artifacts.

The Heritage Park in Calgary has acquired one of the old Montreal sightseeing streetcars.

DID YOU KNOW?

BC ELECTRIC #1311 AT SQUAMISH

Notes by **Trevor Mills** and **Pat Hind**

BC Electric 1311 was bought by **Ernie Plant** after it was retired and he had it moved to

Squamish in late 1954. Ernie had wanted the car to be the clubhouse for the PGE Boosters railfan club. Eric Stathers, the PGE car shop superintendent, did not want it hanging around the shop area and it was put out on the gravel spur at the north end of the Mamquam Bridge. **Ernie, Dave Wilkie, Pat Hind and Bert Mills** all worked on the car through the summers of 1955 and 1956.

The winters were not kind to the car. Dad was caretaker of the car as he lived in Squamish. There were times when he worked more on the Lillooet Sub and did not have that much time to look after the car and vandals got to it and did considerable damage. The seats were wrecked, windows broken and the car had been moved and derailed and was in danger of tipping over. It was decided by the group that the car could not be saved and it was burned on the spot and the metal sent away to scrap.



In the photo seated on the ladder is my dad, Bert Mills. Not sure who the other person is. (photo BCER 1311 at Squeamish.....(T.M.)

PHOTO FROM THE PAST

Dave Wilkie Collection - Steam on the Kinsol Trestle

Dave Wilkie's son Mike recently received an E Mail from an Ontario architect requesting the use of a Dave Wilkie photo of CNR Consolidation 2149 on a log train on the Kinsol Trestle in September 1958

“Attached are two images, one is Dave Wilkie's and the other is Elwood White's, whose estate we're also trying to reach. The reason for the two is related to the proportion of a wall mural - it's a wide but low, around 9m x 3m.

“These images, along with two others, are intended to be used as large scale wall murals for the new Canadian Senate building in Ottawa. The image will be designed into a metal-clad wall using a perforation and etching process - something we're still working out. We would like to obtain permission for the image's one-time use and discuss the terms and conditions with Public Works.

“The building was the former Ottawa train station and (the image) will be featured prominently in the large hall at the building's core. It would be an honour to include the image”



We were able to locate the large format negative in the WCRA Archives and produced several high resolution digital scans and delivered them to the client.

Incidentally the Elwood White photo mentioned is that of a steam powered passenger train-an NMRA Excursion-crossing the Kinsol Trestle in 1954. Bob Turner, Al Lill, Pat Hind and others were able to track down several photos of the runby. No Dave Wilkie photos of the passenger train have ever been unearthed as Dave was in Montana that week! (R.H.)

QUICK TRIP TO TORONTO

- by **Don Evans**

Your editor had a quick trip to the Toronto area at the end of January, and although the reason for the trip was for a family funeral service, we managed a free day before we came back home on Sunday, January 28. It has been a long time since we have done anything at Toronto except change planes at the airport—and it was a lovely sunny day, so we took a long route to the airport.

We had been staying out in Burlington, ON so the first leg was on the GO Train into Union Station. There is hourly service provided on the main line between Hamilton and Union. Our train departed Burlington at 0905 and took about an hour for the trip. There were lots of rail views as we travelled and lots of opposing traffic—Amtrak's *Maple Leaf*, VIA Rail in both directions, and opposing GO Train traffic. The three track main line was well used!

Once at Union, next task was to check our bags for the day—nothing offered at the station, but the nearby Intercontinental Hotel happily checked them for \$5 for the day. Now we got out and enjoyed the lovely day, strolling first over to the old Roundhouse (now mostly a pub) and looking at the Toronto Railway Museum's equipment outdoors at the site. They have an extensive 7 1/2" gauge track—however, nothing was open or operating.

From there we enjoyed a great walk along the waterfront over to the Distillery District where we enjoyed a fine lunch. The next three hours were spent walking downtown streets all over the core of the city. Streetcars were active on all the lines we saw—many of the new Bombardier cars were in service on the Waterfront, Spadina and King Street lines, while CLRV's seemed to hold down Queen Street operations on this Sunday. It was interesting to see the new articulated Bombardier cars operating with trolley poles for the most part, although a couple were seen with pantographs in use.

We finished up downtown, claimed our bags, and caught the Union-Pearson Express service to Toronto Pearson Airport. The service was quick and efficient, as well as comfortable in the new DMU equipment. Fare to Pearson airport was just \$12.35 adult and \$6.20 senior. Once off the train it was an easy walk into the air terminal. A great day—now to snooze on the plane!

RAILWAY NEWS



MOTIVE POWER NOTES

Lots of lease power showing up these days. On February 8, word has it that CN has 60+ leased C40's in the GECX 9100's, 7300's (ex CSXT), and 9400 / 9500 (ex UP) series.....a sample screen shot on that date showed GECX, Kansas City Southern, CP as well as CN and BCOL units involved just five train on their way towards Thornton. (J.M.)

SQUAMISH NOTES

CN plans to rebuild the main crossing at Cleveland Ave in Squamish this year as part of a complete intersection improvement at the location. The work will include removal of unused tracks, new crossing gates, new panels to smooth the transition from road to rail etc. At the same time, the Loggers Lane and cyclist crossing will also be improved. (T.M.)

A Loram rail grinder train was in Squamish and headed north on the main line February 5, 2018 (D.Y.)

MORE CAPACITY BEING ADDED

A release from CN notes additional capacity being added to its network in 2018:

- between Prince Rupert, BC and Edmonton, AB adding 4 new train meet sidings, 2 extensions of other sidings and a new section of double track
- Between Vancouver, BC and Edmonton, AB adding a long section of double track and a siding extension

OTHER NEWS

CRANBROOK MUSEUM PLANS TRAINSHED

The Cranbrook History Centre has announced plans and City approval to construct a major trainshed building over the historic railway collection there. The large timber framed structure would cover a total of 183 metres of track and protect the railcars. The next step will be to commence fundraising to fund the project.

NEW TOURIST TRAIN IN SASKATCHEWAN.....A new excursion train is getting ready to roll June 2 at Cudworth, SK—the train will operate to Wakaw on the Wheatland Railway.



LOCO DAMAGED IN COLLISION AT PORT COQUITLAM

A collision with an ethanol tanker truck at Port Coquitlam in early February resulted in a significant fire. The locomotive involved, SD30C-ECO #5014 suffered significant fire damage to its cab and front end. Thankfully, no crew were hurt. (K.A.)



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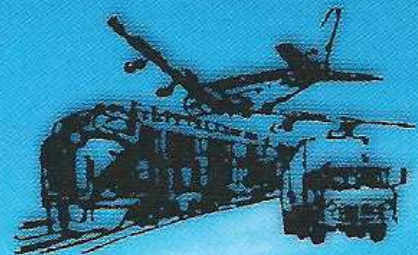
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BACK COVER

The Haida Gwaii tour is back—thanks to Bonnie Game for organizing.

TRIVIA ANSWER

CPR 8905 is the only surviving Trainmaster and lives at the Canadian Railway Museum (Exporail) in Delson, QC (south of Montreal). The 8905 is s/n 2922 built in June 1956 with the only group of 20 (8901-8920) produced by CLC. The 8900 was built by FM as was the only other Canadian unit: CNR 3000 (later #2900). FM built all 107 of other Trainmasters to U.S. roads between Apr53 and June57. (FM 107 built / CLC 20 built - Total 127). Note N&W Trainmaster 'Slugs' survived in NS service with one preserved at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in Hamburg PA.



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This tour is booked exclusively with Bonnie Game at Expedia Cruiseshipcenters. All proceeds benefit the West Coast Railway Association.

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