



BULLETIN BOARD

Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

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ABOVE: A crew of attendees at the 2023 RMMBC meet work the Nelson yard in one of the operating sessions held at Scott Calvert's CPR Boundary Division layout. This layout will be one of those hosting operating sessions at this year's RMMBC. See the article on page five for more information on the meet.

Photo by Marc Simpson

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From the Editor's Desk

The lead article in this issue is a description by John Geddes of a recent trip he made to Kato's large hobby shop in Central Toyko. I haven't seen too many reports on a hobby shop visit before, but this is actually quite an interesting article on a rather different kind of hobby shop. Have a look on page six.

We also have an article that I suggest every member take a look at: Tom Lundgren's report on the problems facing the Vancouver Train Expo. Last November's show was an overwhelming success, but the event won't be able to go ahead this year unless it can get volunteers to fill some critical needs. Read Tom's article on page four and see if you can help.

As usual, please let me know if there is something you think is missing or could be improved about the Bulletin Board. If you have any comments at all, or are thinking about providing an article to help or inform your fellow members, please send me an email at bbeditor@7divpnr.ca.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

As I stated in the March edition of the Bulletin Board, the Lower Mainland Train Expo Society (LMTES) is in dire straits, and the hope of a 2025 show is dwindling. If a President and Show Coordinator cannot be found by mid-May, the LMTES will have to release the dates for 2025. See Tom's write-up later on in this Bulletin Board. If you know of anyone or want to help, please contact me at victor@sugarwood.info.

The 7th Division's AGM was held on March 10th, 2025. The 2024 AGM Minutes, 2024 Treasurer Report, and 2024 Secretary's Report were accepted and are available on the Division's website: <https://7divpnr.ca> on the Documents page. I was again selected as Superintendent for the Division by acclamation. This will be my last term as Superintendent for the 7th Division.

The Railway Modelers' Meet of British Columbia will be held this month at Simon Fraser University (SFU). It will start with Ops Sessions and a Layout Tour on Friday, May 23rd. Clinics will be held on the 24th and 25th at SFU. If you haven't signed up, please do so. I hope to see you there.

To our new members, whether you are just starting or have been modelling for years, welcome. Feel free to contact me or any on the 7th Division Board with questions or suggestions.

To our existing members, your continued involvement is valued just as much. You should also feel free to contact us for any reason.

Our contact information can be found on the [About Us page](#) of the Division's website, or on the last page of this newsletter.

All of you help the organization fulfill our goals of maintaining standards and educating. Thank You.

Victor Gilbert
7th Division – Superintendent
superintendent@7divpnr.ca

Adding Value to Your Membership

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Upcoming Events

• Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC)	May 23 rd to 25 th , 2025
• Victoria Model Railway Show	September 21 st , 2025
• Chilliwack Train & Hobby Show	October 2025 (TBD)
• Vancouver Train Expo	November 8 th and 9 th , 2025
• Yarrow Community Model Train Swap Meet	2026 TBD
• Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show	2026 TBD
• Nanaimo Model Train Show	2026 TBD

For those in the lower mainland, Tim Horton has started a Modelling Night, usually held on the first Friday of the month. The event takes place in North Vancouver. Bring a project with you and enjoy an evening of progress on your models, conversation, and collaboration. Please RSVP to Assistant Superintendent Tim Horton at assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca. Directions will be sent via email the Thursday before the modelling night.

Awards

Did you know that the 7th Division recognizes our members for their achievements?

If you know someone who should be recognized with one of the awards listed below, contact the award's coordinator or the Superintendent of the 7th Division. Contact information can be found on the [About Us page of the 7th Division website](#).

The **Jack Work Memorial Trophy** is presented annually to the 7th Division member who best exhibits the qualities that Jack Work displayed: imagination, creativity, innovation, artistry, forward-thinking, quality workmanship and the sharing of the results of these qualities with the rest of the hobby.

The **Ross Heriot Memorial Golden Spike Award** is presented annually to an individual or a group of individuals in the 7th Division who have made a significant contribution to the division.

The **Railway Heritage Award** is presented, when appropriate, to a current member of the 7th Division who has contributed in a meaningful way to the preservation of railway history.

Check out the [Awards page of the 7th Division website](#) for more details and past recipients.

Modeller's Help Desk

We are here to help. If you need a solution or an idea for your layout, ask Mike at the "Modeller's Help Desk" at helpdesk@7divpnr.ca.

Changing Your Email Address

We have created a simple way to change your email address. Email the [7th Division Membership Coordinator](#), with EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE as the subject line. Include your name, NMRA membership number, old email address, and new email address. We will update our records and pass the information to NMRA Regional and National levels.

Volunteering

We need volunteers and have openings for the following:

- Publicity Coordinator

Responsibilities: Coordinate with local events to have an NMRA presence, liaise with NMRA Regional and National for publications.

- Social Media Coordinator
Responsibilities: Work to establish a 7th Division Social Media presence.
- 7th Division Regional Education Team
Responsibilities: Work with the NMRA PNR Regional Education Team to establish a library of “How To” and research material for access by NMRA Members
- Web Administrator
Responsibilities: Maintain the 7th Division’s website and post content as requested.
- Clinic Coordinator
Responsibilities: Work with the 7th Division’s Secretary to coordinate clinicians and resources for the 7th Division’s Winter, Summer, and Fall Clinics

Would you like to volunteer for one of these positions, or perhaps you have an idea for the Division? Reach out to your Sub-Division Coordinator. They are listed on the [7th Division website on the “About Us” page](#) or you can contact me at superintendent@7divpnr.ca.

New Members

The following new 7th Division members have joined us in the last six months. Please welcome them, and work to ensure they are included in our events.

• Jim Gilchrist	Kelowna	October 2024
• Chad Brechin	Abbotsford	November 2024
• Toby Johnson	Langley	November 2024
• Philippe Whyte	North Vancouver	November 2024
• Janet Cullis		February 2025
• Mike Mohr	Squamish	March 2025

Vancouver Train Expo Update

by Tom Lundgren, President, Lower Mainland Train Expo Society

My report in the January/February 7th Division Bulletin Board on Vancouver Train Expo 2024 provided details on the event and a history during my involvement. The report ended with a comments on the future of the event, most importantly the urgent need to rebuild the organizing committee.

As reported, last year’s event was very successful. The show is in excellent financial shape, with sufficient funds to finance the event without, for the first time, the need to borrow money. The legal entity, Lower Mainland Train Expo Society, is in good standing and available to continue the event. The Treasurer, Operations Manager, and Registrar are willing to continue in their roles.

Regrettably, no progress has been made in rejuvenating the committee, nor has a new leader emerged. Time is rapidly running out to organize Vancouver Train Expo 2025. Normally, the organizing committee would be preparing to sign a contract to rent the PNE Forum and open registration sometime in May. None of this work has been done. The PNE has approached us inquiring about our intentions as other parties have expressed interest in the dates (November 7, 8, 9). Unless this situation is remedied very soon, it will be too late to organize the event.

In short, this is the last call for Vancouver Train Expo 2025. Failing significant progress on rebuilding the committee by the middle of May, it will be necessary to release our “hold dates” on the PNE Forum and cancel the show.

Anyone interested in keeping Vancouver Train Expo alive can contact me at: tom.lundgren@shaw.ca or by phone at 604-813-8403.



RMMBC 2025 is Almost Here

by John Geddes, RMMBC Publicity

The 2025 Railway Modellers' Meet of British Columbia is coming up fast on the following dates:

Online: May 1 and 15

In-Person: May 23 – 25

We are now a few short weeks away from the in-person RMMBC meet at the SFU campus in Burnaby (Vancouver). RMMBC 2025 promises to be a weekend to remember.

- **Keynote Speaker** – Joe Fugate
 - founder, publisher, and editor of **Model Railroad Hobbyist (MRH)** magazine.
- A full program of **Model and Prototype Clinics**
- Two half-days of **Operating Sessions**
- An evening of **Layout Tours**
- **Model Displays and Table-Top Clinics** throughout
- **Discussion Groups** for getting to know your fellow modellers
- Come and meet some of BC's model railway **Manufacturers**

Registration

Registration for the in-person meet is available through the following link:

<https://pacificnorthwestregionnmra.regfox.com/2025-railway-modellers-meet-of-bc>

If all else fails you can register on-site but to benefit from all the materials, including the list of events on Friday evening, please register in advance.

Online Prologue May 1 and 15 (Thursday Evenings)

And don't miss our series of virtual (Zoom) clinics. They are FREE and you don't need to be attending the in-person meet. Register your email here to get the Zoom invitation:

<https://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/wp/registration/register-for-virtual-prologue/>



Photo by Mike Barone

My Visit to the Kato Hobby Store in Central Tokyo

by John Geddes (text and photos)

My wife and I recently went to Japan to ski and we had four days in Tokyo on our return. In her internet trip planning, my wife searched out (on the internet) the headquarters for Kato and their largest store with the crafty plan of sending me off to Kato while she toured the stores of Ginza.

My visit(s) to the store made for a fun day. It is a large two-story store to the west of central Tokyo, about 45 minutes by subway from Ginza, including all walk time. Very modern and well laid out, it has several large layouts. The largest on the main floor (see picture below) is a normal “hands-off” display of several automatically running trains.

On the upper level there is a large layout organized as ten operating positions each with control of a



separate, independent loop. Here you can book time on your chosen route and run the trains that you may have just purchased or have brought from home. As you can see from the pictures, there was a continuous set of young modellers and their parents running trains. The emphasis seemed to be on passenger trains, usually one of the main high speed Japanese Shinkansen consists. It was fun to watch the keen attention of the youngsters. Invariably Mum or Dad was equally interested.

The store was comfortably busy – not crowded but enough people to give a nice Japanese energy to the space.

The N-scale focus of Kato was in evidence here, with case after case of N-scale trains to purchase

(see some examples in my pictures). I am not familiar with Kato pricing in Canada, but these prices seemed very reasonable. If I had a N-scale layout, I would definitely have purchased one of the Shinkansen train sets – they have models of each series/type.

In the store the emphasis was definitely on DC. Factory DCC equipped trains were less in evidence and DCC sound very much the exception.

For obvious reasons, there was a very limited number of North American trains, although they did have an excellent selection of Amtrak passenger consists of various generations. Again, if I had an N-scale layout I would have been very tempted.





I don't know how Kato sells N-scale here, but in Japan they sell them in very convenient carry cases that look like A4 sized books. I noted that this (a) made it easy to carry and store complete trains, and (b) must encourage modellers to buy more train consists as they are so compact. You could have a huge roster of trains on a 6-foot bookshelf. It would have been interesting to know how many of the youngsters I saw running trains bring them to the store to run on a large layout because they don't have such space at home, and how many were testing trains they had just bought. The store is open to 8pm every evening except Sunday when it remains open until 7pm.

In any case, my conclusion was that in spite of limited space at home, model railroading is thriving

in Japan (Kato's financial reports seem to back up this impression).

In conclusion, attentive readers may have noticed that I said "visits(s)" above. Yes, I did go back. When I was in the store the first time, I purchased some HO Kato Unitrack for a testing set up I am planning. After getting back to the hotel room and showing off my track to my wife (I could see the disappointment in her eyes), I realized that I HAD TO GO BACK and purchase one of the beautiful Japanese locomotives that would have no place at all on my layout.

Check out the last picture below. How could I resist the three trucks and all that detail in the pantographs? The EF81 is a 2009 vintage locomotive used on so-called European-style passenger trains – the Super Express Rainbow – the "Hokutosei", "Elm", "Cassiopeia" and the "Akebono". It has the smoothest Kato drive I have ever (not) heard and I am sure it will be a super-challenge to upgrade to DCC (the fellow in the store explained that it is designed to have a separate decoder on each truck) but this is what our hobby is all about. I can't wait to see it pulling a long string of inter-modal container cars.



TIME TABLE No. 60, SEPTEMBER 28th, 1930									
EASTBOUND TRAINS—SUPERIOR DIRECTION									
CASCADIA SUBDIVISION									
STATIONS									
FIRST CLASS									
SECOND CLASS									
FOURTH CLASS									
Mile from Seattle									
Train No. 100									
Train No. 101									
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May 9-11, 2025 – **Ainsworth Connector PNR Regional Convention**, Pasco, Washington. See the event website for more information: <https://pnr5d.org/pnr-5th-division-home-page/2025-pnr-convention/>

August 24, 2025 – **Parksville Railway Day** – This small show provides displays, layouts, swap and shop booths, and a variety of other attractions. The show takes place between 10 AM and 3 PM at the Parksville Museum, 1245 Island Highway East, Parksville. Admission by donation. See poster on the next page.

September 21, 2025 – **Victoria Model Railway Show** – As in recent years, the show will be held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, with lots of free parking, excellent transit service, and easy access from the ferries at Swartz Bay. The organizers promise more floor space this year. More details are coming. Stay tuned!

November 8-9, 2025 – The **Vancouver Train Expo** (VTEX) is the province's leading train show aimed at the general public. Hopefully, the organizing group will be able to overcome some staffing issues (see article on page 4) and this excellent show will run again this year.

If you are organizing or helping with an event, even a local one, or just know of an event that you think other 7th Division members would like to know about, send an email to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) describing it.





7TH ANNUAL

RAILWAY DAY



AUGUST 24, 2025 / 10:00-3:00PM

admission by donation

**MODEL RAILWAYS & DISPLAYS
SWAP & SHOP BOOTHS
SCAVENGER HUNT & ACTIVITIES
LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & FUN!**

For booth inquiries: info@parksvillemuseum.com

PARKSVILLE MUSEUM | 1245 ISLAND HWY E | (250) 248-6966



Notices and Contacts

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The Bulletin Board has five issues per year: January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October, and November/December. Each issue is published around the start of the issue period. Publication means the Bulletin Board is available for download from the 7th Division website. Members will be notified by email when the download is ready. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

The PNR 7th Division maintains a list of members that includes postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. If you move or change your internet service provider or in any other way cause your contact details to change PLEASE contact the [Membership Coordinator](#) to provide the new information. If you fail to do this we will lose contact with you and you will miss out on 7th Division benefits. Note that the member list is held in strict privacy.

Your comments and opinions on this publication are always welcome. As well, contributions of letters, articles, event news, plans, photographs, and art are strongly encouraged and welcomed. All should be sent to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#). A phone call or email to the editor beforehand is advised if you are thinking of submitting something large or complex. The deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication but this is somewhat flexible according to circumstances.

ADVERTISING in the Bulletin Board is accepted at reasonable rates. Please contact the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) for more details.

The following is a shortened list of division volunteers. A complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives is available on the [7th Division website](#).

Superintendent	Victor Gilbert	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	superintendent@7divpnr.ca
Assistant Superintendent	Tim Horton	604-785-2860 (North Vancouver)	assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca
Secretary	Randy Nussli	250-380-6814 (Victoria)	secretary@7divpnr.ca
Treasurer	Larry Sebelley	604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)	treasurer@7divpnr.ca
Director at Large	Ken Rutherford	250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)	directoratlarge@7divpnr.ca
Membership Coordinator	Doug Hicks	604-421-0809 (Burnaby)	membership@7divpnr.ca
Webmaster	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	webmaster@7divpnr.ca
Bulletin Board Editor	Rob England	250-629-2006 (Pender Island)	bbeditor@7divpnr.ca
Achievement Program Coordinator	Mike Chandler, MMR	604-526-5078 (New Westminster)	achievementprogram@7divpnr.ca
Modeller's Help Desk	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	helpdesk@7divpnr.ca
Publicity Coordinator	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	publicity@7divpnr.ca