



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: A westbound freight enters a snow shed in Coquihalla Pass on Anthony Craig's Kettle Valley Division, one of the most impressive layouts in Vancouver. This year it will be providing one of the operating sessions at the Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC). If you haven't already signed up to attend RMMBC see the article on page 6.

Photo: Anthony Craig

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From the Editor's Desk

In addition to a front page redesign to adapt to the new NMRA publication standards, this issue contains an article on the upcoming Railway Modellers' Meet (RMMBC) and a review of three recently available books, in addition to all the standard content we are all used to. Unfortunately, it also contains an obituary for Marc Simpson, a member many of us have come to recognize as a friend. In addition to all he did for the hobby, Marc was one of the photographers I have come to rely on for coverage of division events. His unexpected and untimely death has come as a nasty blow.

As I mentioned in the last issue, I expect to step down as Bulletin Board editor after getting out the January 2027 edition. If this role is of any interest to you (it has many side benefits), let's have an exploratory chat. With no obligation, [send me an email](#) or give me a call at the phone number on page 11.

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 comments on one of the articles in this issue or 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

2026 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the 7th Division was held on Monday, March 9th, 2026, at 8 pm. As a part of the AGM, elections were held for Treasurer, Secretary, and Director at Large. There was an open call for nominations for these positions. The current Treasurer, Larry Sebelley, and the current Secretary, Randy Nussli, were re-elected by acclamation. There were no other nominees for these positions.

The current Director at Large, Ken Rutherford, has stepped down. The 7th Division Board decided that the Director at Large position would be expanded into three positions to better represent the Division. As a result, the three positions are Director at Large (Coastal), Director at Large (Interior), and Director at Large (Island).

Because Ken Rutherford lives on Vancouver Island, the Director at Large (Island) was open for election and the only nominee, Dan Rowsell, was elected by acclamation. Tom Carr was appointed to the Director at Large (Coastal) position, and Dave Marecek was appointed to the Director at Large (Interior) position.

The Board also decided the Director at Large (Coastal) and Director at Large (Interior) positions would be appointed for a one-year term and then become elected positions at the next elections. This results in the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director at Large (Coastal), and Director at Large (Interior) being elected in odd-numbered years, and the Treasurer, Secretary, and Director At Large (Island) being elected in even-numbered years.

Modelling Nights

With the success of the North Shore Modelling Night that was started by Tim Horton, the Division is expanding them. Starting in June the North Shore Modelling Night will be joined by ones in Victoria and Burnaby. We hope to expand to other areas: the Interior, Nanaimo, and the Fraser Valley. Of particular interest to the Division's Board is the Interior, although with the members spread out as they are it may be difficult. (See the March-April issue of the 7th Division's newsletter, the Bulletin Board, for membership dispersion.) 7th Division members should be watching their email for announcements of the modelling nights.

RMMBC 2026

The RMMBC 2026 meet is almost ready for prime time. The Online Kickoff will be on Thursday April 30th with a follow-up on May 14th. The in-person meet is May 22nd and will include operation sessions, layout tours, clinics, and many other features. As usual, the 7th Division's Member Awards will be presented. Check out the RMMBC website at <https://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca> for details and photos of past meets.

Train Shows

The Division had our publicity table at the Yarrow Community Model Train Swap Meet, the Sea to Sky Model Train and Hobby Show in Squamish, and the annual Nanaimo Model Railroad Show where we presented the new look of the NMRA. The shows were well attended, and we talked to many new and long-time members, as well as several interested in joining.



Photo: Victor Gilbert

General Comments

Your Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month. If you would like to attend, please contact me at superintendent@7divpnr.ca for a link to the Zoom meeting.

As always, I welcome new members whether you are just starting the hobby or have been modelling for years. 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.

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

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.

• Trevor Brown	Abbotsford	November 2025
• Clifford Manahan	Abbotsford	February 2026
• Laurence Styles	Sechelt	February 2026
• John Kabesh	Delta	February 2026
• Edward Kroeker	Langley	February 2026
• Daniel Watson	Vancouver	February 2026
• James Marshall	Abbotsford	March 2026

Upcoming Events

• Railway Modellers' Meet of BC	May 22 to 24, 2026
• Railway Day – Parksville Museum	August 23, 2026
• 34th Annual Victoria Model Railway Show	September 13, 2026
• Yarrow Community Model Train Swap Meet	TBD - November 2026
• Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show	March 2027
• Nanaimo Model Train Show	April 2027

Modelling Nights

Modelling Nights for those in the lower mainland are expanding. We are also starting one in Victoria. Starting in June, the North Shore Modelling Night will be joined by ones in Victoria and Burnaby. We hope to expand to Nanaimo, Fraser Valley and the Interior. Of particular interest to the Division's Board is the Interior, although with the members of that area spread out it may be difficult. (See the March-April issue of the Bulletin Board for membership dispersal.)

The North Shore Modelling Night, usually held on the first Friday of the month, will continue as before. Please RSVP to Assistant Superintendent Tim Horton, assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca. Directions will be sent via email the Thursday before the modelling night.

Not all modelling nights will be held on the same night, so members should watch their email for announcements of the modelling nights.

Bring a project with you and enjoy an evening of progress on your models, conversation, and collaboration.

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 Gold 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.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, or if you have an idea for the 7th 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.



RMMBC 2026 Has Kicked Off!

By John Geddes, RMMBC Publicity



Railway Modellers
MEET OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

As you read this, RMMBC 2026 is underway. Two sets of free online clinics, the first of which has already taken place, will be presented in the weeks before the in-person meet held at SFU. There is still time to register for the remaining events.

Online Clinics

The first set of online clinics occurred the evening of April 30th with three clinics by excellent presenters. A second set of online clinics will be presented by Zoom on May 14th at 7pm. Although it is free of charge to attend both sets of clinics, you need to register beforehand so you will be sent the Zoom details.

The May 14th set of clinics will include:

Time	Presenter	Clinic
7:00 to 7:05 pm		Welcome
7:05 to 7:45 pm	Matthieu Lachance	Scatchbuilding Madness
7:50 to 8:30 pm	Andrew Tyhurst	N-Possible Couplers
8:35 to 9:15 pm	Malcom Vant	Modelling Realistic Bushes and Wildflowers

Please check the RMMBC website at <https://railwaymodellermeeetofbc.ca/wp/> for more details on the clinics or to register.

In-Person Meet

The in-person meet will be held at SFU campus in Burnaby (Vancouver) on May 22nd to 24th. It will feature all your favourite events: Operating Sessions, Layout Tours, Clinics, Workshops, Model Displays, Meet the Modeller, Manufacturer Displays and, as is our tradition, it will include a few new things.

A special feature that is new for this year is the Burnaby Central Railway (BCR) garden railway tour (10 am) and the private shop tour (11 am) on Friday May 22nd. The full BC Society of Model Engineers facility will be open and operating. Come and ride the trains and, for those that want to sit and enjoy the action, the canteen will be open for light lunch items. The BCR can be found in Confederation Park at the north end of Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby. While you are at the BCR you can pick up your RMMBC registration packages.

[Click here to sign up for the RMMBC newsletter.](#)



ABOVE: The operating sessions and the layout tours are two of the most popular RMMBC activities. This photo show Al Lil's layout, which will be holding one of the operating sessions.

Photo: Al Lil

Three Interesting Books

By Les Bucher

These three books are all fairly recently published and could be of interest to anyone interested in BC or Canadian railways.

Kettle Valley Stories

Tales of the KVR – The Kettle Valley Railway Remembered; *By Barrie Sanford; National Railway Historical Society; 2021; 165 pages; \$21.95.*

Barrie Sanford, this book's author, has written a number of well-respected railway history books, the best known of which is McCulloch's Wonder, the classic history of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR). This book is not a history in the classic sense, but rather a collection of brief stories and other material related to the long-closed Kettle Valley Railway. One gets the impression that the author found himself with a collection of miscellaneous material that hadn't fit into his other books, and compiled those materials into this book.

The stories are related to a wide range of topics, including: the first female engineer who practised in BC, the naming of KVR stations, numerous stories of operational accidents, clearing the enormous snowfalls parts of the KVR were subject to, feeding railway workers, and a number of stories related to preservation of the KVR after it closed. There are a large number of photos (about 70), with most of them sized relatively small. Most are primarily focused on people rather than machinery, rolling stock or buildings.

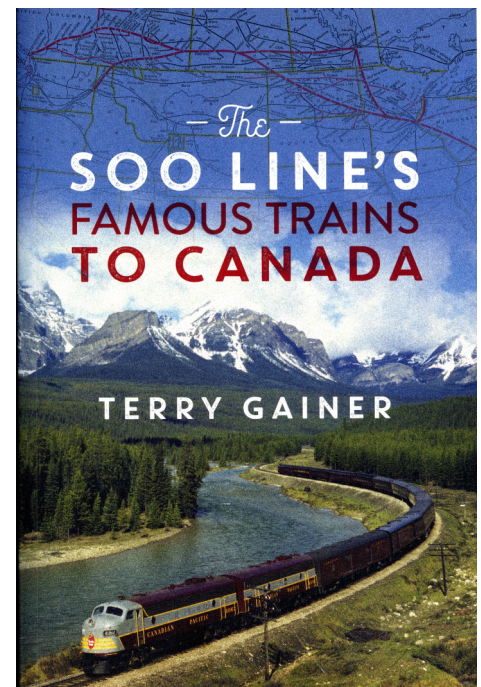
I found this book enjoyable. It is fairly short and a quick read, and the stories are well written and cover details that you probably wouldn't find in a more formal history. There is probably not a lot of content that could translate directly into models, but there are numerous operational details as well as a lot of interesting background information. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the KVR or Canadian Railway history in general. I purchased my copy at a local Coles bookstore.

The Soo Line's Canadian Passenger Trains

The Soo Line's Famous Trains to Canada; *By Terry Gainer; Rocky Mountain Books; 2023; 92 pages; \$20.*

This is Terry Gainer third book. His first, *When Trains Ruled the Rockies*, was reviewed in the March/April 2024 Bulletin Board. This book is a bit larger in size and has better production values, using better quality paper, more colour (although almost all the photographs are monochrome), and a more professional layout.

The first third of the book provides a brief general history of the Soo Line, describing it's troubled birth, it's early practice of routing passenger trains both east and west through Canada to avoid competition, and the company's absorption over time into the CPR system. The remainder of the book concentrates on the various trains that the Soo Line sent into or through Canada, finally ending in the sixties with cancellation of all



passenger service.

I enjoyed this book. It is acceptably well written and deals with a subject that I knew little about. It is not likely to be a source of much modelling content, but it could provide some information that could affect operations of a CPR layout as well as provide a lot of interesting general railway information. I would recommend it to anyone with a CPR or a more general train interest.

VIA Rail History, With Lots of Photos

People Moving People – The History of Via Rail Canada; By Kevin J. Holland; Rapido Trains Inc.; 2022; 288 pages; \$79.95.

The author of this book, Kevin Holland, is a well known railway historian with a long list of past publications and positions such as current editor of CN Lines, the CNR Historical Association journal. The publisher, Rapido Trains, might be a less expected publisher for many modellers, but they have published books before.

The first impression one gets when picking up the book is one of quality. It is a hardback volume (the other two books in this review are paperback), with a beautiful cover, very nice paper inside, great photo content and wonderful book design. If you then notice the price, you may be set back a little, but it doesn't seem totally out of line. Many of the photos in the first two chapters are products of VIA's publicity department, with carefully posed subjects, impeccable lighting, and ultra-crisp focus. You get a distinct "coffee table book" impression. However, the photos in the remaining seven chapters are largely "real", with weathered equipment, non-perfect weather, and subjects that have jobs to do and aren't too concerned with the photographer.

The text, once you get past the foreword written by a cabinet minister, covers the history of a wide range of VIA topics: on board services, the many routes, stations and communities served (or formerly served) by VIA, political history, promotional history, VIA's ever changing fleet, and maintenance of the fleet. The text is well written, with a high level of detail.

I would definitely recommend this book for anyone interested in Canadian railway history, and especially the history of Canadian passenger rail service. The book's many excellent photos and high level of detail would help anyone modelling VIA services (and VIA service could be modelled on almost any Canada-based layout set in the last forty or so years). And, if nothing else, you can always use it as coffee table book, although it is very much more than that!



7th Division Time Table

The following events are coming up and may be of interest to 7th Division members. Check out the identified website for more information.

May 13-16, 2026 – The **2026 PNR Convention** will be held in Tigard, Oregon, a suburb of Portland. There is now a fair bit of information available on the [event website](#).

May 22-24, 2026 – **Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) 2026** – BC's top meet for railway modellers will be back this year with the features you have come to know and love. The new [RMMBC website](#) is now online, and is being filled with information on the meet as it becomes available. Also, check out the article on [page 6](#) of this issue.

August 23, 2026 – **Railway Day, Parksville Museum** – This small show has received good reviews in previous years, but they seem to be a bit late getting information out this year. If you are interested, check out the [events page for the Parksville Museum](#) for information a little closer to the show's date.

September 13, 2026 – **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. More details are coming in the September Bulletin Board. Stay tuned!

August 10–15, 2027 – **2027 NMRA National Convention, Puget Sound Express**, Tacoma, Washington. The NMRA National Convention only comes to our corner of the world every ten to fifteen years, and attending it is usually very worthwhile. Who knows what the political situation will be by then? There are few details available yet but by all means check out the convention website: <https://2027.nmra.org/>

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 a quick email to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) describing it.



Obituary

Marc Simpson

By Rob England

Marc's death came as a great shock to those who knew him. He died on April 22nd after a brief illness, having appeared to be in vigorous health only shortly before.

Marc grew up in Manitoba and attended the University of Manitoba where he graduated in 1991 with a B.Sc. in Geology. That led to a career spanning 35 years as a highly respected geologist and exploration company executive.

Marc was a very active and much respected member of the railway modelling and historical community. Many knew him through his dedication and contributions to railway modelling and history. He wrote many articles in CN Lines and a variety of other print and online publications, and provided leadership in the Canadian National Railways Historical Association, where last October he assumed the role of Chair. He contributed heavily in the Vancouver area with his years of service to the annual Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC), serving initially in charge of publicity and, later, of clinics. Marc presented many clinics himself on weathering and other topics. Many have been impressed with his Hudson Bay Railway home layout, and his beautifully finished CNR buildings and rolling stock models, large numbers of which Marc displayed at the RMMBC.

Marc will be deeply missed by his beloved wife and family, his many friends, and the countless members of the railway hobby community whose lives he touched.



**Above: Marc in a business head-shot.
Photographer unknown**



**Above: Marc in a happier situation, at
an RMMBC operating session.
Photo: Scott Calvert**

Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. Note that the views and opinions stated in the Bulletin Board do not necessarily reflect those of the NMRA or its regions or divisions. Bulletin Board contents are protected by copyright and may only be copied or republished with permission.

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 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 (Island)	Dan Rowsell	250-507-9728 (Victoria)	directoratlarge@7divpnr.ca
Director at Large (Coastal)	Tom Carr	604-463-9156 (Maple Ridge)	directoratlarge-coastal@7divpnr.ca
Director at Large (Interior)	Dave Marecek	TBD (Vernon)	directoratlarge-interior@7divpnr.ca
Membership Coordinator	Doug Hicks	604-421-0809 (Burnaby)	membership@7divpnr.ca
Bulletin Board Editor	Rob England	604-377-4898 (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