



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: The Railway Modellers' Meet of BC, held in May and returned to its old SFU location, opens with a keynote presentation by well-known modeller Tony Thompson. Check out the article on the meet on page 8.

Photo by Marc Simpson

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor's Desk.....	2
Superintendent's Message and Adding Value.....	2
Vancouver Train Expo 2023 Update.....	5
2024 PNR Regional Convention.....	7
RMMBC 2023 Report.....	8

Award Presentations.....	10
Victoria Model Railway Club Layout.....	12
7th Division Time Table.....	14
Obituaries.....	18
Notices and Contacts.....	20

From the Editor's Desk

We have lots of content this issue, making this the largest edition since I became editor three and a half years ago.

We have a report on last May's Railway Modellers' Meet of BC along with short articles on the two awards that were presented there. In addition, we have information on upcoming events, including the 2023 Vancouver Train Expo coming in November, and the 2024 PNR Regional Convention to be held next May in Surrey. We also have a short article on the display of Victoria Model Railway Club's portable layout in a Victoria mall this summer, something that other clubs might want to consider doing.

On a less positive note, we also have a couple of obituaries covering the deaths of two 7th Division railway modellers. It's been a year and a half since we published the last obituary but I guess our luck has run out.

If you have any comments on this issue, or if you are thinking about maybe providing your fellow 7th Division members with an article on something important to you, or if you just have some photos or some news or information that should be in the next edition, please send me an email at r.england@computer.org.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Well, summer is winding down, and school is about to start. As the weather starts to cool (hopefully), we will start to return to indoor activities and start to settle down into our winter routines. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the firefighters who are battling the wildfires around our division and express the condolences of our membership to the family and friends who lost their lives this year. I do not recall so many being lost in seasons past. All of us are truly grateful for the efforts of the Firefighters, Police, Nurses, and Doctors on our behalf.

RMMBC

The Railway Modelers' Meet of British Columbia (RMMBC) was held in May 2023. The “virtual prologues” were well attended. The in-person meet on the weekend of May 26th was a return to its traditional home at Simon Fraser University. Onsite activities included a keynote address by Tony Thompson, numerous in-person clinics, tabletop clinics, display rooms and group discussions. There was also a display room for local manufacturers, which was well-patronized. Offsite activities included layout tours, operating sessions, and a prototype tour of the G3 grain terminal in North Vancouver. A total of 98 people attended. See the [RMMBC website](#) for details.

Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's 7th Division Awards:

The Jack Work Memorial Trophy: Tim Horton

The Ross Heriot Gold Spike Award: John Martin

The Railway Heritage Award: Doug Mayer

More information about these awards can be found on the [7th Division's website](#).

Achievement Program

The Achievement Program (AP) is a great way to improve and enhance your modelling skills.

The Golden Spike is the easiest and, for many people, the first AP award that they earn. It is designed to demonstrate familiarity with different areas of the hobby rather than expertise in a particular area. So, take a

look at the requirements - you may find that you have met most or all of them already. Here's the [Golden Spike Award Application Form](#). Use it as a checklist, and you may surprise yourself. Congratulations to the following people:

Golden Spike Awards:

- Bernie Dansereau
- Doug Hicks

AP Certificates:

- Doug Hicks – Electrical

The Surrey Excursion – PNR Convention 2024

Replacing the RMMBC for 2024 will be the “Surrey Excursion”, the PNR 2024 Convention, and as such, will be an NMRA member-only event. RMMBC will be back in its original form in 2025. The convention will be held in Surrey, BC, at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel. The committee is made up of most of the RMMBC committee, so the event will be as good as we have come to expect. The event will be from May 22nd through the 26th, 2024.

The 7th Division Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in November. The date has yet to be determined. It is election time once again. This year we will be electing the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Ken Rutherford will be the Returning Officer this year. Please contact him with nominations by clicking [here](#). Additionally, at the AGM, we will be presenting a Special Resolution to allow us to better comply with the Societies Act. The AGM will be via ZOOM to allow more of the membership to attend. An email from the Division’s Secretary will be sent shortly.

Central Hobbies

I am sure most of you know that Central Hobbies has closed and that InterCity Trains and Hobbies will be opening in Langley, BC. They will be carrying the North American equipment and brands that we are used to, but also European equipment and brands. From their Facebook page, “Current estimate to open is sometime August 21-28 (don't hold us to that as we have some inspections to pass first to get our business license!) with our Grand Opening September 9th.” Keep up to date by checking out [their Facebook page](#).

The retirement party the Burnaby Central Railway, BCSME, put on was very nice. There were a lot of people there to pass on their thanks and well wishes. The folks at the Burnaby Central Railway put on a good shindig. The 7th Division wishes Hal all the best in his retirement. We also wish Kathy and Bill the best in the future.

Condolences

It is with a heavy heart that we must pay our respects to our members that have passed away. The entire 7th Division extends its condolences to all the family and friends.

BILL ACKLAND, MMR #149 (November 26, 1937 – February 15, 2023)

HEINZ HEYER (July 13, 1941 – May 12, 2023)

Division Website

Work continues on the 7th Division website (slowly). If you have the desire to volunteer and have some web design skills, we are looking for a web admin for the 7th Division. And the login process to the Members Only section has changed. You will now need your NMRA member number to login. Passwords were not able to be copied from the old access. To get your new password, click on the “Forgot Password” link, and a temporary password will be sent to the email address we have on file for you. If you do not receive a temporary password shortly after it has been requested, check your Junk Mail and Spam folders. If there is still no password, please get in touch with webmaster@7divpnr.ca.

Adding Value to Your Membership

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Awards

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

If someone 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 Helpdesk

We are here to help. If you need a solution or an idea for your layout, ask the "Modeller's Help Desk," listed on the [About Us page of the 7th Division website](#) or the last page of this Bulletin Board.

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 number, old email address, and new email address. We will update our records and pass the information to Regional and National.

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 contact me at victor@sugarwood.info.

WE NEED YOU!

New Members

Please welcome the following new 7th Division members and work to ensure they are included in our events.

• Bill Staffrod	Victoria	January
• David Morgan	Maple Ridge	January
• Ian Mooney	Prince George	January
• Corilane Gwyneth Huhn	Cumberland	February
• Brett Williams	Chilliwack	March
• Joey Thorndyke	Campbell River	March
• Ian Marshall	Abbotsford	March
• Stuart MacLeod	Victoria	March
• Chester MacHniewski	Gibsons	March
• Keith Griffiths	New Westminster	March
• Anton Zuger	Nanaimo	April
• Geoff Franklin	North Vancouver	April
• Janell Bawtree	Salmon Arm	April
• Robin Mann	Surrey	May
• Harish Verma	North Vancouver	June
• Grant Smith	Vancouver	July
• Mateo Martinez	Coquitlam	July
• Leif Bjornson	Powell River	July

Vancouver Train Expo Update

By Tom Lundgren, Leader, Vancouver Train Expo

The hobby needs you!

Vancouver Train Expo 2023 will occur at the Forum at the Pacific National Exhibition on Saturday November 4th from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and on Sunday November 5th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Setup will be on Friday November 3rd.

Advance preparations are well in hand with the venue, furnishings supplier, and electrical contractor all lined up. Registrations opened early in June. So far, we are ahead of previous year's registrations, including some new vendors and exhibitors. Registrations by exhibitors providing hands-on activities for children is the one soft spot. The exhibitor of one of the most popular children's exhibits has retired and another significant exhibitor's participation is in doubt. Please let us know if you are aware of any potential exhibitor offering activities for children.

The objective of Vancouver Train Expo is to promote model railroading as a hobby, consistent with the core mission of the NMRA. It is the sole reason I spend my spare time organizing the event. I think it fair to say this is also the motivator for my fellow organizing committee members. We need your help.

Entertaining the public is the most important aspect of this show in terms of its continued existence. After three quiet years, this is the opportunity to sell this hobby. We need to make as much contact as we can. Your active participation can make a real difference. For exhibitors, active participation means interacting with the guests, especially those of you who are exhibitors and vendors. Be an active proponent through personal initiative during the public hours. Smile at people, ask them questions about why they are attending, direct them to other displays. Be more than a supporter. Be an active promoter!

For the rest of us train enthusiasts, active participation means telling people about the event beforehand (we have posters you can hand out, just ask for them) and signing up as a volunteer on event days.



We can use your assistance in the usual ways, particularly collecting admission fees. A list of tasks follows. Contact me at chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca or contact any committee member whom you know already. A few hours assisting while you are already at the show can make a difference by sharing the load, and it gets you free admission!

Some more enthusiastic people to act as assistants to members of the Organizing Committee will be important for future continuity. If you are even mildly interested, please contact me: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca

Thanks to you for supporting the hobby! We look forward to seeing you in November!



Volunteer Positions November 3 to 5, 2023

Interested in helping put on Vancouver Train Expo 2023? If you have a couple of hours of free time please consider volunteering to help put on the show. Volunteers are needed to fill the following positions. Volunteers get free admission, and your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca

Friday Nov. 3th

Floor Layout – marking out the location of exhibits

9:00 to 12:00

Set-up – helping with table and chair setup, exhibitors and vendors carrying in materials

12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 16:00, 16:00 to 18:00

Traffic Control – directing exhibitors, vehicle control, some outside work

12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 18:00, 16:00 to 18:00, 18:00 to 20:00

Door Security – monitoring entrance / exit doors

12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 18:00, 16:00 to 18:00, 18:00 to 20:00

Saturday Nov. 4th

Traffic Control – directing exhibitors, vehicle control, some outside work

8:00 to 10:00

Attendee Line Monitor – directing people to ticket sales stations

9:30 to 12:00, 12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 16:00, 16:00 to 18:00

Ticket Sales – handling admission fees

9:30 to 12:00, 11:45 to 14:00, 13:45 to 16:00, 15:45 to 17:30

Tickets – handing out tickets

9:30 to 12:00, 11:45 to 14:00, 13:45 to 16:00, 15:45 to 17:30

Door Security – monitoring exit door and hand stamping for those wishing to reenter

8:00 to 10:00, 10:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 16:00, 16:00 to 18:00

Sunday Nov. 5th

Attendee Line Monitor – directing people to ticket sales stations

9:30 to 12:00, 12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 16:00

Ticket Sales – handling admission fees

9:30 to 12:00, 11:45 to 14:00, 13:45 to 16:00

Tickets – handing out tickets

9:30 to 12:00, 11:45 to 14:00, 13:45 to 16:00

Door Security – monitoring exit door and hand stamping for those wishing to reenter

8:00 to 10:00, 10:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 14:00, 14:00 to 16:00, 16:00 to 17:00

Traffic Control – directing exhibitors, vehicle control, some outside work

16:00 to 19:00

Takedown – assisting with hall clean up, assisting exhibitors pack up

16:45 to 19:00

Surrey Excursion – the PNR 2024 Regional Convention

By Lori Sebelley, Convention Chair

Looking for a train event to attend in May 2024?? Well, look no further!! Registration and Hotel Reservations are now open.

This convention will take place May 22-26, 2024, and be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey, BC. The convention is called Surrey Excursion.

Hotel guest room rates will start at \$165.00 plus taxes (Canadian dollars) per night. There is a grace period of three days either side of the convention dates to receive the preferred rate for anyone wishing to do some exploring. For those guests staying overnight in the hotel, we have negotiated complimentary parking and WiFi to save you \$25.00 per day. A daily parking fee will be charged for those not staying in the hotel.

All clinics, display/contest, banquet, and non-rail rooms will be located on the second floor of the hotel. There is access to all these rooms by conveniently located elevators.

Access to self-guided layout tours, contests, displays, AP evaluation, clinics, operation sessions, and in house non-rail activities are included in the registration pricing.

There will be optional additional pricing for Modeling with the Masters®, banquet with a guest speaker, as well as a raffle. We are also offering two escorted prototype tours to the G3 Grain Terminal in North Vancouver on Thursday May 23. One will be in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

Registration fees for Full Fare registration rates are as follows.

From	To	Full Fare Registration
September 1, 2023	December 31, 2023	\$129.00
January 1, 2024	March 31, 2024	\$149.00
April 1, 2024		\$169.00
Non-Rail		\$50.00
Youth (under 19 years of age)		\$10.00

Our website and registration are open now along with a link to the hotel to reserve your room. Please remember, all pricing is quoted in Canadian dollars.

Because this convention is sponsored by the National Model Railroad Association you must be an NMRA member to attend.

Canadian residents can join NMRA Canada at a full yearly rate of \$40.00 Canadian [at this link](#) or a 6-month RailPass trial membership for \$19.95 [at this link](#). People living outside Canada can join via [this link](#).

NOTE: There will be no Railway Modellers Meet of BC in 2024 but it will resume in 2025.

Check out the website and please check back often for additional updates. Head on over to <https://pnr2024.7divpnr.ca/> to get in early and save money!

See you in 2024 at Surrey Excursion!



2023 Railway Modellers' Meet of BC a Success

By Rob England

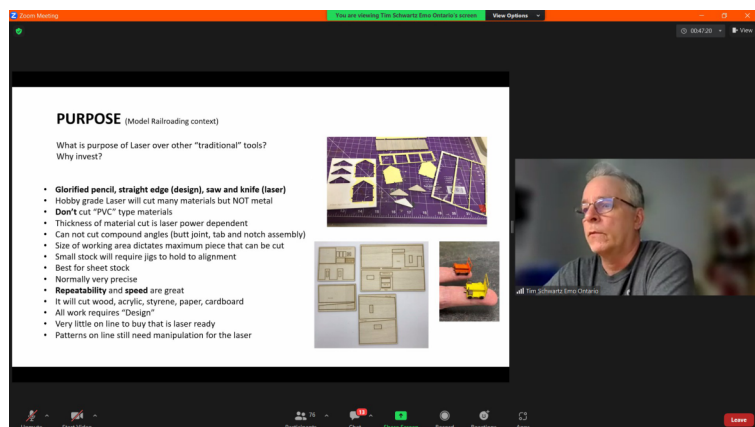
The Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) is the 7th Division's largest modeller-focussed event. It has been held, in one form or another, for at least 35 years.

Last year RMMBC was primarily an online event with a one-day, one room in-person event held at a New Westminster community centre. This year it returned to a full-on in-person meet at its familiar Simon Fraser University (SFU) location. The organizing committee had learned during the pandemic that Zoom-based clinics allowed easy access for 7th Division members living outside of the lower mainland, leading to the inclusion of two evening "virtual prologues" of online clinics in this year's RMMBC.

SFU provides a easily accessed venue in the middle of the Lower Mainland, with food services and inexpensive accomodation. It also provides lecture halls ideal for presenting clinics, with adjacent rooms well suited for displays and other purposes.

The online "virtual prologues" each included four clinics provided over Zoom, while the in-person event at SFU included fourteen clinics in two concurrent streams. The in-person event included a very successful prototype tour of a new grain terminal in North Vancouver, along with two operating sessions held at a number of layouts and an evening layout tour in Surrey and Langley. The in-person meet also included model displays, commercial displays, meet-up sessions and a number of other events and sessions.

Next year RMMBC will take a year off to allow the 7th Division to put on the 2024 PNR Convention, but it will be back in 2025! In the meantime, have a look at the following photos taken during this year's RMMBC.



ABOVE: Tim Schwartz presents his clinic on laser tools via Zoom during one of the "Virtual Prologues".

Photo by Rob England



ABOVE: Rene Gourley opens the in-person meet.

Photo by Marc Simpson



LEFT: A clinic being presented in the smaller of the two lecture halls.
Photo by Marc Simpson

RIGHT: One of several meet-up group discussion sessions, This one is for people interested in railway history.
Photo by Marc Simpson



LEFT: A few models built by Marc Simpson on display in the model display room.
Photo by Marc Simpson

RIGHT: A few meet attendees have a look at what is on offer in the manufacturer display room.
Photo by Marc Simpson





**LEFT: RMMBC attendees working the Nelson yard in one of the operating sessions held at Scott Calvert's layout.
Photo by Marc Simpson**

Awards

Jack Work Trophy Awarded to Tim Horton

by Jim Little, MMR, Jack Work Memorial Trophy Coordinator

The Jack Work Memorial Trophy is presented to the 7th Division member who best exhibits the qualities that Jack Work displayed, namely: imagination, creativity, innovation, artistry, forward thinking, quality workmanship, and the sharing of the results of these qualities with the rest of the hobby. Nominees must be a member of the 7th Division of the PNR for a minimum of two consecutive years. Recipients may only be awarded the Trophy once.

This year's recipient is Tim Horton. Tim is the current 7th Division Assistant Superintendent. He has gone to great lengths to share his knowledge by authoring books on his beloved railway and presenting numerous clinics at the RMMBC in-person meets. His knowledge and modelling of BC Rail is extensive.

Congratulations Tim!



**LEFT: Tim Horton (on the left) is awarded the Jack Work Trophy by Jim Little at the RMMBC in May.
Photo by Marc Simpson**

Awards

Railway Heritage Award Presented to Doug Mayer

By Ken Rutherford, Heritage Award Co-ordinator

The Railway Heritage Award is presented annually, when appropriate, to a current member of the 7th Division who has contributed in a meaningful way to the preservation of railway history. To be considered for the award, the nominee shall have performed one or more of the following:

- have been a member of an historical association or society that works on the preservation and presentation of railway history and artifacts
- have contributed to the preservation of railway history through published writings or through volunteer work on restoration projects
- have exhibited a substantial interest in the history of railways in British Columbia and its preservation; or contributed many hours volunteering with an operating heritage railway
- have participated substantially in some other significant way to preserve railway heritage

A candidate for this award is nominated by his or her peers, and the chosen recipient must be recommended by the award co-ordinator and approved by the 7th Division Board of Directors.

This year's recipient, Doug Mayer, has been associated with the Revelstoke Railway Museum for over 30 years. He is the author of six books on the Canadian Pacific Railway's Revelstoke Division and has researched far and wide to collect the data for these books. The books are available through the Revelstoke Railway Museum's website and all proceeds go to the museum. Doug has also been an active member of the group of modellers that have built a model railroad in the museum to show visitors some of the highlights of the Division. Last but not least he has been very active in the storage and sorting of the Ferrier Collection of CPR drawings that were donated to the 7th Division and are now being held by the Revelstoke Railway Museum. (Note: when the drawings are completely sorted and catalogued they will be sent to the Canadian Pacific Historical Association to be scanned and returned to the museum for safe storage. The scans will be available online for members of the 7th Division to access.)

It was my pleasure to present Doug with this year's award.



ABOVE: Doug Mayer (on the right) is awarded the Railway Heritage Award by Ken Rutherford at the RMMBC in May.

Photo by Marc Simpson

Victoria Model Railway Club Public Display

Text and photos by Bob Thompson

Some of you are familiar with the very large modular model railway layout of the Victoria Model Railway Club. In its largest form it is about 32' x 60'. When not set up at a public model train show it lives in a 24' utility trailer parked in a member's yard. We would love a permanent home where the layout could be set up between shows and used by the members but such a facility has been elusive. We have had temporary homes in the past but not for several years.

Earlier this year one of our new members took up the search by approaching several shopping centres with empty stores to see if we could use one in exchange for opening to the public two or three times a week. The new owners of Tillicum Centre in Saanich were receptive as we had set up the layout there during Spring Break in March 2022. We opened to the public on June 9 this year and were open every Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday afternoon through to Labour Day. We took the next three weeks of our tenancy to do some much needed repairs and upgrades before moving the layout to Sidney for the annual Victoria Model Train Show. Over the remaining months of 2023 Tillicum Centre will play host to a number of events which pay to use the space we were given for free.

Our display at Tillicum Centre has been a great success. The public found the display very interesting and educational. It drew people in that didn't normally patronize the mall and the other merchants noticed the increase in customer traffic. In addition to the layout and its trains we hung railway-related art and memorabilia in the show window and on the walls. We also invited displays from the likes of Craigdarroch Castle and the Royal BC Museum. We garnered several new members from our time at the mall as we did in 2022.

We will continue to look for a long term home but the short term stay at Tillicum Centre was a rewarding experience and we encourage other model railway clubs to pursue a similar arrangement in their region. There is a possibility of going back to Tillicum Centre in the new year which we would welcome. The down side of free space in a shopping mall is that we will have to move out when a paying tenant is found, but until then we get to promote the hobby and play with our trains!



ABOVE: Victoria Model Railway Club's layout installed in an unused store space in Tillicum Mall.



LEFT: The layout, along with walls decorated with displays, as seen from the entrance door.

RIGHT: The layout with club members at work, as seen from the right side of the store space. The space has excellent general lighting.



LEFT: The public enthusiastically views the layout as a freight approaches the camera on the left.

[illegible]

September 24, 2023 – **Victoria Model Railway Show** – Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave., Sidney (corner of Highway 17 and Beacon Ave.). Operating model railways and displays, commercial and individual sales. Free parking. Open 10 am to 4 pm. See poster on the following page. (No website)

October 14, 2023 – **Cloverdale Community Train Show** – Shannon Hall, Cloverdale Fairground, 6050 - 176 Street, Surrey, open 10 am - 4 pm, free parking. See poster on page 16. (No website)

April 14, 2024 – **Nanaimo Model Train Show** – Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC. See website for more details: <https://www.nanaimotrainshow.com/>

If you are organizing or helping with an event, or even 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.



31ST ANNIVERSARY - VICTORIA'S ANNUAL

Model Railway Show

2023

Sunday, Sept 24th
10 am - 4 pm

Mary Winspear Centre

2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney

Free Parking

**Operating Model Railroads
Commercial & Individual
Sales & Displays**

For More Information:

Ted Alexis ph: (250) 595-4070

Admissions

Adults \$8

Family \$16

NMRA/PNR Members \$7

Youth \$7

Children (8 and under) FREE

when accompanied by an adult

Supporters of C-Fax Santa's
Anonymous, the Times Colonist
Christmas Fund.

Supported by B.C Hobbies



Layout by Wayne Paulsen | Photo by Dan Rowsell

Cloverdale Community Train Show

October 14, 2023 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Cloverdale Fairgrounds - Shannon Hall
6050 176 St., Surrey, BC**



**Lots of Free Parking
♻️ Wheelchair Accessible ♻️
Sales of Model Trains
of all scales, books,
magazines, scenery,
photographs, DVDs,
videos, a wide variety
of hobby items and
much more.**

**Contact Coordinator at cloverdaletrainshow@gmail.com for more info
Entry Fee: 3-12 \$3, 13-59 \$8, 60+ \$5, Family \$15**

Please use entrance off 62nd Avenue



ALL ABOARD

THE 38TH

VANCOUVER TRAIN EXPO

BC'S LARGEST TRAIN SHOW!

44,000 sq. ft. of display space filled with operating model train setups in all scales, historical society displays, vendors of new and pre-owned merchandise, modeling displays, and activities for children of all ages!

SAT NOV 4, 2023 • 10AM-6PM
SUN NOV 5, 2023 • 10AM-5PM

PNE FORUM

NE corner of Hastings and Renfrew Streets, Vancouver

Adults: \$15 • Seniors (60+): \$10 • Youth (6-15 yrs): \$5 • Children under 6 yrs: free
Bring the whole family: only \$35! • NMRA members (with membership card): \$10



 FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
Vancouver Train Expo

VANCOUVERTRAINEXPO.CA

Obituary

William (Bill) Ackland, MMR #149

Prepared from an obituary by Bill's family

Bill was born in Brockville, Ontario, on November 26, 1937. He grew up swimming, skating, and boating on the St. Lawrence River. As a young man, he was a proud member of Scouts Canada. In his teenage years he enjoyed driving cars and motorcycles. Bill's father, Edgar, introduced him to model railroading at an early age and he developed a passion for trains that became the primary focus of his life.

In 1966 he moved to Waterloo to attend the University of Waterloo Electrical Engineering program. He designed several electric motors, for which Electrohome, his employer, was awarded patents. In 1969 Bill started his first HO scale model railway layout. Gathering other people who had an interest in the hobby, he formed the Doubleheader's Model Railway Club and sat on the board for many years. Much gratitude goes to the Doubleheader's members who continue to support his legacy, promote the hobby, and coordinate an annual layout tour for people to enjoy.

Bill built a custom home in Puslinch, Ontario, in 1975. There he expanded his layout, completed the scenery, built the structures, painted the people, and hosted weekly operating sessions. This layout became widely known as the STR Railroad. Bill was thrilled to host the STR operators every Monday night and was always interested in helping other people build their layouts. After working hard to meet the requirements, Bill achieved the honour of Master Model Railroader (MMR) from the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

In 2008, at the age of 70, Bill made the decision to move to Victoria, BC, where he established a new life with his partner Barbara Mellet. They had many adventures travelling around and exploring the province. In his spare time, Bill started to build N scale trains and structures based on the Kaslo and Slocan Railway.

Due to health issues, Bill returned to Ontario in 2019 to be near his daughter in Guelph. During his period of declining health, he enjoyed having many of his trains and handmade railroad structures around him.

On February 15, 2023, Bill peacefully boarded the train for his final destination. He is fondly remembered by all the people he connected with through railway modelling.



Obituary

Heinz Heyer

Prepared from information from Heinz's family

Heinz Werner Heyer was born in Germany on July 13, 1941, and immigrated to Canada in his early 20's. A machinist by trade, Heinz was a sign maker when he moved to the Sunshine Coast 30 years ago. At an early age he developed a love for model railroading, which was a passion he kept all his life. Heinz was a long-time active member of the 7th Division and the Sunshine Coast Model Railroad Club.

Heinz's family announced his passing in Sechelt on May 12, 2023. In the obituary she prepared, Heinz's wife Judy said:

... as for his many railroad friends, what can I say? You surrounded him with love and kindness and kept his spirits up. He couldn't have managed without you, and neither could I.

Two brief memoirs of Heinz, prepared by Jake Swaney and Graham Stokes, can be viewed in the [August 2023 issue of the PNR Switchlist](#). The memoirs are on page 10.

Heinz will be long remembered by his many railway modelling friends.



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 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](#).

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