

Report of the Ross Heriot Memorial Gold Spike Award - 2021.

Prepared for the 7th Division PNR NMRA Annual General Meeting 18 November 2021

I hope that the next presentation of the Ross Heriot award will occur at the 7th Division Railway Modellers Meet of British Columbia Opening Keynote on a weekend late in May 2023.

Since my last report, there have been a few nominations received for the Ross Heriot Gold Spike Memorial award. While some other names have been previously submitted but after consideration by a small committee of previous recipients of this honour they are being reserved.

Since the award was first presented in 1968, it has been made to 46 individuals and not awarded in 9 years. In some years the award has been made to two people in the same year. A list of previous recipients is available both on the 7th Division Web Site and below.

"The award is presented annually to the individual or individuals in the PNR 7th Division who has made a significant contribution to the division. It is in appreciation of his/her unselfish devotion of time and effort to further the aims of the NMRA, the PNR and the hobby of model railroading through assistance and service for the benefit of all model railroaders within the division.

The award is a once-in-a-lifetime presentation and candidates are nominated by their peers."

Who was Ross Heriot??

To answer this I would share a tribute to Ross Heriot by this longtime friend Spike Brown as printed in the October 1976 edition of the bulletin Board

IN TRIBUTE TO ROSS

We have lost a good and true friend. We will miss him keenly, as will all those who knew him.

ROBERT ROSS HERIOT of Vancouver, B.C., known to us as Ross, for decades a stalwart supporter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Made what he would have termed himself, his "last run" on September 18, 1976, after a lengthy illness.

It is difficult to say goodbye to Ross in an adequate way, for he was a man of unique characteristics, and men of his stature are few. He was loved by a host of friends, and respected even by the few who were not and only had themselves to blame for their impoverishment, for he had a deep affection for people. He had, too, a strong interest in model railroading, extending from his own Dominion Steel Railroad to all aspects of the hobby and those associated with it. How much he did in his unadvertised way to give assistance to those in the hobby, and to those not init, is impossible to estimate, but it is certain that he enriched all he contacted, because of his sincere and always ready desire to contribute to their welfare. Ross's absence from functions of the 7th Division and the PNR will be hard to accept, for he was an integral part, attending all affairs religiously. His cheerful wit and the cigar that was almost a trademark will be sorely missed.

All of us in the PNR are deep in debt to Ross for what he accomplished. Although not a Scot by birth, he inherited admirable Celtic traits by ancestry in that he was tenacious to his ideals, and determined in approaching objectives, resulting in him getting things done to the benefit of the Region at all levels. In all his activities he was forthright and honest.

He was diligent in the formation of the 7th Division's Standing Committee of which he was a charter member. (The first meeting of the committee was held at his home in December, 1959)., For many years he was a guiding factor in the Vancouver HO Model Railroad Club operating in the Canadian National Railways' station, holding various offices; served as Vice-President of the 7th Division; was for a record number of terms President of the PNR, receiving the Region's highest recognition for contribution, the PNR Man of the Year Award; served as Vice-President, Western Area, NMRA, and was a Vice-chairman of the 1965 NMRA Totemland Convention held in Vancouver that year. Ross was, in many other ways, constantly active in fields of our hobby, such as being mailing agent of "The Dispatcher", published by the 7th Division for over five years 1960-65). Even though he will no longer be with us, his name will remain legend in the Pacific Northwest Region, and far beyond it, as it has been for many, many years.

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His wife, Sylvia, asks that the army of friends who expressed their good wishes during his illness with cards, letters, gifts, and visits, receive her gratitude, and also those who attended the 1976 PNR Convention in Seattle and were concerned with the special cards and other items sent to Ross, accept her appreciation of their thoughtfulness.

Members of the 7th Division and the PNR extend their sympathy to Sylvia and her family, and to Ross' relatives, offering assurance that he will not be forgotten.

In his editorial column in the October 1976 issue of the 7th division "Bulletin Board" newsletter the editor of the day - the late Art Jones wrote:

"It is with regret that we realise our esteemed -member, Ross Heriot, has been taken away from us. Our sincerest condolences are with Ross's wife, Sylvia, and her family, from the standing committee and all the membership.

Spike Brown has graciously consented to put our thoughts in writing, which is included in this issue of the Bulletin Board.

I look forward to continuing receiving nominations of additional worthy members who meet the award requirements. These nominations need not be complicated documents, all that is needed is a letter or email to John Green or our superintendent Victor Gilbertson, containing the name of the person being nominated and a few lines with supporting reasons for this nomination.

I look forward to receiving your written recommendations via email, Snail-mail or hand delivered.

Respectfully submitted both for your consideration and for your action.

John Green

Ross Heriot Gold Spike Award Winners

2022 Lori Sebelley	PNR President's Award	2022	1992 Scott Calvert,	also PNR POY in 1993
2021 Graham Stokes			1991 Ken Davis	also PNR POY in 1965
2020 -			1990 Dick Sutcliffe,	also PNR POY in 2000
2019 Tom Lundgren			1989 Steve Stark	
2018 René Gourley			1988 Bert Battey	
2017 No Award – presentation date moved			1987 Carl Sparks	
2016 Mike Chandler, MMR			1986 Phil Magnall	
2015 Greg Kennelly			1985 Shirley and Rob Heap	
2014 Greg Madsen	also PNR POY in 1988		1984 Brian Pate	
2013 -			1983 George Biel	
2012 Eric Reynard			1982 Tom Beaton	also PNR POY in 1983
2011 Bill Dixon			1981 Hank Menkveld	also PNR POY in 1985
2010 Bob Gardner, MMR			1980 Art Jones	
2009 Larry Sebelley			1979 -	
2008 Mike Barone			1978 Ken Griffiths	
2007 John Zuk			1977 Ken Vere	
2006 Dave Tomljenovich			1976 -	
2005 Russ Watson			1975 Fraser Wilson	
2004 -			1974 -	
2003 -			1973 Doug Stevenson	also PNR POY in 1975
2002 -			1972 Cyril Meadows	
2001 Ted Alexis			1971 Doug Harmon	
2000 Ken Rutherford and Rick Lord			1970 Phil Crawley	
1999 Gary Hazell,	also PNR POY in 1995		1969 Norm Szun	
1998 John Green			1968 Frank McKinney	also PNR POY in 1973
1997 Hugh Clarke				
1996 Brian Clogg				
1995 -				
1994 -				
1993 Gordon Varney, MMR				

Note: *POY is the PNR person of the year award