

7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada
2024 Secretary Report

Another busy year within 7th Division, PNR, NMRA Canada (7th Div.) as the executive discussed a number of issues to support activities of the hobby and the NMRA.

Some of those topics included a policy on youth involvement in the NMRA. As part of Surrey Excursion 2024 the 7th Division became involved with a Moscrop Secondary High School program exposing youth to model railroading. In fact some of the students were willing to come and share their ideas during one of the clinics being offered during the weekend. There was discussion as to liability and it was agreed that the students who would be under the supervision of a teacher during this event. The executive considered the scenario of supervised youth who had been required by the school to provide permission slips before participating to be the equivalent of NMRA Youth-at-Risk Policy which would allow them to attend an NMRA event while still complying with all policies. In recognition of their contribution to the success of Surrey Excursion 2024 the executive agreed to purchase a magazine subscription (Model Railroader) for the Moscrop Secondary High students.

Of course up until May an ever-increasing amount of time was required at each executive meeting to ensure the smooth roll-out of, and financial success of Surrey Excursion 2024. Enrolment continued to rise each month at the start of 2024, and the executive was able to assure financial success of the event by March. Due to the profit margin the executive was able to provide to a few key individuals who took on many of the tasks required to support Surrey Excursion 2024 including the keynote speaker and the webmaster who managed the website for this event. Because another Surrey Excursion 2024 report is also being provided at this AGM there is no need to go into further details about this event, other than to say it ended up being an overwhelming success and the executive wishes to thank the many people (and there are lots!) both locally and internationally who helped us to host such a great event!

Throughout the year the Superintendent (due to lack of a Publicity Director) has made the commitment to attend all local train shows within the lower mainland, Squamish area, and Vancouver Island with the NMRA Publicity display. Results have generally been positive with many people expressing interest and 7th Division membership continues to grow albeit very slowly.

Within the technological realm the executive also accomplished a number of tasks to ensure that the membership has access to information about activities and events across the 7th Division. A Facebook page has been started for 7th Div. members to post photos related to our hobby as well as another means of communicating with one another to find out what's going on and where. The Facebook page is currently titled **Model Railway BC** and although a majority of current users appear to reside in the lower mainland, the executive continues to encourage all members regardless of their location to access this page and discover what is being accomplished by their fellow modellers and to provide encouragement to others. There also are a number of changes being made to the 7th Div. website. Due to some health issues with the past webmaster the Superintendent – Victor Gilbert – has also been looking after this website. Ownership of the website has been transferred to the 7th Div. through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between us and Canadian National Railway Historical Association which allowed us to change service providers so we now have unlimited storage instead of the 10 Gigabyte limit under the previous provider (this may prove useful when the Ferrier Collection cataloguing and document scanning project is completed). The executive also signed an MOU with the previous webmaster to support them with managing their own website which had been previously linked to the 7th Div. website.

The executive also continues to work with Railway Modellers Meet of British Columbia (RMMBC) committee to support this event (currently scheduled for May 2025) in various ways including financially, and updating membership on the activities planned for this event. We will continue to work with RMMBC to ensure that this event is also successful and ongoing in the future. The executive also works with NMRA Canada to provide support where requested. This year involved appointing the Assistant Superintendent to a NMRA Canada Board position. The Assistant Superintendent has also been appointed as a back-up to ensure that membership information and notices keep flowing if the Secretary (currently responsible for all membership communication from the executive) is unable to do so for whatever reason.

That is the bulk of the work that has been accomplished by the executive during the year 2024. in case you hadn't noticed, the Superintendent has had to step in to a number of different roles this past year due to health issues with people previously supporting those roles. So it goes without saying that we continue to require a number of volunteers to step up for empty positions within the 7th Div. most notably a Publicity Coordinator and a Webmaster so we can reduce the workload of the Superintendent. If you have any experience in these areas, or even if you don't, we encourage you to step forward and become more involved in your organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Nussli
Secretary, 7th Division, PNR, NMRA Canada