



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: Rene Gourley and John Green man the Craftsman's Table at the Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX), held this last November. You can check out Tom Lundgren's report on this year's VTEX on page 6, and have a look at a selection of John Stevenson's photos of the show starting on page 8.

Photo by John Stevenson

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From the Editor's Desk

In addition to our regular content in this issue, we have two articles on the Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) that occurred back at the beginning of November. The first is a full report on VTEX 2023 provided by VTEX leader Tom Lundgren. The second is a large collection of great photos of VTEX taken for us by John Stevenson, my predecessor as Bulletin Board editor. I was always impressed by John's camera work and am delighted to share some of it here.

Hopefully, you are considering attending this year's PNR Regional Convention, the Surrey Excursion. This year the convention will be put on by the same 7th Division team that normally does the RMMBC. The convention will be held in Surrey with an incredible list of content. I've always considered the shows and conventions to be one of the top reasons for joining the NMRA. Be sure you take advantage of this easily accessible event.

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 bbeditor@7divpnr.ca.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

As I write this, my family and I are getting ready for Christmas. In many ways, this time of year makes me sad. I find myself longing for the days of my youth. I didn't know at the time (when we are kids, we never do) that this annual holiday season is not about gifts and material things. We take family and the time we (some forced) spend together for granted. This holiday season is about love and FAMILY. Whether Thanksgiving in the US or Christmas here in Canada, the joy of having family around is contagious, at least to me. So, I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas, Hanukkah, Festivus, or whatever holiday you celebrate, and your New Year's was spent in the warm embrace of family and friends.

To all our new members in 2023, Welcome.

To all our members, Thank you.

I will attend the local train shows if I can, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

Bob Leggett

With great sadness, I must announce the passing of another of our members. Bob Leggett passed away in late October 2023. He had been fighting cancer and is now at peace.

The Surrey Excursion – PNR Convention 2024

RMMBC for 2024 will be the "Surrey Excursion," the PNR 2024 Annual Convention and an NMRA member-only event. Start a project so it can be displayed at the PNR Convention in May 2024. For those involved in the Achievement Program, there will be AP Judging at the convention.

We can use your help. If you want to present a clinic or assist, please get in touch with Mark Simpson, surreyexcursionclinics@gmail.com or Lori Sebelley, PNR2024Chair@outlook.com.

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.

Do not forget this is YOUR event. We need your help to make it happen.

The 7th 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 could not 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 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 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 superintendent@7divpnr.ca.

WE NEED YOU!

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.

- Grant Smith Vancouver July
- Mateo Martinez Coquitlam July
- Leif Bjornson Powell River July
- Viktor Zahorulko Burnaby September
- Alexander Moularas Langley September
- Andrew Moularas Langley September
- Sophia Moularas Langley September
- John Moularas Langley September
- Julian Menard Chilliwack September
- Dave Marecek Victoria September
- James Jordan Langley September
- Kyle Bramoff Langley September
- Dave Lamb Maple Ridge October
- Mike Hughes New Westminster October
- Jeffrey Hatcher Qualicum Beach October
- Brian Aaberg Chemainus October

Notice of 7th Division Annual General Meeting

By Timothy Horton, Assistant Superintendent, 7th Division PNR

Your 7th Division Board of Directors wishes to provide official notice of our Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held online via Zoom and a link will be sent out to all members nearer the time.

This AGM comes only a few months after our last one due to the need to realign our AGM date for compliance with the new BC Societies Act. From 2024 forward, our AGM will be held in March.

The upcoming Annual General Meeting will include elections for Secretary, Treasurer, and Director-at-Large. I will be serving as the Returning Officer and nominations or expressions of interest to serve can be sent to me at the following email address:

assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca

We hope you can join us on March 12.

Have You Ever Been to an RMMBC?

By John Martin, PNR 2024 Convention Publicity

There's a super-charged version coming this May!

You may know that the Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) is being expanded for 2024 because it's the 7th Division's turn to host the PNR Regional Convention. The Convention is called "Surrey Excursion 2024", and it will take place at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey BC on May 22-26.

You can get more information and register using the big red button at the bottom of this page.

The Convention is very much like RMMBC, but with substantially more activities. Everything you like about RMMBC will be there, although there will be lots more of it. This includes operating sessions, layout open houses (self-guided tours), clinics, displays, and a prototype tour. If you have attended RMMBC in the past, you will not want to miss the Surrey Excursion.



BUT REMEMBER!!

Early Bird Registration Ends March 31st

There is no reason to delay. Register now and benefit from a reduced fare.

To attend an NMRA convention such as the Surrey Excursion, you need to be an NMRA member, of course. If you've let that slip, it's easily remedied with a renewal – or a "test drive" with a 6-month "Rail Pass" that will enable you to be there. (The amount you'll save by registering early will pay for the Rail Pass.)

We know you will find that an NMRA membership is worthwhile. For example, did you know their online monthly magazine that is full of modelling ideas is now included with your membership?

[Click Here to Register for Convention](#)



Vancouver Train Expo 2023 Report

By Tom Lundgren, Leader, Vancouver Train Expo

Vancouver Train Expo 2023, held November 4th and 5th, attracted 4,670 paying visitors split evenly between the two days. Fifty-two volunteers, some working multiple shifts, assisted and 337 passes were issued to vendors and exhibitors.

Overall, Vancouver Train Expo 2023 was a success. Restarting the event was a challenge after the three year COVID-induced hiatus. Our previous furnishing supplier had gone bankrupt. We had to find a new liability insurance provider. The options for event advertising had changed significantly. A number of the traditional exhibitors had either disbanded or declined to participate. Fortunately, the Organizing Committee held intact and functioned very well. Setup through admissions to loadout ran smoothly, with likely the best performance ever.

The only real negative was attendance, the lowest since we moved to the PNE Forum, and well below the median 5,600 over the last five years. We did have advance and event-day television coverage, as well as paid pre-event radio and social media advertising, similar to previous years. The weather was not really a factor, being very wet at the opening on Saturday but otherwise neither too wet nor too sunny.

Low attendance hurt financially. Cost control and increased admission fees, however, will limit the loss to a small amount all in, likely in the range of two to three percent of total costs (\$1,000 - \$1,500), this despite significant increases in the cost of furnishings and insurance. Unfortunately, we are unable to be as generous with honoraria as in 2019. However, we are able to provide some honoraria and travel expense compensation in recognition of the exhibitors' contributions to the event.

The winner of the People's Choice Award was the Vancouver Lego Club and the Modeller's Choice Award went to Phil Holden for his diorama "Sasquatch Shortline".

As I mentioned in my previous update, the number of small exhibits has shrunk and the demand for booth space declined. We could have accommodated an additional good-sized layout exhibit. Two booths went underutilized, and an additional four could have been used differently had the demand been greater. The number of Marketplace sales tables was up significantly, from 45 to 59, partly as a result of having space due to the lack of exhibitors. While the preceding suggests all is well, the reality is that going into mid-September we had 6 unallocated booths and 14 unsold marketplace tables.

Thanks to the efforts of Gordon Hall and the British Columbia Society of Model Engineers, the northeast corner of the north Forum was filled with the riding train, Fraser Valley Autism's play train and Thomas & Friends, all quality children's attractions. We are extremely grateful to Gordon for his considerable contributions.

The event faces three ongoing challenges:

- Will there continue to be sufficient exhibitors and vendors to sustain the event?
- Will there be sufficient organizational capacity, specifically people with the requisite skills, time and energy?
- Can the event be sustainable financially?

The latter is the most achievable of the three as an additional 160 paid visitors would have eliminated the shortfall. The organizers will carefully examine these questions over the next few months. We welcome any suggestions or comments you may have. Send your thoughts to me at: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca.

The PNE Forum has been reserved November 1st through 3rd, 2024 for Vancouver Train Expo 2024.

Thanks to you for supporting the hobby!



ABOVE: Phil Holden displays his Modeller's Choice Award for his "Sasquatch Shortline" diorama.



LEFT: The People's Choice Award was presented to the Vancouver Lego Club for their popular and vibrant display.

A Photographer's View of VTEX 2023

Photos by John Stevenson



ABOVE: As you came in the door to VTEX 2023, this is what you saw: the large VMRC layout with a ton of activity beyond.



ABOVE: Another view of the VMRC layout, here showing some logging trains at work.



ABOVE: The staging loop for the VMRC layout, here with three trains waiting to get out on the layout.



ABOVE: The Vancouver TrainGang club also had their modular layout at the show, with Dan Janelle here providing a smile for our intrepid photographer, John Stevenson.



ABOVE: The show had two very nice British prototype layouts on display. This one showed a beautifully finished small country station, with a passenger train pulling into the layout from staging.



ABOVE: This nice On30 small display layout won the Modeller's Choice award for Phil Holden.



ABOVE: The Greater Vancouver Garden Railway Club's had a very popular layout at the show.



ABOVE: The Canadian Toy Train Association's layout is always a favourite for younger visitors. This young engineer is running Thomas the Tank Engine as it approaches to his right.



ABOVE: Another small visitor takes advantage of a large assortment of Brio trains.



ABOVE; The Vancouver Lego Club had a very popular layout which won the People's Choice award.



ABOVE: Two young exhibitors display an impressive array of material related to Thomas the Tank Engine.



ABOVE: This was possibly the exhibit with the largest, youngest, and most enthusiastic group of people in attendance.



ABOVE: Monashee Laser Engineering had a steady stream of visitors to their attractive display.



ABOVE: Two members of the Top Link Model Railway Association discuss the situation in their British prototype layout.



ABOVE: The Marketplace sales tables are always one of the most popular sections of the show. This year was no different.

Don't Miss Out!!!

By John Martin and Bill Van Horne, PNR 2024 Publicity

Early-Bird discount offer ends March 31st

If you like railway modelling, you'll enjoy the "Surrey Excursion 2024" – an NMRA Regional Convention to be held May 22-26 at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey BC. You'll be right in the middle of an impressive number of clinics, operating sessions, layout open houses (self-guided tours), contests and displays. You'll see a lot of familiar faces and get a large choice of entertaining and informative options.



Find out more at [the convention website](#) or register to avoid missing out by clicking the big red button below.

**Click Here to
Register for Convention**

We would genuinely like to see you there. Why not? Your "significant other" told us you've got nothing else going on that week.

In the meantime, check out the following, just one small part of the Surrey Excursion experience.

Railway Engineering 102 – Bridges

Most railway modellers are intrigued by bridges and trestles. They are often the focal point of a layout, and their construction provides great satisfaction. Come and learn more about what you need to know to build an attractive and realistic model.

At the upcoming "Surrey Excursion 2024" convention in May 2024, author and retired CPR executive Paul Clegg will present a clinic describing typical railway bridge types and applications, along with ground considerations – so the modeller can select appropriate structures for their layouts, build realistic looking wood trestles and use appropriate scenery for the bridge type.



Paul's presentation is just one of the many clinics that will be offered at the convention, along with operating sessions, layout open houses (self-guided tours), and a whole room full of display models and contest entries.

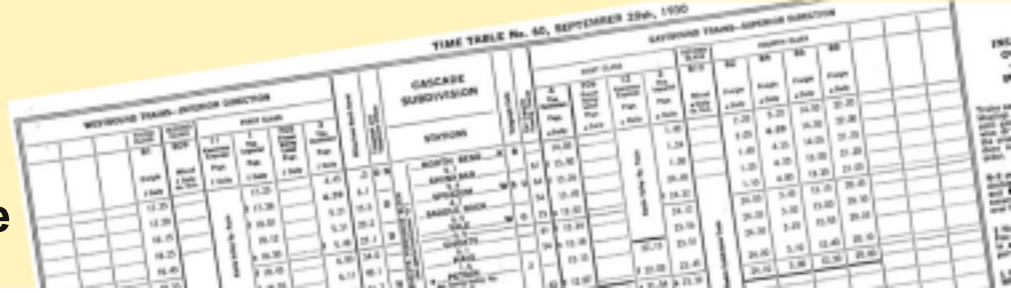
Paul also just happens to be the guest speaker at our Saturday evening banquet. He is an experienced and interesting guy, and he puts on a show we're sure you'll enjoy.

We are adding new clinics continually and you can read about them on the website. Presentations begin at 09:00 every day and run through to the evening hours.

We're working to give you a whole range of options, aimed at meeting the needs of modellers from novice to expert. There really will be "something for everyone".

Find out more at [the convention website](#).

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.

March 23-24, 2024 – The Third Annual **Sea-to-Sky Model Train and Hobby Show** will be returning to the Railway Museum of British Columbia, 39645 Government Road, Squamish. Details are available on the RMBC website www.wcra.org/model-train-hobby-show/.

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

April 20-21, 2024 – **SUPERTRAIN 2024** – This Calgary train show bills itself as the largest model train show in Canada and is well worth seeing. This year the show is at Genesis Centre, 7555 Falconridge Blvd NE, Calgary. See the show website for more details: www.supertrain.ca

May 22-26, 2024 – **Surrey Excursion, the PNR 2024 Regional Convention** – This year it is the 7th Division's turn to host the PNR regional convention, replacing this year's RMMBC with a bigger and more elaborate show. The event will be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey. See the articles on pages 5 and 11, and [the show website](#) for more details. Registration is now open. Don't miss out!

September 2024 – **Victoria Model Railway Show** – Details TBD – stay tuned!

October 5-6, 2024 – **Lynden Model Train Show** – Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden, Washington, USA – A great local show just a ten minute drive south of the Aldergrove border crossing. See the website for more details: www.lyndentrainshow.com.

October 2024 – **Cloverdale Community Train Show** – Details TBD – stay tuned!

November 2-3, 2024 – The **Vancouver Train Expo (VTE)** is the province's leading train show aimed at the general public. For more information check out the VTE website www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca.

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.



Obituary

Bob Leggett

Prepared from information from Bob's family, and others.

Bob Leggett of Coquitlam, BC, died October 20th after a four-month journey with aggressive cancer. He was barely diagnosed, then he was gone. He was survived by his loving wife Lynne, elderly cat Emily, and many friends, including many railway modellers.

Born at Vancouver General Hospital in 1943, at 18 months he was christened aboard ship in Gaspé, PQ where his RCN father was stationed during WWII. Bob graduated from Lord Byng High School in Vancouver and was employed as service centre manager at SKIL Power Tools. In the 1960's he opened SKIL branches in Calgary and Edmonton where he lived for several years. His experience and broad talents allowed Bob to build and repair almost anything. He retired early in Vancouver after 32 years to travel and pursue hobbies.

Bob was a kind, loyal, generous man who contributed to many human and humane charities. He was a BC SPCA life member and also sponsored 15 children in Africa (PLAN). As per his wishes, there was no service, flowers or fuss, and he was cremated, with his ashes scattered in a memorial garden.

Bob was a long-time member of the 7th Division. His primary interest was collecting N and Z scale models, many of them from MicroTrains. Bob served as 7th Division secretary from 2010 to 2016 during the time when Gary Hazel and Russ Watson were divisional superintendents. In the year before his death he was talking to friends about building a small N scale layout on which he could run some of his trains. Unfortunately, his health changed before he was able to make that happen.

Bob's wife reports that Bob had a plaque in his train room that read: "If Heaven has no trains, then I'm not going!". Hopefully he has found that there were trains there waiting for him.



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](#).

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)	mikado1@telus.net
Modeller's Help Desk	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	fmikebarone@gmail.com
Publicity Coordinator	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	publicity@7divpnr.ca