



BULLETIN BOARD

Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

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ABOVE: A riverboat arrives at the Dawson City dock on the late Brian Pate's model of the Klondike Mines Railway. The KMR layout was originally part of Brian's home layout in North Vancouver but was relocated, along with other models, to the Visitors Information Centre in Dawson City, Yukon, after Brian sold his house. It is open for public viewing there.

Photo by Mark Dance

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From the Editor's Desk

The biggest part of this issue is the three pages of articles on **Surrey Excursion 2024**, the PNR Regional Convention being put on by the 7th Division (its our turn) this coming May. This promises to provide a great show and should be seriously considered by all 7th Division members, especially if you live in the Lower Mainland. Check out the website and give participating some thought. You will not regret attending.

If, for a variety of possible reasons, attending the Surrey Excursion doesn't work for you, consider one of the other railway shows listed in the 7th Division Time Table on page 10. We have the poster for one of these, the **Sea-to-Sky Model Train and Hobby Show** in Squamish later this month, but there are many other choices.

This issue we also have an article from Les Bucher, our regular contributor of railway book reviews, on an interesting set of three books he has run into over the last year or so.

If you know of any events not listed in the Time Table, 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

To all our new members: Welcome.

To all our members: Thank you for your support and your time. This is your organization, and we need you.

The spring train show season is coming. I will be attending some of the local train shows if I can, and I look forward to meeting all of you. Currently, I plan to be at the Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show on March 23rd and 24th.

Annual General Meeting

For those of you who did not attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, we have had to move the AGM to comply with the BC Societies Act. On March 12th, 2024, we will have the 7th Division 2024 AGM. The AGM is intended to report on the activities of the previous year, in this case, 2023. When we held the AGM in November, activities tended to be reported on the current year and not the year before. With the AGM now being closer to the end of the year, the reports should reflect the previous year.

I hope you will all join us at the AGM. As has become the custom, the AGM will be on ZOOM. An invitation will be sent to each member of the 7th Division via Constant Contact. I look forward to having everyone there.

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, clinics@7divpnr.ca 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. 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.

7th Division Website

Work continues on the 7th Division website (slowly). If you have the desire to volunteer and have 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 you still have 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.

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.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| • 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 |
| • Junichi Frederick Mizuki | Vancouver | November |
| • Donald Elter | Sechelt | January |
| • Gus Blanchette | Mission | January |
| • Dave Love | Kelowna | January |
| • Aidan Botting | New Westminster | January |

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 this year 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.

PNR 2024 Convention Status Report

By Lori Sebelley, PNR 2024 Convention Chair

The Surrey Excursion Convention will take place May 22-26, 2024, and be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey, British Columbia.

We are now in the second stage of registration, with full fare registration costing \$149. This rate will expire midnight March 31. The registration rate will then increase to \$169. Act fast to take advantage of the second stage. Thank you to all who took advantage of the first stage and registered early.

Registration pricing gives access to self-guided layout tours, contests, displays, achievement program (AP) evaluation, clinics, operation sessions, and in-house non-rail activities. All clinics, display/contest, banquet, and non-rail rooms will be located on the second floor of the hotel and may be accessed by elevators.

We have 50 clinics arranged for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please take a look at the [convention website](#) as the topics and brief descriptions are being continually added under the Clinic tab. If you are interested in giving a clinic, please contact Marc Simpson at surreyexcursionclinics@gmail.com.

There are still a handful of Deluxe King rooms available for \$185 plus taxes per night and Club rooms for \$225 plus taxes per night.

As of February 19, our convention numbers were as follows:

- Full Fare Registrations – 152
- Non-Rail – 28
- Youth – 4
- Banquet – 126
- Modelling with the Masters – 13
- G3 Grain Terminal Tour – morning – 21, afternoon – 20
- Operations sessions participants – 84
- Celebration Room – attendees bringing something for: AP – 10, contests – 17, display – 16

Check out the [convention website](#) and please check back often for additional updates.

See you in May at Surrey Excursion!



Guess What?

By John Martin, PNR 2024 Publicity

The 7th Division has a Facebook page.

Actually, we set it up for the Pacific Northwest Regional Convention – Surrey Excursion 2024.

The temporary name is “Model Railway BC” and you can search for it on Facebook. After the convention is over, we’ll switch to a more appropriate name that suits the 7th Division.

We encourage you to take a look. Post a photo of whatever you’re working on right now and comment on someone else’s project. It’s one more way to stay connected with your fellow modellers. Please give it a try.



Why Should YOU Attend Surrey Excursion 2024?

By Bill Van Horne, PNR 2024 Publicity

Well, if you live in Greater Vancouver or have a place to stay for free when you visit (my apologies to everyone else), the answer is simple: it's happening right here in your own backyard!

I spent about C\$2,000* to go to Portland for a PNR convention. It cost me roughly the same for Spokane after everything was considered, including a speeding ticket. Even Salmon Arm was expensive for me. Don't get me wrong – it was fun and I'm glad I went each time. But it wasn't cheap.

But all YOU need to do is pop into your car, or grab a bus, and enjoy all the benefits of a convention at a bargain rate.

You might never have a chance like this again. We're scheduled to host again in 2031 or 2032, but who's knows what you'll be doing by then.

Most people in the 7th Division have never been to a PNR or NMRA convention. Why not grab the opportunity to do it right here at home? They really are worth your time. Clinics, layout open houses, operating sessions, and good company abound.

You won't need an expensive hotel room priced in US Dollars, no long-distance travel, no hassles at the border and no cross-border shopping by your significant other, nor out of province medical insurance, nor expensive US Dollars every time you open your wallet.

A lot of our American friends are coming to Vancouver for the convention because it's a bargain. You're already here. Like I said, why not try a convention just once in your life?

Check out [the convention website](#) for details or click on the big, red button below to register.

[Click Here to Register for Convention](#)

* If that number seems crazy to you, start with a hotel room for 5 nights at \$180 plus taxes and "resort charges", add event registration, banquet, tours, workshops, meals, gasoline, and then a little shopping, all plus 30% extra for US dollars. I am NOT saying it's not worthwhile. I enjoyed the conventions. I'm just pointing out that it's available to you for a fraction of the cost of attending a convention in another area.



Three Interesting Books

By Les Bucher

These three books are all fairly recently published and all have topics related to BC railways, but have quite different approaches and styles.

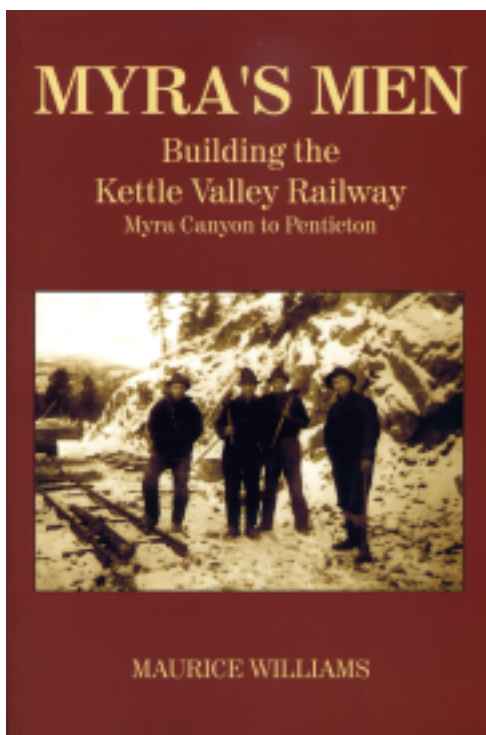
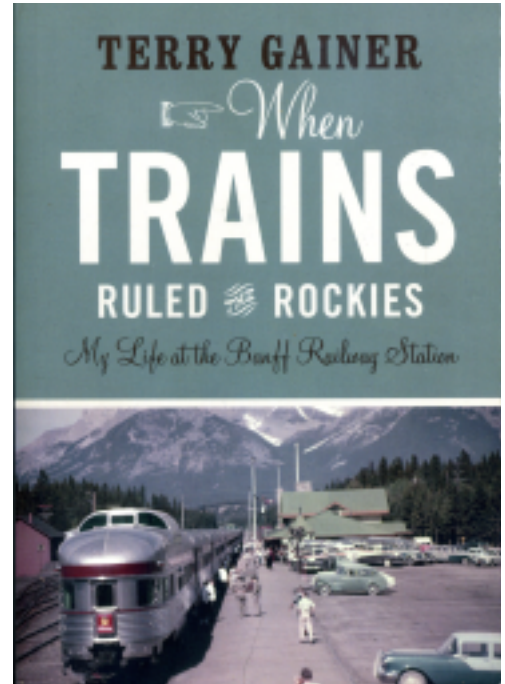
Growing Up in Banff Station

When Trains Ruled the Rockies – My Life at the Banff Railway Station. By Terry Gainer; Rocky Mountain Books; 2019; 252 pages; \$22.

This book's author had the good fortune of being the son of the Banff Stationmaster, and thus grew up in an apartment on the second floor of Banff station through the late forties, fifties and early sixties. The book is small in size, about the size of a classic paperback novel. The included photos are rather small, but are well reproduced.

The story covers the full range of everyday details of the life of a young boy (including rather more than I really wanted to know about childhood rivalries and local fishing holes), but also provides a very interesting view of the railway activities associated with a medium sized station. The author describes his interactions with the telegraph operators, the local switching crew, the baggage handlers and passenger train crews, as well as describing the work of the local town people, businesses and tourist facilities and their interaction with the station.

I enjoyed this book. It is well written and tells a story that has not been told before. There is probably not a lot of content that could translate directly into models, unless you happened to be modelling Banff station in the fifties, but there is a lot of interesting background information. This includes fascinating details about what went on in a busy station or small town in the fifties, and the book's information on late CPR passenger trains. The fact that the period covered by this book is commonly modelled is also a plus. The small size of the book's photos is a slight negative, but does not severely detract from the book. I purchased my copy at a local bookstore.



Building the KVR Through Myra Canyon

Myra's Men – Building the Kettle Valley Railway, Myra Canyon to Penticton. By Maurice Williams; Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society; 2008; 168 pages; \$20.

This book covers an aspect of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) that has only been touched on before: the lives of the workers who built the line and the conditions under which they worked. The book has what could be seen as a rather narrow focus and it was written by an academic historian, which some may take as a warning, but I did not find it a difficult book to read.

The book starts with an overview of the early history of the KVR and introduces the people, such as Andrew McCullough, involved in its design and construction. It then focuses in on the problem posed for the line by the Myra Canyon and the solution chosen for the line's construction. Next it describes the building of the Myra Canyon section

of the line, the hiring of the workers, the camps in which they lived, the dangers they faced, and what they did in their free time. As one might expect, it did not sound like a job I would like to work at. The book is well illustrated with photos from various archives and museums, and contains a large amount of footnotes, tables and other reference materials.

I found the book interesting and well written, with all content well supported. Given the rarity of models of railways under construction, it is unlikely that many would find this book a good source of modelling support material. It does provide detailed information on the Myra Canyon bridges that some might find useful. On a more general level, it does cover an aspect of the construction of the KVR that is not strongly covered elsewhere, as well as providing broader information on the treatment of workers in the first world war era. Would I recommend it? Yes, for someone particularly interested in KVR history and who has already read Barrie Sanford's excellent history *McCulloch's Wonder* or a similar book.

The book may be a little hard to find. I bought my copy at the Revelstoke Railway Museum. You may be able to get your local bookstore to order it in for you.

Railway Heritage in BC

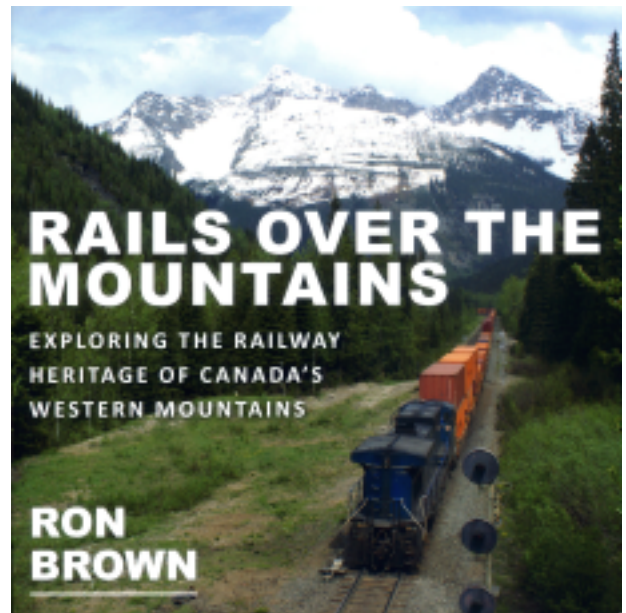
Rails Over The Mountains – Exploring the Railway Heritage of Canada's Western Mountains. By Ron Brown; Dundurn; 2016; 156 pages; \$30.

This book has an interesting focus: rather than providing a history related to BC railways, it provides descriptions of BC railway-related heritage sites, buildings, museums, etc. This provides something different than most railway books, but has the disadvantage of going out-of-date as things change.

The book starts with a general overview of BC railway history, and then provides chapters on tunnels and bridges, railway stations, railway towns, railway hotels, railway structures, railway museums, railway trails and railway rides. This way of organizing the content has the effect of causing some duplication as there is a certain amount of overlap between railway towns, railway stations and railway museums, and so forth. Each of the chapters provides a list of content items (i.e., towns, hotels, etc) with anything between a paragraph to one or two pages on each. The text provides a description of why the item is important, what can be seen there, followed by its current status. The book is illustrated with black and white photos.

One problem I noticed with the book is that the item descriptions often contain errors. For example, the Esquimalt naval base is described as being "former" and as being "across the harbour from Victoria". Neither is true. This kind of error probably wouldn't cause problems for most users, but it does reduce confidence in the amount of fact checking that was done.

I found the many small errors in the book to be annoying, but I also found there were descriptions of several heritage items that I wasn't aware of, even though I tend to think of myself as being quite well informed about BC's railway heritage. I also found that a few of the heritage item descriptions were now out of date. All in all, I would hesitate to recommend this book without knowing more about the potential reader. It might not be an appropriate book for a well-informed reader, but could be quite helpful for someone who is newer to the hobby, particularly if he or she is willing to do a bit of online checking before heading off to see something.



Do Not Bend

By John Martin PNR 2024 Publicity

A friend of ours got this in the mail the other day.



The sender wanted to get his attention and make him open it. He did.

We've hoping it worked on you too.

The message inside: **Please come to the PNR convention.**

The NMRA Pacific Northwest Region Convention – Surrey Excursion 2024 is coming to town on May 22-26 and you're invited.

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



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 12, 2024 – **7th Division Annual General Meeting** – This will be held by Zoom on Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM. A link will be sent by email to all 7th Division members before the meeting.

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 or the poster on the following page.

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, even a local one, 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.

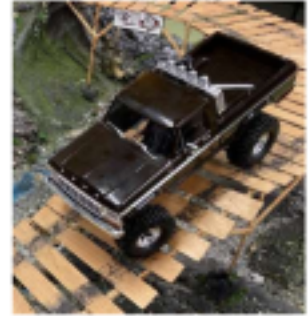




RAILWAY MUSEUM
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show 2024

March 23, 10 - 5, March 24, 10 - 4



Railway Museum of British Columbia, Squamish

Detailed operating Model Railway Displays of multiple scales.

New and used items for sale: Model trains, track, diecast vehicles, plastic model kits, scenery, RC vehicles, hobby tools and supplies. Gift Shop apparel and logo-wear. Hands on for the children: Operate toy trains. Wood trains and battery Thomas train play tables. Remote control car racing, crawler and truck hill climb course.

4 Extra train rides over the weekend see details on line: Mini rail \$3, Speeder \$5, Full-Size BC Budd car \$10, CN Little Obie kids train free

**Guided museum tours and RC time trials on Sunday.
Food, drink, snack vendors on site. Parking is FREE.**

Discounted advance sale tickets available on-line at: www.wcra.org

Full price tickets available at the gate.

Event subject to weather, mechanical and availability.



Scan QR code for show information and tickets



Obituary

John Klit

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

John Klit of Trail BC passed away on October 21, 2023 at the age of 87 years. John has left behind his wife Joan, six children, 21 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren (with one more on the way), as well as many other family members and friends.

John was born in Trail on November 22, 1935. After finishing school, he spent the majority of his working career at Cominco. He worked there for almost 40 years, retiring in 1992. He then spent time at Woodbury Resort on Kootenay Lake fishing and helping develop the campground.

John was a very creative man and in 1961 he began the life-long project of building his own home. John was also a proud member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles for 52 years. As an active member, he held many positions and was awarded for many of his achievements.

John was a passionate railway modeller with a large, free-lance, HO scale layout that took up a good portion of the basement of his home. He was a long-time member of the 7th Division, as well as a member of the Golden City Railway Modellers. Club members report that he was a quiet, very likeable man.



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)	achievementprogram@7divpnr.ca
Modeller's Help Desk	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	helpdesk@7divpnr.ca
Publicity Coordinator	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	publicity@7divpnr.ca