

TRAMS

The Transit Museum Society Newsletter

November 2008

*The next TRAMS Directors' meeting will take place on Friday 7pm December 5, 2008
at St. Augustine's Anglican Church, 8680 Hudson Street, Vancouver*

Christmas Lights Tour December 13th



Surrey crew members Norm Shepherd, James Pearson, Selena Garcia and David Sikich with GM Fishbowl Hillclimber #4107
Photo by Neil Pepper

Join us for this year's Christmas Lights tour featuring our GM T6H5307N Hillclimber #4107 and #1109 Flyer 800 series Triesel and possibly one other vintage coach.

Meet the tour at Marpole Loop at 6pm or Scott Road Skytrain Station at 6:30pm and enjoy a new and interesting route this year. We anticipate the tour will last 4 hours with refreshment stop at a mystery location. Bring your camera. There will be many opportunities to take photos.

**Christmas Lights Tour
Saturday December 13
Pick up at Marpole Loop at 6pm or
Scott Road Skytrain Station at 6:30pm
\$8 TRAMS Members
\$10 Non-members
*All buses on the tour are licensed to transport fee
paying passengers.***

Fan Trips Galore This Year

On the heels of our successful summer fan trips, this year we decided to feature a pair of October outings. On October 18th we held an all-electric trolley evening with our newest acquisition New Flyer #2805 as well as our Canadian Car T-44 Brill #2040 and the spruced up Canadian Car T-48A #2416 with new paint and new traction motor.

#2416 has been off the road for repairs for over a year.

We followed the evening with a daytime "all diesel" fan trip on October 19th with four coaches: #4107 on her first outing since we acquired her accompanied by Brill Diesel #3405, Flyer Triesel #1109 and GM #4612

TRAMS Surrey Shop Moving

With the realignment of space over at the Surrey Transit Centre to make room for more buses, the TRAMS Surrey Shop will be decommissioned in March of 2009. Translink is working with the TRAMS Directors to find a new location. Our small fleet of vintage coaches and our repair and maintenance facility will move as soon as a location has been determined.

Over the years, the old shop at the back of the STC property has been a good home for the preserved fleet with an inventory of valuable parts and supplies. The TRAMS Directors would like to thank Translink for the use of the shop and we look forward to the continued support in a new location.

As a result of this move, much discussion has surfaced about the eventual possibility of opening a Transit Museum so the vintage fleet can be viewed and enjoyed by the general public. Look for further details soon.

Constitution Committee at Work

The TRAMS Directors have struck a Constitution Committee and given it the task of reviewing the old constitution and the terms of reference for the society. The new constitution should be more streamlined and easy to read, and if the committee has any major changes to recommend, they will be sent to the membership in writing and presented at the Annual General Meeting in May of 2009. Members are welcome to direct comments and opinions to our Yahoo discussion board.

Rail News

Public rides were available on 55 days this season. In 2008, Transit Museum Society members volunteered in excess of 2,200 hours of DHR train operating time. For the first time ever on the DHR there was an onboard wedding ceremony of a young couple who live near Leg-in-Boot Station.

The summer season ended with free rides on Passenger Appreciation Days on October 18 & 19. These were the busiest days with 385 and 487 one-way passengers carried. The route this summer was exactly half the length of the route in 2006 which, as predicted, resulted in approx. half the riders and revenue. The annual total one-way passengers were 8,437 and revenue was \$6,170

On September 30, there was a media event to announce that Bombardier will supply two streetcars to be operated for 60 days from January 21 to March 21, in conjunction with the 2010 Winter Olympics and ParaOlympics. These "FLEXITY Outlook" modern 100% low floor trams are part of an order destined for Brussels, Belgium.

Major upgrades to our track will be taking place over the next year. On October 28, Vancouver City Council awarded contracts for the following: Traction Power system to Mott Electric GP at \$1,463,700.00 and Trackwork installation to PNR RailWorks Inc. at \$3,696,319.20. Construction is expected to begin very soon (or has already started). . Crossing gates will be installed at Moberly Street during the track improvements. The work is estimated to take exactly one year to complete. However, if it can be completed sooner, we may be able to operate the DHR for a part of the 2009 season.



Wedding aboard #1231 this season

Hello Argentina!

Eighty of the recently retired E900 series trolley coaches are off to a second life in Mendoza, Argentina. Sailing on the container ship "Wisdom" to Valparaiso, Chile, where the buses will be loaded onto trucks for the 350 kilometre journey to Mendoza over the Trans-Andes Highway.

Unfortunately #2704, one of the two coaches saved for TRAMS was flagged to go to Argentina, so #2812 was put aside as a parts bus for #2805 which will be saved for the vintage collection. Five remaining Flyer trolleys were stripped for parts by TRAMS volunteers before they were sent to scrap.



Flyer E900 series trolleys loaded on to the freighter "Wisdom" for the trip to South America.

TRAMS Centennial Bus

Here is a very rare photo of the TRAMS GM Oldlook now used as a mobile museum and theatre. Former Victoria fleet #730. You can see this coach at many special events in the City. Most recently she was on display this summer at the Avalon Dairy celebration and the Langley "Good Times Cruisin' Car Show" in September.



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