



Canadian Flyer

Volume 18, Issue 8

October 2020

Operating and collecting toy trains

CTTA 2020-2021
canadiantoytrains.org

OFFICERS:

President -- Mark Horne
604 560-4028
mlhorne@shaw.ca

Vice Pres -- Gary Zabenskie
604 463-1006
gzaben@telus.net

Secretary -- Charles Reif
604 731-3674
creif@shaw.ca

Treasurer -- James Barrett
604 939-8035
barrettjd007@gmail.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

James Cook -- 250 337-8255
jhcook@telus.net

John Warlimont -- 604 864-2175
jewarl@yahoo.ca

Tom Modica -- 360 738-3842
ogfhr@gmail.com

Peter Tofield -- 604 793-4814
tofieldpeter@gmail.com

Kyle Miller - 604 941-3372
kylemiller@telus.net

Island Member:

Ken Bowman -- 250 592-6194
k.bowman@shaw.ca

Ontario Member:

Robin Dodson -- 250 713-8970
robindodson43@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENT:

David Cook -- 604 970-5598
thetinman76@gmail.com

WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP

Kyle Miller - 604 941-3372
kylemiller@telus.net

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our special Covid friendly September meeting was outstanding. Thank you to Earl for the use of your farm in Langley. Please understand that without Earl's generosity and hard work preparing the farm for us, we would not be able to hold our meetings. At end of the meeting please help clean-up and thank Earl.

Due to recent Covid-19 updates, the following are the health and safety guidelines that the CTTA must continue to follow:

- Anyone who is unwell is not permitted to attend — stay home
- Members **must** preregister with Kyle prior to the meeting (50 max)
- Members only, no guests, no spouses etc
- Members must bring their own chair and mask
- Members may bring a table for table sales
- A hand sanitizer station will be available for attendees to use
- All attendees shall wear a mask inside the building (barn). **No exceptions.**
- Social distancing will be in place at all times
- Seating will be spaced such that social distancing is maintained

Thank you Neil Whitehead for running the election and thank you to all the exec members who agreed to continue on the board, and welcome newly elected member-at-large Kyle Miller.

Also, please buy tickets for the Christmas draw as we have great prizes and it supports your club.

See you in October at the meeting at Earl's farm and if it is cold, bring coats.

Mark

2020-21 CANADIAN CLUB MEETS

UPCOMING DATES:

SUNDAY OCT 25 [Earl LaBounty Farm \(see directions below\)](#)

SUNDAY NOV 29 — ZOOM

SUNDAY JAN 31, 2021 — ZOOM



CTTA Annual General Meeting held Sunday Sept 27, 2020 at Earl LaBounty's farm. Langley B.C.



President **Mark Horne** and host **Earl LaBounty** look over the AGM gathering on a happily warm day.



tables and tailgates, and chairs laid out to keep social distance.



buyers and sellers gather around the auction table.



Hornby fan **Frank Schmidt** presides over a celebration of the **100th Anniversary of Hornby Trains.**

Frank Hornby, inventor of Meccano, launched his first trains in September 1920.

Iced cupcakes for all!



Intrepid builder **Gordon Hall** tossed off not one but two custom build BC Hydro cabooses.

The yellow one is a great match for CTTA's recent MTH BC Hydro Diesel. Gordon tells us the blue one is still seen in the valley.





Layout Corner:
 Brian Beard
 shares his
 beautiful layout
 (see more on the
 CTTA Facebook
 page)



Ralph Spielman shared a post.
 1h · 🌐

Looks like CN is going full bore on the Heritage Locomotive paint, although they will NOT be the same locomotive type:



Ralph Spielman shares CN 'Heritage' schemes

David Cook Canadian Toy Train Association
 October 6 at 7:32 PM · 🌐

My newest addition to my collection, a combination of 2 diecast Marx 333 engines is now 4-8-4 engine. Made for me by my friend Zoltan Gyoker. He is a wizard when it comes to customizing Marx engines.



David Cook gets a Marx Custom Northern



A delightful scene of pre-Covid bustle on **Mark Horne's** Layout.

Featured are crowds of metal figures Mark found at York not too long ago.



Rory Vigue
October 1 at 1:47 AM

Yikes! Thanks **Rory Vigue**

CN train that hit a log truck on the Redditt sub (between Winnipeg MB and Sioux Lookout ON) at Sunstrum, ON (mile



Kyle Miller 'turns on the lights' on his refurbished signal bridge. Where are my shades?

Earl Labounty's farm,
Red Willow Ranch,
22901 - 0 Avenue, Langley
township
between 224th and 232nd.

Attendance by RSVP:
respond to **Kyle's** meeting notice
when you receive it.

Thanks
to our
intrepid
CTTA
meeting
host
Earl
LaBounty,
astride
a John
Deere.



The EEL LINE: a Canadian toy train story

by Charles Reif



The EEL LINE electric train was manufactured in Montreal by Efficient Enterprises Ltd (EEL) probably in the 1950's. A set with its set box top is illustrated below. The engine is a cast aluminum diesel body with a 2-rail AC motor running on 7-15 volts, with a reverse switch on top. There are three freight cars (hopper, tank and log car) which in appearance are reminiscent of Marx's 6" lithographed freight cars, except that the EEL LINE cars appear to be silkscreened or stamped.



The train was advertised to run either on transformer or battery. An EEL LINE transformer is shown. The track has one insulated rail, and the locomotive two flanged brass wheels, one on each side, to transmit the current, two flanged plastic wheels and four unflanged plastic wheels that do not touch the rails.



Locomotives have either one side window or two, and a maple leaf rondel on the front. The red finish is 'crackle' textured on all models seen to date. The hopper car sports "CANADA COAL" on either side of another maple leaf rondel. The "SHELL" tank car has a painted wooden dowel tank with a plastic dome. A later version may have had a plastic tank.





Two sizes of motor have been found. On the left and centre, a smaller magnet and windings with brass strip brushes; on the right, a larger magnet and windings with brush-holders. The base for motor and wheel frame attachment appears to be fibreboard, which tends to curl. Four screws attach the base to the aluminum body, which provides some rigidity.



The truck frames are rigidly attached to the base. Power is transferred from a worm gear to a bass gear on one axle. As the worm gears are steel and the tolerances large, the brass gears are often quite chewed up. (see especially left above).



Until recently the author believed all EEL LINE locomotives were 2 rail. Then the version on the left turned up. All wheels are metal, and the truck frames have a stepped shape to hold the insulated plate below the pickup. They appear to have been manufactured for this purpose. (the worm, wheels, axle and axle gear were missing, but the author was able to find replacements).



And so, as well as having several 2-rail locomotives in various states, the author finds himself with the only three-rail EEL LINE locomotive he's heard of.

Was this the result of a late effort by Efficient Enterprises Ltd. to increase sales by making their train sets compatible with Marx and other 3-rail products? Has anyone seen another of these versions of the loco?

In any case, the EEL LINE set may well be the only electric train to run on rails ever designed and made by a Canadian Company.

I exclude Marx Canada of Toronto, who were a subsidiary of the US company, until I have information that their shorty plastic-bodied steam train sets were actually designed and manufactured in Canada.

With many thanks to:

Gary Hindle of Winnipeg.
Hans van Dissel of Holland.
Alistair McAllister of Australia.