

COOTTS ISLAND NEWS

APRIL 2024 ISSUE

KEN LOCKLEY

This publication is an outreach to the “O” gauge enthusiasts on Vancouver Island, a division of the Canadian Toy Train Association

In our January issue of this publication, I gave a little history of how Cootts started and very early came under the wing of the CTTA (Canadian Toy Train Association). I believe being part of the CTTA allows us to continue into the future. There is possible regulatory issues when we rent the room at Oliver Woods Rec Center. The City of the Nanaimo recognizes that we are part of a larger organization and that’s really important. This reads like a commercial for the CTTA and it is. For \$20.00 per year you become part of a group of people that collect or play with their trains and enjoy receiving monthly newsletters and new club cars each year. There are many aspects to the organization which now numbers 200 members. Some retailers give members a 10% discount and that pays for your annual dues in a hurry. KL.

We just started into 2024 and then received a email from Gary Walmsley saying he wanted to sell more of his collection and would Russ and I help.

A couple of days later at Gary’s, we spent a pleasant afternoon pricing 8-10 pieces averaging our own ideas on price. Of course at this point everything is for sale and I spotted 3 CPR passenger cars in the Tuscan Red which I came home with.

This was followed by coffee and treats, a most interesting description of Gary’s early life travelling on the “Hiawatha” operated by Milwaukie Road to Chicago then on to Birmingham, Alabama. Gary’s father was doing a teacher exchange for a couple of years. Good Memories to share.





Here's the new purchase to the right, three cars in the set . To the left is repaint-rebuild that Russ E. did back in the 1980's . I purchased these Alco's about fifteen years ago from him and have been waiting to find appropriate passenger cars which I now have.

POCKETS OF INTEREST :

Many of our readers will have track down and might want to take their RR to the next level. Looking at all the rolling stock manufacturers the word used, is realistic. Looking at Eric Segal video's and product descriptions, scale and detail are part of his presentations. Which by the way, if you haven't explored his you tubes, try them, they are excellent and a great help with many aspects of model railroad. I recently purchased three CPR passenger coaches made by MTH. They are really a asset to any layout but to make the most of them I needed to make a whistle stop station. In years past I never gave any thought to people on the layout but now, looking through different eyes and thoughts, people are part of my layout. After all aren't passenger cars about people!! Using your camera, and looking at your scenes is a great way to see where more detail is needed or to much clutter.



Above: a three car train making a stop at a small station dropping off people.

Jim Sutherland sent this picture showing the CTTA Victoria's rail-road crossing sign. It's now part of the Beardsley Train Garden.

This is located at Sun City West, Arizona. I believe this is where Jim hangs out for about four months every year.



Russ Showing his layout and collection to a couple of Garden Gauger's. Dave Teece in the blue and his cousin Rod Macdonald visiting from Regina, SK. Russ had five trains powering around the layout with a couple of steamers making smoke. Russ is concentrating on scenery at the present time. He has a extensive Post War collection!!!



Tribute to MONTANA RAIL LINK



REED POINT DERAILMENT CONTACT US

MRL TO BNSF TRANSITION

BNSF Railway now operates what is now known as the MRL Subdivision of BNSF's Montana Division.

LEARN MORE



For us Model Railroader's here is another fallen Flag. The colourful blue and white Locomotives will just become another part of Railroad History. I am personally sorry to see this happen

ON JANUARY 1, 2024, pursuant to authority granted by the Surface Transportation Board, Montana Rail Link ("MRL") discontinued all active rail operations. BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") will assume operations across the former MRL lines on the newly-designated MRL Subdivision of the Montana Division of BNSF. For operational, shipper, or real-estate inquiries regarding lines formerly operated by MRL, please direct those to BNSF. MRL will retain certain non-operational branch line corridors and will continue to administer such lines. For inquiries regarding retained MRL properties, please refer to the Contact Us section of this website.



USEFUL LINKS

- [BNSF Railway](#)
- [Washington Companies](#)
- [Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation](#)



I hope some of our readers are lucky enough to own a locomotive like the picture to the left. This one is Lionel #6-18824 SD9. Often came with the distinctive MRL caboose. I believe in 2018, Lionel also produced a SD 40. Atlas, about 15 years ago also produced a diesel in the road name.

From what I can read, this has been a friendly take over and MRL employees, over the last 2 years been absorbed into the BNSF systems at all levels of work.

“FOLLOWING THE TRACK”

by Ian Baird

Ian Baird is an enthusiastic researcher in to all aspects of the old railways on Vancouver Island.

In 1910, when the Via Dayliner leaves Victoria everyday , the traveler is treated to a day of historic and scenic delights. As the train heads over the Malahat, to the right is the spectacle of Finlayson Arm, shimmering hundreds of feet below . Just 6.5 miles further on is Shawnigan Lake, resort center for generations of Victorians.

Before improved highways and the family automobile, the E and N Railroad was the Islands transportation link . Hotels were constructed near the railroad, a good example is the Strathcona Hotel seen below. The first Strathcona Hotel was built in 1900 by the Shawnigan Lake Hotel Company. Frederick T. Sherbourne was the contractor. On May 15, 1900, the hotel burned down, but was rebuilt immediately to identical plans by the same contractor . It reopened on Sept. 19, 1900.

It was designed by Samuel Maclure, a noted Victoria architect of that time. The hotel had 32 bedrooms in singles and suites. It sat on 50 acres of which eight were developed tennis and croquet courts .

The hotel was the subject of numerous fires and a few different owners but after each it was rebuilt. It also became a regular ten minute stop for the E and N trains in each direction. A good refreshment stop as the train had limited supplies on board. Originally, Cobble Hill was going to be the first stop for the train but the rapid growth of residents in the Shawnigan Lake area changed the company’s plan somewhat. Cobble Hill was just another short distance along the track and it also had a hotel called the Station Hotel. During this period of rapid growth another Cobble Hill Hotel was built called “Wilton Place“ which was another Sam Maclure design. Duncan is the next station along the track and that’s a story for another time .

February 6/24 TC Article by Carla Wilson noted!!

Malahat Cowichan MP taking a petition to Ottawa, calling for \$1 Billion rail investment on Vancouver Island . An individual , Warren Skaalrud has collected 7610 names on a petition for the Federal government to re state the return of Rail Traffic on Vancouver Island . This important piece of infrastructure in the near future will be come an a much needed addition to Island life .

Vancouver Island population is growing at a fast pace with immigration and also migration from other parts of Canada . The cost of increased highway construction my also be lowed if the E and N is rebuilt to a good standard. KL



Strathcona Hotel at Shawnigan Lake

“Featured Layout this Issue”

I asked James Cook if he could send a few pictures of his layout which I am pleased to show here.

It 's a good size layout using a two car garage making for wide curves and large staging areas on two levels. James is using Gargraves Track with Ross and Gargraves switches. The back drop is spectacular and the mountain scenes resemble the Courtney area skyline.

I would like in each issue of this publication to highlight some readers layout, so please don't hesitate to send me pictures of your layout. “Thanks James for the pictures.



OBITUARY: Jerry Shaw, long standing CTTA member and a regular vender at the Nanaimo & Victoria Train Shows passed away in early Febuary. For a number of years health issues had been an up hill battle for him. He will be missed by our O Gauge community. Jerry was a great source of parts and very knowledgeable on Post War trains .



APRIL 14, 2024 THE NANAIMO TRAIN SHOW 10AM-4PM BEBIN PARK REC. CENTER

APRIL 21, 2024 COOTTS MEET OLIVER WOODS REC. CENTER, 1-4 PM.

June –September Looks like the Albernie Pacific RR will have some type of excursion train.

September 2024 Victoria Train show , Shansha Hall, Sidney BC.

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New Workshop item !!!



“Ladi” put me onto these glass fiber pencils. They are ideal for cleaning small metal parts. Cleaning commutators on post war engines is a good use.

They are available at BC Hobbies, Hillside Shopping Center



Canadian Toy Train Ass. Burnaby Meets.

April April 28/24

May May 26/24

June June 23/24

Summer Break

Sept AGM meet Sept.29/24

Free advertising space— just contact

Ken Lockley at

lk.lockley@outlook.com

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Contact Stew at 250-216-3013.

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CANADIAN TOY TRAIN ASSOCIATION:

Largely focused on “O” Gauge Trains

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