



# Canadian Flyer

Volume 23, Issue 4

April 2025

*Operating and collecting toy trains*

CTTA 2024-25

[canadiantoytrains.org](http://canadiantoytrains.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Something nice has been happening at our monthly CTTA meets this past train season. Attendance is booming! Our March meet had over 65 attendees, and we've been consistently getting over 60 members. So I want to thank each and every one of you who travels from across the lower mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and Washington state to spend time with your fellow collectors and enjoy the good cheer, friendship and camaraderie at our meets while enjoying a great lunch and lots of toy train fun.

The action was brisk right from the start at our March meet with lots of trains and accessories changing hands! I hope you had the chance to pick up (or sell!) some great deals for your collection.

A nostalgic look back at the Oct 2010 edition of the Canadian Flyer revealed that past president David Cook had an annual 'President's Award' program, presented to the member who has shown outstanding service to the club throughout the year. I will be reviving that program and there might be a few 'catch up' awards for me to hand out. Stay tuned for more!

CTTA just wrapped up a very successful Sea-to-Sky Train Show at the Railway Museum of BC. Our Modular Layout and Thomas train are always a feature attraction. We'll be leaving it up through the NEW Buddy & Friends Children's Festival event on May 3-4, so I'll be looking for a few more members to man the layout and run trains after the Museum opens April 18.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Spring meets coming up, and I will host another online international ZOOM meeting before the Summer break. Cheers and choo-choos,

Kyle

## 2024-25 CANADIAN CLUB MEETS

meetings at Charles Rummel Community Centre, Burnaby  
doors open at 11am UPCOMING DATES:

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025

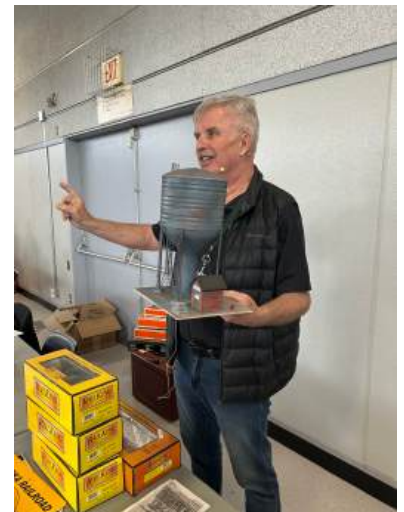
SUNDAY MAY 25, 2025

SUNDAY JUNE 29 2025





April Prize  
Winners -->





Canadian Toy Train Association

[Create a post](#)

Alexander Cocks

Admin · 5d · 🌐

On This Day in South Australia...

...On the 1st of April, 1952, Adelaide's railway network played host to one of the most ambitious and baffling experiments in public transport history—the triple-decker train. Conceived as a bold tourism initiative to showcase South Australia's landscapes from an elevated perspective, these towering locomotives were designed to revolutionise rail travel and bring visitors flocking to the state.

An April 1st posting by **Mike Munk**

A view of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) depot in Vancouver, ca 1911.... [See more](#)



a dramatic view of the second station from grade

## EVENTS:

April 18 & 19, Squamish BC  
**Railway Museum of BC** (opening weekend)  
 CTTA layout in operation  
 Info: [nanaimotrainshow.com](http://nanaimotrainshow.com)

April 26, 27, Regina, Saskatchewan  
**Regina Railfest**  
 Info: [reginarailfest.com](http://reginarailfest.com)

April 27, Woodstock, Ontario  
**Woodstock Model Train Show**  
 Info: [collectorshows.ca](http://collectorshows.ca)

May 3 & 4, Squamish BC, Railway Museum of BC  
**Buddy & Friends Children's Festival**  
 CTTA layout in operation

May 4, 12-3pm, Nanaimo BC  
**COOTTS MEET**, Oliver Woods Centre  
 Info:

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HAPPY EASTER

working on a modification of an old  
 Lionel General loco  
 without the benefit of 3D printing.  
 nuts!

email me and show what you are up to!

GOT ANY PHOTOS?

**TRAINSHOWS.NET**

TRAINSHOWS.NET

TrainShows.net

TrainShows.net is your complete guide to finding upcoming model train sho...



Lost BC  
 5d ·

1920's Toy meets prototype

Canadian Pacific "Imperial Limited" at Albert Canyon, lithographed postcard, early 20th Century.... See more



BCER Sumas  
 Substation

left:  
 1982 photo  
 by David Cook

below:  
 2018 photo  
 by Mike Munk

W.O.W.



# Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show at the Railway Museum of British Columbia, Squamish, March 22 & 23

Part 1: CTTA at Sea To Sky

[Parts 2 & 3 see pages 10 & 11 ]



CTTA members  
and volunteers  
bring interactive  
toy trains to  
the community



## Making your trains look good.

Kyle Miller, April 2025

Legendary O gauge model railroader and pioneer Frank Ellison once said that “Trains were the ‘actors’, the layout the ‘stage’, the structures and scenery the ‘set’, and the model railroad operations was the ‘plot’ of any model railroad”.

Most of us will not achieve the recognition that Frank did for his magnificent scratch-built structures, buildings and railroad, but there are two things we can all do to greatly enhance the visual appeal of our model railroads and our enjoyment of operating our model trains.

**The first and most obvious visual enhancement to any model train layout is a scenic backdrop.**



Many members layouts, mine included, have scenic backdrops added to the walls behind and beside the trains. There are a variety of commercially available backdrops that can be applied like wallpaper. Industrial backyards, city scenes or rolling country sides all enhance the layout stage and give the trains a place and purpose. Some members have reproduced photographs of their farm properties or other local scenes that produce a perfectly realistic setting. Others have painted scenic landscapes, clouds and buildings, or have had artistic friends supply their talents for us.



**The second, and most overlooked and neglected aspect of any train layout, is the ‘front drop’, or table skirt.**

All of us like to enjoy the trains on our tabletops, but how many of us operators take the time to apply this simple treatment to our layouts? Adding a ‘tear away’ front drop instantly makes our layouts look great by removing the visual distractions of boxes, trains, clutter and other junk lurking just below the surface of our layouts. With no visual distractions, the trains and model railroad take centre stage and become the sole, easy focus for anyone in the room enjoying the trains. Especially the operator!

**Do you see something like this when running your trains?**



*Attachment point Velcro strips now in place along table frame.*

After I added my backdrop and table skirt, my enjoyment of operating my trains increased greatly. Your train room and layout will instantly look better, cleaner, ‘finished’ and more professional. For the price of a few pieces of rolling stock, and minimal effort, you can achieve this look for your layout. My front drop cost me about \$150.00 all in when I completed the project in 2019.

**Adding a table skirt makes running trains a lot more enjoyable!**



*Detachable table skirts cut to fit now in place along layout frame.*

The required materials are quite simple: Inexpensive fabric, cut in sections to fit; Velcro 'hook' and 'loop' strips to be able to attach the skirts to the table; hot glue and/or a staple gun; and the services of your local dry cleaner/tailor/seamstress (or maybe a spouse with a sewing machine!).

### Let's get started!

First, let's measure up. My layout has 5 main sections that I wanted to cover up and be able to remove individually. My table height is 34" with a finished edge, so the required height of my table skirts would be 32" when finished. I accounted for a 1" hem at the top, so I could sew on the Velcro strips, and a ½" hem on the other 3 sides to give a neat, finished edge. Many fabrics come in bolts of 36" or 48" widths. I confirmed the length each of the 5 required panels would be, added the measurements for the hems, and made a nice list of the measurements for the tailor.

Next, I went shopping at (insert your local fabric store here) Fabricland to find an inexpensive, lightweight, basic black, durable and easily washable fabric to be cut and sewn. I bought the required length as one piece and added an extra foot or two to allow for good measure. You may need to acquire it as multiple lengths.

I acquired rolls of Velcro to make the attachment points. I attached the firmer 'hooks' side to the wood side panels of my table, and had the softer, more flexible 'hoops' sewn to the skirt fabric. I cut matching pairs of Velcro strips about 2" to 3" in length and spaced them about 2' apart, closer where needed. Of course you need a strip at each end of each skirt. This makes it quick and easy to attach or detach the skirts when you need to access under the table. You do NOT need to apply Velcro to the full length of the table or skirts. Attach one end, pull the skirt taught, press the next Velcro strips in place and finish at the other end.



*Skirts can be easily detached and reattached to access storage and supplies under your layout!*

After providing the measurements and instructions to my local tailor, I waited patiently for the skirt panels to be cut & sewn, and then for the Velcro 'hoop' strips to be sewn on, spaced as needed. They charged me about \$25 per panel to cut and hem to size. After receiving the final skirt panels, I attached the matching Velcro 'hooks' pieces to the table so they would match up perfectly.

**That's it! Enjoy your Trains.**

*continued next page....*

With the skirts in place, I can safely maintain all the chaos, mess and storage under my table without ever seeing it when I'm running my trains! Having no visual distractions and clutter makes for a very enjoyable experience when operating and makes for a very pleasing visual experience when sharing your layout and trains with friends and visitors.



*With the skirts in place, the trains can take centre stage with no visual distractions. Enjoy!*



*Al Kielek has done a complete repaint of his MTH CNR U2-f. Beautiful.*



Layouts, hobby clubs, associations and dealers all gathered among the big trains





Part 3: around the RMBC



introducing Buddy

Buddy & Friends Childrens Festival May 3 & 4; Kyle in the cab; 'Buddy' starring old Number 2



Show Organizer  
Gordon Hall (in red)  
and key show volunteers

