



SASKATCHEWAN RAILWAY MUSEUM NEWS

The Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2015

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Annual General Meeting:

This year's SRHA Annual General Meeting was held at the Western Development Museum in the Palace Hotel in Saskatoon on January 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., with 14 members in attendance.

The first order of business was the presentation of awards. This year two SRHA members were recognized for their contribution to the Association and Museum.

Warren Clancy received the Lifetime Achievement award (posthumously) for his long and dedicated service to the SRHA.

Les Gammel received the Achievement award (posthumously) for his dedicated service to the SRHA.



Jean Clancy accepting Lifetime Achievement award from SRHA Chairperson Cal Sexsmith



Marjory Gammel receiving Achievement award from Director, Bill Rafoss

The Wednesday Work Crew received a Volunteer appreciation award for all the work that they accomplished this summer at the Museum.



From Left, Keith Flory, Bill Rafoss, Doug Jones, Lorne Lavier, Norm Dyck and Russell Wessner (missing from photo are Cam Hood, Bill Chimboryk, Art Vessey and Mark Fidelak)

Following the Award presentations, members were asked to review and adopt the minutes from the 2014 AGM.

Chairperson Cal Sexsmith then presented his Chairs report (see below) which highlighted 2014's accomplishments and objectives for 2015.

Treasurer Lynda Thiesen reviewed the SRHA's 2014 finances, and presented a motion to waive the requirement for an audit following which a vote was held and carried.

The following Annual reports were made available to members at the AGM.

- Chair's – Cal Sexsmith

Operation Reports:

- Treasures – Lynda Thiesen
- Gift Shop – Lynda Thiesen
- Grant Funding Report – Terry Enns
- Employment – Terry Enns
- Curatorial – Cal Sexsmith
- Attendance Report – Cal Sexsmith
- Tours – Linda Flory
- Wednesday Work Crew Report – Keith Flory

Restoration Reports:

- Streetcar – PJ Kennedy
- Trackmobile – Bill Rafoss
- Unity Freight Shed – Bill Rafoss

Other Reports:

- Eaton Memorial – Bill Rafoss

Board Nominations:

The nominating committee was unable to find interest among the SRHA membership for Board candidacy. There were also no nominations from the floor. As a result, the SRHA Board of Directors for 2015 will consist of existing Directors Cal Sexsmith, who has one year remaining on his two year term and Keith Flory and Bill Rafoss for another two year term.

Stepping down from the Board of Directors in 2015 was Fred Tatler after serving a two year term. For his service on the Board of Directors, Fred was presented with an engraved tie spike acknowledging their contribution to the SRHA.



*SRHA Board of Directors for 2015 (from left)
Keith Flory, Cal Sexsmith and Bill Rafoss*

Following the installation of Board members, Chair Sexsmith called for a motion to adjourn the AGM.

A Membership meeting was held following the AGM to discuss and ratify the Associations Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017

At the meeting a motion was made that would see the objective of **Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation** modified to include of a specific mention that *“This goal will be achieved in many ways including ongoing Maintenance and/or Improvement of the Display and Presentation of Artefacts”*. **Enhance Safety at the Museum** was also added upon a motion from the membership.

Also on the agenda were upcoming events on the SRHA calendar, including Railway Heritage day which will tentatively be held on July 1, 2015. Members also reviewed the 2014 projects and a look at proposed projects for 2015.

With no formal banquet this year, members were invited to attend a no host supper at the Grasswood Smitty's restaurant. 10 SRHA members were in attendance at this year's supper, and several members of Les and Marjory Gammel's family attended as well.

As noted above, two 'friend of the Museum' awards were handed out at the supper. The first award was presented to Larry Graham representing Nordic Industries. The second award was presented to Yvan Charbonneau who was representing Big Sky Rail.



Bill Rafoss presents Friend of Museum award to Yvan Charbonneau who accepted on behalf of Big Sky Rail Corp.



Keith Flory presents Friend of Museum award to Larry Graham representing Nordic Industries

SRHA In the Community:

As in past years, this year the SRHA had a booth at the Saskatoon Model Train show organized by the Prairie Rail Workshop. This year's attendance at the show topped 2500 and most if not all of the patrons stopped by our booth.

This is a great opportunity for the Association to raise our profile and that of the Museum in the community, provide information and answer questions for those who might be interested in joining the association or volunteering at the Museum.

Special thanks to the following members who participated in the event by working the SRHA booth. Cal Sexsmith for organizing and setting up the booth and Keith Flory, Mark Fideluk, Art Vessey, Lorne Dyck, Norm Dyck, Chris Boon, Bill Rafoss and Terry, Nichole and Oliver Enns for working at the booth on one of the two days the show ran.

Chair's AGM Report:

2014 was a success in terms of visits to the Museum. Including CN Family Day in September we had 1944 visitors in 2014 as compared to 1755 in 2013. Aside from the 300 attendees for the CN Family Day our best day of the year was September 1 with 117 visitors, which was slightly more than we had for Railway Heritage Day.

Volunteer hours were also up for 2014 at 2327 hours which is up 28% over 2013's 1812. Over the past five years volunteers have recorded over 10,000 hours to the Museum, which if we assume is worth \$20 per hour represents a value of \$200,000 to the Museum.

The volunteers worked on many projects this year including the cleanup of the area around the stucco shed, finishing work on the Argo Station, painting of the Unity Express Shed, work on the streetcars, work on the Trackmobile, cleanup of the shop and curatorial work. Not included in these numbers are the hours spent after October 31 on the CN Wood Caboose.

The Board continued work on the Strategic Plan. Our annual Museum Grant from the Museum's Association of Saskatchewan is contingent on the development and adoption of a Strategic Plan. The Board approved the Strategic Plan at its December 13th, 2014 meeting. The Plan will be presented to the Membership at today's meeting.

The Board conducted a review of our policies and has developed a Policy Manual. The manual will be posted on the website in the member's only area.

The Board is also in the process of a Bylaw Review. Our last major overhaul of the bylaws was 20 year ago, since then only minor updates and changes have been made. The Board plans on submitting bylaw amendments to the membership at a special meeting later in 2015.

Special Events bring in extra visitors to the Museum. This year we held our annual Railway Heritage Day in July, hosted the CN Family Day in September and the Eaton Memorial dedication in October. These three events brought in 500 visitors to the Museum. We also participated in a number of outside events including the Heritage Festival, the Saskatoon Train Show, the Prince Albert Train Show and the Co-op Brunch. Participation in these events provides much needed publicity.

The SRHA also belongs to other groups and associations and participated in their events as well. We continued our participation with the Canadian Council for Railway Heritage and I attended the spring meeting in Ottawa and Smiths Falls, Ontario in May and the Fall Meeting in Winnipeg in November. We also joined the River North Network of the Museum's Association of Saskatchewan and attended the Fall Meeting in Hague in October.

There was also sadness in 2014. Long term member Warren Clancy passed away in August while vacationing in Newfoundland as the result of a chronic illness. Warren participated in nearly every aspect of the Museum's operations including at least two terms on the Board including one as Chair. Lightning struck a second time in September when long term member Les Gammel passed away in a car accident in British Columbia. Les was a tireless volunteer for many years consistently putting in more than 100 hours per year. Our thoughts are with Warren and Les's families and friends.

Moving forward into 2015 it is my hope that we will continue to increase our number of visitors, our number of volunteer hours, and most importantly our number of members. In closing I would like to thank the members and volunteers who made it possible to keep the Museum going, the summer staff who were our face to the public, the Treasurer and Secretary who kept the administrative wheels turning, and the Board of Directors who helped with all of the behind the scenes tasks.

Submitted by: Cal Sexsmith – Chairperson SRHA

SRHA Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017:

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan outlines broad aspirational goals for the SRHA over the next three years. It also outlines specific objectives for the current year of the plan. The Board met on October 28, 2014 to review and approve the Strategic Goals for the SRHA and to set Objectives for 2015. The Board approved the overall Strategic Plan at its December 13, 2014 meeting and the Plan will be presented to the membership of the SRHA at the January 24, 2015 Annual General Meeting for ratification.

The Board will meet again in the fall of 2015 to review the progress of the plan and to set Objectives for 2016. The same process will be repeated again in the fall of 2016 setting the Objectives for 2017. In the fall of 2017 the Board will meet to set new Strategic Goals for the 2018 to 2020 time period.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic Goals are broad statements covering a three to five year time frame. Strategic Goals are about what we want to do, not how we want to do it.

The Board identified three broad areas the SRHA needs to address. These areas are our volunteers and members, our collection, and the public. The Board then created a Strategic Goal for each of these three main areas as follows:

1. Growing the Volunteer/Membership base.
2. Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation.
This goal will be achieved in many ways including ongoing Maintenance and/or Improvement of the Display and Presentation of Artefacts.
3. Enhance Value for the Public.
4. Enhance Safety at the Museum.

OBJECTIVES

The Objectives turn the goals into reality. Objectives should be specific, measurable, ambitious but attainable, relevant and time based. Objectives need to identify who will do what and by when. Time frames for Objectives are typically one year or less. The Board has set the following

Objectives for 2015:

OBJECTIVE	WHO WILL IMPLEMENT	WHEN WILL IT BE COMPLETE	WHICH STRATEGIC GOALS DOES IT SUPPORT
Schedule Work Bees for Wednesdays, Saturdays & Other days	Operations Committee	May 31, 2015	Growing the Volunteer/Membership base
Develop Youth Membership Program	Membership Committee	May 31, 2015	Growing the Volunteer/Membership base
Training/Education Sessions	Membership Committee and Curatorial Committee	May 31, 2015	Growing the Volunteer/Membership base, Enhance Safety at the Museum
Investigate Provincial Recognition of the Eaton Memorial Site	Board	December 31, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation
Advertise and hold a prospective members day	Membership Committee	June 30, 2015	Growing the Volunteer/Membership base
Develop and Present Annual Work Plan to the Membership	Planning Committee	March 31, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation, Growing the Volunteer/Membership base, Enhance Safety at the Museum
Begin to Develop Library	Curatorial Committee	October 31, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation, Growing the Volunteer/Membership base
Expanding Our Network with other Museums	Board	September 30, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation
Commence Restoration Wood CN Caboose	Caboose Committee	April 30, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation
Review Committee Structure and Officer's Terms of Reference	Board	April 30, 2015	Showing Leadership in Railway Preservation, Enhance Safety at the Museum

Improve and increase signage and interpretation, and enhance tours for visitors.	Curatorial Committee	July 31, 2015	Enhance Value to the Public, Enhance Safety at the Museum
Investigate the possibility of scheduling speeder rides and guided tours	Employment Committee	April 30, 2015	Enhance Value to the Public
Establish a Mini-Train Committee	Board	June 30, 2015	Enhance Value to the Public

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:	Location:	Time:
Feb 21 & 22, 2015	Model Train Show	WDM	9:00am to 5:00pm
May 2 & 3, 2015	PA Model Train Show		TBA
May 8,9 & 10, 2015	2015 NMRA PNR 6th Division Meet	Museum	TBA
May 1, 2015	Staff Interviews	Museum	9:00am to 12:00pm
May 16, 2015	Museum Opens for 2015 Season	Museum	10:00am to 5:00pm



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