

TRAMS

The Transit Museum Society Newsletter

April 2008

**The TRAMS Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 7pm May 2, 2008
at St. Augustine's Anglican Church, 8680 Hudson Street, Vancouver**

DHR Opens May 17



The official DHR opening date will be Saturday, May 17. Fares will be the same as in past years.

To bring you up to date, the DHR track has been removed east of the Cambie Bridge for reconstruction of 1st Avenue. The overhead wire has been truncated on the west side of Commodore Street, which would require the trams to stop on the hill under the bridge. This is unsafe and it might be impossible to start a tram up hill on wet track. For this season the DHR will only operate between the car barn and Granville Island Station. The trains will leave Granville Island on the hour; leave Leg-in-Boot 10 minutes past the hour on a 30 minute schedule. All crew must arrive at the car barn by 11:00 so that the first train can leave Granville Island at 12:00.

For our train crews, it is very important to remember that every current Trams member is covered by an accident medical insurance policy. This is required by the City of Vancouver and

Translink/CMBC. If your dues are not paid up, you can't be DHR crew of any kind. We have been told this must be rigidly enforced.

With the start of a new season at the DHR, it is time to conduct a classroom session for those who wish to become a Conductor/Motorman. The class will start at 09:00 on Sunday, May 4, and continue until approx. 15:00. Contact Dale Laird to reserve a place and receive classroom location. Please note: You might not receive a reply until April 29.

Depending on City crew availability to prepare the DHR for the 2008 season, DHR crew re-qualification will commence on either May 3 or May 10. We continue to work with the City staff to prepare and administer a written exam so our DHR volunteers can acquire the railway operating certificate. In the interim, City staff have assured us that those of you who don't have a certificate but who have been approved to operate a tram will be allowed to continue. Study material for the exam will be circulated as soon as it is available. Date of the exam is to be determined.

On Thursday, April 10, Trams members Harry, Gary, Jerry and Dale moved some of the pile of earth beside the car barn to fill the hole beside the passing siding. This should allow for up to 7 parking spaces when approaching from Ash Street. NOTE: Do not park on Ash

Street or in the InTransitBC (Canada Line) parking lot. You might get ticketed and/or towed. If you own a 4 wheel drive and don't mind driving over a curb, there is more parking by approaching up the old CPR right-of-way from Commodore Street.

We would like to beautify the area around the car barn and Leg-in-Boot Station. The ground needs to be prepared and vegetation planted. In support of this, the City will provide two rain barrels as a water supply. Also, there will be a water connection available beside the rectifier building. Contact PeterHFinch@hotmail.com if you wish to help.

Official season opening day will feature the unveiling of a bronze plaque in 1231 in recognition of Bill Baily's restoration work.



DHR Member Jim Thomson passes

A truly colourful character, DHR motorman, Jim Thomson passed away on March 13th. Jim was fondly remembered by fellow crewman for directing traffic at the Moberly Street crossing with his stop sign and police whistle defying motorists to run him down. Much of Jim's time was spent with his garden railroad in his back yard. Jim rose through the ranks of the police service in New Westminster, working as the department's acting chief for 18 months. He retired as an inspector in 1998. "He was a guy with high energy," said Insp. Dave Jones. "He was always in the thick of things. He had lots of energy." Jim will be missed.

Back on track... to the future

Sign up for modern streetcar crew: The city is hoping to attract 1 or 2 modern streetcars for demonstration operation during the 60-90 days surrounding the 2010 Winter Olympics. These cars would operate a minimum of 16 hours per day/7 days a week. It is expected there will be a high volume of media and volunteer passengers between GI and the Canada Line Station and the Olympic Village. For security reasons, cars will not be allowed on 1st Ave. by the Village.

Those who have a valid railway license will be the first to be considered to operate the cars. Training on the modern cars will commence as soon as the DHR track reconstruction is completed, approximately November 2009. We need to know well in advance how many Trams members will be available to operate the modern cars.

Farewell to the Flyer Trolleys

By the end of April, we expect to see the end of service for the E900 Flyer Trolleys. After 26 years of service, the old trolleys will fade from the city streets. TRAMS will be conducting a farewell tour to give you a final chance to ride the Flyers. Watch our website for dates and times.

Check out our Website

www.TRAMS.ca

Our Yahoo Group

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Downtownhistoricrailway/>

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