



# The FUSEE



Volume 56 Number 2

[www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)

Winter 2009/2010

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## Oh, Canada! Do we have a convention lined up!

*By Paul Ullrich  
 TLR Convention Director*

If you want to see steam, steam and more steam, then come to Winnipeg next May for Steam on the Prairies! The TLR's 2010 convention will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on the Memorial Day weekend, from May 28 to May 30.

On Friday we'll begin with a chartered bus excursion to Portage la Prairie, rated by *Trains* magazine as one of North America's 10 best railfanning locations. The tour will be guided by Morgan Turney, Editor and Publisher of *Canadian Railway Modeler* and *Railfan Canada*. The CN and CP mainlines come within a few hundred feet of each other at the Portage Yards, so be sure to bring your camera and extra memory cards! We'll also visit the former CP railway station at the CP Heritage Park Museum.

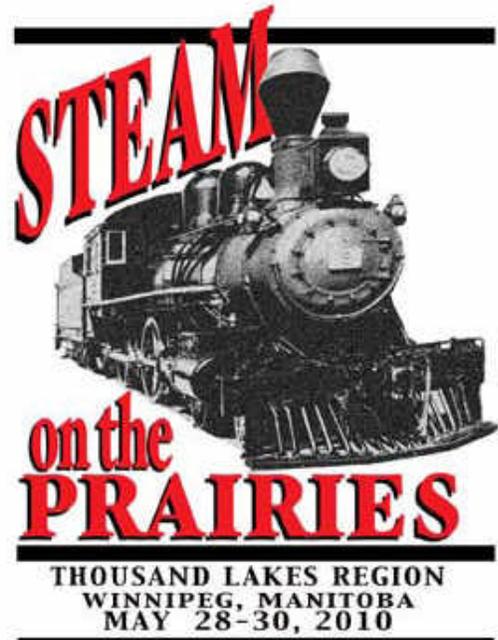
As a non-rail option on Friday, we have scheduled a guided tour of Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park, a beautifully restored 1830 Hudson's Bay Company Trading Post on the banks of the Red River. It is the oldest stone fur trading post in North America.

On Friday night we'll feast at a barbecue held at Bill Taylor's Assiniboine Valley Railway. After our delicious meal, we'll enjoy riding the AVR's 1:8 scale trains well past sunset. The AVR has no less than three live steam engines in its roster of locomotives, including a scale model of CP's famous Royal Hudson!

On Saturday morning we'll have clinics. Our special guest will be Bill Schaumburg, Editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman*, presenting a clinic on commuter rail lines.

After the clinics, we'll head to the Prairie Dog Central Railway! We'll tour their shops and hold a swap meet, so be sure to bring your want lists and all of your model railroading goodies that you want to sell! Then we'll ride the rails in vintage wood-sided cars behind their recently restored 1882 4-4-0 steam locomotive to the towns of Gross Isle and Warren. The Prairie Dog will then take us to the Hitch 'N Post Restaurant for our annual banquet.

On Sunday morning we'll hold our annual general meeting. The afternoon and evening will be free for layout hops.



*"Convention" continued on page 10*

# Looking for a few good men (and women)

Our summer FUSEE highlighted multiple reasons why the Thousand Lakes Region's future appears bright. Talent, leadership, new blood, commitment, and financial soundness indicate we remain on track. Those qualities didn't evolve overnight. They took years of effort to develop and require considerable effort to maintain. They facilitate our annual highlight of the year – convention.

Winnipeg 2010 promises to offer a good value plus a variety of unique rail-related activities, especially for those of us who will be enjoying our first trip to the area. Convention is shaping up nicely and should be great fun. Check the TLR website and rest of this issue for details.

Speaking of convention, the very light response we received from our Fall survey suggests those of you attending are satisfied. We received few criticisms, though we would have enjoyed hearing from you who don't attend. Knowing what we could do to attract you would have been helpful. If you'd like to share that, feel free to email me at [saatkamp@iw.net](mailto:saatkamp@iw.net) or give me a call as 605-767-9743.

It takes a solid Board of Directors to produce convention. We elect three of the seven board positions each year—two for two-year terms and one for a year. This balance provides fresh

ideas and corporate memory.

For those unfamiliar with our bylaws, the membership doesn't elect to specific positions – TLR voting members elect individuals during the General Membership meeting. Immediately following the annual General Membership meeting, the Board members caucus to divvy up the duties. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Public Relations Director, Secretary, Contest Director, and Convention Director are the seven slots.

A stint on the Board enables you to contribute your time and skills to our members. The years of service also count toward earning the Achievement Program Association Official certificate toward becoming a Master Model Railroader. Perhaps the most meaningful benefit is the fellowship—getting to know folks and making new friends.

If you or someone you know might be interested in serving, feel free to contact me or one of the current members. Our contact information can be found on page 11. Shortly after the holidays, we'll begin our search in earnest. I hope you'll consider the opportunity when we contact you. Have a blessed holiday season, and hope to see you in Winnipeg! 

## TUNNEL VISION

by Editor Gerry Leone, MMR

# Wanted: one editor

Those of you who've been reading THE FUSEE for the past umpteen years know that my Winter issue editorial usually opens with a remark that goes something like, "With this issue I begin my X year as editor."

Well, this issue won't be any different...with one exception. This year I'm beginning with, "With this issue, I begin my last year as editor."

When I took this editorship job back in 2004 I wanted to do it for one year, then turn it over to a permanent editor. Turns out, that permanent editor was me. Fast forward the clock five years and 20 issues. According to TLR records, I've now set the longevity record for "butt cheeks in the editor's seat" so that's no longer a reason to stay. And don't get me wrong – I still find it fun to put this newsletter together, but I think THE FUSEE could be better with new blood behind the wheel.

So if you've ever had an inkling that maybe doing a quarterly newsletter would be kind of neat, now's your time to find out that it really is. **Mr. or Ms. Future Editor, we need you now.**

Here's the deal. You know and I know that volunteers tend to become permanent fixtures unless they put a stake in the ground. So I'm making the Fall 2010 issue of THE FUSEE my stake. That will be my last issue. I swear.

But here's the better deal: if you'd like to take over the throttle of THE FUSEE, I will not only supply you with five years of priceless wisdom (plus even more wisdom from the three years I edited the Twin Cities Division's newsletter), I'll supply you with the software you can use to create it and the training you'll need to use it. Such a deal.

Putting together a newsletter isn't rocket science. It's more like assem-

bling a 12-page jigsaw puzzle of words and pictures. So you can use whatever program you want to do it. You can use Microsoft Word. You can use Microsoft Publisher. And if you can figure out how to do it, you can even use Microsoft PowerPoint.

This newsletter is currently being assembled with Quark XPress, a professional page layout program, which is the program I'll give you (along with a well-worn "Quark XPress for Dummies" book). If you'd rather use another program but don't have it, I'm sure the TLR Board could easily be convinced to buy it for you.

So that's the deal: free software, free training, and all the glory that editing a quarterly NMRA Regional newsletter can give you. How can you refuse a deal like that? I know I couldn't.

And if you act now, I'll throw in a boatload of articles that members have submitted over the years that I haven't had room to print yet.

If you're the least bit interested, contact me or Alan Saatkamp. Our contact info is on page 11.

So let me wrap up by paraphrasing a famous quote: ask not what the TLR can do for you, ask, "Hey, can I edit your newsletter?"

(See how much fun being the editor is? You can make all sorts of lousy jokes and no one can stop you!) 

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THANKS!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributors to this issue:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul Ullrich, Paul Ullrich, Paul Ullrich, Les Breuer, MMR, Alan Saatkamp, Jay Davis, Jay Manning, Paul Ullrich, and Paul Ullrich</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next issue's deadline: <b>February 10, 2010</b></p>
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# Dakota SE Division clinics entertain hundreds

**By Alan Saatkamp**  
*TLR President, Former DSED Superintendent and Continuing Activist to Promote the Hobby*

Ronning Library in Sioux Falls hosted Dakota Southeastern Division model train clinics this past September. This year members of the Division offered three clinics for the public to enjoy. And enjoy they did in great numbers, far surpassing the successful attendance noted the prior year. In just four hours, over 200 participants of all ages experienced a variety of what model railroading has to offer.

Jay Manning's mountain making clinic let kids try their hands, literally, making mountains out of insulation foam and plaster. Gary Johnson provided a treat, running the candy train around his highly detailed portable N scale layout. And Alan Saatkamp's 1' x 7' switching layout found 50 willing young engineers to spot a half dozen cars at a grain elevator, scrap dealer, and anhydrous ammonia facility. 



Jay Manning (with help from his nephew Trevor) offered "hands on" experience building mountains during the clinics. Photo by Alan Saatkamp



Alan's switching layout gave 50 young engineers a chance to bang cars around, spotting and picking up freight from three industries. Photo by Mike Kaufman

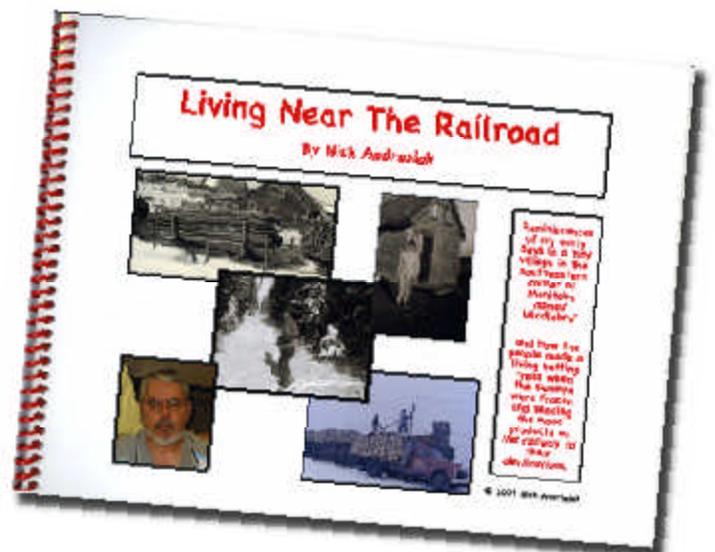
## Nick Andrusiak publishes railroad memoirs

Longtime Thousand Lakes Region member and former officer Nick Andrusiak has published a series of railroad memoirs entitled, "Living Near The Railroad."

The book contains reminiscences of his early days of living in the tiny village of Middlebro' in Southeastern Manitoba, and how its residents made a living by cutting trees after the swamps had frozen, and then sending the wood products on their way by rail. Nick originally published many of these stories in THE FUSEE several decades ago.

The book is ISBN 978-0-9811881-0-2.

To obtain a copy, contact Nick directly at [nick.a@shaw.ca](mailto:nick.a@shaw.ca) 



# Words of wisdom from my former N-scale layout

Forwarded by Jay Manning and Alan Saatkamp

While building my layout and attempting to maintain it, I've learned a few things that might (or might not) be of interest to others. I'll add more as they are revealed to me.

By connecting a Tortoise switch machine to house current, you can create a very realistic puff of white smoke. Unfortunately I have not been able to duplicate this experiment with that machine.

After careful scientific testing, I have determined that super glue achieves its greatest strength in the tube's nozzle when you leave the cap off overnight.

One of the truly great pleasures in model railroading is replacing a missing Kadee coupler spring on the first attempt. There are persistent rumors that there are people who have experienced this more than once.

Corollary: The greatest weight-to-distance ratio in model railroading is the weight of a coupler spring divided by how far the spring travels when attempting to place it in the coupler.

There is a 100% correlation between the number of derailments and the number of people observing the train.

Cleaning track in front of an engine, attempting to keep it going, is great cross-training for sweepers in the sport of curling.

Cornfield meets are not the problem. The scale 400-foot fall resulting in a concrete floor meet is the problem.

The time required to solder together two 14 gauge wires times 847 pairs of wire equals several burn holes in your pants, a very sore back, and a really long time under your layout.  
Corollary#1: hot solder on your skin

hurts.

Corollary #2: when someone suggests something is not a good idea, he is probably right.

The melting point of plastic ties is lower than the melting point of solder.

If you have a two-level layout, starting scenery to the upper level after completing the lower level scenery allows you to try out a lower level snow scene.

Corollary: plaster drips do not make realistic snow.

To develop your problem solving techniques, wire all 23 blocks before running a test engine.

A two-way single track main with lots of tunnels and blind turns adds lots of exciting variables to operation. *f*

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## THE CROSSROADS OF EASTERN IOWA

- two days of informative clinics
- model judging, contest, and display
- 100-table train show
- prototype and industrial tours
- 15 home, club, & garden layout tours
- excursion on the Iowa Interstate RR
- banquet speaker: MR's Cody Grivno
- rail and non-rail sightseeing guides
- state of the art convention facility

**EID  
MCoR  
NMRA**

June  
10-13

# CEDAR RAPIDS 2010

Presented by the Eastern Iowa Division  
Join us in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Mid-Continent Region!

# Adding window glazing to rolling stock and vehicles

Text and photos by Lester J. Breuer, MMR

Today the most commonly purchased rolling stock or vehicle at the hobby shop is the ready-to-run (R-T-R) type. Upon examining the window glazing in R-T-R vehicle or rolling stock – if it has any – you will see that it is very well done in most cases. That's not always the case in older vehicles or rolling stock you may already have on your model railroad. In fact I would venture to guess some have no window glazing at all.



How can you quickly and easily put window glazing in the old vehicles or rolling stock? There are various solutions. The easiest solution, I believe is to use Micro Kristal Klear by MicroScale. The Micro Kristal Klear, once dry, looks like old fashioned window glass. If that is

acceptable to you then I suggest you give it a try. I would rather have old fashioned- looking window glass than no window glass at all!

I find the Micro Kristal Klear quite easy to use. As the instructions say, you use a toothpick to apply the Kristal Klear to the window opening. You first apply the Kristal Klear to the edges of the window opening and then fill the opening by adding more Kristal Klear to the toothpick and moving it in a circular motion in the window opening. I found no special tricks were needed to apply the material. When you first apply the material it has the same color and opacity as white glue; however, it dries clear.

I used the Kristal Klear to make the snowplow windows and the windows in the 1940 Ford Sedan. The snowplow is sitting on the end of the caboose track in McGregor Yard in the town of McGregor on my Minneapolis & Northland Railroad. If upon examining the snowplow photo you start wondering about the snowplow headlight lens, I should tell you it was made with two part epoxy. The 1940 Ford Sedan is parked at Kool Ice, a reefer icing facility located along the McGregor yard.

If you have vehicles or rolling stock in need of window glazing I encourage you to give Kristal Klear a try. 📧



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# TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



Want us to remind you when your FUSEE subscription expires?

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[www.granitecitytrainshow.com](http://www.granitecitytrainshow.com)

All Aboard!

ST CLOUD, MINNESOTA

## GRANITE CITY TRAIN SHOW

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009**

*Buy, sell, trade or just view hundreds of trains under one roof.*

9am-3:30pm - National Guard Armory - 1710 Veteran's Drive - Saint Cloud, MN

Admission: \$4.00 - Kids 12 and under FREE!

REGISTER TO WIN

**WIN A LIONEL HOGWART'S EXPRESS TRAIN SET!**

REGISTER TO WIN

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Call 320-255-0033 or visit [www.granitecitytrainshow.com](http://www.granitecitytrainshow.com)  
email: [edwardolson@cloudnet.com](mailto:edwardolson@cloudnet.com)

Map & Directions: [www.granitecitytrainshow.com/2009/03/map.pdf](http://www.granitecitytrainshow.com/2009/03/map.pdf)

# 32nd Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday,  
October 17, 2010  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$5  
(under 12 free with paid adult)

Ramada Plaza Suites  
Crystal Ballroom  
1635 42nd St. S.,  
Fargo ND

- ★ 16th Annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest
- ★ Large & small operating model railroads
- ★ Vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more
- ★ Door prizes -- No need to be present to win
- ★ Valley RC Flyers displaying their planes

# Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

October 17, 2009, Spirit Lake, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 CDT Present were: Alan Saatkamp, Doug Harding, Terry Davis, Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, Gerry Miller, David Hamilton, Les Breuer, Terry Anderson and Jay Davis.

## OLD BUSINESS

The meeting started with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Gerry Leone to approve the minutes as printed in the last FUSEE. A second was offered by Dave Hamilton.

Treasurer Dave Hamilton presented the board with a full written report on the Region's finances. Alan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Jim Bernier seconded the motion.

Convention Director Paul Ullrich updated the board (via cell phone) on the progress of the 2010 convention being held in Winnipeg.

Contest Director Jim Bernier handed out a list of all the contest entries and points awarded from the Hutchinson convention. There were 27 model entries and 40 photos entered. He also reported that 13 models had earned at least 87.5 points and qualified for an Achievement Certificate.

Gerry Leone presented a combined Public Relations and Editor's report. In the PR position Gerry reported he was working with Paul Ullrich and the rest of the convention committee on getting photos and video clips for making another YouTube promo video for the Winnipeg convention.

Gerry reported, as editor, that he was beginning his 5th year as editor of THE FUSEE With his new responsibilities as Communications Director for the NMRA, Gerry sadly announced that he was stepping down as editor as of the Fall 2010 issue. He said that it was due to the fact that his new position was taking up more of his time than he anticipated. The average number of issues printed is 225, with the exception of the Spring issue, which was mailed to all NMRA members within the TLR boundaries. THE FUSEE continues to carry three advertisers: Brass Car Sides, the Granite City Train Show, and the Spud Valley Train Show. The Luce Line Train Club purchased a one-time ad. In addition, Fagan's Hobby Shop in Dubuque has purchased a full year's worth of 1/4 page ads. The Eastern Iowa Division has purchased two half-page ads, advertising the Mid-Continent Region's convention in June of 2010.

Gerry Miller reported as Vice President that he had sent out a survey, via email, about what

people thought about the convention. He received 3 responses. Dave Hamilton added that the same survey was on the TLR website and received 9 responses. The Board decided to stay with the current convention format. Alan made a motion to approve the report and was seconded by Dave.

Dave Hamilton reported on his other duties as webmaster and Membership & Handbook Chairperson. He said he was going to add a link about passport information. Dave said he has been receiving quarterly membership reports of NMRA members in the region. He has been sending these on to Division Superintendents. He also has been scanning these reports for new members and sending them a TLR welcome pack.

A motion to accept the board's reports was made by Gerry Miller and seconded by Jim Bernier.

## DIVISION REPORTS

### Twin Cities

Les Breuer told the Board that for the second year they have held their meeting at the Jackson Street Roundhouse. 20 people attended their last meeting. On October 24 they were planning layout tours of members' homes.

### Prairie Lakes

Doug Harding told the Board that the Division's fall meet was being held down the street at the Dickinson County Expo building. The meet had been attended so far by about 45 people. At last Spring's meet held in Spencer, IA, a new editor was appointed. He is Keith Wells from Cherokee, IA. The PLD has its Spring meet planned for Emmetsburg, IA, and the Fall meet planned for Sibley, IA. The dates have not yet been set.

### Dakota Southeastern

Terry Anderson reported that they had their 4th annual open house tour. It was attended by about 33 people. In September, Division members entertained nearly 200 train enthusiasts at the Sioux Falls Ronning Library. With great publicity from the library about the hands-on clinics, the outing was a great success. In November the DSED will again take part in the eighth annual "Trains at Christmas" at the Fairgrounds. It will feature vendors, layouts, and giveaways. At its last meeting it was decided to put a bid in for the 2012 TLR convention to be held in Sioux Falls.

### Minnesota River Valley

Terry Davis reported to the Board that they remained active with a core group of about 13. He also added that members were still involved with the layout being constructed at the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center at

## Magazine Back Issues, Too

Due to space constraints I am selling many back issues of *Mainline Modeler*, *RMC*, *MR*, *Classic Toy Trains*, *NYC Headlight*, *North Western Lines*, *Soo Liner*, *Rail Travel News*, *Prototype Modeler* and other titles at competitive prices. See our website for current list or e-mail to [dchenry@gac.edu](mailto:dchenry@gac.edu).

We regret that we have had to discontinue some older items due to insufficient sales. See our website or write us for updated list. We still offer over 100 items for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, RI, B&O, C&E, L&N, KCS, N&W, ERIE, ATSF, MP, CN, CP, VIA & Amtrak. Use HO sides with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Body Kits, or in N the ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Send 2-oz. SSAA for catalog and bulletin. Available through hobby shops or direct from us (\$4.50 for shipping, plus \$0.50 per ALM core kit if ordered.) Add 6.875% MN sales tax for MN orders. See our website for current information sheets, forms, bulletins, DVD, CV trucks, and magazines.

[www.brasscarsides.com](http://www.brasscarsides.com)

Brass Car Sides, 715 S. 7th St.  
St. Peter, MN 56082-1435

Montevideo, MN, on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from September to May. The fourth Saturday gathering often includes a short business meeting. At this time they are planning an annual meeting to be held in Olivia, MN.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary handed out ballots and a list of eligible recipients for the Bob Dew Award. The ballots were collected by Alan.

Next the Board discussed the suggestion that the Region charter a bus to go to TrainFest or next Summer's national convention in Milwaukee. It was decided that it would be hard to coordinate a start location for the trip and very expensive. The idea was dropped.

A discussion was held on how to better get the Divisions to use the convention grant, which was reinstated at the meeting held at Hutchinson. The Board made some recommendations to be made by the Vice President and the editor.

Gerry Miller gave an update on the progress of the planning of the 2011 convention in Dubuque.

Jim Bernier made a motion to adjourn and Gerry Leone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M. 

# Welcome to Canada! -or- How to Cross the Border Easily

By Paul Ullrich

Don't be scared.

It's only Canada.

Nine out of ten times, customs officials on either side of the border will simply ask you for your identification and wave you through. This article concerns the tenth time.

Let's get to the bottom line. You'll need a passport or a Nexus card to cross the border. A Nexus card costs \$50, and it is less expensive than a passport. You can use it for cross border traveling on land, sea or air.

You can apply for a Nexus card online at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov), but you will also have to go for a personal interview and have an iris photograph taken. The only places you can do that are at the ports of entry at Warroad or, International Falls, MN, or Pembina, ND. Unless you live close to the border, applying for a passport would be the more convenient option.

Now for the rules and regulations. If you do not cross the border very often, please don't be scared off by this. Canadians cross border travel much more than Americans, and Americans entering Canada have a far easier time than Canadians entering the USA.

Children traveling with one parent, grandparents or other guardians should carry proof of custody or letters from the non-accompanying parent authorizing travel. (This is in addition to the child's passport.) Any person under the age of 18 and traveling alone should carry a letter from his/her parent or guardian authorizing the trip.

Anyone with a criminal record (including a drunk driving conviction) may be excluded from entering Canada. A waiver of exclusion may be issued but several weeks are required and a processing fee must be paid. Alien permanent residents of the U.S. must present their Alien Registration Card, commonly called the "Green Card."

You can bring certain goods into Canada for your own use during your stay. This includes clothing, camping equipment, sports equipment, personal computers, cameras, and items for business use.

You may wish to declare goods such as cameras and laptops when you arrive. If you kept the receipt, it would be handy to bring it with you. You may be required to fill out a Customs Declaration Card.

In extremely rare cases, the customs inspector may request a security deposit on your goods and may issue a Temporary Admission Permit. Present the goods to Customs when you leave Canada and your deposit will be refunded.

Unless you can prove that you had them with you when you left with documents that fully describe the item, U.S. Customs may require you to pay duty on items you've carried out of the country and are bringing back with you, such as a laptop computer, cameras, and jew-



elry. Sales receipts, insurance policies, or jeweler's appraisals are acceptable forms of proof. You may register your items with U.S. Customs at the border as you are leaving. Request a Certificate of Registration - CBP Form 4457. Inspectors must see the item you are registering in order to certify the certificate of registration. Keep the certificate for future trips.

We are having a swap meet/flea market at the Prairie Dog Central's station. I would strongly advise that Americans entering Canada to not bring any items for sale at this flea market. If you declare to customs that you have items for sale, you will be charged a 12% tax on the estimated value of the items. Unless you have a price guide to prove their worth, estimating the value of a bunch of junker boxcars you want to unload isn't worth the bother.

Judging by past experience TLR members have had in the past, bringing model contest entries across the border shouldn't be any problem. It would help to download the contest form and fill it out before you cross the border.

You can import gifts into Canada for friends

and relatives duty-free, as long as each gift is valued at \$60 or less, in Canadian funds. You can bring up to 1.5 litres of wine, or 1.14 litres of liquor, or 24 bottles or cans of beer or ale. The legal drinking age in Manitoba is 18. The Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) does not allow drinking on campus.

You can also bring duty-free up to 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 200 grams of manufactured tobacco and 200 tobacco sticks. Where you'd smoke them is anyone's guess. The CMU and all public places in Manitoba are smoke-free environments.

You may not bring into the U.S. Cuban cigars purchased in Canada. Smoke them here, if you can find a place. But if you're they type who likes to get loaded and smoke contraband cigars, then why are you attending a model railroad convention? But you can buy quite a bit of stuff when you're in Canada, and bring it home tax- and duty-free. If you've been in Canada for more than 48 hours, you are allowed to bring \$800 worth of goods back home. That's per person. If you've been in Canada for less than 48 hours, the exemption is \$200 per person.

If you bring a dog or cat at least three months old from the United States, you must have a certificate to show that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies within the last three years. The certificate has to be dated and signed by a veterinarian, and it must identify the animal by breed, age, sex, coloring, and any distinguishing marks. Animal tags are not acceptable in place of certificates. If you bring a dog or cat under three months old you do not need a certificate, but the animal has to be in good health.

You cannot bring guns (or weapons of any kind), hate literature or pornography across the border. But we're all nice, peaceful model railroaders who aren't into all of that nasty stuff, right?

There is a U.S. consulate in Winnipeg.

We're on the metric system here, which you only need to know about when you're driving or checking the weather. 100 km/hr is NOT the same as 100 mph!. My brother-in-law found that out the hard way. Divide every-

**"Canada" continued on page 10**

# Steam on the Prairies "Early Early" Bird Registration

May 28th to 30th 2010, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

TLR No. 1 Northern Division

The No.1 Northern Division will be holding a 3-day TLR conference at the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The conference will consist of a Steam Excursion/ Banquet, Prototype site visit, Friday Night Barbeque, Model Contest, Clinics and Layout Tours among other popular activities.

*"Early Early" Bird Registration only open between Oct. 9th and Dec. 18th, 2009*  
*Postmarked no later than Dec. 18th 2009*  
**Save \$20.00**

Events	Cost	Total
<b>Basic Registration (NMRA Member)</b> (Includes Steam Excursion, Banquet, Friday Night Barbeque, Clinic Participation)	\$80.00	
<b>Basic Registration (Non-NMRA Member)</b> (Includes all events, adds six-month NMRA RailPass membership*)	\$90.00	
<b>Extra Fare Prototype Excursion Friday May 28th (10:00 A.M.)</b> Prototype Railfan Excursion to Portage Junction and Museum, at Portage la Prairie. Includes CP/CN mainline rail viewing and the Canadian Pacific Railway Park & Heritage Museum. Entry fee included. Lunch provided. <b>Limit:</b> First 40 registered	\$40.00	
<b>Non-Rail Tour of Historic Lower Fort Garry Friday May 28th (10:00 A.M.)</b> Entry fee included. Lunch provided. <b>Limit:</b> First 40 registered	\$40.00	
<b>Friday Night Barbeque May 28th (6:00 P.M.)</b> Assiniboine Valley Railway	included	
<b>Morning Clinics Saturday May 29th</b> Clinics at the Mennonite University will be run at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 A.M. Lunch at the college on your own at 12:00 P.M.	included	
<b>Steam Excursion/Banquet on the Prairie Dog Central Saturday May 29th (2:00 P.M.)</b> Round trip steam excursion with shop tour, 2 rural train stops, and model railroad flea market/swap at the Prairie Dog Central freight shed (bring items to sell). Banquet on return trip at Hitch'n Post rural retreat, while steam train waits.	included	
<b>Annual General Meeting, &amp; Layout Tours Sunday May 30th</b> Annual General Meeting at Mennonite University 9:00 A.M. Lunch on your own Best of the Best self-guided Layout Tours start at 1:00 P.M.	included	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		

**Option to Layout Tours: (select 1 of the sessions only)**

Operating sessions on the Outdoor Assiniboine Valley Railway

Limited to the first 15 Registrants	(early afternoon)	1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	Yes	_____
15 Registrants	(late afternoon)	3:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.	Yes	_____

Registration Payment to:

Sid Greenstone, Registrar  
 Steam on the Prairies 2010  
 TLR Regional Convention  
 210-1600 Kenaston, Blvd. Suite 243  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3P 0Y4

Cheque or Money Order payable to:

**No. 1 Northern Division of the TLR of the NMRA**  
 Canadian or U.S. Dollars  
 Postage to Canada is extra cost

Registration information: email: [reg.tlr.2010@gmail.com](mailto:reg.tlr.2010@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Location:** Canadian Mennonite University 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

**Phone:** 204-487-3300 ext. 314 **Toll Free:** 877-231-4570 **Fax:** 204-837-9043 [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)  
 Contact the CMU for Low Rate Accommodations (All major credit cards accepted) [rental@cmu.ca](mailto:rental@cmu.ca)

**Contact:** Zachary Peters, Hosting Coordinator [zpeters@cmu.ca](mailto:zpeters@cmu.ca)

\*You cannot get a RailPass membership if you've ever had one before, or if you've been an NMRA member within the past three years.

## “Canada” continued from page 8

thing by two-thirds. 100 km/hr (the highway speed limit) is 65 mph. 50 km/hr (the lowest posted city speed limit) is 33 mph. We have photo radar all over the city, so please respect the speed limits.

When Canadian say, "Boy, it's gonna be a hot one! It'll be 30 degrees today!", don't be alarmed. We don't like the cold that much.

We're using the metric system.

Check with your health insurance provider if you are covered in Canada. If not, you should buy travel health insurance for every day you're in Canada. It doesn't cost very much.

When returning to the U.S., you must declare all items you purchased, items you received as gifts, items you bought in duty-free shops, repairs or alterations to any items, items you brought home for someone else, and items you intend to sell or use in your business.

You may bring back one litre of alcohol. But why would you want to? Alcohol is a lot cheaper in the States.

Many travelers are confused by the term "duty-free." People think that what they buy in duty-free shops outside the U.S. won't be dutiable when they return home. Guess what? Articles sold in a Canadian duty-free shop are only free of CANADIAN duty and taxes. If your purchases exceed your personal exemption, items bought in a duty-free shop will be subject to duty. You are still allowed to bring in only one liter of alcohol duty-free, regardless of whether it was purchased at a duty-free shop.

Drugs with a high potential for abuse may not be brought across either border, and there are severe penalties for trying to do so. If you need medicines that contain potentially addictive drugs or narcotics, you must declare them. Carry them in their original containers, with a prescription or written statement from your doctor.

You can't bring fruit or fresh meat across either border. Don't ask why. I'd need another issue of THE FUSEE just to explain that.

If you're taking more than \$10,000 out of the USA, you will need to report it to U.S. customs officials. If you exchange more than \$1,000 for Canadian funds at any Canadian Bank or financial institution, you'll have a lot of paperwork to fill out. If it's possible, get your money exchanged for Canadian dollars in the U.S.

When you reach the border, you will be asked for your reason for entering Canada. That's when it gets easy, and that's when you can dis-

regard almost all of the scary stuff in this article. All you have to say is, "I'm attending a model railroad convention". Knowing what a peaceful, harmless bunch we are, they'll most likely pat you on the head and let you through.

But bring your paperwork anyway. 

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## “Convention” continued from page 1

The convention will be headquartered at the suburban campus of Winnipeg's Canadian Mennonite University. Their dorm rooms are available for far less than half the price of an average hotel room. (See *article elsewhere in this issue.*) Double occupancy prices start at less than thirty dollars! A limited number of larger suites with kitchenettes are also available at extra cost. If you wish to book a room on campus, the registration form has all of the contact information listed, including an e-mail address, a fax number and a toll-free number. If guests wish to purchase reasonably priced meals, the campus cafeteria will be open.

The CN Lines SIG, the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club and the CP Station Committee of Portage La Prairie will also be attending the convention. 

# Boarding facilities for the Winnipeg convention

The Canadian Mennonite University has lodging facilities for over 150 people. There are two residences, Concord Hall and Poettcker Hall. They're within easy walking distance of the building where we will be holding our clinics and contests. These are dorm rooms, and you must share bathrooms. There are also a number of rooms that have bunk beds. If you do not wish to sleep in a bunk bed, please inquire about the availability of single beds when you are making your reservations.

Almost all of the rooms sleep two persons. At Poettcker Hall, the price for a room, double occupancy, is \$24.00 a night. Single occupancy is \$32.50 per night. The price for a room, double occupancy, at Concord Hall is \$29.00 per night. Single occupancy is \$39.25 per night. These prices include linens. If you wish to bring your own pillows, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, towels, facecloth and soap, the prices come down considerably. Double occupancy per night at Poettcker drops to

# Our convention on the newsstand

Our 2010 convention, STEAM ON THE PRAIRIES, is getting a big boost thanks to the efforts of Winnipeg writer John Longhurst and our special convention guest, *Railroad Model Craftsman* editor Bill Schaumberg!

John is going to have an article published in RMC about his layout, and will include a sidebar about the convention, complete with the logo designed by the TLR's own award winning artist, Paul Ullrich.

You might recognize John Longhurst's byline from the numerous articles he's had published in RMC and other model railroad publications. He's also the Associate Editor of *Canadian Railway Modeller*. He's so prolific that he's been called "the Gerry Leone of the North" (although it's been said that John refers to Gerry as the John Longhurst of the south).

These two writers share many things in common. They're both in communications (John's in public relations, Gerry's in advertising), they both sport great looking moustaches, and they have wonderful layouts! They've never seen each other's layouts in person, but Gerry's going to get his chance to see John's in May, and so can you! 

\$16.00 a night, singles become \$24.50. Double occupancy at Concord becomes \$21.00 per night. Singles become \$31.25.

The University also has a limited number of suites with separate bedrooms and their own kitchenettes. These suites come at a higher cost per night. Please check for availability.

There is a cafeteria on campus. Meals will be served at a very reasonable cost during the meal times when we won't be dining somewhere else.

It has come to the attention of the Convention Planning Committee that a few of our members wish to bring their children along to attend some of the events. We have arranged for a special registration fee for children ages 8 to 12 years of age of \$60. This includes a ten dollar, six month membership in the NMRA. A special registration form will be made and posted on the TLR website. 

# The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

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**THE FUSEE** is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all subscribers. A subscription runs for one year and costs \$10.00. Mail subscriptions to the Treasurer.

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You know you want to be editor. So just volunteer.

**Changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer.**

## FUSEE Advertising

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and other businesses with a model railroading interest is accepted. Pike ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs, or other non-commercial groups. All ads can be run in a single issue at the rate of 35% of the annual rate.

Ad size (HxW)	Annual Comm. rate	One time Comm. rate	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 1/8" x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 1/4" x 7 1/8"	90.00	31.50	45.00
1/4 pg 4 1/4" x 3 1/2"	45.00	15.75	25.00
1/6 pg 4 1/4" x 2 1/4"	35.00	12.25	18.50
1/8 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/8 pg 3 1/4" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/12 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	18.50	6.48	10.00
1/16 pg 1 1/8" x 3 1/2"	15.00	5.25	7.50

All advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Payment must be enclosed and should be in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. Banks. Questions? Contact the Editor!

## Subscribe to THE FUSEE!

If you're an NMRA member residing within the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region, you're automatically a TLR member. So why not keep up with what's happening in the Region? Use this form to subscribe to THE FUSEE. If your subscription has lapsed, use this form to renew.

I'm enclosing payment for: \_\_\_\_\_ New subscription  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 for one year \_\_\_\_\_ Subscription renewal  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 for two years \_\_\_\_\_ Returning member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Scale(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Dave Hamilton, Treasurer**  
**18015 33rd Place N., Plymouth, MN 55447**



Winter 2009/2010

## THE FUSEE

18015 33rd Place N.  
Plymouth, MN 55447

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### INSIDE:

**A peek at the 2010  
Winnipeg TLR Convention**

**"Early Ear'y" Bird  
registration form**

**Window Glazing**

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## Train shows & events in and near the Region

*Compiled by Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, and Terry Davis*

Saturday, 12/5/09, Granite City Train Show, 9 AM - 3:30 PM, National Guard Armory, 1710 Veteran's Drive, St. Cloud, MN. Admission: \$4, under 12 free. Model and toy trains, accessories, books, videos, railroad collectibles and memorabilia, antique toys, hobby items, more. Register to win a Lionel Hogwart's Express train set. For more information, 320-255-0033 or [www.granitecitytrainshow.com](http://www.granitecitytrainshow.com), or [edwardolson@cloudnet.com](mailto:edwardolson@cloudnet.com).

Saturday, 2/6/10, Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale, 9 AM - 2 PM, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN (Two blocks north of I-694 and Hwy 210). Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under free. Toy trains -- all scales, antique toys, railroad memorabilia. For more information contact Tom Jefferson, R&R Productions, 182 Cedar St., White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

Saturday, 4/10 /10, Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale, 9 AM - 2 PM, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN (Two blocks north of I-694 and Hwy 210). Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under free. Toy trains -- all scales, antique toys, railroad memorabilia. For more information contact Tom Jefferson, R&R Productions, 182 Cedar St., White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

Friday - Sunday, 5/28-30/10, "Steam on the Prairies," the annual TLR convention 32nd Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show, Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. See "Early Early" Bird Registration form inside this issue for pricing information. Steam excursion, banquet, prototype site visit, barbeque, model contest, clinics and layout tours, and more.

For more information, see articles in this issue or contact Paul Ullrich, Convention Director, at the addresses listed on page 11.

Sunday - Saturday, 7/11-18/10, The 75th Anniversary Convention of the National Model Railroad Association, Milwaukee, WI. Visit <http://www.nmra75.org/> for all the details.

Sunday, 10/17/10, 32nd Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show, 9 AM - 3 PM, Ramada Plaza Suites, Crystal Ballroom, 1635 42nd St. S., Fargo ND Admission: \$5, under 12 free with paid adult. "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest, large and small operating model railroads, vendors, door prizes. For more information, call Don at 701-234-9351.

**Want your event listed here?  
If you don't tell us about it,  
we won't know about it!**

**Email Jim Bernier at  
[jrbernier@hotmail.com](mailto:jrbernier@hotmail.com)**

If you're in the Thousand Lakes Region and would like your train show, swap meet, Division meeting, club meeting or other railroad/model railroad-related event listed in our calendar, please send it to Jim Bernier at [jrbernier@hotmail.com](mailto:jrbernier@hotmail.com) by the deadline listed inside.