



***For immediate release***

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## **Documentary filmmaker's passion for trains has never gone off the rails**

(Vancouver, BC) Trains of all sizes have always been a significant part of Matthew Robson's physical and professional landscape so his involvement in the Nov. 5 and 6 Vancouver Train Expo at the PNE Forum is a natural extension of that track record. In addition to his occupation as a conductor for the Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY), Robson produces documentary films of local railways, including the great Royal Hudson, and will be making his films available at Vancouver Train Expo.

As a child, Robson lived a block away from the Arbutus line and grew up watching the trains running by his house. His dad helped cultivate his interest in trains by building a model layout. Every summer, his family rode the Royal Hudson. When, as an adult, he was given the opportunity to serve as one of the Royal Hudson's pilot crew, it was a dream come true.

"It had always been pretty special to see the Royal Hudson, but to be a crew member and ride in the cab was amazing," said Robson.

Robson, a graduate of BCIT's railway conductor program, works in New Westminister under the Queensborough Bridge known as the Trapp Yard – the location of the main rail yard and the SRY head office. As a SRY employee, he sorts railcars for Canadian National Railway (CN), Canadian Pacific (CP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway, as well as railcars that go to Delta (Anacis Island), Surrey and Langley.

In addition to making films about railways in his spare time, he and his dad took on a new project in recent years: moving a CP caboose from the Kettle Valley Steam Railway over a 400 kilometre journey from Summerland to Galiano Island. They are still in the midst of refurbishing it into a cabin.

Robson is looking forward to being in the hub of train activity during Vancouver Train Expo.

"I think it's important to have a sense of community where fellow rail fans and modellers can meet and socialize. It's also important to experience our passion with others as a lot of what we do – whether it be movies or model layouts – is art. And art, after all, is meant to be shared," added Robson.

Vancouver Train Expo will have something for everyone, including a variety of interactive train displays such as Thomas & Friends, mini-rail train rides, LEGO® displays, trains made from scratch by hobbyists with metal working skills, and others produced by 3D printers. The show will appeal to kids who are fascinated with miniature working mechanisms, and older folk who enjoy learning or developing the various technical and artistic skills that are part of this creative endeavour.

Vancouver Train Expo takes place at the PNE Forum on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca](http://www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca).

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