



For immediate release

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Vancouver Train Expo is where history, technology and art meet heart

(Vancouver, BC) This weekend's Vancouver Train Expo at the PNE Forum has something for everyone, including an opportunity for children and youth to experience hands-on the grand past-time of another millennium, and for older enthusiasts to gain exposure to the state-of-the-art technology of today's new trains.

In addition to a variety of interactive train displays such as Thomas & Friends, Vancouver Train Expo will offer mini-rail train rides, LEGO® displays and balloon twisters – the perfect family outing for a pre-Christmas weekend.

Event organizer and retired forester Tom Lundgren had a childhood passion for real and model trains and picked it up again in 2002 after a serious heart attack resulted in medical leave. He found himself with time on his hands and the need to fill it with an activity that wasn't detrimental to his recovery. He constructed a railway layout in his home and made regular visits to Central Hobbies, the only Vancouver hobby shop still dealing exclusively in model trains.

He says Vancouver Train Expo is important because it represents the contribution railways made, and continue to make, to Canadian history and culture.

"In many ways, the early part of my forestry career resembled that of the railway explorers, travelling through and establishing transportation corridors -- in my case logging roads. I find the engineering aspects of railway location and construction fascinating and appreciate the skill of those who accomplished the task far from civilization," said Lundgren.

The first Canadian transcontinental was completed in 1885, simplifying long-distance overland travel. From then until the 1950's, trains were the transportation workhorses of society. After commercial airlines took off, trains and planes fought for passenger business with airlines replacing trains as the glamorous way to travel. Evidence of the esteem rail travel had in earlier times exists in the opulence of restored railway stations (Grand Central Station in New York, Pacific Central Station in Vancouver).

Chinese workers were integral to the construction of railways, in particular the Canadian Pacific, as well as the first US transcontinental. Most of these workers came from Gwan Dong Province in what is now the People's Republic of China southeastern region, and specifically from the city of Can Ton, now called Gwan Zhou.

Vancouver Train Expo will feature 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.

"Model railroading is a complex, rewarding hobby that ranges from pushing wooden trains around on the floor to replicating a part of Canada's history in miniature, sometimes re-enacting a particular time and date in history, and adhering to the same rule book and procedures as the real railroad did in that day," added Lundgren.

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.

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