

MARCH 2022 | VOL.17

# THE WHEATLAND ROUNDUP

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## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Summer can't come soon enough here in Little Big Town! Winter has its way of keeping everyone in their houses so the people of the town are getting restless and can't wait for the summer activities and for the community to come together again to enjoy the new businesses that are promised to come to town in the next few months.

After the recent incident with the Blackjack Gang, everyone in the town can agree that spirits need to be raised! Luckily, Taffy Briggs, runner in the recent election for mayor, is very creative and thought of the perfect idea to bring the folks of the town together! "As y'all know, I own the local watering hole and since I never won the election I have had a lot of

free time to think about new things I can do to spice up my business. Then it came to me! I have the perfect set up for live music in my bar and wouldn't it be perfect to have musicians come by and put on a show for Little Big Town. Right then and there I started my plannin'. Y'all can expect a lot of big names comin' to town this summer with the first musician coming on June 4th!"

After Max Wheatland heard Taffy's announcement he knew he had to get in on it! "Taffy and I have had our differences in the past but this is an opportunity I just couldn't pass up. We got to negotiating and Taffy agreed to partner with the Wheatland Express and together we have created the excursion and dinner show experience! After a beautiful ride on the train along with the Wheatland Express' signature entertainment, guests will make their way to Taffy's bar and enjoy a gourmet meal along with a concert performance. It will be such an amazing experience for all and a great way to enjoy the summertime together as a community! Book your tickets now before they run out now, ya hear!"

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# NOBLE NOTATION

## WELCOME TO THE CHATEAU

Written by Bill Noble

Quebec City is built on a rock. The Promontory of Quebec, Cap Diamant looms 333 feet above a narrow bend in the St Lawrence River. The strategic importance of this place as key to the defense of Canada was recognized as early as 1608 when the French under Samuel de Champlain established the settlement of Quebec. Over the next 250 years the French and then the British built upon these fortifications. The walls and fortifications are still there to amaze and delight visitors. Quebec and Campeche, Mexico share the distinction as the only two cities in North America still surrounded by their original fortifications.

In late 1775, an American army lead by General Benedict Arnold seized Montreal and attacked Quebec. Although they were repulsed and General Arnold wounded, the Americans kept Quebec under siege until the arrival of British reinforcements in the following spring. Alarmed and concerned by tensions with the US, the British heightened efforts to strengthen the city, particularly from the west, the gentle slopes and level ground of the Plains of Abraham. Some defensive Martello Towers were built, and the city wall improved but the British government in London, horrified by cost estimates, balked at building a larger fort. The War of 1812 proved to be the last straw and between 1820 and 1850, the British built the largest and most modern fortress in the British Empire, La Citadelle de Quebec. The



fort is a redout, its defensive wall is a deep ditch dug into the hilltop. With exception of some rooftops, very little of the fort is visible. The wide, deep, vertically sided ditch surrounds the fort with precisely angled segments. The sides are lined with gun ports to allow defenders to pour murderous fire onto any attackers that might try to cross the ditch. The Citadel remains Canada's only active fort, serving as the headquarters of the Royal 22nd Regiment and the summer residence of the Governor General. In a brush with history, the Citadel served as the meeting site in 1943 and 1944 when our Prime Minister Mackenzie King hosted Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt to plan the strategy of World War Two.



Figure 1: An aerial view of La Citadelle de Quebec showing the massive angled dry ditch surrounding the fortress compound within.



A half mile away, in the centre of the city, on the edge of the precipice, the Chateau St Louis had served as the residence of the governors of New France and Quebec for over 100 years until it burned to the ground in 1834. The stage was set.

From its earliest operations, the Canadian Pacific catered to the wealthy elite of Canada, Europe and the U.S. General Manager William Van Horne established superlative service, recognizing that a reputation for fine service would also woo the freight traffic of the business world. In addition, the CPR was a vital link in the British Empire's "All Red Route" that linked London with its empire - fast steamship from Britain to North America, railway across the continent and then another fast steamer to the Orient. Van Horne wanted that traffic for the CPR as well as the social and political cachet it brought. As a British writer of the time, Edmond Swinglehurst, wrote in "The Romantic Journey", travelers "wanted and expected to find themselves treated in a manner suitable to an Englishman's station in the world". The CPR provided the finest sleeping cars and dining cars with service, food and fine wines to match. Van Horne also dreamed of a chain of luxury hotels stretching across Canada. However, the CPR's first steps in accommodation were driven by the down-to-earth force of gravity. Dining cars were very heavy and required extra engines to haul them up the steep grades of the Rockies and Selkirks. The solution to this dilemma was to cut the heavy dining cars out of the trains on the steep mountain sections and to build dining

stations: Mount Stephen House at the Big Hill, Glacier House at Rogers Pass and Fraser Canyon House at North Bend British Columbia. All three were wooden structures with the central dining room flanked by wings with a few basic rooms for travelers who wished to stop over for mountain hiking or sight-seeing. As history would show, these simple beginnings would grow into the iconic hotels we know today.

In the meantime, Van Horne focused his energy far to the east. Quebec City was the first port of call for mail and passengers on the "All Red Route" and it was here that Van Horne chose to build the first hotel worthy of his luxury hotel chain. With Lord Strathcona and Sir Thomas Shaughnessy of the CPR and other business associates, Van Horne established a company to construct the Chateau Frontenac. As their architect, the group chose Bruce Price of New York. Inspired by the spectacular site surrounded by the walls of the city, flanked by the French style houses of the old city and neighbor to the massive fortress, Price chose the architectural style of the chateaux of France's Loire Valley. With its stone construction, towers, turrets and steep copper-clad roofs the chateau style grew to be the defining style of Canada's railway hotels. "Canada's Castles" are lasting symbols of solid quality. An inspired choice.

The original 170-room hotel opened on 18 December 1893. Through seven additions, the Chateau has grown to the 611-room, internationally known structure that it is today. A visit to the

Chateau to stay, for a meal or a drink or just for a peek is a delight and a chance to experience a magic world. I remember breakfasts in the dining room.

On a winter's night many years ago, Gracie and I arrived at the Chateau, seeking shelter from a Quebec City blizzard. It was after midnight. It was the night of La Bal du Carnaval, at that time one of the most important events of the Quebec City social calendar. The hotel was full. The desk clerk was apologetic when he gave us the key; "This room hasn't been renovated". It was the last room. Our room was high up in the tower, two floors above the elevator's last stop. The room was outdated. Safe. Snug. Ours.

And I remember the doorman in his fur hat, mitts and formal greatcoat. "Welcome to the Chateau".

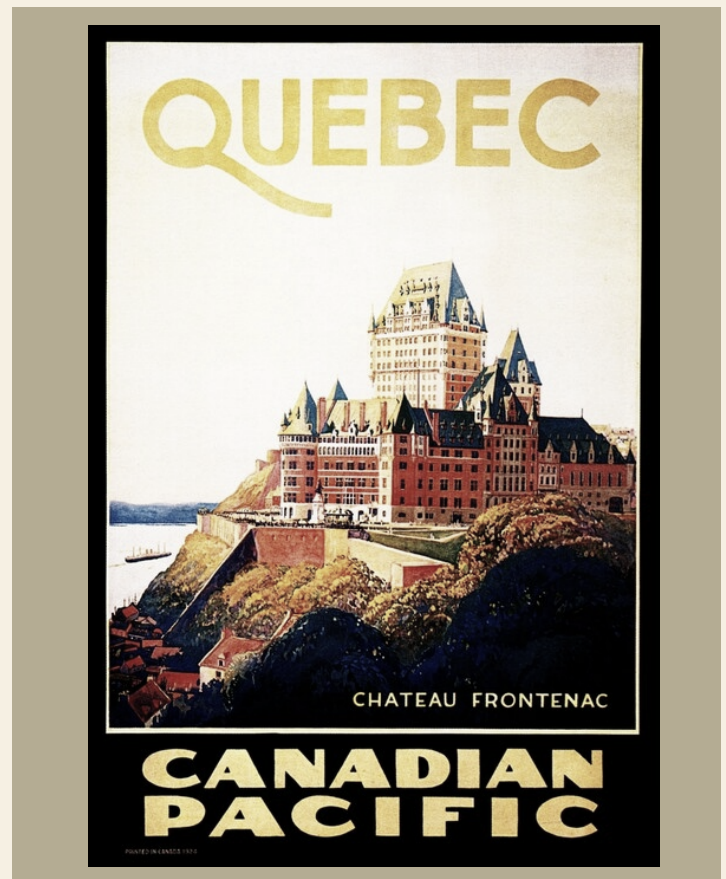


Figure 2: A classic view of the Chateau Frontenac from a Canadian Pacific Railway poster from the 1930s.

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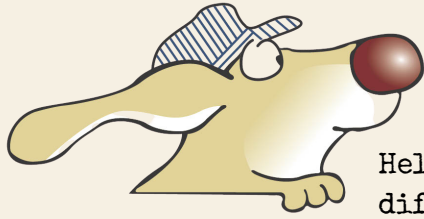
**Book your tickets for July 16th 2022!**



[www.wheatlandexpressstrain.ca](http://www.wheatlandexpressstrain.ca)

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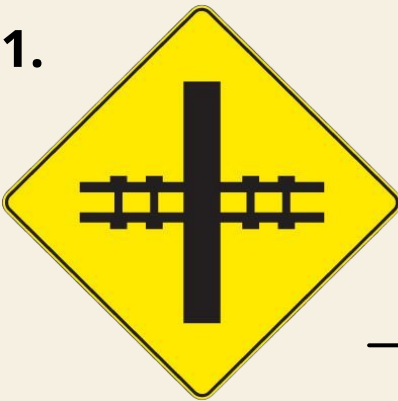
# SPIKES SAFETY SCOOP

Hello everybody! It's Spike, the safety dog here! Do you know all of the different kinds of railway signs? Railway signs and devices aren't only for the trains, they are for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists! Knowing your railway signs is SUPER important and will help you stay rail safe whenever you are around railway tracks! A crossbuck sign is in the shape of an "X". This sign means that railway tracks are crossing a road so make sure you always look both ways and listen for trains before crossing. Another important sign is an advanced warning sign. This sign is yellow and is in the shape of a diamond and has a picture of train tracks crossing a road. This sign is used to warn vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians that there are train tracks up ahead. When you see this sign it means you need to slow down, STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing. Another important sign is a no trespassing sign. This sign means that you must stay off railway property. It's very dangerous and illegal to walk or play on railway property! A multi-track sign is a crossbuck sign with a number underneath it. When you see this sign it means that there is more than one set of tracks at a crossing and the number tells you how many. That's all the signs we will look at today! See if you can name all of the signs below! I'll see you all next time!



-Spike the safety dog

1.



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3.



2.



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4.



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Can you help Spike complete the  
word search?

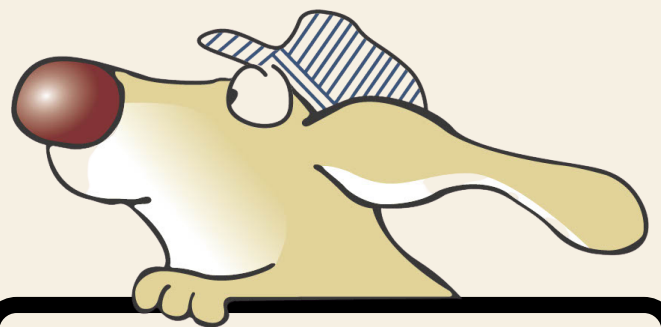
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y h g f e d x v a o p r g u a r q i o w q p g h k d

Safety Railroad

Train Track

Conductor Spike

Carman Horn



Did you know that  
there are 28 different types of  
railway cars?!



# OPERATIONS UPDATE

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## Wheatland Express Safety Train

With spring just around the corner, we are excited about some nice warm weather! With this warm weather, it means people will be out and about, please make sure you follow all railway signs! We have started sending out a monthly newsletter for the Canadian Safety Train, sharing all the new details. We are still posting on Facebook and Instagram so make sure to follow that for safety tips and all the exciting news!



## Wheatland Express Learning Centre

This year, along with our other exhibits, we will be completing them all with a baggage car where they will all be displayed. This month we have started the construction of the baggage car for the exhibits! We cannot wait for it to be all completed and can share it all with you! We are hoping with our new exhibit you can enjoy it just as much as we will!



## Great Sandhills Railway

We spent most of the month dealing with blowing snow and and cold temperatures . We are in the process of completing 92 day inspections on the locomotives and preparing them for what looks to be a busy Spring and Summer.

The sleeper car, the Walnut Grove, is now officially ours. It will receive the required air tests and then begin its journey North. If all goes well it should be here in May. Storage cars will also start to return in April as the

winter season winds down.

We are anxiously waiting on the decision on the land in Wakaw . If confirmed, we will begin planning for the event centre and start hiring folks to begin the training component of the program . We are also working with the Wakaw building inspector to ensure all is good with the western town. We are still targeting June 4th as the grand opening day.



## Wheatland Charities Inc.

We are working with "Starrs" air ambulance on the possibility of a Casino train in August to raise funds. Game of chance and even horse races will test each participant's skills and luck. When things dry up a little, Tom and Jerry will begin training for the new season. Believe it or not Tom has added a couple of pounds. We will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine the Charities that will benefit from the work of the Lechance Gang this season.

We will continue to work at the farm this summer working on a goal to become an accredited rescue farm.

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## Wheatland Express Excursion Train

March is gearing up to be a busy month for us at Wheatland Express while we will embark on new and exciting projects. We are delighted to be partnering with Riide and Prestige Transportation Company to offer our customers the opportunity to ride in comfort to our amazing excursions. Reservations for our upcoming excursions are increasing daily. Johnny Cash Dinner show Jun 4, 2022 is 84% sold. New to our 2022 season is the Shania Twain Tribute concert on August 13, 2022, which is creating quite the buzz. We just launched on March 14, 2022, and we have already seen a few bookings already and lots of inquiries. Stay tuned for more upcoming announcements. All Aboard!



# SHANIA TWAIN TRIBUTE

**August 13th 2022**

[www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca](http://www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca)



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# STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

## HOW TIMBIT SEE'S IT

Neigh there. I'm Timbit, a reporter for the Wheatland Round-Up. My job is to keep the folks of Little Big Town updated to the goings-on on all things four-legged. I've been missing my two big friends, Tom and Jerry so today I'm going to head over to their pen and see how they are!

Hi boys, long time no see!

"Hiya Timbit! I think the last time we saw you, there was no snow on the ground!" Said Jerry

"Yeah, last time you visited you were dressed up like us for Halloween! How did you make out trick or treating?" Tommy added

You're right! The whole farm loved my costume and luckily we had a bunch of grain on hand so I got lots of treats! What have you two been up to?

"It's been a nice and lazy winter for us! It's been great to rest up after such a busy excursion season!" Tommy said.

"And we still have another three months to relax before the next season. It's going to come up fast though!" says Jerry.

"I can't wait! Remember all those cookies the guests gave us? The big round-bales we've been getting have been so yummy but nothing beats the taste of a cookie on a hot summer day!" said Tommy.

"You got that right, Tommy! I can't wait to go back to Little Big Town and see everyone again. Last season was a blast!"



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## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**Name:** Ryan Hoffman

**Born:** Prince Albert, SK

**Currently Reside:** Leask, SK

**Work History:** Ryan started railroading in 1998 and in 2001 he started running a tamper and has been running tampers ever since

**Favorite TV Show:** Game of Thrones

**Favorite Athlete:** Toronto Maple Leafs

**Favorite Wheatland Railcar:** Bar Car

**Did you know:** Ryan loves to golf!



# 2022 WHEATLAND EXPRESS SCHEDULE

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## JUNE

04- Johnny Cash Dinner Show  
11- Prairie Train Heist  
12- Murder Mystery  
19- Prairie Train Heist  
26- Family Summer Express

## JULY

03- Murder Mystery  
10- Prairie Train Heist  
16- Dinner Show  
17- Murder Mystery  
24- Family Summer Express  
31- Prairie Train Heist

## AUGUST

14- Murder Mystery  
21- Murder Mystery  
28- Prairie Train Heist

## SEPTEMBER

10- Prairie Train Heist  
17- Prairie Train Heist  
24- On-board Dining

## OCTOBER

28- Halloween Ghost Train  
29- Halloween Ghost Train  
30- Halloween Ghost Train

## NOVEMBER

20- Christmas Express  
26- Christmas Express  
27- Christmas Express



STAY TUNED FOR ADDED DATES, TOURS  
AND TRAVEL OFFERS!

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[www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca](http://www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca)