

# THE WHEATLAND ROUNDUP

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## LITTLE BIG TOWN IS MELTING!

During the month of July, a heat wave passed through Little Big Town. With highs of 35 degrees Celsius, it felt as though everyone and everything was melting! Although the scorching heat was hard to bear, the Wheatland Express Excursion Train was still on the tracks and ready to bring entertainment to tourists and the town!

It certainly is hard to function in these kind of conditions but if you were at any of the train excursions you would have seen all of the candidates for mayor working hard to gain votes for the election! Maximillian Wheatland, Mayor Calloway, Taffy Briggs and George Davies were all handing out their customized pins with their slogans on them and the town has become covered in election posters. With only two more months left until the election, these folks are making it very clear how passionate they are about the growth and safety of their town!

Luckily, the heat has slowed down the activity of the Blackjack Gang. Only one train heist has been reported for the month of July but there are still two more excursions on the 30th and 31st. Since it has cooled down a bit near the end of the month, Maximillian Wheatland is hoping this doesn't open the doors for the criminals to take over the train this weekend.

Despite the weather or ongoing threat from the gang, everyone always looks forward to enjoying their time aboard the Wheatland Express.

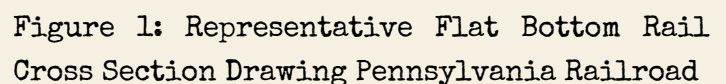
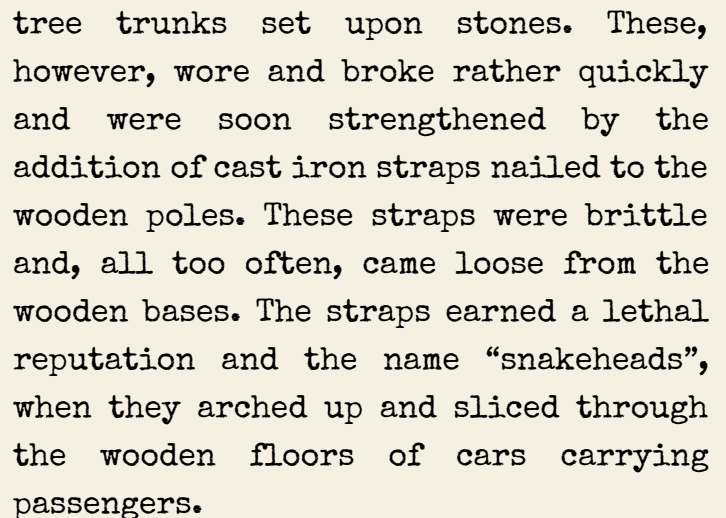
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# BIG STEEL RAIL

Railways. Train tracks. They're pretty much all over today, or, you don't have to go very far to run across them. They are part of our landscape. Whether they are a heavy duty mainline filled with endless strings of containers or rusty streaks hiding in the weeds of an abandoned elevator track, we don't think about them much. But how did they get there? How did we end up with the rather strange constructions we have today - long metal bars nailed to timbers?

The miner s' first rails were poles or



The wooden poles, and the lurking dangers of "snakeheads", were eliminated and replaced by rails of solid cast iron. These were brittle and were supplanted by



rails of stronger, more resilient wrought iron. The continued improvement of metallurgy throughout the nineteenth century permitted the development of rolled steel rail. Much design, testing and development led, by the 1890's, to standardized rail sizes and profiles geared for various uses. The dominant standard, worldwide, is "flat bottom rail". Rail sizes in North America are measured in pounds per yard while equivalent kilograms per meter are used in other regions. Figure 1 shows a typical cross section for flat bottom rail.

Today, rails are hot rolled by specialty mills using high quality steel, free of defects. Quality control is important since rails are subject to high stresses. The current standard for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) is 136 pounds per yard on the main line with 100 pounds per yard on most branch lines although some 85 pounds per yard rail can still be found. An interesting feature is that the weight per yard, manufacturer's name and year of manufacture are printed on the vertical web of every piece of rail - see Figure 2. In North America, standard rail length is thirty-nine feet with rails bolted together - the abutting rail ends produce the famous clickety-clack. Beginning in the 1940's, bolted rail, particularly on main lines, has been replaced by "continuous welded rail" (CWR) - lengths of rail welded into sections over a mile long. The CPR mainline has about 60% CWR. The mainline tracks of the Wheatland Express are laid with 100 pounds per yard bolted rail.

While the rails are the most prominent feature of train tracks, what they sit upon is equally important in insuring safe, trouble-free operation. Simply stated, railways are built by leveling the ground to create the roadbed, laying down ties every few inches and attaching the rails to the ties with the proper spacing. Remember the Roman horses and Standard Gauge. Then gravel or (preferably) crushed stone ballast is put down to cover the roadbed and surround the ties to lock the track in place, prevent the growth of weeds and provide drainage to keep the track dry. The ties, which are called "sleepers" in Britain by the way, create a strong track structure with the rails and keep the rails aligned and level. While much of the rest of the world uses concrete or even steel ties, in North America, where hardwood is plentiful, we still use "old fashioned" wooden ties. Pressure treating with creosote, a tarry petroleum preservative, produces a resilient, long-lasting product. The rails are set on tie plates and spiked to the ties using simple spikes. The tie plates protect the ties from abrasion and keep the rails and spikes aligned and in place.

The work of maintaining the track has changed somewhat from earlier days - machines have taken over many of the tasks that were previously done by hand. For example, the job of realigning the track and tamping the ballast that used to be done manually with shovels and heavy steel bars is now done by a large diesel-powered machine - the Tamper. This machine, shown in Figure 2, drives

along the track and measures the track alignment with light beams that point along the rails. Then, at each tie, hydraulic fingers grip the tie and lift the track into proper alignment while vibrating to clean the ballast and compact it around the tie. Another machine, a ballast regulator, spreads and levels new ballast when required. Even though machines share some of the labor, we still rely on the eyes, experience and muscles of Tony, our track maintenance foreman and the men and women of the track maintenance crews of Wheatland and our sister railway, Great Sandhills Railway, to keep our tracks safe and running smoothly.



Figure 2: The Tamper at work on Wheatland Express tracks. Photo by the author

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## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**Name:** Val Gonzalez

**Born:** Cancun, Mexico

**Currently Reside:** Saskatoon, SK

**Work History:** Val's first job was at Jerry's Burgers & Gelato, where she worked for about 3 years. When Covid19 hit, she went to work at Blanco Cantina for almost a year.

After working on the Wheatland Express over the Christmas season, Val is now working out of the office and aboard the train for our summer season as well!

**Favorite Movie:** Shrek

**Favorite Sport:** Tennis

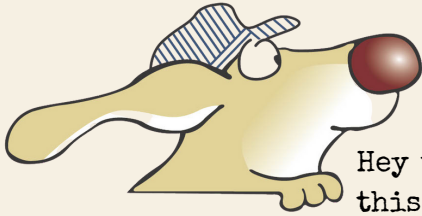
**Favorite Wheatland Railcar:** Safety Train

**Did you know:** Val wants to join the army and be a Nurse Officer!

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# SPIKES SAFETY SCOOP

Hey there! It's Spike the safety dog here! I've been having so much fun this summer, how about you guys? With all the hot weather we have been having, I have made sure I'm making the most of it by going to get ice cream and going for lots of walks! One thing about the hot summer heat is that it is very easy to get tired and want to take shortcuts to get back to the cool air conditioning indoors. Taking shortcuts home is very handy but one place to never use as a shortcut are railway tracks! Trains can come at any time and from any direction on the tracks! Even if you don't see any trains around, they could be just around the corner! Since trains are SOOO big and pull many heavy cars, they can't stop fast if they see you! An important rule to always follow is to make sure you only cross train tracks at railway crossings! When you do cross make sure you STOP, LOOK and LISTEN, even if the bells are off, the lights aren't on and the gates are up. You can't take shortcuts when it comes to rail safety! I hope you enjoyed my train safety tips for the month! Have a great rest of summer boys and girls!

Did you know railroads are the most fuel-efficient way to move freight over land?!

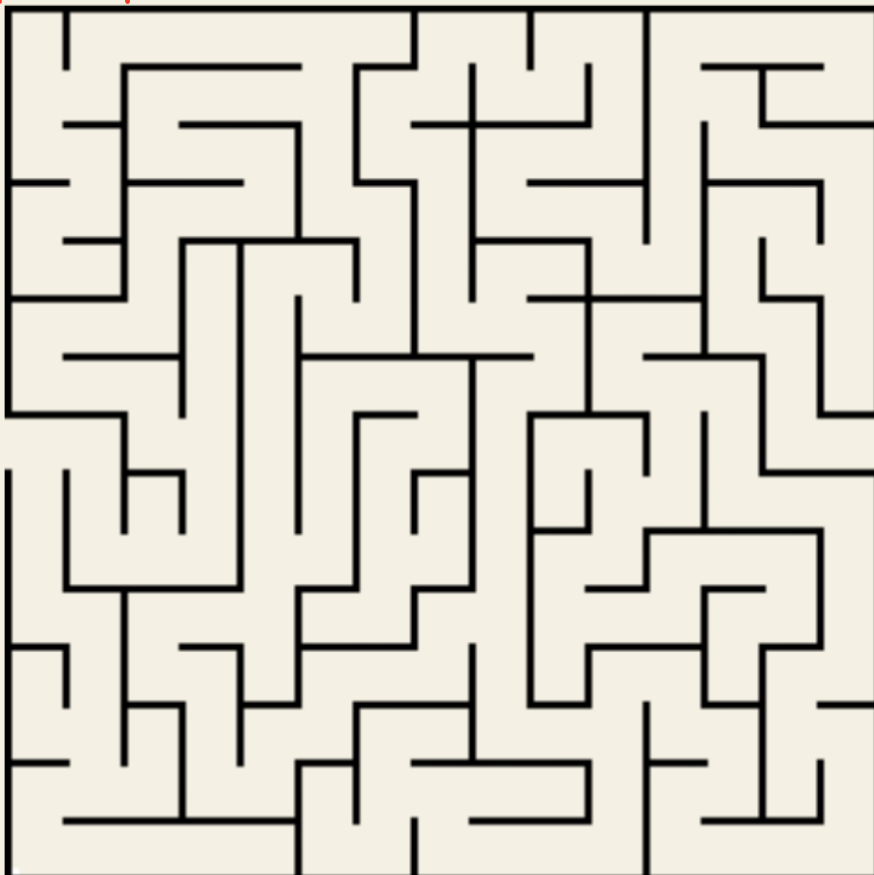


-Spike the safety dog

## Help Spike find his locomotive!



START



FINISH



# OPERATIONS UPDATE

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## Wheatland Express Safety Train

We have attended a total of 7 events with Safety Train this year! It is so fun to get out and share railway safety with others. We have also had a bunch of groups of kids from surrounding areas who have also joined us to learn about railway safety. We are starting to get organized for the upcoming school year by finalizing and printing safety books! We can't wait for the school year to start and continue teaching kids about railway safety!



## Wheatland Express Learning Centre

We have been super busy working on the baggage car to get it finished for everyone to enjoy. We recently have had our displays out for kids to use while learning about train safety! We are super excited to be done with this project and to share it with you all!



## Wheatland Charities Inc.

This has been a very busy month for Wheatland Charities and Safety train. We attended and raised money for many events this summer.

We have also raised the following on the train Heists as we build towards our goal of \$5,000 to Saskatoon City Hospital Wellness Center.

June 11th Train Heist raised = \$755.00

June 19th Train heist raised = \$703.65

July 10th Train Heist raised = \$630.10

Thanks to all that helped attending the events and for the support!



## Weatland Express Excursion Train

The month of July was a hopping one for us at the Wheatland Express Train. Multiple sold-out excursions and a great time to be had by all. The Eagles Tribute band and dinner show that was held on Saturday, July 16 had the Wheatland team showcasing their vocal and dance talent for our audience. A great time to be had by all. As the Summer excursions wind down we are gearing towards the Fall with more fun and exciting excursions planned. ALL ABOARD



### St louis Rodeo

May 28th and 29th - \$300.00 to the rodeo

### Sandhills Rodeo

June 11th and 12th - \$1,000 to the rodeo

### Leader Fair days

June 17th - \$1,000 to the town of Leader for a walking path

### WCSLA golf Tournament

June 28th - \$416 for the City Hospital Wellness Centre

### Suma Golf Tournament

July 8th - \$185 for the Wakaw Lions Club

### Cudworth Fair Days

July 8th - \$1,000 for the Cudworth Fire Department

### Pembina Golf Tournament

July 21st - \$1,000 for Medicine Hat United Way

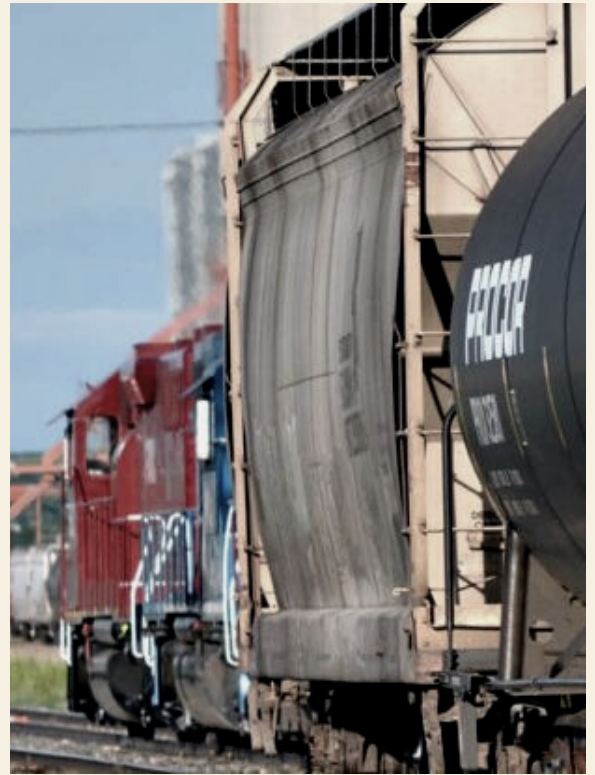




## Great Sandhills Railway

We have spent the better part of this week getting ready for our court case against CN rail over a derailment at the interchange.

Even though we were not at the interchange for two weeks and CN were there 3 separate times during the period that the derailment occurred, CN seem to think it was our fault. I guess that's how you get record profits. The resulting Derailment was a significant blow to us in both time and Money. The first hearing is set for August 15th. Other than that, we have worked on mowing and cleaning the right of way. Tamping of the track was completed this month which brought to a close our 2022 maintenance program . Work continues on the baggage car that will be home to the Alibi room , actors dressing room, interactive displays and where our 2022 Railway hall of Fame plaques will be displayed. Plans are to hold the awards on September 17th at the Western Town.



## Western Canadian Railway Hall of Fame

Railway Employees have been a integral part of the building of Canada. The dedication that many displayed over the last 100 plus years has helped make Canada what it is today. We want to recognize those that committed their time and effort to the railway industry. You can nominate your mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather or even your mother-in-law. Entry forms will be available to briefly describe the nominees service and special notations of community service or Railway firsts.

The winners will be awarded annually with their plaque honoring their selection being on display in the newly refurbished railway learning and history centre car. The nominee or the nominees designate along with the person nominating will be awarded two tickets to a supper show and ride on the Wheatland Express!



### Four Categories-

**Operations:** Train Crews, Dispatchers, Train Masters, Yardmasters, Superintendents

**Maintenance:** Track Maintenance, Car Repair Maintenance, Signal Maintenance

**Builder:** A person involved in non operating activities

**Historical:** A person that participated in any railway activity that no longer exists.

**Entry Deadline** August 31st 2022

**Open to all Railway employees past and present**

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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. Another race horse has taken up a stall in the barn! Now that he has had some time to settle in, I think it's time to go get acquainted. Let's go meet this handsome new addition to the farm!

Hey there! I'm Timbit and I live in the small pen beside you! What's your name?

"Hi Timbit! Yes, I've seen you through the fence! My name is North Fork but people around here just call me North!"

Well North, I don't think I saw you outside for quite some time when you first got here. It's nice you finally get a pen to yourself! What brings you to the farm?

"I actually came here because I got injured during a race. Since I was injured it's really important that I give it time to heal so I got to stay in a comfy stall for a while before I could go in a paddock."



That's too bad that you got injured! You must have been running really fast!

"Things like that can happen in any sport. Just like how humans can sprain an ankle going for a jog, horses can accidentally hurt themselves the same way! Luckily I have had really good people looking after me and making sure I am always comfortable and healthy! Now that I'm all healed up I am outside during the day and can finally meet all of my horse neighbors! Soon I will get an even bigger paddock and maybe a pen mate! It's been super great relaxing here while I recover!"

I'm happy to hear you are feeling better and enjoying your time here! We are always happy getting new friends at the farm! We will have to talk through the fence more often now! See ya around North!



**SHANIA  
TWAIN  
TRIBUTE**

**August 13th 2022**

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



# 2022 WHEATLAND EXPRESS SCHEDULE



## JULY

- 10- Prairie Train Heist
- 16- Eagles Salute Excursion & Dinner Show
- 17- Murder Mystery
- 24- Family Summer Express
- 31- Prairie Train Heist



## AUGUST

- 13- Shania Twain Tribute & Dinner Show
- 14- Murder Mystery
- 21- Murder Mystery
- 28- Prairie Train Heist

## SEPTEMBER

- 10- Prairie Train Heist
- 17- Prairie Train Heist

## OCTOBER

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

## DECEMBER

- 03- Christmas Express
- 10- Christmas Express
- 17- Christmas Express



STAY TUNED FOR ADDED DATES, TOURS  
AND TRAVEL OFFERS!

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