

THE WHEATLAND ROUNDUP

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NEW YEAR, SAME LITTLE BIG TOWN

Little Big Town has been so lucky for the lovely weather that January has brought. It may be the beginning of the new year, but it already feels like spring! Word is, a cold snap is on its way to the town, and it will be feeling a lot like winter again soon!

New years always start off slow in the small town. Maximillian Wheatland and his train are out of commission until the summer but those few months give Max the perfect amount of time to plan his next excursions. Each year it seems they get bigger and better! Everyone can't wait to see what the 2023 season will bring!

Last year's town expansions and improvements sure did wonders during the

excursion train! Guests who traveled from other surrounding towns or even the big city were so impressed with the growth of the town and were very happy at the number of activities and stores they could visit before their ride aboard the train! A lot was added to the town but there is always room to grow! Plans for more shops and developments are to come in 2023!

Along with a new excursion season, summer brings yet another election for mayor of Little Big Town. The gossip and competition always give the town's people something to look forward to during the frosty winter months. Stay tuned to be the first to know this year's candidates!

NOBLE NOTATION

CANADADIAN, EH

Written by Bill Noble

Three o'clock on a Monday afternoon a few weeks ago. The platform of Vancouver's VIA train station slides back as we begin one of Canada's great adventures - right on time. I am on board the Canadian, VIA Rail's flagship transcontinental passenger train. I am on my way home from a brief visit to the Lower Mainland to attend a special graduation. Just two nights to Saskatoon this trip. I don't travel a lot these days but when I can, I like to include train travel. Relaxed and comfortable.

As we leave Vancouver, I am seated in the dome of the "Park" car - each of these special cars is named for a famous Canadian park. These round-ended observation cars have been the tail end signature of these trains for almost seventy years.



Figure 1: "Prince Albert Park" observation car. Photo VIA Rail

I feel a bit special. VIA hosts a simple "welcome aboard" celebration for sleeping car passengers as we leave Vancouver. I relax with a glass of champagne and some tasty hors d'oeuvres as we glide through the Vancouver yard and begin the climb up the Grandview Cut. This massive slot in the ground was excavated a hundred years ago to elude



the encircling rails of rival Canadian Pacific and give trains of the Great Northern and then the Canadian Northern (later Canadian National) access to Vancouver. Today it also hosts the tracks of a branch of the Sky Train. We emerge from the cut and circle through East Vancouver and New Westminster before crossing the Fraser River. We follow the Canadian National route along the Fraser north and east as the light fades from the winter afternoon. I have opted



Figure 2: The view from the Park Car of VIA's Canadian. Photo the author.

for the later dinner sitting in the diner and soon enough "Second call for dinner in the dining car, Second call". As a sleeping car passenger, my meals in the dining car are included in the fare.

Meals on the Canadian are delicious and elegantly served. I always look forward to them. Tonight, the rack of lamb is no exception. I finish up with a generous slice of cheesecake and then walk forward two cars to find my lower berth made up for me.

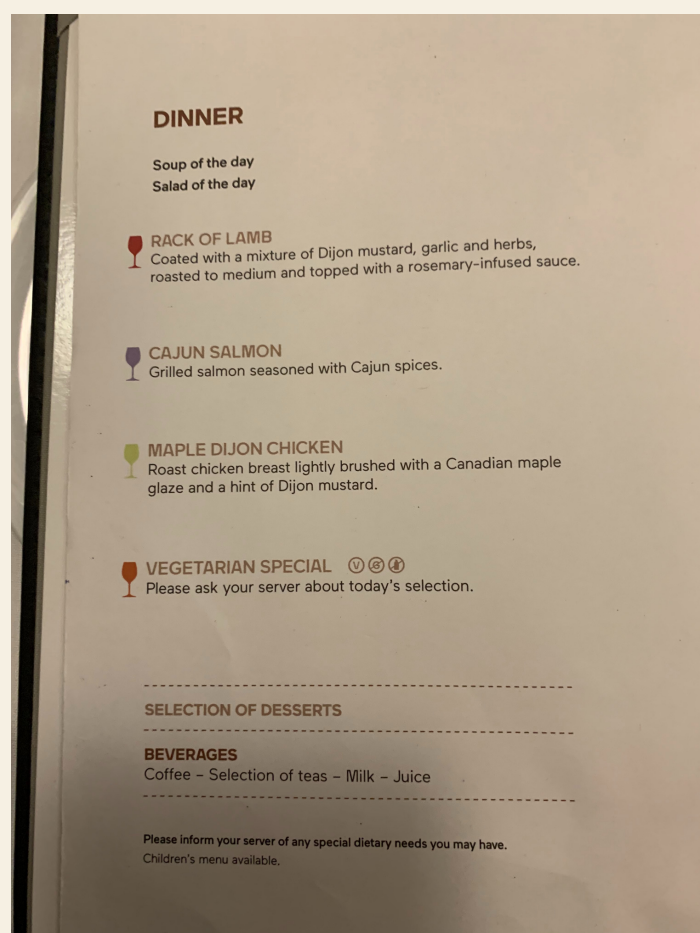


Figure 3: My supper menu on the Canadian dining car. Photo the Author.

People have been riding the train in Canada for almost two hundred years. On 21 July 1836, a group of dignitaries which included the Earl of Gosford, the Governor General of Canada, were treated to a two-hour trip over the Champlain and St Lawrence Railway, Canada's first

railway which ran south of Montreal. As the country grew, rails carried passengers to every part. Rail passenger transportation expanded until the 1950's, when riders deserted the trains for the comfort and convenience of automobiles and airplanes. The decline carried on through the 1960's and -70's as trains were cut back and then discontinued and routes were abandoned. The crown corporation, Canadian National Railways, was left with the only remaining intercity passenger trains. In January 1977 a separate crown corporation, VIA Rail Canada was created to operate Canadian intercity rail passenger travel. VIA currently operates approximately 500 trains per week, the majority in the populous Windsor to Quebec City "Corridor". Most of these trains are equipped with cars built in the past twenty years or so but one train uses special, vintage equipment.

To understand a bit more about this equipment, it is necessary to go back to the earliest railway cars. Two hundred years ago, railway cars, like a lot of things back then, were built of wood. This situation continued until the turn of the twentieth century. The passenger cars, beautifully made of wood by craftsman, served well but there was a problem. In an accident, wooden cars would crush and break apart. And then the splintered wreckage was very flammable. The railways and their car manufacturers made a massive switch to a new material - steel plates and girders riveted together. Up to the 1950s,

thousands of these “heavyweight” cars as they became known were constructed and served well. As their name suggests, these cars were heavy. Whereas a wooden car might weigh 30 tons, a replacement car of riveted steel could weigh in at 80 tons. The industry looked for lighter, more “modern” replacements. Through the nineteen thirties, the railways flirted with “lightweight”, “streamlined” and “new” in order to attract riders. New materials - aluminum and welded alloy steel - were introduced. And - stainless steel. Stainless steel was notoriously difficult to work with; it was very hard to drill and impossible to weld with the techniques of the day. The high heat of regular welding altered the composition of the material and caused it to discolor and rust. Then, the Budd Company of Philadelphia had a breakthrough. In the early nineteen thirties Budd developed a specialized welding technique that they called “shot welding”. By carefully controlling the current and duration of a spot weld, stainless could be tacked together with no damaging changes to its composition. Stainless structures were stitched with weld “shots” much in the same way as a garment was sewn. The result was the strong, lightweight basic structure of a passenger car. As a finishing touch, Budd applied light gauge stainless panels specially rolled to create stiffening ribs. The resulting cars were gleaming silver cars unlike anything seen before. Lightweight, strong, non-rusting and easy to care for. The beautiful cars were a hit. The “Silver Streak” was born.

Budd’s timing couldn’t have been better.

As World War II came to an end the railways and the travelling public were ready to replace old, dowdy equipment, worn by the hard duty of the war years. Budd was ready, building thousands of cars; in most part supplying railways all over North America with complete trains of gleaming silver cars pulled by colorful diesel locomotives that were replacing old black steamers. In Canada, the Canadian Pacific Railway joined the ranks of stainless-steel train operators in 1953 by ordering 173 cars from Budd.

On 24 April 1955, CPR launched its brand new “Canadian”, east and west bound daily between Montreal/Toronto and Vancouver.

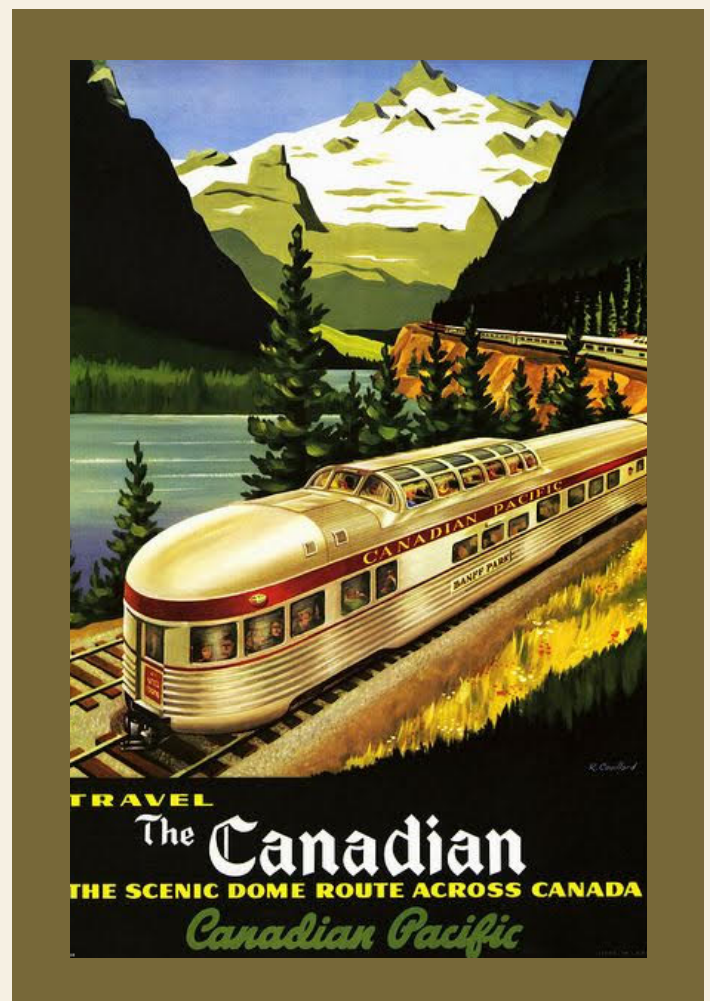


Figure 4: Original 1954 Canadian Pacific Railway poster for The Canadian. Image Canadian Pacific.

When VIA inherited the Canadian train sets, the cars were shop worn but, because of their shot-welded stainless-steel construction, the cars were corrosion-free and structurally sound. VIA overhauled and refurbished the cars, renewing fabrics and furnishings. They upgraded the heating systems from steam to modern Head End Power (HEP) electrical

equipment. They retrofitted showers in all sleeping cars and installed some upgraded, deluxe bedrooms. But they left the basic style of the train. The result is a delightful mixture of vintage and modern. Riders are treated to travel in the classic manner combined with “mod cons” and elegant, friendly service. A trip on the Canadian is memorable for all the right reasons. See you on board!



SPIKES SAFETY SCOOP

Hi there everyone! It's me, Spike the safety dog! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year! It is now 2023, which means we have been learning about train safety together for over two years! Isn't that crazy?! To celebrate, I'm going to share with you some railway safety tips! Did you know there are over 24,000 railway crossings in Canada? That's why it is soooo important that we stay safe around every railway crossing we see! Only cross the tracks at crossings, always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN, and remember, trains can come at any time and from any direction! Oh look, here comes one of the locomotive engineers now! I'll see you guys' next month for even more railway safety rules and facts!



-Spike the safety dog



Help Spike get some
new coveralls!
Colour Spike as best as you can

OPERATIONS UPDATE



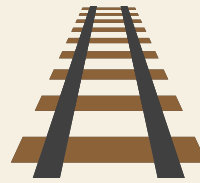
Wheatland Express Safety Train

Wow, what a year we had in 2022! We had about 200 students who came out to the train to learn about train safety! We have closed the contests; we had only received colouring contests this year and have chosen the winner! The winner of the colouring contest is, Ethan from Moose Jaw SK! Congrats Ethan! A new year means new counts for the incidents. We already have 22 crossing incidents and 2 fatalities. It is super important to follow all the rules of the railway to keep you safe and everyone safe around you. This isn't just a number, but also preventable. Remember, See Tracks, Think Train!



Wheatland Express Excursion Train

Happy New Year to everyone from the Wheatland Express Team. Wishing you a prosperous 2023 full of great success and achievements. We are in the planning stages for the 2023 Excursion Season which will be full of new adventures for our valued customers. We are already getting inquiries about our 2023 excursion schedule from our customers who can't wait to book their tours to create memories with their families. Stay tuned for more updates from the Wheatland Team. ALL ABOARD!



Wheatland Railway Update

The big news for the past month was the announcement of our first ever Hall of Fame inductees. Each winner will have their picture and story on display in our new baggage car. At the end of the year, they will be moved to their permanent home in the Wakaw learning center. On the operations side of things, it has been a very slow month. We are hoping that in February, the sleeper car will be able to start its way North. That should put it in Wakaw in March, and we can begin to make needed repairs and modifications.

2022 Railway Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Builder Category - Ed Zsombor
- Operations Category - The Besse Family, 4 generations
- Maintenance Category - Track Maintainer Wilfred Hun
- Historical Category - Cecil Barrett, CN Express



Wheatland Express Learning Centre

Now that the excursion season is over and the prep for the upcoming season is here, we are going to be starting to prepare the Baggage car to be the Alibi lounge. With that said, the actors can enjoy having a green room to get changed and keep everything safe and out of the way of customers. Not only is there a green room in there, but there is also a bar, and the Hall of Fame will be in that car as well. We are super excited about having the car ready for the full upcoming season and can't wait to share it with everyone!



Wheatland Charities Inc.

We begin a new year and soon we will be announcing the charities that we will be supporting this coming season.

In the meantime, we will be running the following contests: A foal pool where you guess the Sex, day and time the foal is born AND a name the foal contest! Entries are free and the winner of each contest receives a \$150.00 gift certificate!

To enter, send entries to Danica Poier at dpoier@wheatlandexpresstrain.ca. Please include your name and phone number! The winner will be announced within 7 days of the foaling date.



Sire: Saturdaynitelites

Mare: Funny Flowers

Guess the following:

Colt or Filly: 5 points if guessed correct

Date: Month and Day - 20 points if guessed correct ; -2 points deducted per day off (before and after)

Hour: 20 points if the guess is within 2 hours of birth; -2 points deducted for each hour off (Before and after)

Finally don't forget to include your name suggestion!

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name: Danica Poier

Born: Saskatoon, SK

Currently Reside: Saskatoon, SK

Work History: Before working for the Wheatland Express, Danica worked as a barista and worked at horse barns around Saskatoon

Favorite Movie: Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron

Favorite Sports Team: Roughriders

Favorite Wheatland railcar: Diner Car

Did you know: Danica has been riding horses since the age of 10 and works both at the farm and for the Wheatland Express office!



STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

HOW TIMBIT SEES IT

Neigh there. I am 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! Today we are going to visit one of the many foals we have here on the farm!

Hello there fella! Why don't you tell the people what your name is!

"Hiya Timbit, I'm Canadian Lites, Crash for short! My half-brother is Mondaynitelites who I think everyone knows pretty well! Our dad is Saturdaynitelites and my mom's name is Canadian Rose. My mom is a chestnut so that is how I got this nice orange coat!"

That is quite a nice coat you have! Unlike the other chestnut foal here on the farm, you have no white markings on your face or your legs. That's quite unique! The girls have told me that you like to run, is that right?

"I sure do! I'm the fastest out of all my pasture mates. I'm so happy I get to be in such a big pasture all day! I have so much energy, so I need the room to run and let off steam. By the end of the day, I am so excited to go into my stall so I can rest!"

Everyone is looking forward to seeing you race, when the time comes. Only one more year and you'll be starting your training just like your brother, Monday!

"I can't wait! It takes a lot of work to be a good racehorse, but my pasture mates and I have what it takes!"



You sure do! It's a blast watching all of you race around! Is there anything else you and your friends enjoy doing?

"We all like taking naps in our big shelter at the back of the field, especially when it's sunny out! It has tons of straw in it which makes a very comfy bed for us all and when the sun is out it shines right into the shelter and warms us up."

That sounds great! Well Crash, thanks for taking the time to talk with me today.

Everyone has been requesting an interview with you ever since you got here! I'll see you around the farm!

2023 WHEATLAND EXPRESS SCHEDULE



SIGN UP FOR OUR
MAILING LIST TO
BE THE FIRST TO
HEAR ABOUT OUR
2023 SCHEDULE!



STAY TUNED FOR ADDED DATES, TOURS
AND TRAVEL OFFERS!

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