



# THE MAIL CAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. LAWRENCE DIVISION - NMRA

ISSUE # 123 | MAY 2023

[sld-nmra.ca](http://sld-nmra.ca)

**Farm Structures Part 2**  
**March Display Table**



## St. Lawrence Division

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Norm Levert

#### **Assistant Superintendent:**

Lloyd Henchey

#### **Paymaster:**

Ed Brandon

#### **Clerk / Dispatcher:**

Chris Ellens

### **Appointed Positions**

#### **Inspector:**

Grant Knowles

Phone: (613) 825-5438

#### **The Mail Car**

Editors:

Michael Rozeboom

Phone: (613) 496-1191

#### **Article Submission Email**

Click on an underlined name to contact them by email.

### **Cover:**

“New River Mining Co”.

Every wall was covered with rusted sheeting then weathered, with lots of details such as walkways, roof details, open windows and piping added to the kit. Fifteen LEDs were installed for lighting.

Night with the lights on. The skies were added by software to replace the dirty, painted Masonite until a backdrop is installed.

Model and photo by Lloyd Henchey

**The Mail Car is published five times a year by the  
St. Lawrence Division – NMRA.**

*Opinions expressed are those of the editor and/or the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the St. Lawrence Division – NMRA*

### **Copy Deadlines:**

September Issue - August 15

November Issue - October 15

January Issue - December 15

March Issue - February 15

May Issue – April 15

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# Superintendent's Report

By Norm Levert

I write this downstream of the 2023 Ice Storm. Many members were out of power, some for days, but we were all back because Grant hosted a Zoom Arduino workshop Monday (10 April).

Our March 25 meet went well. It was a combination of in person and on Zoom. Our first clinician was Eric Gagnon from Kingston. He gave us a great mixture of history and modelling, walking us through a Kingston I knew in 67 to 69. It is intriguing to find out how “gritty” Kingston was as late as early 1970s. Eric walked us through the industrial landscape showing us that many buildings are still there. CN and CP ran side by side and crossed each other under a wooden overpass. They had many small and mid-sized customers. Eric models this on a busy layout with both CN and CP serving replicas of the actual industries. He shared many modelling tips with us. I was impressed how printed limestone images created credible limestone cuts.

As the second clinician, I presented mechanical interlocking of signals and switches as a follow-on presentation to ex-CN railroader Doug Wilson presentation “The Search for Safety – a discussion of the history of railway signals.” I concentrated on the earlier all mechanical interlocking, offering that one might be able to achieve the same objectives in Arduino.

Our electronic Kitbusters project is going strong with a dedicated group learning and making progress. Grant is leading us at a strong pace with a series of interesting projects with potential applications on our layout, such as opening warehouse roll up doors. Our latest project is to use sound, which we might consider as “audio scenery.” Cows mooing, factory noises or train delay announcements.

The 2022-2023 Kitbusters year is drawing to a close. Time to seek new adventures, what would you like to tackle? What skills do you want to build or to hone? Do you want structures, what modelling media, what type? Installing DCC in locomotive and fine tuning the configuration variables to your requirements? Or do we build small dioramas to try various scenery techniques. Kitbusters is very much what most of us we want to do, so what do you want to see as our next Kitbusters season?

We welcome everyone to the Kitbusters' workshop. Bring what project you are



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working on, there will be room and companionship. We have a Kit Buster Work Shops and ZOOM Workshop and one last meet before summer:

- April 29 - Kit Busters Workshop
- May 8 – Arduino ZOOM Workshop
- May 27 – St Lawrence Division Meet

The Capital Region Model Railway Tour – CRMRT – will return as a live tour this fall, on Saturday 21 October. As I write this, there are 14 layouts on the tour list. This means layout owners hosting the tour will need crew/host to help run their layouts and greet the visitors. This could be a fun way to attract potential new members to NMRA SLD. Please let me know if you are interested.

Finally, train shows are flourishing again, giving SLD opportunities to participate. How many would be interested in spending some time at these coming shows in our Division:

- June 3 - 4            Arnprior            Arnprior Model Train Show
- July 18 - 19        Long Sault           Seaway Train Show, 60 Milles Roches Road, Long Sault
- August 13 - 14    Smiths Falls        RMEO Trainfest
- Sept 18 - 19        Napanee            Greater Napanee 4th Annual Model Train Show, 170 York Street, Napanee (Fairgrounds arena)

And you may want to visit these shows during the summer:

- June 3 - 4           Dorval, PQ        Montreal Model Train Show,            Kirkland Arena
- June 15 - 16        Toronto           TRACCS Rail Day Outdoor            Transit & Rail Expo
- June 19(?)          Hamilton        Hamilton & Ancaster Model Train Show,    Marritt Hall
- August 21 - 22,    Exporail        110, Saint-Pierre Street Saint-Constant QC

Halton County Radial Railway: Clinician Trevor Parkins-Sciberras fell in love with when he discovered the Halton County Radial Railway. He is an avid photographer who roams his neighbourhood posting now and then photos. In 2020 he decided to focus on juxtaposing Ontario transit pictures in then and now pictures. He will often wait patiently for a bus or streetcar to pass by so it can be included in the photos. He has a Facebook Page: Transit Timewarp with a strong following.



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# March Display Table

By Grant Knowles MMR

It seems like a huge contradiction to be sitting here on a hot April day writing up the March Display Table whose theme was “Snow Fighting Equipment”!

We had a large collection of models on display this month across a wide spectrum of topics including snow removal!



The largest model on display was Lorne Munro’s Farm Scene to which he has been teasing us with views of the individual buildings over the past few meets. Here is Lorne’s write up:

Today’s display is the final completed farm scene with all four structures installed – the barn, farm house, implement shed / grain storage building and the corn silo. The first construction description instalment in [The Mail Car \(March 2023\)](#) gave the background information, as well as, barn and house construction details. The second instalment, which will be published in May (that’s this issue), will give the construction details for the shed and silo.

Diorama Details:

- The structures are installed on a wood cradled panel,
- Driveway is very fine sand,

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- Grass is Peco and Woodland Scenics. electrostatically applied,
- Pine, maple and apple trees are scratch built on wire armatures,
- Page wire fence is scratch built with fine brass wires,
- Shrubs are modified Woodland Scenic,
- Other small details are from various sources.



Mike Hamer brought out five structures/dioramas that were tied together through his “On The Street Corner” theme. As Mike identifies – What these five kits have in common is that they all make great “Street Corner” structures. Here is Mike’s description of each structure.

- Barber Bill: No Meek Cuts (Banta Model Kits) This kit was built as part of our 2009 SLD group project where over 40 modellers took the Silver Plume Bakery across different scales and turned it into a building with one caveat: It could be any purpose except a bakery! I chose to name my structure in honour of my good friend, the late Bill Meek – Barber Bill: No Meek Cuts.
- Old Morris Tobacconist (Rail Scale Miniatures) This structure is based on a building which existed in Toronto area circa 1927. It is one of four kits in the RSM “Carrick’s Corner” offering. The other Toronto based structures are a bakery and a book company. The fourth structure is a Hair Salon on Quadra Island in British Columbia.



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- Klinger's Pharmacy (Bar Mills) This unique looking structure is also one of four structures which make up Bar Mills "Raglan Road" kit offering along with a furniture company, a salvage business and a hubcap facility.
- Fall Creek Mercantile (Rusty Stumps Scale Models) Walt Gillespie at Rusty Stumps Scale models sent me this kit to build and photograph for his company's web site to inspire other modellers to purchase this kit. I had done the same for other kits from Walt in the past.
- King of Clubs All Night Jazz Club (FOS Scale Models) Being a musician, this kit has appealed to me over the years. It has been sitting on my shelf for a while as I have been quite busy building models for my friends. David Gardner ordered this kit recently after seeing mine and I will build it a "second time". One change I will make is to reverse the sign up top the roof and the end walls and canopy in order to have the street corner appear to the left of the structure and not to the right as you see with my version of the model.

In keeping with the Display Theme, I brought out two pieces of snow fighting equipment. Due to its location deep in the Colorado mountains, the Colorado & Southern Railroad had an extensive collection of snow fighting equipment which included a rotary snow plow, a number of flangers and plow equipped locomotives. The C&S developed their own version of a pilot blade which covered the full width and height of the pilots.

These blades were also extended higher on the outer edges resulting in an appearance that resembled the wings of a butterfly. Here Number 7 sports a Butterfly Plow and if you look closely, a Priest flanger blade mounted on the front of the pilot truck.

My second piece of equipment is from another Colorado railroad, the Rio Grande Southern RR who converted one of their flangers into an all weather plow to battle the winter drifts. This is a Rio Grande Hon3 model kit that I built in a hotel on a business trip many years ago. The kit is largely comprised of strip wood and exquisite white metal castings. The car even runs well in front of a loco!

Alex Binkley has built coal storage facility kit in S scale. Since this purpose does not fit in with his more modern era railroad, Alex is looking for ideas regarding external details.

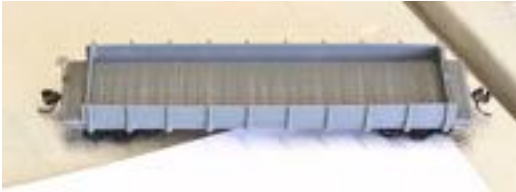
In keeping with the more modern theme, Normand Levert provided a great example of snow removal equipment used by today's railroad – a bulldozer.

Normand's railroad moves the dozer around on a low bed flat which was built by Rob Peck. The bulldozer is referred to as the railroad's all purpose trouble

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solver (i.e., not limited to snow removal assignments).

Stan Conley brought out two recent railway car kits he has been working on. The first is a Flat Car / Low Side Gondola by Tichy Train Group which represents a 47 ft, 40 ton car built in 1917 for the Atlantic Coast Line. Stan's second car, also from Tichy, is a 60" Dome tank car ICC Class 103. This represents a 36 ft, 10,000 gallon compartment tank ca built after 1918. Both cars are awaiting redeployment of the spray paint booth at the new home for final painting and lettering. Rumour has it, Stan will actually be building a layout!

I'm delighted when Doug Cushman brings out models from his extensive collection for display table for there is always something of interest and this month was no exception for Doug has plenty snow removal equipment. Leading the parade is a modified Athearn rotary snow plow complete with a scratch built tender. Doug's Bachmann 2-8-0 (CNR N4) locomotive (with details from Miniatures by Eric) is today's rotary pusher engine.

Doug had picked up a Canadian RR Flanger at a flea market. Doug is not sure if it's a CN unit nor who manufactured this brass model. Doug had another loco/plow pairing, in this case a CNR wing Plow and SW1200. The plow was an early scratch building attempt, the base is Bachmann caboose and the rest of the structure is cardstock – business cards! The loco is an early Athearn unit with Juneco details and DCC. Doug's final model is CNR Pile Driver that was built by Dave Primeal by modifying a LifeLike 25 ton crane.



Would like to remind our members that in addition to providing this Display Table write up in the Mail Car, I also post numerous photos from the meet on the respective meet web page so be sure to drift over there too. For example you will find the [March 2023 Meet](#) photos by clicking the link.

So that's the March Display Table Review. Thank you to all who brought out their models today. The May Display Table theme is posted elsewhere in this Mail Car issue and on the SLD Web Site.



# Construction of the Shed and Silo for the Farm Scene Diorama

Text and Photos By Lorne Munro

## Implement Shed Construction

As was the practice on small dairy farms many years ago, the grain storage facility was almost always above the implement shed, rather than in a separate building or silo. The floor and beam structure just had to be built robust enough to support the extra weight. A small grist mill would be located on the upper level, possibly belt driven from a tractor at ground level. The grist would fall to the ground level and then be carted off for distribution to the livestock.

Enough of the history. As with the barn, a frame is required to support the single board construction. I used 1/8" sq. basswood for the corner posts, horizontal beams, gable ends and ridge beam. I also used 1/8" x 1/16" basswood for the intermediate board supports, window frames in the gable ends, as well as in the roof structure. The following picture shows the completed frame ready to except the exterior boards.

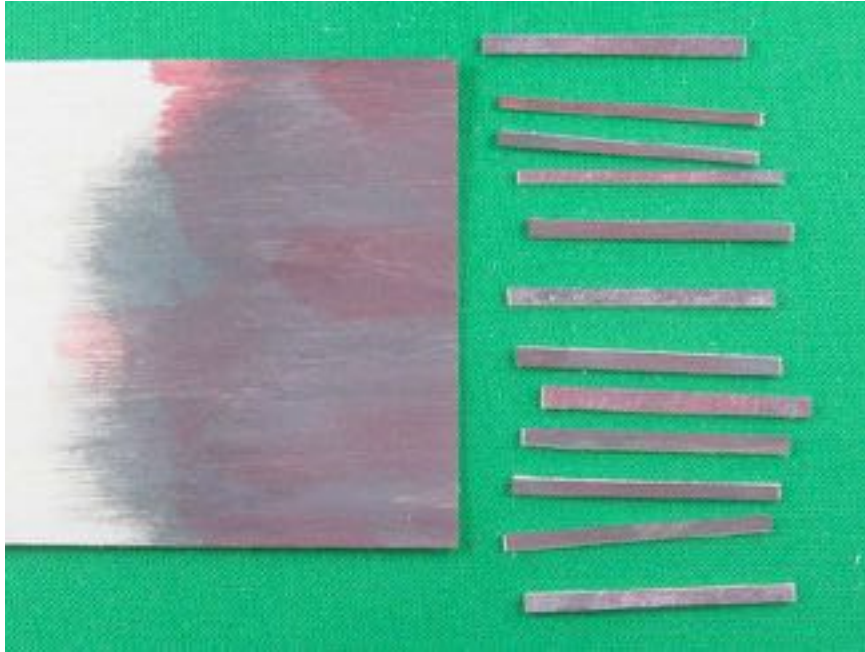
In preparation for the installation of the exterior boards, I stained 1/32" thick basswood sheets with varying degrees of reddish colours. This building had at some time been painted barn red and I wanted to show the exterior as being heavily weathered, so I used a few different techniques to achieve this appearance. I first applied a gray diluted wash of Saman stain to the basswood sheet wiping off the excess leaving a muted color. I then applied a diluted wash of Saman raspberry stain over some of the gray and again immediately wiped the colouring off, leaving a much toned down colour on the basswood. By following this procedure, I was able to achieve various red coloured areas on the wood sheet. Placing the wood sheet between wax paper sheets, I weighted them to prevent warping and set them aside to dry in preparation for the cutting. Many boards of the same length would be required, so I cut a panel of this length from the main sheet. Individual boards of various widths were cut from this panel. The following picture shows the staining process as well as the cut boards.

I glued these individual boards to the building frame. The gable end boards and boards for the front of the shed had to be cut specifically for each location. I then installed Pikestuff windows in the gable ends. I had previously spray painted the frames and installed acetate glass. I fabricated and installed the (2) person doors with modified Tichy triangular hinges and latches.

I decided to install a roof support system just like the original, i.e. individual planks instead of sheet material. I know it won't be seen, but it is authentic. Stained facia



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boards were glued to the plank ends. I spray painted K&S corrugated brass sheet with grey primer and after drying cut into scale 3' x 8' tins. I applied these panels to the roof using ACC. The ridge seam was covered with metal roofing material cut into narrow strips and glued in place. The roof received a Bragdon powder rust treatment.

I poured a 3/16" thick Hydrocal foundation and floor using the same technique as I had used for the barn. I relieved the edges to show a 1/16" foundation edge, which I scribed and

stained to present as a concrete appearance. By relieving the edge to accept the bottom sill and boards, I was able to position and white glue the structure onto the plaster base. This provided much needed weight, as the wood constructed building by itself is only a few ounces.

I fabricated the two large sliding doors using 3/32"x 1/32" thick scribed sheet. There is additional bracing glued to the doors backside. After staining and weathering, I glued the doors in place and then fashioned a track and hanger system out of stripwood and leftover hinge pieces.

The eavestrough was fabricated using metal roofing material cut into narrow strips and folded to form the trough. It was glued to wood hangers placed at 3' intervals along the front edge of the roof. The downspout is simply a piece of gray hookup wire.

The shed model (shown) is finished except for additional ground level weathering and touching up any wood cuts that were still be visible.

### Silo Construction

I was not able to measure the actual silo, as there was too much undergrowth around its base, but I was able to take several pictures of different areas allowing me to estimate the dimensions. I determined that the silo (the above ground level portion) consisted of 40 rows of concrete blocks





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stacked with ½" thick mortar between each row. Concrete blocks are 8" high x 16" long. I was then able to calculate the silo as approximately 28' tall. The diameter was another matter, as I could not measure the circumference, but I was able to see inside the structure and thus enabled me to make an estimate of 18' diameter.

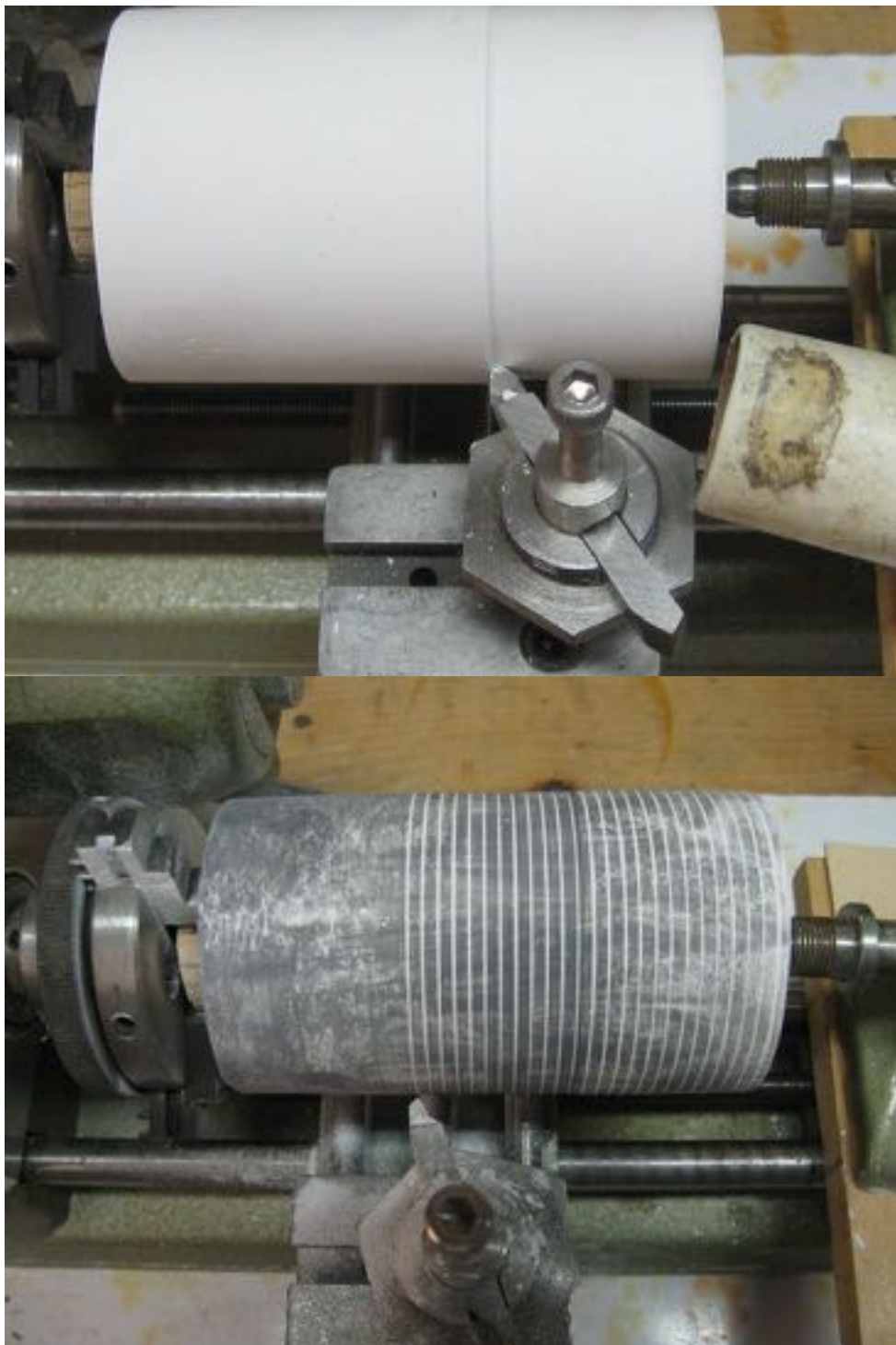
Because I intended in making the silo out of Hydrocal, I had to have a form, so I cut the top and bottom off an empty plastic container of the right diameter and height. I also wanted to spin this raw casting on my lathe, so that I could machine the plaster down to its required dimensions. I cemented the form to a piece of styrene, cemented (2) posts to this base plate and then centered a wood spindle with wood pins inside the plastic form, as pictured. I then cemented a styrene cross member to the top of the two posts, thus capturing the form as well as allowing the wood spindle to be centered within the form. The wood spindle is flush with the bottom of the form but projects about 3/8" out of the top of the plaster casting. This is so the spindle can be captured within the jaws of the Unimate lathe. The following picture shows the Hydrocal poured into the form.

The whole assembly of form, base plate, posts, spindle and cross member was vibrated and probed while the Hydrocal slurry was poured into the form.

After drying in the form overnight, the casting was removed by separating the cemented pieces and slitting the plastic form. I allowed additional drying time before proceeding with mounting the casting on the lathe. A shop vacuum is mounted to collect the removed plaster cuttings (lower right in picture). I turned the casting down to the scale 18' diameter, but in placing the turned



casting beside the barn, I felt that it was too stubby looking, so I put it back on the lathe and



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removed more plaster making it a scale 16' diameter.

In order to make the scribing of the mortar lines more visible, I applied a wash of gray stain to the casting. I changed to a sharp pointed cutter and by repeatedly moving the slide 3/32" forward and then advancing the cross slide to score the casting, I was able to depict the concrete blocks horizontal mortar joints. The vertical mortar joints are done manually with a scribe, after removal from the lathe.

After scribing the vertical mortar joints, as well as gouging out the silo port holes, I gave the whole casting a wash of different stains in order to accentuate the joints and ports.

I fabricated a stripwood (8) sided form to support the wood sheet for the roof. A roof opening was provided for the corn blower pipe. The original silo roof was covered with green asphalt shingles, so to achieve this appearance, I cut Strathmore Gray Scale paper into 3/16" wide strips, notched these strips to look like shingles and individually glued each strip to the wood sheet. I applied a green wash to the paper in order to achieve the weathered greenish look.

To finish the silo, I fabricated a wood ladder, which I glued to silo beside the column of port holes. I also glued wood strips along each side of the ports as boards were nailed to these strips to close the holes as the corn silage was blown in. The silo also had a lightning rod that I depicted with a piece of steel wire and a small pearl.

This final picture shows my rendition of the farm silo.

This concludes my description of the scratchbuilt construction of the four buildings that comprise the farm scene diorama. The construction of the diorama is a possible future article.



# Next Division Meet

St. Lawrence Division - NMRA



Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road Ottawa Ontario

Doors Open at 9:00 AM Admission: \$7.00

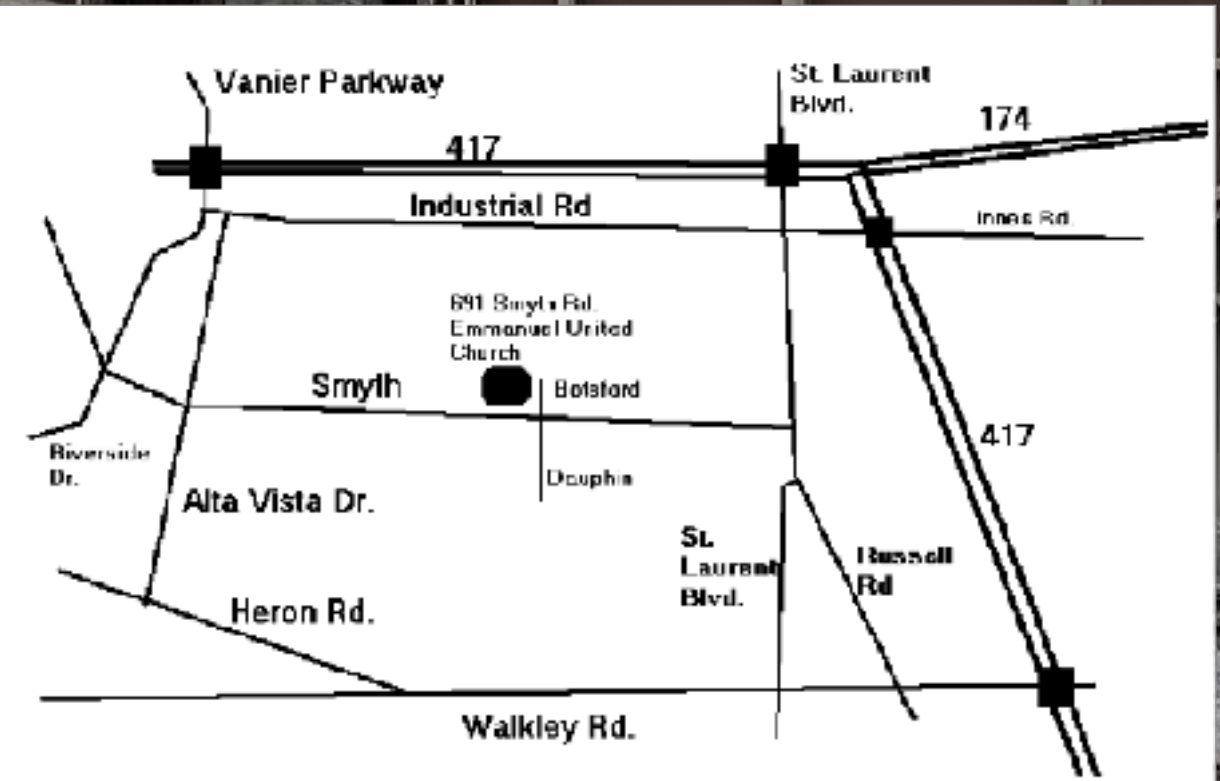
## Morning Program

Halton County Radial Railway by  
Trevor Parkins-Sciberras.

Scenery by Lloyd Henchley

## Display Table:

Infrastructure to facilitate  
passenger movement (structures /  
rolling stock).





Lloyd Henchey's "McIntosh Family Orchard." He added extra details such as the tractor, crates, etc.





## TRIPPING Train 185

Climb aboard North America's last operating Budd cars for a 480-kilometre journey through the heart of the northern Ontario wilderness.

[TVO Website with Online Exclusives](#)

### NMRA Interchange

*The NMRA Interchange* arrived in January 2023 and to date there are over 700 members registered, but only seven from the St Lawrence Division. The Interchange provides an online space for all members to collaborate, learn, exchange ideas and information and much more!

The NMRA Interchange provides NMRA members with valuable information about the hobby. There are 20 different categories, such as Hangouts, Achievement Program, The Basics, General Interest, Special Interests and much more. There are subcategories for Benchwork, Digital Command Control, Electrical, Scenery, Animation, Operations and more. There are more than 100 categories.

We have our own subcategory: 2202-st-lawrence-division.

Come and join us in the NMRA Interchange. You will find the instructions in the January 2023 Dispatch on the NMRA website.

[Interchange Signup Information](#)

## **For Sale: Rapido “The Canadian” Set**

I have Rapido’s highly sought after ***The Canadian*** Train Set for sale.

This is a “new in box” set with all parts accounted for, it has never been used.

This is a museum-quality HO scale model of *The Canadian* by Rapido Trains in CPR Maroon livery.

The set consists of:

- Two General Motors Diesel Division FP9s with an F9B leading *The Canadian*.
- The F9B has been upgraded to a powered chassis (DCC Sound).
- The 10 passenger cars included in the set are a baggage-dormitory car; two 60-seat coaches; a *Skyline* buffet-dome-coach; a 48-seat diner; two 4-section, 4-roomette, 5-double bedroom, 1-compartment *Manor*-series sleepers; two 4-section, 8-duplex roomette, 3-double bedroom, 1-drawing room *Chateau*-series sleepers; and one 3-bedroom, 1-drawing room *Park*-series dome-lounge sleeper.
- Includes souvenir wine glass, cocktail napkins and swizzle sticks.

**Serious inquiries only. Contact:**

Grant Knowles

[Gd.knowles@sympatico.ca](mailto:Gd.knowles@sympatico.ca)

(613) 858 – 2856