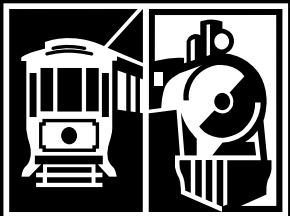


2023
2024

ANNUAL REPORT



EXPORAIL

LE MUSÉE FERROVIAIRE CANADIEN
THE CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM



table of contents

Message from the President	4
Message from the Executive Director	6
Collections	7
Archives	9
Education and Programming	10
Marketing and business development	11
Rentals and Store	13
Volunteers	14
Membership	15
CRHA Foundation	16
CRHA Awards Committee	17
Partners	18
Financial Statements	19
CRHA Board of Directors	20
Permanent Staff	20



message from the president



The year 2023-2024 was marked by advances and successes, attesting to the vitality of our association.

EXPORAIL

Visitor numbers for the year were exceptional, with some 68,000 people passing through our doors. Among these, 13,000 Quebecers received free entry on the first Sunday of each month. Through this initiative, on the first Sunday of each month, the government of Quebec pays us a subsidy covering the entry fee for Quebec citizens, who only pay for optional activities on-site. While over a hundred museums are enrolled in the free Sunday program, Exporail receives 5% of the total amount

paid, clearly demonstrating the attractiveness of what we have to offer. This government program is an excellent initiative enabling people who may not have the means to visit the museum and enjoy the Exporail experience. I would like to congratulate our Executive Director, Nadine Cloutier, and the whole team for their excellent work on the curation of the collection and the programming, which draws in so many visitors.

HERITAGERAIL ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

In the fall of 2023, we hosted the HeritageRail Alliance annual conference. This association brings together and promotes the railway museums and tourist railroads of its members across the United States and Canada. The organizing committee, led by board members Linda Schwey and Peter Murphy, did extraordinary work organizing everything, particularly in their efforts to secure sponsorships to help cover a large portion of the cost. We welcomed 125 delegates, who travelled to Montreal from all over Canada and the United States for this event. The programming, exhibitions, entertainment and catering were much appreciated by the delegates and the CRHA benefited from raising its profile among its peers—all while turning a profit of \$18,000. Congratulations and thanks to Linda, Peter and all the staff and volunteers.

CANADIAN RAIL

Peter Murphy officially left his role as co-editor-in-chief of Canadian Rail at the end of the year. In his 17-year tenure, he was responsible for editing 104 issues of our magazine! This is a truly remarkable achievement; the CRHA salutes and sincerely thanks Peter for his important contribution.

Board member Fiona Murray led a committee to find a new editor-in-chief as relying solely on volunteer leadership is unsustainable for securing the long-term future of the magazine—a cornerstone of our organization's mission. We have therefore hired CRHA member Kevin Holland to take on this important responsibility. As an editor and designer of rail publications, Kevin is highly regarded in both Canada and the United States. In fact, he has won two CRHA awards for his work in the past. Kevin will take over editing for the 2025 issues of the magazine, which will see some innovations while continuing to showcase Canada's inspiring railway heritage. A big thank you to Fiona and the members of her committee for their thorough search efforts, which brought about this very positive result.

COLLECTION

One of the primary factors in the success of our strategic plan has been the rationalization of our rolling stock collection. Like many other museums, we needed to review our collection to ensure it is preserved and showcased in the best possible way. Over the last six years, we have systematically assessed our rolling stock collection from two perspectives—the condition of the equipment and its museological value—in order to make decisions based on facts.

Two expert committees were set up to work independently from each other. The committee that documented the condition of the vehicles, assessed their state of repair and estimated the cost of restoring each piece was led by James Bouchard. The prioritization committee, led by François Hébert, assessed each piece based on

its contribution to our ability to tell the story of railways. By combining these assessments, the board of directors was able to make some tough choices in order to guide our priorities with respect to conservation and restoration and to determine whether certain pieces should be withdrawn from the collection and offered to other qualified organizations according to standard practice within the Canadian museum community.

Thanks to James and François for their diligence in leading these committees and drafting their reports, and to the committee members for their work.

FINANCE

The financial statements show excellent results for the year, with an operating loss of less than \$10,000 on operating revenue of \$2.76 million, which is a historic record for us. For the first time, visitor revenue surpassed \$1 million. Even more impressive is the fact that 61% of our revenue is self-generated—that is, not from public subsidies. This is a remarkable result for a private museum like ours.

The CRHA Foundation plays an increasingly important role in the financing of our operations, as close to 5% of revenue for the year comes from the Foundation. I would like to thank the President, Stephen Cheasley, and the board members for their continued management of the Foundation's growing assets, which are currently worth over \$4 million.

CONCLUSION

As always, I will conclude with a note of appreciation for the excellent work of our dedicated directors, staff and volunteers who contribute to our board of directors and various committees, who drive our trains and trams, who maintain our tracks and equipment, who publish our magazine and much, much more. The level of teamwork and commitment is exceptional and, on behalf of the CRHA, I thank them all for everything they do. With such an outstanding team, I expect next year's report to be equally positive!

Robert Robinson,
President, CRHA



message from the Executive Director



The financial year ending March 31, 2024, marked a return to the visitor numbers and revenue of our best years before the pandemic. In concrete terms, we welcomed 67,597 visitors: 15,776 more than the previous year, which represents an increase of 30%. Of this number, 9,433 came as part of a group: an increase of 60.6% and our second-best result. Had it not been for the teachers' strike, we would have surpassed our best year ever. Visitor revenue was up by 16%: a record for us.

With these results, we exceeded the goals set in our marketing plan in terms of visitor numbers and came within \$27,000 of achieving the plan's ambitious revenue target of \$976,000. All in all, it was an excellent performance that reflects the exemplary work of our strong team of dedicated employees and volunteers.

An important endeavour during this financial year was the submission of our second application for accreditation from Quebec's ministry of culture and communications, and I am pleased to announce that this was once again granted in the summer of 2024. The *agrément des institutions muséales* is a major sign of government recognition

and a hallmark of quality, visibility and credibility vis-à-vis private, public and municipal partners. The accreditation process examines an institution's governance, its management of financial, human and physical resources, the services available to different clienteles, the management and conservation of its collections, plus outreach, research and education. Against this backdrop, we adopted some new policies that we did not have before in relation to human resources, education and safety.

In the fall, as mentioned by the President in his report, the HeritageRail Alliance conference was a resounding success. I would add that, during the conference, five members of the CRHA staff led a plenary presentation answering questions about the maximization and management of the collections as well as the operational procedures manual. The presentation day at Exporail was a great success, with the delegates treated to an enhanced visitor experience featuring special rides on the MTC 3 observation streetcar taken out for the occasion and an exclusive tour of the Sibley Park car, currently under restoration.

The rest of this report, highlighting the major achievements of each department (collections, archives, education and programming, related services, marketing, sales and business development, and the importance of volunteering in our organization), clearly communicates the extent to which strong teamwork has paid off. We have focused more on ties with the tourism industry to take advantage of partnership opportunities, bringing considerable value to our visitors. I am extremely proud to present this positive report for the year 2023-2024, which brought so much success. There is still plenty to be done, and the challenge lies in determining how to build on our strengths to carry out our projects more efficiently and more effectively. Recruiting new staff, and especially new volunteers, is critical. These challenges are exciting and stimulating opportunities; I am most appreciative of the work already done by the board of directors, its executive committee and various subcommittees, and indeed the innovative work carried out by the employees. I thank them wholeheartedly for their passion and dedication.

Nadine Cloutier,
Executive Director

collections



The restoration of the Sibley Park car has made good progress. Thanks to the fundraising campaign, we are able to move forward with the help of suppliers as well as our competent and meticulous team of volunteers. Highlights of the project so far have been the acquisition of benches and windows, the overhaul of the electrical system and the installation of the reproduction artwork in the bar area.

Thanks to a federal government grant through the Young Canada Works program, 801 model replicas have been processed. This brings the total of small artifacts (tableware and miniatures) processed to almost 2,500 over the past three years. We have also started working on the Beaux-Arts collection, with 179 pieces processed.

Following a safety analysis carried out as part of the Canadian Heritage designation program, we have taken corrective action to improve safety with respect to access to our collections. We are aware that our HVAC and climate control systems are aging. This is a significant and expensive issue that needs addressing in the short term. Following these actions, Canadian Heritage has granted Exporail a Category B designation under the *Cultural Property Export and Import Act*.

Part of the travelling exhibition *From Last Spike to Art Connoisseur: A Journey with Sir William Cornelius Van Horne* will be loaned to the Van Horne Estate on Ministers Island over the summer of 2024. Exporail will present an expanded version of the exhibition starting in November. Archives and artifacts from our collection will be put on display, and we have worked with numerous other institutions to present reproductions of archive documents and artworks.

We have also had a painting restored, which is not something we do often given the high cost. The painting depicting Lord Strathcona was restored to be put on display as part of the travelling Van Horne exhibition, thanks to a generous gift from a donor.

Finally, hundreds of artifacts (mainly miniatures) and archive documents were loaned out for the *Railroad to Dreams* exhibition produced by Pointe-à-Callière – Montréal Archaeology and History Complex in collaboration with our archive collections team. Other loans of artifacts were made for various other exhibitions, raising the visibility of Exporail.

Our acquisitions include **29 sets of artifacts, three of which were purchases, seven were transfers of donations** from the archive centre and two were museum donations. The rest were donations from individuals.

This represents a total of **165 objets**, including 31 from the archive centre and seven purchased (all O gauge objects).

A few examples of acquisitions

- Silverware: a Canadian Government Railway (C.G.R.) syrup jar
- A framed oil painting by Charles L. Amos from 1973 entitled *Autumn Duet*
- A wooden prie-dieu used by Pope John Paul II aboard the VIA Rail Canada papal train on his visit to Quebec in 1984
- A letter patent with its wax seal from 1877, granting permission to make improvements to permanent railways and tramways in Canada
- Two MR-90 cars including the AMT #400 motor car and the AMT #485 trailer car with compartment
- A union ribbon of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLF&E) from the CP workshops in Farnham



archives

The archive department saw the departure of its archivist in January 2024. This required a reshuffling of duties, with the CPRC archival technician acting as interim archivist as she has all the qualifications necessary to do the job. As this occurred in the final quarter of the financial year, the archive centre's annual action plan was already well under way.

The archive centre publicizes its holdings each year on various platforms and through exhibition projects. A total of 6,576 images were digitized from 19 different collections. In addition, 105 posts were made on Facebook and Instagram, while 12 new photo albums, containing 238 images, were uploaded to Flickr. Six issues of *Canadian Rail* magazine were published, with numerous articles benefiting from iconographic research in our archives. Consequently, 62 images from the archive centre were included in the issues released in 2023-2024.

Thanks to a grant of \$47,865 from Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program, work began to implement the new AtoM software, which will ensure better long-term conservation. This is a major undertaking requiring careful planning in order to install the new software, implement it and migrate the data, including quality control. This project is an integral part of our strategic planning.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF ACQUISITIONS:

4.69 linear metres of analog text documents and **51.32 MB** of digital text documents

879 iconographic documents

540 cartographic documents

125 minutes of moving images

These new acquisitions represent **10 new collections** and **10 additions** to existing collections.

We received and handled a total of **288 research requests** relating to a range of railway topics. Processing **13 archive collections** meant writing more than **200 descriptions**, which will make it easier to find specific items among the numerous documents conserved.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTS PROCESSED:

A CN train ticket from 1942, a book of *Operating Rules* from 1929 and a telegram from 1945 (1929-1945)

Three Canadian Pacific menus and a photograph (1945)

Four last run orders for the final trip on the Deux-Montagnes line on December 1, 1989 (1989)

100 negatives of rolling stock from various railway companies including Canadian Pacific and Canadian National (1900-1990)

Several working documents used in the rail traffic controller role (1979-2021)

education and programming

If 2022–2023 was marked by a major comeback for school groups, 2023–2024 turned out to be even busier. During this year, Exporail’s animation team communicated information about Canada’s rich history of railways to over 9,000 visitors. School groups had not surpassed this threshold since before 2010.

It was also a year of firsts. For the first time, Exporail offered a haunted train experience. In collaboration with Montréal Ghosts, a professional actor provided the entertainment aboard a spookily decorated carriage. Throughout the journey, “Galoche” told the story of his career as a railway worker and his tragic death. The story is captivating while also promotes railway safety. Exporail also collaborated with the city of Saint-Constant to decorate the museum’s exterior. Hay bales, pumpkins and other Halloween decorations were placed along the discovery trail, bringing the exterior site to life. Inside the Angus Pavilion, four ghosts inhabited the rolling stock, ready to share their chilling stories with anyone brave enough to listen.

Another first was *Murder at the Museum*, presented in February 2024. This new activity was the brainchild of the animation team, who worked together to transform the Angus Pavilion into a giant board game. With the help of a map, visitors had to find various clues hidden in the museum’s collection and identify the murderer. This type of activity different from the traditional family activities.

Easter also got an upgrade this year: in collaboration with La Rabouillère farm, we set up a miniature farm in front of the Angus Pavilion. As visitors enjoyed petting the goats, sheep, rabbits and hens, the animation team told them about how the transport of animals by rail has evolved over time. This activity was therefore both fun and educational at the same time. An Easter egg hunt was also organized with different levels of difficulty to encourage the whole family to get involved. Both activities were a great success!

To expand access beyond the walls of Exporail, four virtual tours were organized. With the help of a dedicated volunteer from Ontario as well as the archive and collections departments, the guides were able to present various artifacts and archives to attendees in both French and English. The themes explored included the school carriage, sleeping car porters, Charles Melville Hays, the Canada Car and the 1939 royal visit.

All these new activities were offered as a complement to the museum’s regular programming, which includes a themed weekend in July (Exporail Party) and the model train weekend in August. During the latter event, for the first time this year, Exporail invited model train retailers to rent tables. This helped to attract a specialized clientele, already interested in model trains, while increasing profitability.

2023–2024 was a year of trying different ways to attract new visitors. Overall, it was a success, and the whole education and programming team is excited to improve its offering for the year to come!

marketing and business development

2023-2024 is the third year of the marketing plan approved by the board of directors in 2021.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Developing experiences to add to the programming was a priority. The goal was to acquire and develop clienteles under-represented at the museum (primarily teens) and to refresh our offering for our main customer base of families.

To achieve this objective, a new agreement was signed with Montréal Ghosts to benefit from their services providing certified professional actors to offer a new ride: the ghost train.

We also worked more closely with the city of Saint-Constant, which wanted to offer activities for residents on the Exporail site for Halloween: “decorate your museum” with pumpkins, the discovery trail renamed and decorated as the Pumpkin Trail and a find-it game. The city took charge of decorating the site’s exterior, bringing in hay bales and plain pumpkins to enhance the visitor experience.

The city of Saint-Constant also wanted to encourage residents to visit over the Christmas period, inviting children to send their letters to Santa in our mail car and even meet old St. Nick himself in the Angus Pavilion during “Railway Christmas.”

For Easter weekend, a partnership with La Rabouillère farm was established to attract even more families and connect with our railway content. Farm staff were on hand, along with a number of animals in pens, for part of the weekend.

We are continuing to improve programming for visitors by developing even more partnerships and agreements with other attractions in Greater Montreal and the Montérégie region in order to become more integrated with the regional tourism sector.

WEBSITE: THE MUSEUM’S DISPLAY WINDOW

Throughout the financial year in question, our website underwent a number of adjustments. The main menu was altered and “CRHA” replaced “The Association” to help visitors looking for information about the CRHA and membership services.

We also signed an agreement with a web marketing agency to undertake technical updates of the site, to perform constant monitoring with a view to risk management and to ensure appropriate search engine optimization. The website’s content is also regularly updated by our team to maintain good visibility, which contributes to search engine optimization.

We have taken the necessary steps to ensure that our website and web marketing practices are in compliance with Bill 25 (collection and management of online data).

SOCIAL MEDIA

The posting schedule is producing good results and the strategy to create a routine among our followers has even generated certain expectations: “Can’t wait to find out what’s happening this

weekend” for Thursday posts and “Thanks for this great content—really fascinating as always” for Monday posts relating to our archives. We are still working with the collections department to implement regular postings.

With these foundations in place, we have started to explore other types of content available on Meta platforms such as stories and reels, carousel-type ads and beyond. As this is a constantly changing area, it is important to keep up to date on good practices. Attending webinars on a regular basis also helps us to stay on top of trends.

COMMUNICATIONS — NEWSLETTERS

On the advice of our external communications firm, we have changed the platform used to distribute our newsletter dedicated to visitors—or potential visitors—to the museum. This migration has enabled us to clean up our mailing lists and therefore comply with the Quebec government’s data protection laws.

Our visitor newsletter has been a clear success, with a phenomenal open rate of between 60% and 73% since these changes were implemented.

In February 2024, we signed an agreement with a new communications firm, also based in Montreal but with expertise in media relations for both not-for-profit organizations and organizations linked to tourism and culture. This firm is responsible for promoting the museum’s programming to the media, and we also have plans to launch a publicity campaign focused more on the CRHA and its membership program.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

This was Exporail's third year attending the Bienvenue Québec tourism trade show (but the 10th year for our representative, who has a wide network of contacts in the tourism industry and among tour operators). This is an unmissable bilingual event for Québec's group and individual tourism industry. We had 42 meetings with tour operators from around the world in two and a half days at the event. Each meeting lasts no more than 10 minutes (a kind of "speed dating") and allows for initial contact, which is then built on during meals or social events in the evening.

Following the trade show, three clients have arranged tours at Exporail, in either the group formula or the individual formula. Working within the distribution network is a long-term effort and means maintaining constant contact. Generally speaking, it takes three years to start seeing results and it seems we are no exception to this rule.

SOCIAL MEDIA (to March 31, 2024)

Facebook

11,432 followers, up 7.5%
123 posts

Reach:

497,094 accounts reached
389,950 organically and
12,022 through ads

Instagram

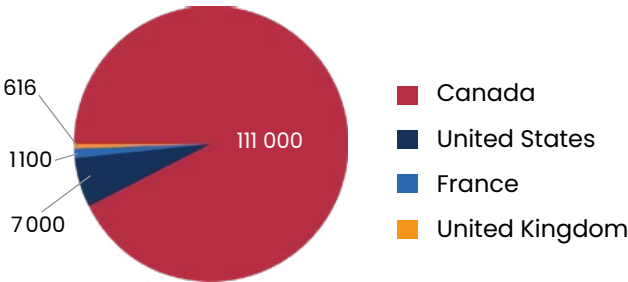
3,213 followers, up 20.56%
113 posts

Reach:

28,363 accounts reached
4,848 organically and
772 through ads

WWW.EXPORAIL.ORG

Users by country



COMMUNICATIONS

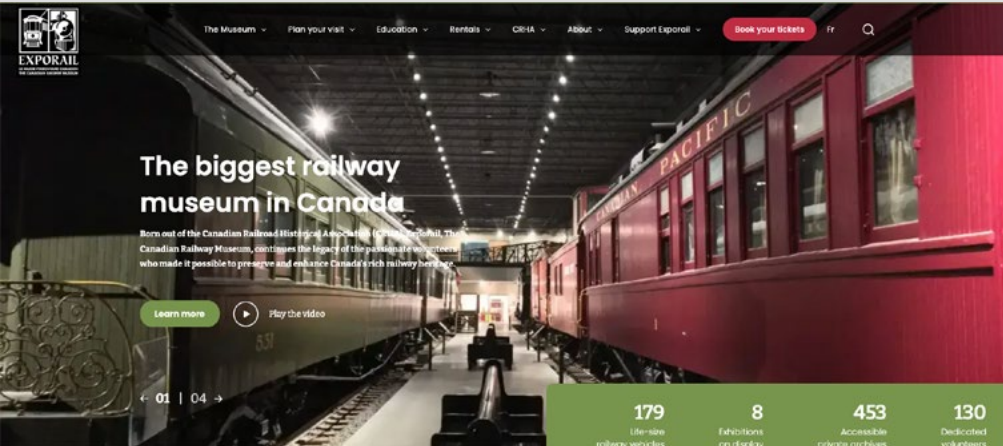
7 press releases

85 articles or mentions (radio and TV)

There were no press events this year: we preferred to send out invitations for certain key moments in the museum's annual programming.

TOTAL ANNUAL USERS

122,482 visitors
up 5.20%



rentals and gift shop

RENTALS AND FILMING

The manager in this area worked from April to December 2023 before taking maternity leave; her replacement continues to carry out these duties. The initiatives already in place have been pursued.

We believe that the business sector represents a promising means of boosting the museum's revenues. Our facilities are particularly well suited to meet the needs of commercial and government clients as well as associations.

GIFT SHOP

Regarding the gift shop, a new strategy has been adopted: increasing the number of items customized with the museum's logo and continuing to develop the Logik inventory software. The initiatives in progress have been pursued.

By the numbers: we ended the year with 355 different products available in the shop, including 36 sporting the museum logo. In 2023-2024, the "toys and games" category dominated, representing 50.53% of total revenue.

Two new custom Exporail products—a rail car and a jigsaw puzzle—are in development, as are strategies aligning with the themes of the education and programming department.

BY THE NUMBERS:

The busiest months are March, October, November and December, representing 57% of rentals. This strong demand is due primarily to training sessions and corporate parties organized during these periods.

Users: **4,634**

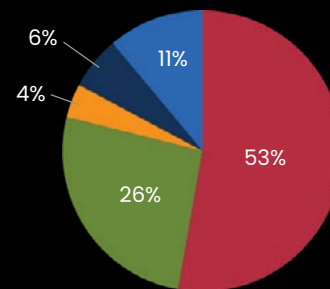
Rental days: **55**

Diversity of renters:
37 different corporations

Filming: **5 film shoots**
spread over 7 days

Railway training: **10 training days**
(inside and outside combined)

DISTRIBUTION OF RENTALS DAY BASED ON SECTOR (CORPORATE MARKET)



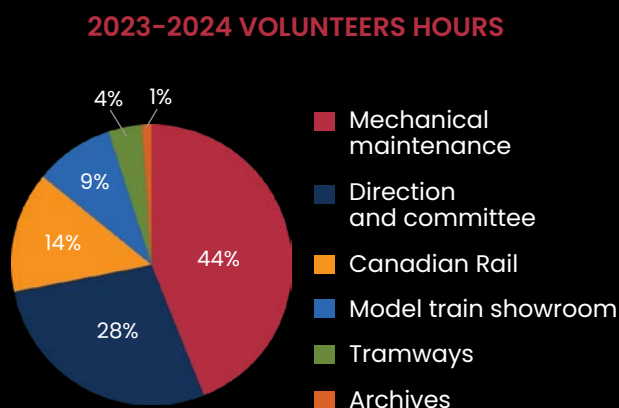
- Corporations, and trade unions
- Railway training
- Political forum
- NPO
- Associations

volunteers

The volunteers of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association are an integral part of the team. Volunteers are a vital link and are considered one of the six critical success factors of the 2022-2025 three-year strategic plan. Giving generously of their time, the volunteers are involved in all areas of the association, including rail operations. This component distinguishes Exporail from other museums due to the unique railway experience offered on its site.

Volunteers fill numerous positions at Exporail; their skills are further leveraged through their participation in various committees that support the management of the museum and its operations.

To this end, we have added a volunteer to assist with recruitment and with managing volunteers' files and schedules. In 2023-2024, 178 volunteers worked a total of 24,758 hours. There were 34 more volunteers than last year, who were recruited directly at the museum, by supervisors or at events such as the Exporail Party, A Great Passion for Model Trains and the model train shows in Montreal and Laval.



Here are just some of the ways that volunteers contribute:

- Actively participating in several committees; occupational health and safety, meetings with supervisors with an impact on the museum's ability to accomplish its mission.
- Full maintenance of the 1959 streetcar and overhead wire for regular operations.
- Moving rolling stock on-site and operating trains for film shoots and special activities.
- Maintaining tracks and operating various equipment essential to our operations such as the miniature train, cars, carriages and locomotives on-site.
- Working on the future passenger car for our John Molson steam locomotive.
- Restoring the Sibley Park scenic dome car.
- Support with digitizing archive documents and with research.
- Writing, editing and translating various texts as well as writing articles for Canadian Rail magazine.
- Maintaining and repairing the network of tracks in the model train room. This year, the team created a scale model of Green Gables in collaboration with the Anne of Green Gables Museum on Prince Edward Island.
- Receiving attendees, organizing activities and tours, and providing support in many other ways during the Heritage Rail Alliance conference. A special day was also held during which 25 volunteers operated the passenger train, the CFM, the MTC 3 and MTC 1959 streetcars and the John Molson locomotive as well as giving tours of the Sibley Park car and other vehicles in the collection.



member services

CANADIAN RAIL MAGAZINE

More and more hobby stores are closing or downsizing—the latest being Maritime Hobby and Crafts in Halifax—which has had an impact on sales of Canadian Rail magazine. Even railway shows have been affected, such as those in Toronto and Ottawa. Railway shows are a major profile booster for the CRHA and Exporail.

The team has faced some human resources challenges due to a lack of French translators. In at least two instances, we have had to call upon commercial translation services. We are constantly on the lookout for volunteer translators and map illustrators.

In fiscal 2023, we produced 364 pages of quality articles (the same as last year) on a variety of topics covering Canadian railway history from coast to coast to coast.

During the financial year, we received our ninth grant for periodicals from Canadian Heritage, in the amount of \$23,124, for which we thank the government of Canada.

We are experiencing challenges with recruitment, an issue to be addressed by the association in the next financial year thanks to the creation of a dedicated committee mandated by the board of directors.

M. Peter Murphy / M. Douglas N. W. Smith,
Co-Editors-in-Chief

In recognition of the team members' outstanding contribution:

Peter Murphy and Douglas N. W. Smith,
co-editors-in-chief

Stan Smaill, photo gallery

David Scott, cartography

Garth Stevenson, English proofreading

Jean-Maurice Boissard, French translation

Gilles Lazure, French translation

Jacques Loiselle, French translation

Lorence Toutant, French translation

Louise Dineen, French translation

Stephen Wray and Exporail team members,
CRHA communications

Gérald Bouchard, membership services
and processing

James Bouchard, technical and membership
processing support

Gary McMinn, graphic design
service provider

Donald Emard, printing service provider
(Impression Expo)

Thanks also to our contributors:

Douglas N. W. Smith, Stan Smaill, Ken Goslett, William Blevins, Lorne Perry, Ian MacDonald, Ted Rafuse, Ted Bartlett and Howard Easton, Kevin Holland, Barry Biglow and many others.

Some 2,818 volunteer hours went into the production of Canadian Rail in fiscal 2023 (versus 2,498 hours the previous year).

MEMBERSHIP

We took a major step forward in 2022 with the introduction of online membership renewal and the option of secure payment by credit card.

As of March 31, 2024, the total number of active members was 801.

A membership committee will be formed to look at, and act upon, different ways to increase the numbers of CRHA members.

CRHA foundation

During the most recent financial year, the goal of CRHA's fundraising campaign was \$100,000 for general operations. The campaign achieved its target. Huge thanks to all who donated for their generous support.

In addition, the CRHA Foundation donated \$115,000 to the CRHA during the same financial year.

It was another successful year for the CRHA Foundation. It received \$200,000 from CPKC for the N.R. Crump Endowment Fund as well as an equivalent donation of \$149,789 from the government of Quebec. One member made a donation of \$25,000 to the Foundation. The total value of the Foundation's assets, as at March 31, 2024, is \$3,374,049.

I would like to thank all members who have donated to the CRHA and the CRHA Foundation for their ongoing support throughout the past year.

I would also like to thank my fellow directors of the CRHA Foundation, Robert Robinson, Peter Murphy, Keith Heller and Charles de Kovachich, as well as the members of the Fundraising Committee, Linda Schwey and Howard Davidson, for their support.

C. Stephen Cheasley

President of the CRHA Foundation and
President of the Fundraising Committee



Thank you to all the members of the CRHA who have so generously donated to the annual support fund of Exporail. We have now received or have commitments for \$110,000 towards our \$125,000 objective. **The campaign will continue to run until March 31, 2024.**

Design! Did you know that Exporail has in its collection architectural renderings of some of the earliest grand railway stations and hotels in Canada. Here for example are four original watercolours from more than 100 years ago by the renowned architect Edward Maxwell, of buildings he designed for the CPR

Your annual support of Exporail is greatly appreciated.

TO DONATE: On line: www.exporail.org in the Support Exporail section
By Mail: CRHA – 110 Saint Pierre Street, Saint Constant, Quebec J5A 1G7



*Palliser Hotel Calgary (watercolour 1911)
Inaugurated 1914*



*Canadian Pacific Station Winnipeg (watercolour 1905)
Inaugurated 1905*



*Royal Alexandra Hotel Winnipeg (watercolour 1904)
Inaugurated 1906, demolished 1971*



*Canadian Pacific Windsor Station addition
(watercolour 1899)*

CRHA awards committee

This year's winners are as follows:

THE AWARD FOR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT WAS GIVEN TO IAN SMITH

Ian took over the role of editor-in-chief of *The Sandhouse* in 2001. Ian not only edited the articles submitted to the journal, he also wrote regular news features covering topics such as public transit, CN, CP, VIA Rail and BNSF as well as articles on the Yukon. He successfully persuaded a number of authors to contribute to the publication while also researching and writing numerous in-depth articles himself.

Throughout his 22-year tenure, Ian oversaw every aspect of *The Sandhouse*, serving as chief editor, chief writer and even layout artist.

THE AWARD FOR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT WAS ALSO GIVEN TO GREG MCDONNELL, WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO RECORDING THE HISTORY OF CANADA'S RAILWAYS.

In addition to writing 10 major books on railways, Greg has frequently contributed articles and photographs to railway periodicals on both sides of the border.

For many years, he was also editor-in-chief of the *Locomotive* annual magazine, produced by Kalmbach Publishing, and editor-in-chief of the *Boston Mills Masters of Railroad Photography* series.

THE PRESERVATION AWARD WAS GIVEN TO THE BC FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE FOR ITS RESTORATION OF THE HILLCREST SHAY NO. 1 LOCOMOTIVE.

Shay No. 1 joins the centre's handful of preserved locomotives operating in regular service. The locomotive took its first trial passenger journey in June 2024. The seven-year restoration was accomplished thanks to a combined team of paid professionals and volunteers supported by monetary and in-kind donations. Few forestry steam locomotives have been preserved in Canada, which makes this restoration particularly special, since forestry products have always been one of the principal categories of goods transported by rail.

THE CANADIAN RAIL AWARD was given to Ted Bartlett for his three-part article entitled "The Life and Death of the Newfoundland Railway" (translated into French by Jean-Maurice Boissard, Jacques Loiselle and Gilles Lazure).

This article was well written, comprehensive and complemented by a well-chosen selection of images worth attention in their own right. As with many issues concerning Newfoundland, there were triumphs and failures, agreements and disagreements.

AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN ANOTHER PERIODICAL OR MAGAZINE (TIE):

"Icehouses of Canada's West OR Climate, Change, and Melting Ice" by Tom W. Parkin in *Branchline*, November/December 2023

Unlike many railway histories, Tom's article goes well beyond a simple recounting of the story. It explores the role of railroads as early indicators of climate change through their involvement in the ice industry. This new perspective enables readers to understand, in a nuanced way, how technology and environmental change have intersected in the past, and therefore better grasp the broader implications of climate change today.

"A Short History of the Canadian National's Public Affairs Department" by Lorne Perry in *CN Lines*, May 2023.

This department was set up not long after the first railway service was launched. Once the tracks had been laid, it was necessary to attract people to live, work and develop agriculture in Canada. Sir William Van Horne, the chief visionary of CPR, created a department of colonization and agriculture with offices across Europe and Canada—potentially the world's first multinational public relations firm.

We sincerely thank all individuals and organizations that submitted nominations to the committee.

Linda Schwey
President, CRHA Awards Committee, Exporail

partners

Exporail's regular activities are funded in part by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and are supported by the cities of Saint-Constant and Delson. Exporail also receives support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Employment and Social Development Canada for special projects as well as the support of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Railroad Historical Association Foundation, CN, CPKC, the Regional County Municipality of Roussillon, EXO, the YMCA of Greater Toronto.



financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2024



INCOME

	2024
Visitor spending	\$ 866,572
Other self-generated income	\$ 339,607
Membership fees and donations	\$ 489,506
Government subsidy programs	\$ 1,067,773
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	\$ 2,763,458

EXPENSES

Museum activities	\$ 1,134,410
Operation and maintenance	\$ 1,638,686
Depreciation	\$ 67,253
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,840,349

Deficit of income over expenses	\$ - 76,891
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current assets	\$ 1,241,610
Debt	-
Property, facilities, and equipment	\$ 5,013,052
Intangible assets	\$ 2,333
Collections and exhibition materials	\$ 1
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,256,996

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities	\$ 728,738
Debt and deferred contributions	\$ 3,554,714
Net assets	\$ 1,973,544
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,256,996

THE CRHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Robert Robinson
President of the CRHA Foundation	C. Stephen Cheasley
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Robert Robinson, C. Stephen Cheasley, Howard Davidson, Robert Nantel, James Bouchard and Nadine Cloutier

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Membership Committee (including Canadian Rail)	chaired by Peter Murphy
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Finance Committee	chaired by C. Stephen Cheasley

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Archives - Exhibitions	Mylène Bélanger
CPKC Archival Technician	Chantal Guérin
Volunteer and Operations Management	Sylvain Bissonnette
Customer Service, Programming, and Education	Matthew Gauthier
Reception room rentals and film shoots - Gift shop	Marie-Anne Durocher
Accounting	Stéphane Ste-Marie
Buildings and Grounds	Stéphane Fillion
Marketing and Sales	Caroline Lebon
Administration	Jacqueline Chiasson



EXPORAIL
LE MUSÉE FERROVIAIRE CANADIEN
THE CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM

EXPORAIL,
THE CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM
110 Saint-Pierre Street
Saint-Constant (Quebec) J5A 1G7
Phone: 450 638-1522
Fax: 450 638-1563

exporail.org