

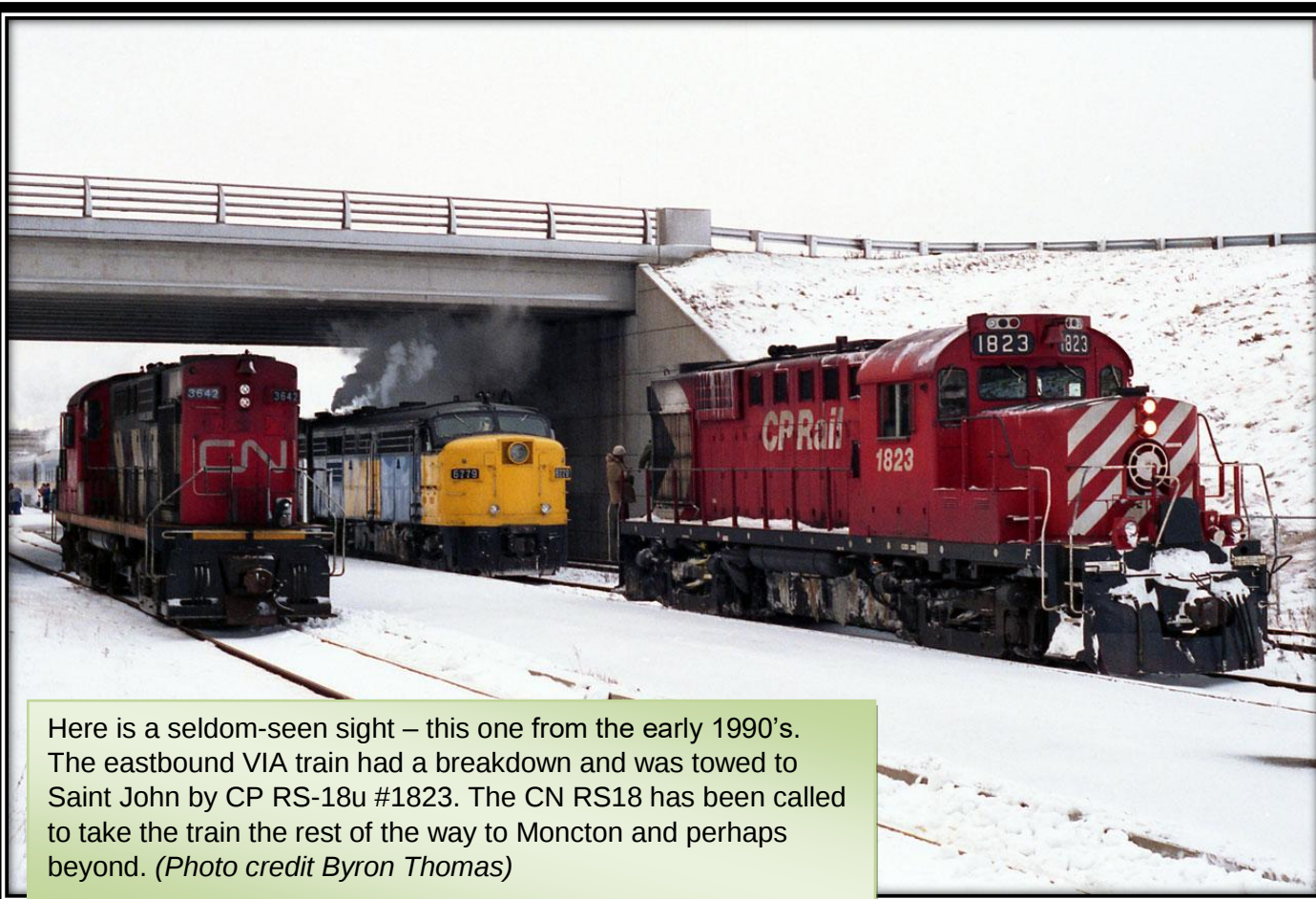


The Hot Box

*The Newsletter of the
Eastern Canada Division
of the NMRA*



Issue # 23 March 2024



Here is a seldom-seen sight – this one from the early 1990's. The eastbound VIA train had a breakdown and was towed to Saint John by CP RS-18u #1823. The CN RS18 has been called to take the train the rest of the way to Moncton and perhaps beyond. (Photo credit Byron Thomas)

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- [F.R.E.D.](#)- links, laughs and everything else

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President's Message



Greg Williams (President, Eastern Canada Division)

Wow, March already. Where did the winter go? I know most want a quick end to winter but for some of us Winter is modeling time. Without the distractions of gardens, lawn maintenance, house maintenance and the never ending family get togethers of the Summer; Winter can be a time of refuge and relaxation in our train rooms. I won't be sorry to see the cold weather go, the need for extra heat in the shop creates problems. Ever try to use a lighter on heat shrink as the heater blows warm air? But I digress.

The advantage to more human friendly weather is that we can get out and see the real thing. Spring brings so many opportunities to train watch, chase or otherwise get inspiration for our model railways. It also means more activity is happening. A look at upcoming events proves that we've not only survived the Covid lockdowns but have thrived and are making a comeback. Things almost seem normal.

Aside from the train shows, modeling day and MFMR convention, many folks are once again hosting op sessions. Ah, operations. The allure still eludes me. I did operate twice on two different layouts. It all seemed overwhelming to me. But this is not a negative, it's an opportunity! Just as many are intimidated by various aspects of the hobby they are unfamiliar with, I see learning to operate as an opportunity to get even more enjoyment from this hobby. Many consider wiring and electronics to be similar. It's all a matter of tackling the unknowns. I also feel intimidated by scenery. Making trees seems tedious and boring. There are those among us who have mastered the art and have thousands on their layout. Are they nuts? Or are they talented? Certainly both.

My point is, try something new. If you've never spent quality time trackside with a friend waiting for a train, now's the time to plan that with the warmer weather coming. And yes, you may see my befuddled face at an op session soon.

Our ECD Executive and Board of Directors:

President:

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- Achievement Program Chair – James Whatley jawhatley@bellaliant.net
- Membership Chair and Webmaster - Rob Leathley - rleathley68@gmail.com
- Communications and Hot Box Editor - Lou McIntyre – louism@nbnet.nb.ca



AND coming *this month!!!*

A virtual convention taking place each evening March 18 – 21. See the latest issue of the Coupler and the NERx website for more details, but to whet your appetite, here is a sample of what is planned.....

- "Design & Construction of Prototype Buildings"
- "Building the Cranberry Yard Freight House"
- Roundtable Discussion on "Layouts in Small Spaces"
- "Custom Paint, Decals and Weathering"
- And our own James Whatley will present "Sprucing Up a Train Show Box Car"

The NER logo in red with a stylized 'N' and 'E' and a red 'R'. To the right is a yellow circle with a black 'X' inside.

NER

March 18-21

6:30-10:30 PM Eastern

For more information, visit

NERx.org



The Winter 2024 issue of the **NER Coupler** is now available online. It contains a great photo review of the **2023 Cannonball Express Convention** held in New York and very inviting introductions to the Lakeshores Convention, and the NERx described on the previous page

In his editorial, Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro reflects on Greg Williams' message in the September Hot Box

<https://nernmra.org/ner-couplers/>



Balloon Track – News around our Division

Retirement

Congratulations to **Dave Gunn, MMR**, as he retires from active participation in the Eastern Canada Division Board of Directors. Dave has been actively involved in the Division since it was resurrected in 2018, serving first as Achievement Program Chair and most recently as Membership Chair.

He has also been a major contributor to the Hot Box since its beginning with several articles including his masterpiece Gunnstan Municipal Abattoir, Gunns Limited Quality Meat packers, Swift & Co and stock pens.

Dave deserves this “change of career” with a retirement well earned. Thank you Dave!



Monthly Workshops

The Eastern Canada Division's presentation series, via Zoom, continues on the third Thursday of each month. So far this season, we have had very interesting presentations by

Taylor Main, James Whatley, Greg Williams, Tim Hayman, Jeff Hanke and Dara Legere

Coming up next (subject to change):

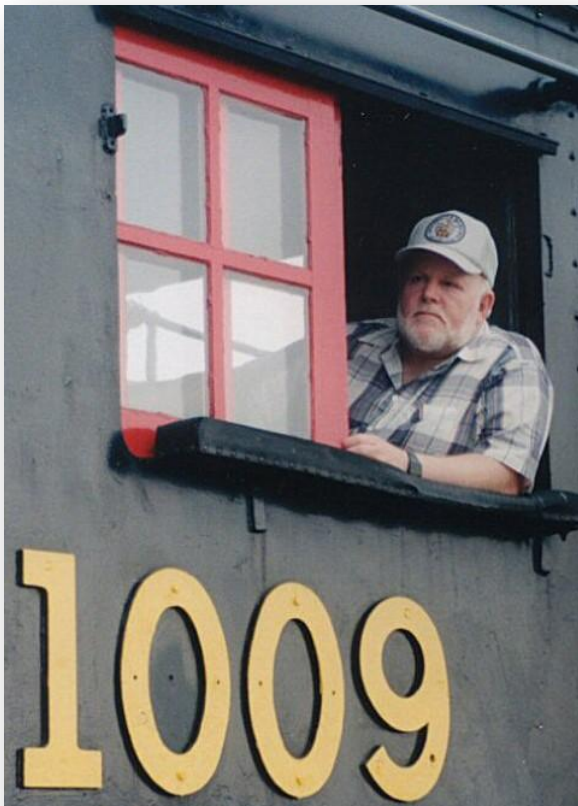
Thursday, **March 21, 2024**, at 08:00 pm ADT: **"Update on the New Brunswick Railway Museum"**, by **Luc Nowlan**

Thursday, **April 18, 2024**, at 08:00 pm ADT: **"Using a Diode Laser Cutter / Engraver as a Scratchbuilding Tool"**, by **Greg Williams**.

Thursday, **May 16, 2024**, at 08:00 pm ADT: **"Sprucing Up a Train Show Boxcar"**, by **James Whatlev**.

Stay tuned for the Zoom log-in details, which will be sent out via email a few days prior to each presentation.

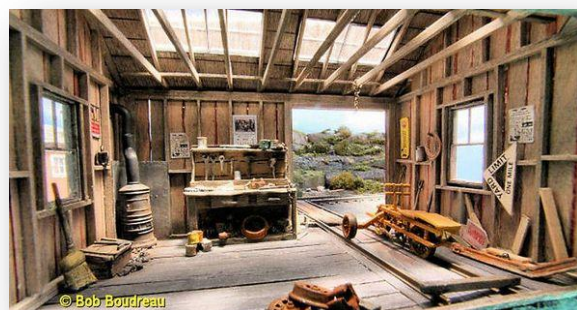
Sad News to Report



It is great sadness that we announce the passing of Bob Boudreau, one of the founders of the Saint John Society of Model Railroaders, and the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders. Bob was a prolific modeller, model photographer, and one of the leading names in the model railroad press in the 1980's and 1990's. In recent years, he created and administered a number of model pages on Facebook. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Attached is a link to Bob's obituary

<https://castlefh.ca/tribute/details/32529/Robert-Boudreau/obituary.html#tribute-start>



Slovens / Jiggers

Synonymous with the steam era, low-bed, horse-drawn wagons were seen throughout the Maritimes hauling barrels and other cargo. They were known generally as sloven wagons or slovens. On PEI and in Maine, they were locally called jiggers. The low bed enabled workers to load heavy items with less effort

Shown on the left are a number of wagons in downtown Charlottetown PEI

Below is a photo of an early version of a sloven at Saint John Market Square from the 1870's



A number of models of these wagons have been built, including this one scratchbuilt by **Gerry Gilliland**



The Train Troll's **Andy Small** had also produced sloven wagon kits in both HO

and O scale. Here is one of those kits built by **Peter Mesheau**

<https://www.traintroll.com/index.html>



The Middle Sackville station

Peter Mesheau has been busily exploring the historic rail lines near his home in Sackville NB. In the past year, he's taken us on journeys over the Moncton-Bouctouche line and the Cape Tormentine Sub out of Sackville. The Tormentine Sub journey continues with a few pics of the Middle Sackville station. This was the first station down the line from Sackville station (approx 3mi). Peter adds that this is all scratchbuilt; "the really cool thing about this model is that it uses roof supports that were 3D printed by **Steve Hill**. I sent him a sketch and a week later about forty supports were delivered".



The Pride of the Fleet

Gordon Di Jomini of Fredericton NB shared this story about CP Varnish (Photos by D. R. Phillips)

The Canadian Pacific Railway did not originally paint passenger train cars — of course wood cars in the early years. Rather, the bare wood was varnished. The standard treatment was nine coats of varnish hand-rubbed between coats. The lettering was gold leaf.

Heritage Park in Calgary, Alberta restored coach 141 to the original varnished appearance. Stunning, isn't it? Now imagine a whole train of varnished cars.



The photographs show how the car builders did not match the colour and grain of the wood they selected for a car. Any “whitewood,” the term used, sufficed.

Modeling a varnished car would be a daunting task in any scale. Every board would have to be individually painted!



The car illustrated was coach 141 (iii), designated “Suburban,” built by the Angus Shops in Montreal in 1907-07 on Equipment Order 580, length less end platforms 65'-0”, 72 seats. The car was retired to Service — what we modellers tend to call work train service — as 411585 in 1952-07. That the C.P.R. was still using a 1907 wood coach in 1952 suburban service in sight of the head office above Montreal Windsor

Station is also stunning. The car was recovered from Service and restored for use in the CBC Television series “The National Dream” — painted, which was historically wrong. The car was retained, and finally donated to Heritage Park in Calgary, Alberta in 1980.

Some steel cars were painted an ochre yellow to blend with the varnished wood cars. That did not work well. Instead the railway adopted the rich maroon colour used by the subsidiary Soo Line in the United States, and the varnished cars were eventually painted.



Except one car. The Superintendent of the Montreal Terminals liked the varnished look of “his” wood private business car — and yes, why the Superintendent of the Montreal Terminals had a private business car is a good question. Anyways, this man refused to send the car “across town,” as it were, to the Angus Shops to be painted. The car survived in varnish until the Superintendent retired, I believe sometime in the 1940s. One necessarily assumes that the day after he retired the car was at the Angus Shops being prepared for painting.

Let’s now jump ahead to 1997, when the Canadian Pacific Railway replaced the “CP Rail” image. The boffins considered painting locomotives . . . yup, maroon. But the original maroon paint could not be made due to environmental considerations. So the Canadian Pacific Railway commissioned four . . . maybe five . . . paint manufacturers to replicate the original maroon in modern paints. All but one of the sample paints failed testing. The colours were bad, and those paints did not weather at all well.

The remaining sample paint was deemed acceptable for the heritage equipment even though it is at best a “good enough” match. In particular, it does not have the purple undertone in the original maroon. But it, too, did not weather well enough to use for the whole locomotive fleet.

The railway needed a new colour. They chose . . . yup again, Soo Line red!



We extend a warm welcome to the Eastern Canada Division to **Jason Thompson** of Dartmouth NS and a welcome back to **Darwin Anderson** of Conception Bay South NL

Second Life Box Cars



Rich Mahaney, the President of the NMRA's North Central Region (Michigan and parts of Indiana and Ohio) attended the Fundy Railfest 2023 convention in Saint John NB. The box car shell contest we held caught his interest and he has generously provided us with a number of photos of box cars in their second life. You never know, one of these may be the spark that starts you into a modeling project, or even your own

railfanning adventures in Atlantic Canada.

Right after the convention Rich visited Dave Gunn in Tatamagouche NS and photographed this box car repurposed as a hotel room at the Train Station Inn



Rich also sent 2nd life box cars in HO scale from train shows in Fort Wayne IN and Grand Rapids MI



This old box car sitting next to a former Great Northern depot in Princeton MN is being used to house a layout being built by local model railroaders



Jackson MI - the railroad yard and engine facilities were built years ago and have served the Michigan Central RR, New York Central, Conrail, and now the NS. Huge engine facilities and lots of workers until it was all shut down. Now there are just buildings left and a small NS yard, and Amtrak passes through Jackson also several times a day.



Sydney & Louisburg Railway Museum



*Our ECD Secretary, **Fergus Francey**, is a recently retired officer of the Canadian Coast Guard and has taken a second career teaching at the Canadian Coast Guard College in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM). In this story, he describes his discovery of the Sydney & Louisbourg Railway Museum and the work he has undertaken to bring an HO layout back to life.*

The Museum celebrates the role that the railway played in moving coal to

the ice-free port of Louisbourg NS

<https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=7813>



"I first came to find out about the museum in 2005 and even then only by chance, as I had never heard of it prior to visiting Fortress Louisbourg. The diorama was being built with the Coal pier being the centrepiece but nothing ran. 18 years later, back in the beginning of September 2023, I popped in to see if progress had been made. Unfortunately nothing had moved in the past 18 years that anyone was aware of. However the curator and his son were about to attempt a restoration by cleaning the track with 180 grit sandpaper... oh please, NO!

Call it fate, providence or just good timing, I just walked in the door as they were about to attempt the removal of track oxide. In my most humble and diplomatic manner, I suggested they do not do this and I started giving them a "On-site" info clinic on how to clean track. They listened intently and took my number. As I looked around I thought "Oh what potential! I'll be back if they want help..." a few weeks later I returned with tool kit in hand to offer my unsolicited help, which Alex McLeod was more than eager to accept. Apparently, since my last visit they tried to clean a section of track with vinegar, as it had been suggested somewhere online. (DO NOT use vinegar as we found it made the oxidation worse!) As I had brought some track cleaner gear we made our first attempt. Going home the following week, I returned to the museum a week later, "armed for Bear"!

As Alex had a previous engagement he left me with the keys to the museum and I was able to get half of the main line clean and an engine running, I also made some repairs to the Coal Pier, which by the



way is museum quality!

Since then my Saturday's have been occupied at the museum and back at the College, trying to get some progress done. I've started on the scenery, which I'd to thank Dave Stredulinsky for as he mentored me during the building of Scott's layout (see the Hot Box from June 2021 to March 2022), but yesterday was indeed a milestone as Alex was determined to get the hidden track cleaned and operational, some 60' feet worth! At 15hr local time the first

train made three successful runs, track cleaning car in tow. After that we ran a small coal train pulled by 0-6-0 Engine 104, formerly of the Musquodoboit, Eastern Shore & Sydney (MESS) Rwy. Alex, who is a young 77, was happier than a 10 year old in a toy store!

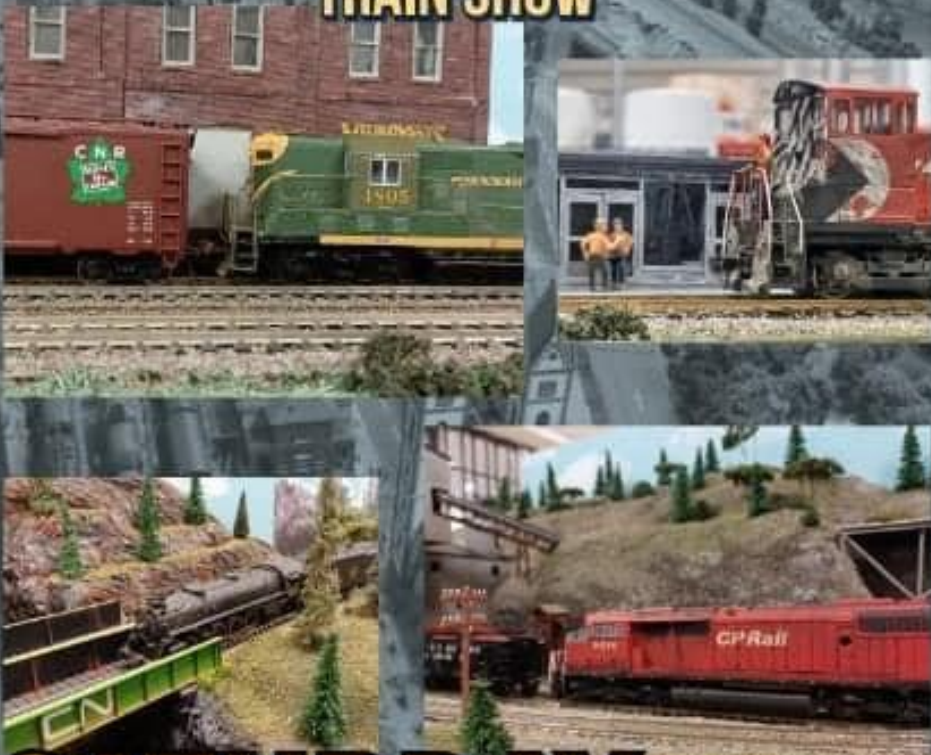
What the future holds, well I'm hoping to work on it for another few weekends before my teaching contract ends. I've approached the Museum about running clinics next summer and doing further work on the layout. I'm also considering coming back to the college next fall to teach again.

I attached some photos of the progress. I'm quite proud of this but more importantly I'm getting more out of this than I'm putting in!"



Events

Amherst, NS – March 9



ALL ABOARD!
CUMBERLAND & AREA RAILWAY CLUB
TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY
MARCH 9TH 2024
AMHERST CENTER MALL
9am to 4pm

Displays
Vendors &
MORE!

Admission \$7

Children under 6
free with accompanying
adult

Mark it on Your Calendar!

Moncton – March 30

MODEL TRAIN SHOW COVERDALE CENTRE

MARCH 30th, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

LOCATION: COVERDALE CENTRE
50 RUNNEYMEADE RD,
RIVERVIEW N.B.

TRAIN LAYOUTS, LEGO DISPLAY & VENDORS

ADULTS \$5.00, CHILDREN FREE

FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT louispleblanc@gmail.com OR Roland Gaudet (rag70@nbnet.nb.ca)

Modelling Day – April 13 – Saint John

MODELLING DAY



61 Forbes Drive,
Saint John, NB 

Bring a project and some models

APRIL 13

09:00am – 04:00pm

Sponsored by the Eastern
Canada Division of the NMRA

For more information:
gregw66@gmail.com



MFMR Convention - May 24-26

Sackville NB



The Tantramar Express 2024 Annual Convention

Posted on January 1, 2024

Date: May 24-26, 2024

Location: Sackville NB @ Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre

Banquet: Branch 26 Royal Canadian Legion – Roast Beef Dinner

Registration and Hotel Booking information will follow soon.

Rough Agenda – Expect changes

Friday May 24

12:00pm – Show set up to begin

2:00 pm – 6pm – Show registration open – Tantramar Civic Center

6:30 – 8:30 – Meet and Greet – Tantramar Civic Center – Sponsored by Colin Burke Royal LePage Atlantic

Saturday May 25

7:00 – 9:00am – Show set up

9:00am – 4:00pm – Public Show

5:30 – 6:00pm – Banquet social – Branch 26 Royal Candian Legion

6:00 – 8:00pm – Banquet – Branch 26 Royal Canadian Legion

Sunday May 26

Layout tours

Moncton Model Railroader Society will open their club on Sunday.

Still need to check around to see if a few local people will open their homes for tours.

If you are in the Sackville/Moncton/Amherst area and have a layout we can visit please let us know.



<https://maritimehobbies.ca/>

Please email
for list

jamesjones458
@eastlink.ca



Rapid shipping by:



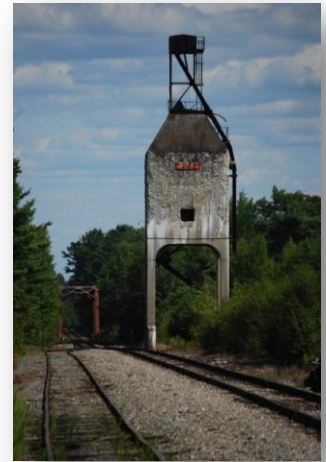
Or



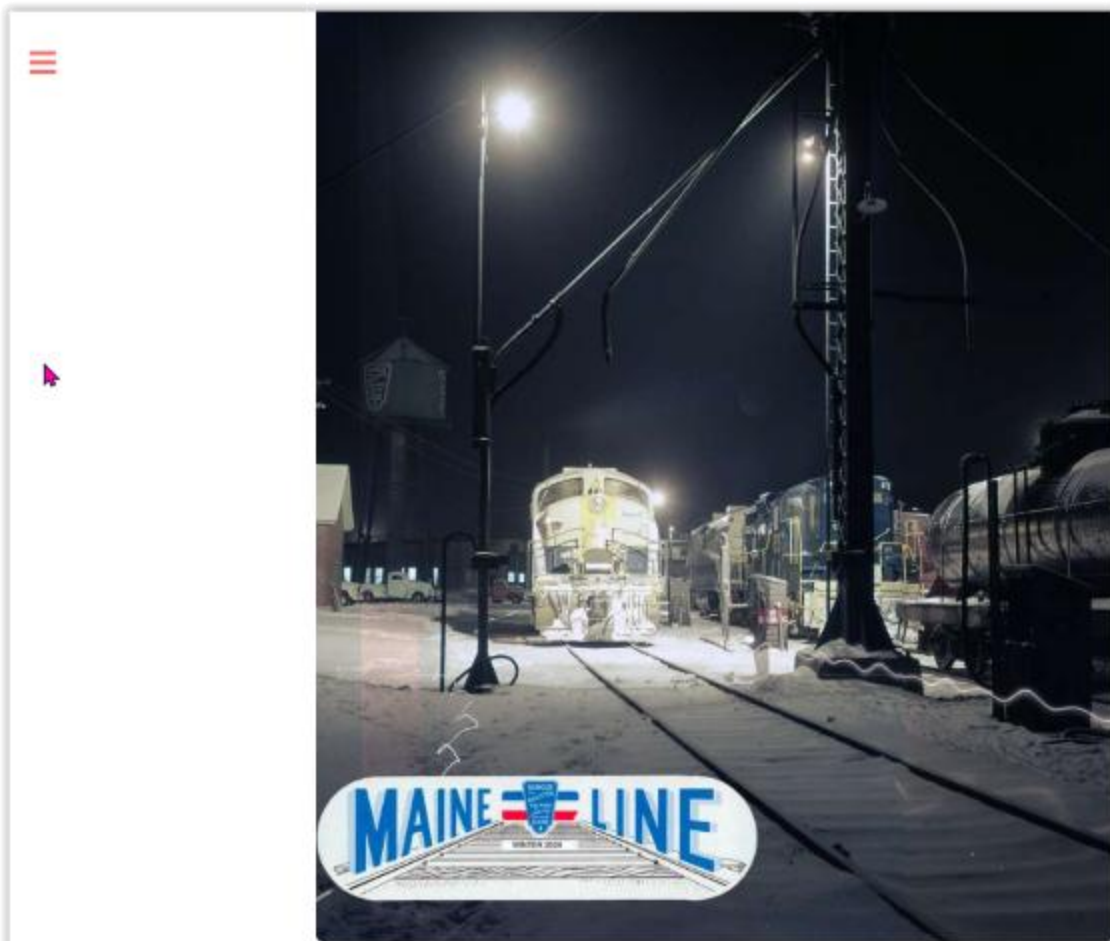
The F.R.E.D.

In this auspicious group, there are many fans of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. Your Hot Box Editor happened upon a 10-year-old video of the stations and structures on the BAR.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjNFwUr5IX8>



Another excellent publication about BAR history is the Maine Line Magazine; the Winter 2024 issue is now out.



<https://mainelinemagazine.joeykelleyphoto.com>

The three red horizontal bars at top left of the website will also take you to their archives to see previous issues

We need your input! If you want stories or history from your local area, it's up to you to share them. Send any projects, stories or reviews you want to share to us at our e-mail address: easterncanadadivision@gmail.com or to louismca2012@gmail.com

