



# The Hot Box

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



**Issue # 26 December 2024**



**Modelers' Day** and **Modelers' Corner** have been very popular events since their start – camaraderie and sharing among modelers, and showcasing the many aspects of model railroading with train show visitors.

## **This Issue's Index**

- [President's Message](#)
- [Call Board](#)- the NMRA and the Region
- [Balloon Track](#) - News around our division
- [Switch List](#) – From how-to's to history, etc from ECD members.
- [F.R.E.D](#)- links, laughs and everything else

The official publication of the Eastern Canada Division of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association.  
ISSUE #26

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## President's Message



Greg Williams (President, Eastern Canada Division)



December, wow, already. How did that happen? We are busier now than ever it seems, and time flies by. Hopefully, you got to see the CPKC Holiday train in all its glory. If not in person, at least through all the wonderful pictures that were taken and posted on social media and through email. One thing is for sure, many of the posts I saw about it on Facebook were not from "us". By us, I mean the community of train people who either model or railfan. The general public has a huge interest in trains. When NBSR did a run from McAdam a few weeks ago, it was sold out in minutes. People like trains.

This is good news for us! Look at the law of percentages. There is a percentage of the population that list trains as a hobby. That has been that way for as long as trains have existed. If there was no interest, there would never have been the first toy trains, there would never have been books written about trains. So, extrapolating that law, in the future, a certain percentage of the people who took an interest in the Holiday train, the NBSR excursion, and all the other train related events that the general public clamour to see and experience, there will be a percentage of them that get into the hobby of trains. This includes the young people whose parents take them to see trains.

In my line of work, I have a small exposure to young people. They like trains. Girls and boys both are fascinated by them. It's our job to keep ourselves out there talking to people about trains. The train shows that open to the public are one way. Making sure your friends, neighbours and work mates know about your hobby is another. Too many of us keep it to ourselves. We need to share our love of trains to help future generations love trains too.

### Our ECD Executive and Board of Directors:

#### President:

Greg Williams - [gregw66@gmail.com](mailto:gregw66@gmail.com)

#### Vice President:

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#### Treasurer:

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### Merry Christmas!



#### Board of Directors:

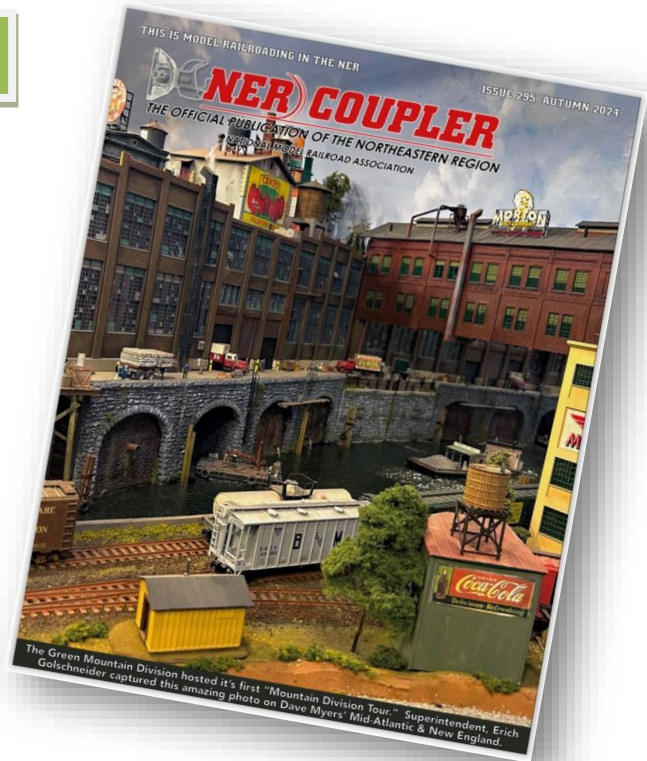
- Achievement Program Chair – James Whatley [jawhatley@bellaliant.net](mailto:jawhatley@bellaliant.net)
- Membership Chair and Webmaster - Rob Leathley - [rleathley68@gmail.com](mailto:rleathley68@gmail.com)
- Communications and Hot Box Editor - Lou McIntyre – [louism@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:louism@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Call Board - the NMRA and the Region**



The Fall 2024 issue of the **NER Coupler** is now available online. It is chock-a-block full of modeling, kitbashing, model photography, model vehicles and much more

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



***March 17-20***

***6:30-10:30 PM Eastern***

***For more information, visit***

***NERx.org***

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
2025 National Convention

# STATION No. VI

Hosted by:  
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

## July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Nov, MI  
A suburban location with FREE parking!

### **CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -**

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. \*\* We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. \*\* This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. \*\* Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. \*\* We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. \*\* The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. \*\* We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. \*\* We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. \*\* We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

**<https://nmra2025.com/>**



## Balloon Track – News around our Division

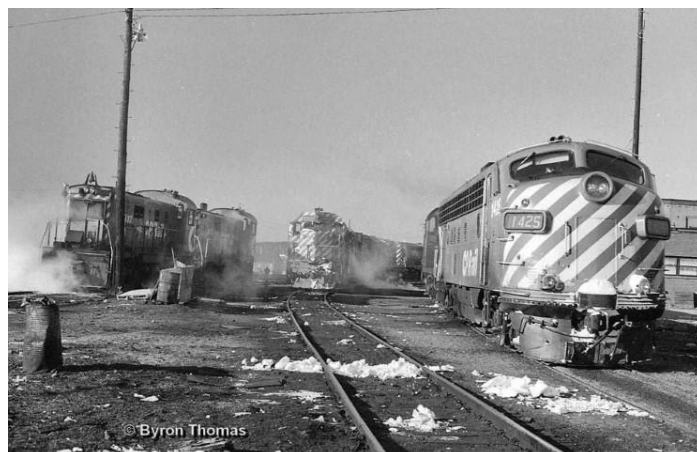
# Monthly Workshops

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

Thursday, **December 19, 2024**, at 8:00 pm AST (UTC-4): **“Modelling the Cape Breton Development Corporation Railway”**, by Will Lawrence.

Saturday **December 28, 2024** at 6:00 pm AST (UTC-4): a replay of the November presentation **“History of Railroading in Saint John NB”**, by Lou McIntyre and Don Fitzpatrick.

This will be on the NMRax; YouTube channel **in Google, enter YouTube NMRA ORG; then click LIVE; then click NMRax)**



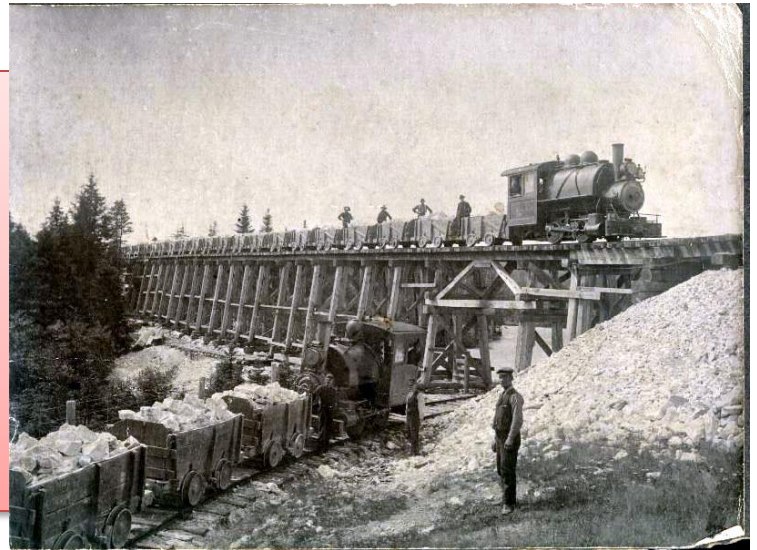
On Thursday, **January 16, 2025**, at 08:00 pm AST (UTC-4): **Steve Hill** will be presenting **“Introduction to 3-D Printing”**. *See photos of Steve's 3D work below*



Thursday, **February 20, 2025**, at 08:00 pm AST (UTC-4) : **“The Rhodes Curry Company of Amherst, Nova Scotia”**, by Dara Legere..

Thursday, **March 13, 2025**, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“Refurbishing Structures”**, by RMC Author George Dutka. *(note this will be a week earlier than usual because of NERx)*

Thursday, **April 17, 2025**, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“The Railways of Albert Mines”**, by CBC Radio Roadside History Columnist James Upham.



Thursday, **May 15, 2025**, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“Using PhotoScape X to Enhance Your Pictures”**, by Chris Lyon.



Christmas at McAdam NB  
railway station

## Operations to Generate Revenue on Your Model Railway

*Our Eastern Canada Division Treasurer, **Douglas Margison**, describes how prototype industries and rail car movement are used to provide a realistic operational scheme on his model railway.*

Railways are in the business of generating money by moving resources to manufacturers / producers to distribution centres / wholesalers. To develop an operational plan for my model railway, I needed to research the flow of resources and products (inputs and outputs) of businesses on my layout; and what cars I would need.

I wanted a farm, a mine shipping ore / coal, logging, industries (to be determined) in the towns and villages; and a variety of freight cars. I needed to get from there to an operational plan → to a construction / purchasing plan.

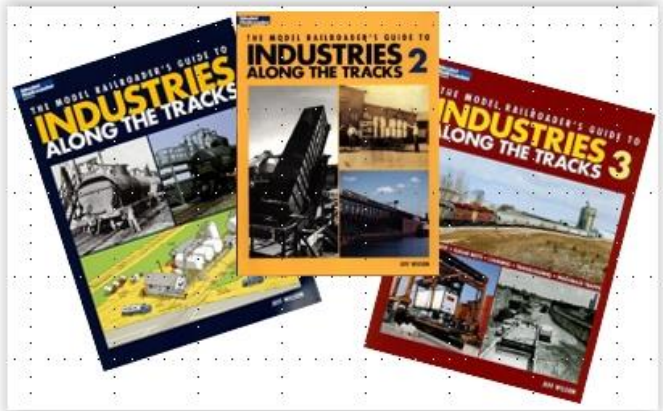
Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" and "Guide to Industries" series provided a good starting point. Volume 1 of "Industries Along the Track" had 3 farm-related sections: grain, produce and livestock; and a section on coal mining → leading me into related "Guide to Industries" books. I used Wikipedia to help to fill in any gaps.

### Agricultural Products

We'll start with my journey from 'I want farms' on the layout to generating an "Shipping Agricultural Products" flowchart that I would use to generate product-car forwarding waybills, create businesses in the towns and villages, and purchase rolling stock. What follows is my outliner-thinking process to get to the final destination.

Farms can ship

- Grain → got "The Model Railroader's Guide to Grain" — used in:
  1. Animal feed → animal feed company in staged town of Dungarvan
  2. Flour → flour mill in staged town of Dungarvan → bakery / homes
  3. Cereal — not modelled in waybills
  4. Beer → brewery in staged town of Dungarvan — Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 2 "Breweries"
- What are the byproducts and how might I include in operations? ← spent grain shipped in a *hopper with a cover* (not a covered hopper) to farms with livestock as feed
- Livestock for meat — got Model Railroader's "Guide to Industries Series: Livestock & Meatpacking" → meat processing plant in staged town of Dungarvan
- Milk — Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 2 "Milk and dairy traffic" — got Model Railroader's "Guide to Industries Series: Milk Trains and Traffic" → dairy plant in staged town of Dungarvan
- Produce — Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 3 "Seasonal Canning Factories" → canning factory in village of Nonesuch — got The Model Railroader's "Guide to Industries Series: Produce Traffic & Trains"

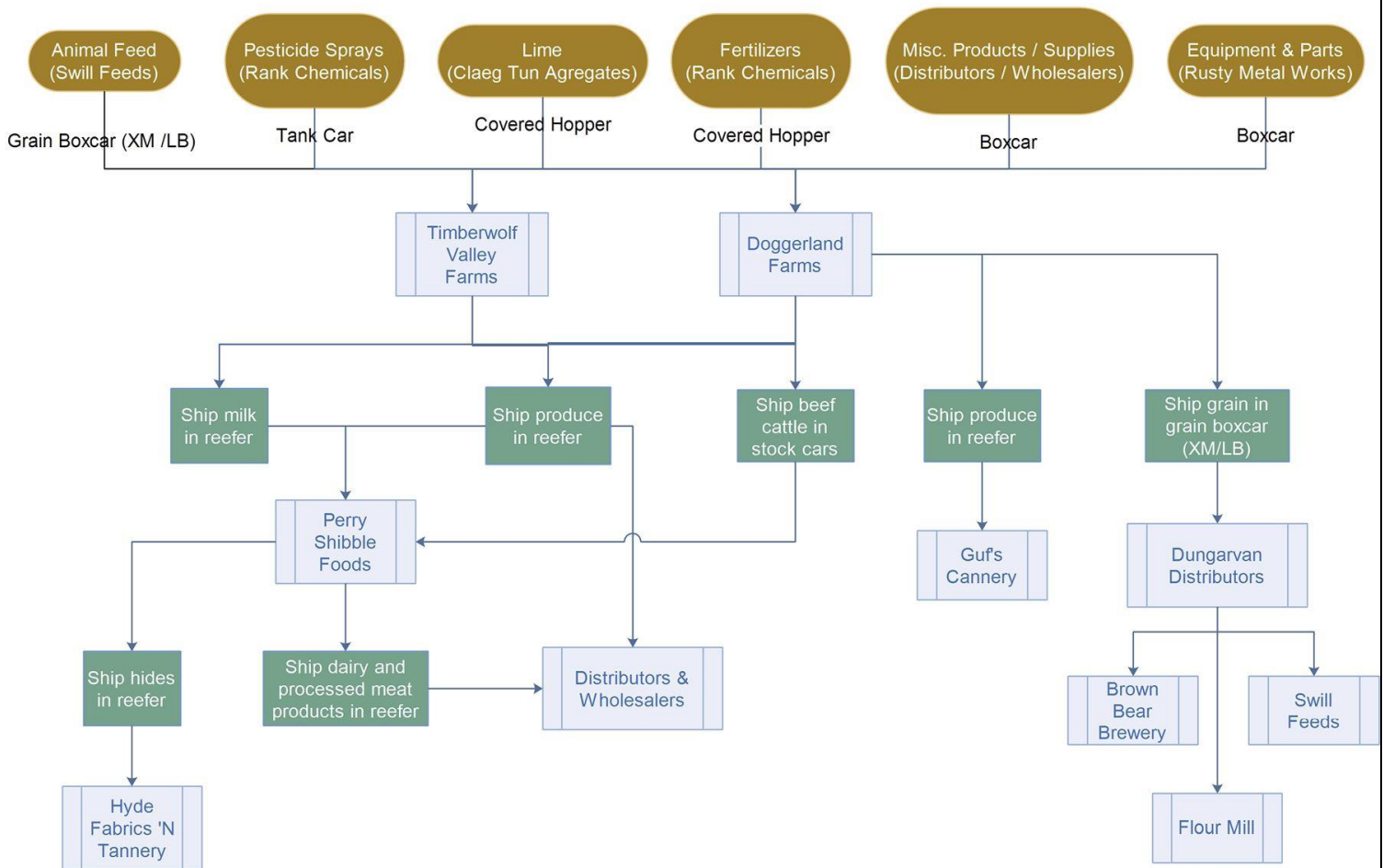


How will resources, products and byproducts be shipped?

- Grain → how about a *grain boxcar*? Good change from the covered hopper used in many other operations → ship grain to flour mill, brewery, animal feed company — from there:
  - Flour mill
    - Bakery will need sugar syrup, chocolate syrup ← tank cars; other supplies in boxcars or trucked in from wholesalers
    - Bagged flour shipped to wholesalers in boxcar
  - Brewery
    - Yeast and chemicals shipped to brewery in boxcar
    - Barrels, crates & barrels shipped to brewery in boxcar
    - Hops shipped to brewery in reefer
    - Beer shipped out in insulated boxcar or reefer
    - Spent grain shipped in a *hopper with a cover*
- Livestock — *stock cars* → processing plant → what are their outputs? → fresh meat / frozen meat / frozen dinners and byproducts ← what byproducts might I include in operations? — hides → tannery
  - Tannery inputs
    - ➔ Hides shipped in reefer
    - ➔ Soak in brine (VAIG Enterprises) to stop decomposing — query ship in bags via boxcar? I have a neat Heinz pickle tank car ← use that
    - ➔ Soak in lime (Claëg Tūn Agregates) to remove hair — ship in bags via boxcar
    - ➔ Tanning involves soaking in tree bark (PDQ Sawmill) tea — ship in bags via boxcar
    - ➔ Plus bleaching, chromium salts, dyes (Rank Chemicals) — ship in bags via boxcar
  - Reefers to ship out finished products and hides — I have a mix of mechanical and ice reefers. For the latter I added an icing platform in Becketville
- Milk — small farms might ship in milk cans delivered to the local train station for pickup by the *Railway Express Agency*; larger ones might ship in *reefer* or a *milk tank car* → dairy plant → reefer to distribution centres / wholesalers
  - Added milk cans to station platforms in farming communities
- Produce — reefer ship to produce packing / processing plant, canning plant → reefer to distribution centres / wholesalers
  - Canning plant in Nonesuch — brine and vinegar shipped to Guf's Canning in pickle tank car; sugar syrup shipped in a tank car, other supplies in a boxcar; finished products shipped out in a boxcar

Farms are going to need what inputs? This will in part depend on the nature of the farm.

## Shipping Agricultural Products



- If livestock farm, it will need feed if it doesn't also grow grain
- If grain or produce farm, it may need fertilizers and pesticides.
- A small farm would likely get fertilizers and pesticides by boxcar. A large farm may get them in liquid form via tank cars.
- All farms will need equipment, parts, fuel, oil and miscellaneous supplies — shipped using flatcars, gondolas, boxcars and tank cars

How might I summarize this? → A flowchart starting with farm inputs and ending with factories, businesses, wholesalers & distribution centres.

Timberwolf Valley Farms is situated at the front of a spur with livestock pen and loading dock. Gollum mines is at the back. Working through inputs for the farm and the mine it became apparent that I needed to install a small unloading platform to receive supplies and equipment between the two; and nearby storage tanks for fuel and chemicals → another shipping location for the waybills and an intermediate spot on the spur.

## Wood Products

Model railroader was my main source with Wikipedia filling in the gaps.

- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 4 "Lumber"

- “Model Railroader’s Guide to Logging Railroads”

The flowchart starts with Sasquatch Logging. Obvious products are logs for the sawmill in A-Di-Quit (skeleton log cars for larger logs and pulpwood car for shorter logs); and pulpwood shipped in a pulpwood car to Muskeg Pulp & Paper in the staged town of Dungarvan.

What about the tree stumps? Could Sasquatch Logging sell those? I discovered that pine tree stumps are used to make fatwood and turpentine. Deciduous tree stumps are used in making briquets.

- Briquets — made by PDQ Sawmill in A-Di-Quit ← add in wood chips and sawdust instead of burning them. Need Kaolin clay, cement and limestone — deliver in covered hoppers.

Shipping tree stumps would also generate more money for the railway, especially pine tree stumps as they would be shipped through Becketville to the interchange with the Nonesuch Ry at Nonesuch Junction, thence to VAIG Enterprises in Nonesuch. I decided to use an ore car to ship tree stumps — this would later come in handy when Paul’s Seafood Wholesaler started shipping lobster shells to Claëg Tūn Aggregates.

The sawmill in A-Di-Quit would sell lumber locally to a barrel / crate manufacturer who would use a boxcar to ship the finished product. PDQ Sawmill would also ship lumber to a



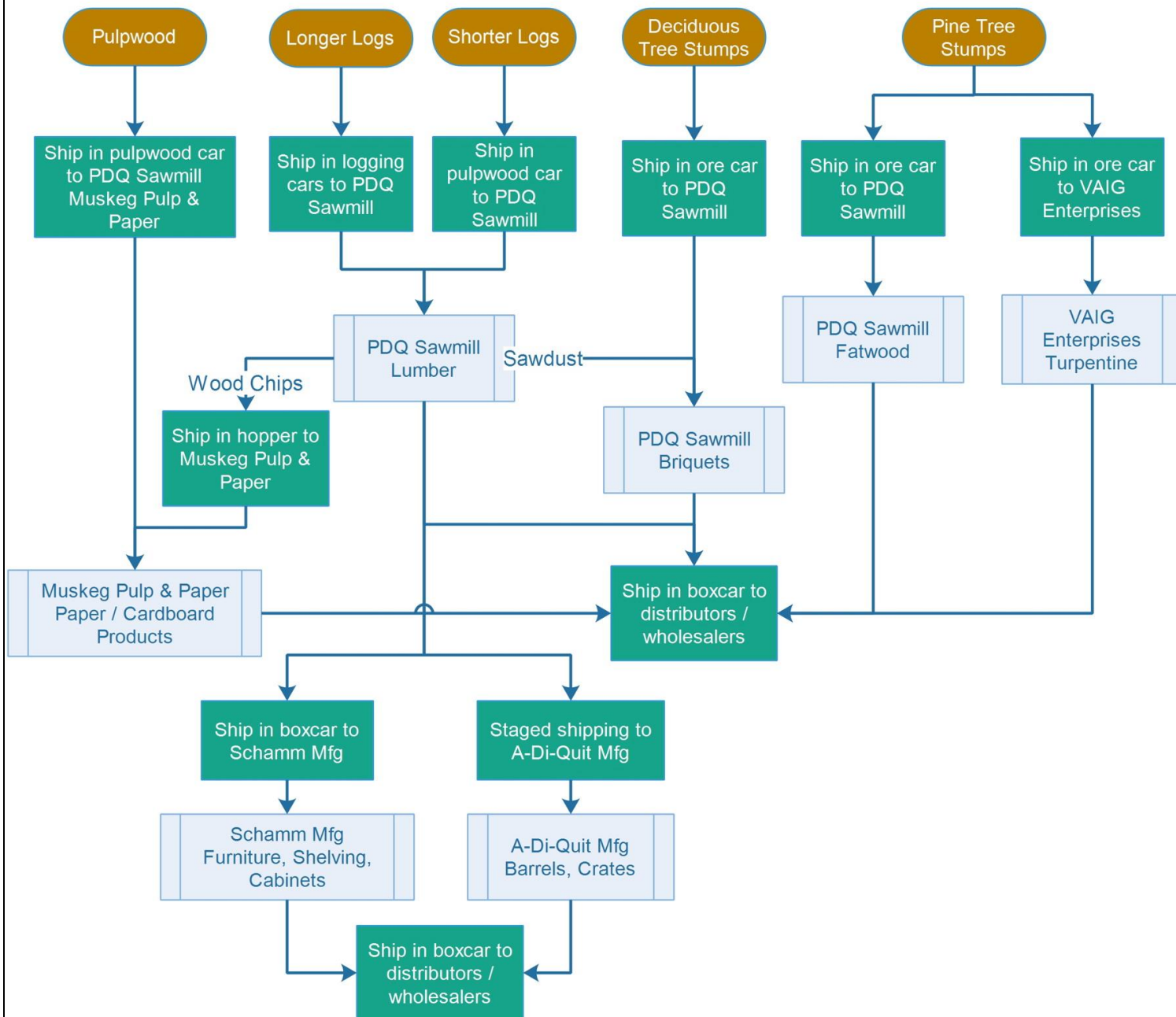
*Figure 1: narrow gauge train leaving Sasquatch with long logs on skeleton log car, pulpwood and tree stumps in the gondola*



*Figure 2: narrow gauge cars spotted in A-Di-Quit. Tree stumps at the front in the gondola; Pulpwood logs behind*

furniture manufacturer in Becketville and lumber distribution centres in the towns.

### Shipping Wood Products





*Figure 4: wood products loaded onto standard gauge cars -- pulpwood on the left, next tree stumps in an ore car; next wood chips and sawdust in a hopper; last lumber on a flatcar*



*Figure 3: ore car in Nonesuch. Pine tree stumps delivered. Car now loaded with lobster shells for Claëg Tūn Agregates*

PDQ Sawmill discovered that Muskeg Pulp & Paper could use its sawdust and wood chips (shipped in a hopper). Hyde Fabrics 'N Tannery could use tree bark (shipped in a boxcar) for tanning. So the sawmill stopped burning these in its beehive burner.

PDQ Sawmill ships fatwood and briquets in a boxcar to distribution centres and wholesalers.

## Quarry Products

Model railroader was my main source with Wikipedia filling in the gaps.

- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 3 "Cement"
- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 4 "Quarries"

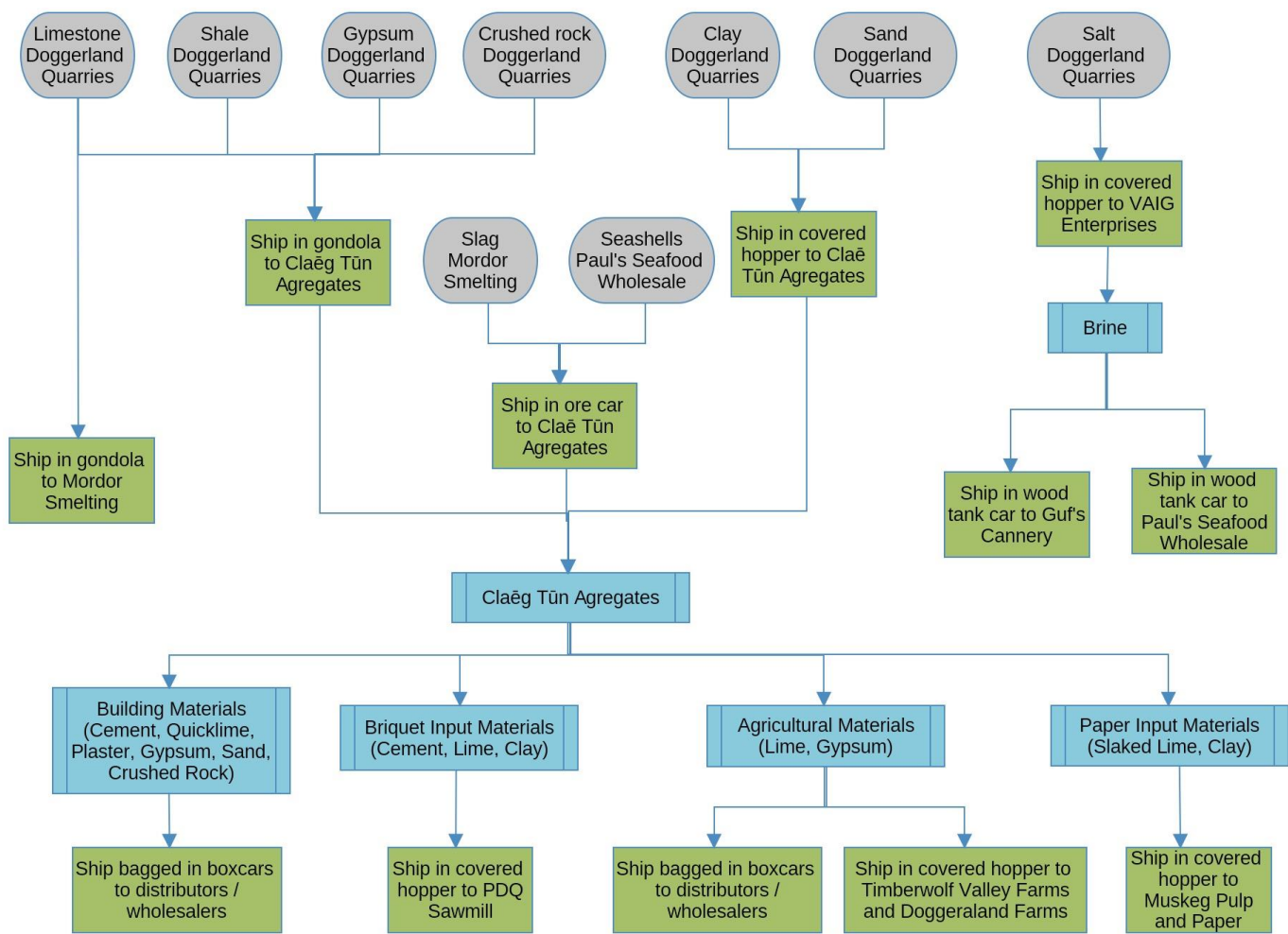
Staged Doggerland Quarries (DQ) by the "sea" is the starting point for this flowchart — cars for DQ are set out on a spur. Limestone, shale, gypsum and crushed rock are shipped in gondolas to Claëg Tūn Agregates (CTA) in Becketville for making cement / concrete, and various forms of lime:

- Agricultural lime, Slaked lime used in making paper, Lime plaster used in building materials and Lime in production of briquets

Gypsum is used in manufacturing of Plaster of Paris and wallboard. Some of CTA's outputs are shipped in bulk in covered hoppers. Many are shipped in bags in boxcars.

Limestone is also shipped to the smelter / iron works in Dungarvan.

### Shipping Quarry Materials



Kaolin clay, sand and salt are shipped in covered hoppers. Clay and sand are shipped to CTA for making cement. Clay is also used in making briquets and paper products. Salt is shipped to VAIG Enterprises in Nonesuch to make brine for canning, Paul's Seafood and in the making of leather goods.

Pauls' Seafood Wholesale was wondering how it could make more money selling lobster shells instead of throwing them in the ocean. Seashells are composed of calcium carbonate and can be used in manufacturing of lime and cement. Paul was excited when Claëg Tūn Agregates said it would take his lobster shells. How to get them from Nonesuch to Becketville? Paul discovered that an ore car bringing pine tree stumps to VAIG Enterprises was returning empty to Sasquatch Logging. Might he be able to ship his lobster shells in the empty ore car to Becketville? Of course said Nonesuch Ry — more money for the railway.

Slag from the smelter in Dungarvan (DU) is used in making cement → one of the two ore cars returning to Gollum Mines in Timberwolf Valley (TWV) drops off the slag at CTA in Becketville (BV) before leaving BV for TWV on the next general freight train to DU.

## **Mining Products**

Model Railroader was my main source with Wikipedia filling in the gaps.

- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 1 "Coal Mining"
- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 2 "Coal Customers"
- Model Railroader's "Industries Along the Track" Vol. 2 "Iron Ore"
- The Model Railroader's "Guide to Industries Series: Iron Ore Railroads"
- "The Model Railroader's Guide to Steel Mills"

While I did not create a flowchart for mining products, we can work through what it might look like. The starting point is Gollum Mines (GM) in Timberwolf Valley. It does double duty — sometimes it is a coal mine shipping in a coal hopper; other times it is an iron ore mine shipping in ore cars. Coal and iron ore are shipped to the smelter in DU to make steel. Some steel is used by the metal works plant in DU and some is shipped in a gondola to Rusty Metal Works in BV. The returning gondola carries scrap metal for the smelter.

Gollum Mines is at the back of the spur at Timberwolf Valley. TWV Farms is at the front. After dumping its load of coal at the smelter in DU, the coal hopper is washed down then filled with spent grain from the brewery and covered with a tarpaulin. Spent grain is dropped off at TWV Farms before the coal hopper is shoved under the mining tippie,

Smelter inputs include limestone as noted in Quarry Products and oxygen (shipped in tank cars). In addition to slag as mentioned earlier, smelter output includes many hazardous byproducts shipped in special covered hoppers or tank cars:

- Calcium carbide — (pressure differential) covered hopper
  - Carbon black — carbon black covered hopper
  - Producer gas — tank car
  - Waste chemicals — tank car
-



We extend a warm welcome to the Eastern Canada Division to **Mike Gerrits** of Chance Harbour NB, **Gerry McCoy** of Saint John, NB and to **Dave Barraza** who is moving here from New York state

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### **CPKC Holiday Train**

*The CPKC Holiday Train on its inaugural visit to the Maritimes. Taken at McAdam NB in the early hours of Nov 21, 2024 by Saint John railfan and photographer, **Nick Kilfoil***



# Events

## Railway Weekend – Sept 28, 29

Modelling Day in Riverview NB on September 28th drew nine attendees and they all had a great



time. Attendees showed examples of their workmanship. **Mike Gerrits** showed a well done On30 boxcar that is his latest example 3D modelling. Meanwhile, **Steve Hill** completed a 3D drawing of the underframe for a large-scale caboose he is building. Several helpful discussions arose throughout the day involving sharing model making tips and techniques. After lunch, our guest speaker, **Wendell Lemon**, showed slides from the Moncton area and

displayed a magnificent 1:12 scale model of a CPR snow plow he built. **Greg Williams** worked on an O scale ore bin he is scratchbuilding and also showed a few interesting videos as well. Greg also loaned a great old-fashioned coffee urn that produced unquestioningly the best "Caboose Coffee" you can find



anywhere!

We had on site the first aid kit that **Douglas Margison** donated and also handed out and briefly reviewed our new safety guidelines. One member actually thanked us for having a safety policy. Everyone went home happy and are looking forward to the next gathering.

As part of **Railway Weekend**, the New Brunswick Railway Museum held a fundraising day on Sunday, Sept 29th and kindly provided a nice BBQ lunch. In the morning, guests had the opportunity to view the many artifacts the museum has to offer.

After lunch, a tie replacement demonstration showed the hard work volunteers are putting into the museum's preparations to eventually re-activate some of its



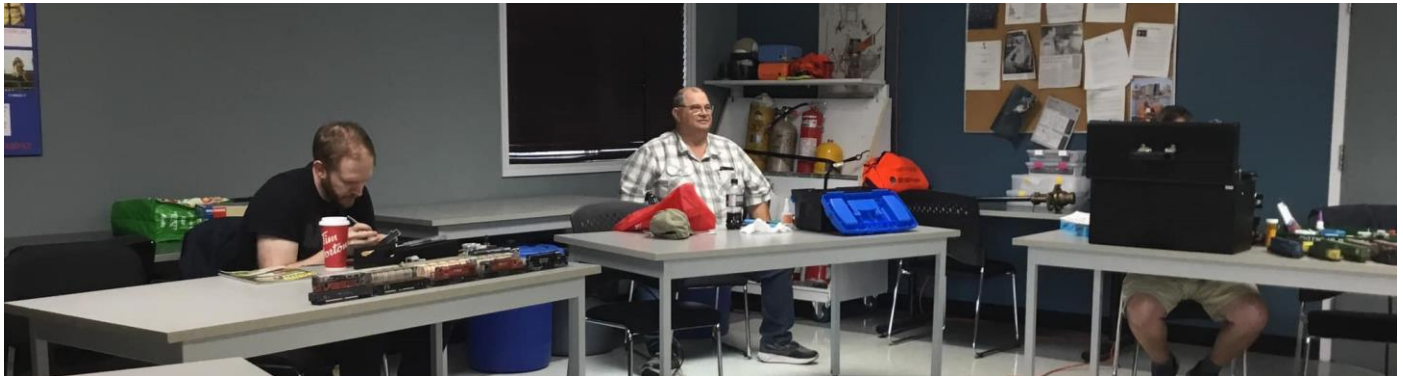
refurbishments, attempts to start up the 65 year old engine didn't quite pan out on this day, with old diesel fuel in the tank suspected as the problem.

However, everyone had an interesting day overall and look forward to the next opportunity to visit.



## Modelling Day – Halifax area October 5

An enthusiastic turnout out to the Halifax region's NMRA annual Modellers meet on October 5. Excellent presentations by **Tim Hayman**, **Will Lawrence**, **Chris Lyon** and **Fergus Francey**. Thanks to Survival Systems Training Ltd for the use of their facility.



## Truro NS – October 19

This issue's cover photo includes our ECD members showcasing our model-building. We received a lot of positive comments among visitors at the Truro show



**Saint John / Quispamsis NB – October 26**



**Bob Boudreau's restored modules**



**A great showing of 7 1/4" gauge locomotives**

## The F.R.E.D.

A great drone video of the Salmon River trestle near Grand Falls NB.



Video by  
Eric  
Goggin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8uz3Stzgqo>

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## Specialty Services

James Jones [jamesjones458@eastlink.ca](mailto:jamesjones458@eastlink.ca)

Agent for Rapido Trains and Interhobbies (Walthers)

Selection of details & accessories

I ship CPO & Maritime Bus

This CN SD70M-2  
doing switching  
duty at Truro NS.  
Photo by Steve  
O'Brien



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**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](mailto:easterncanadadivision@gmail.com) or to [louismca2012@gmail.com](mailto:louismca2012@gmail.com)

