

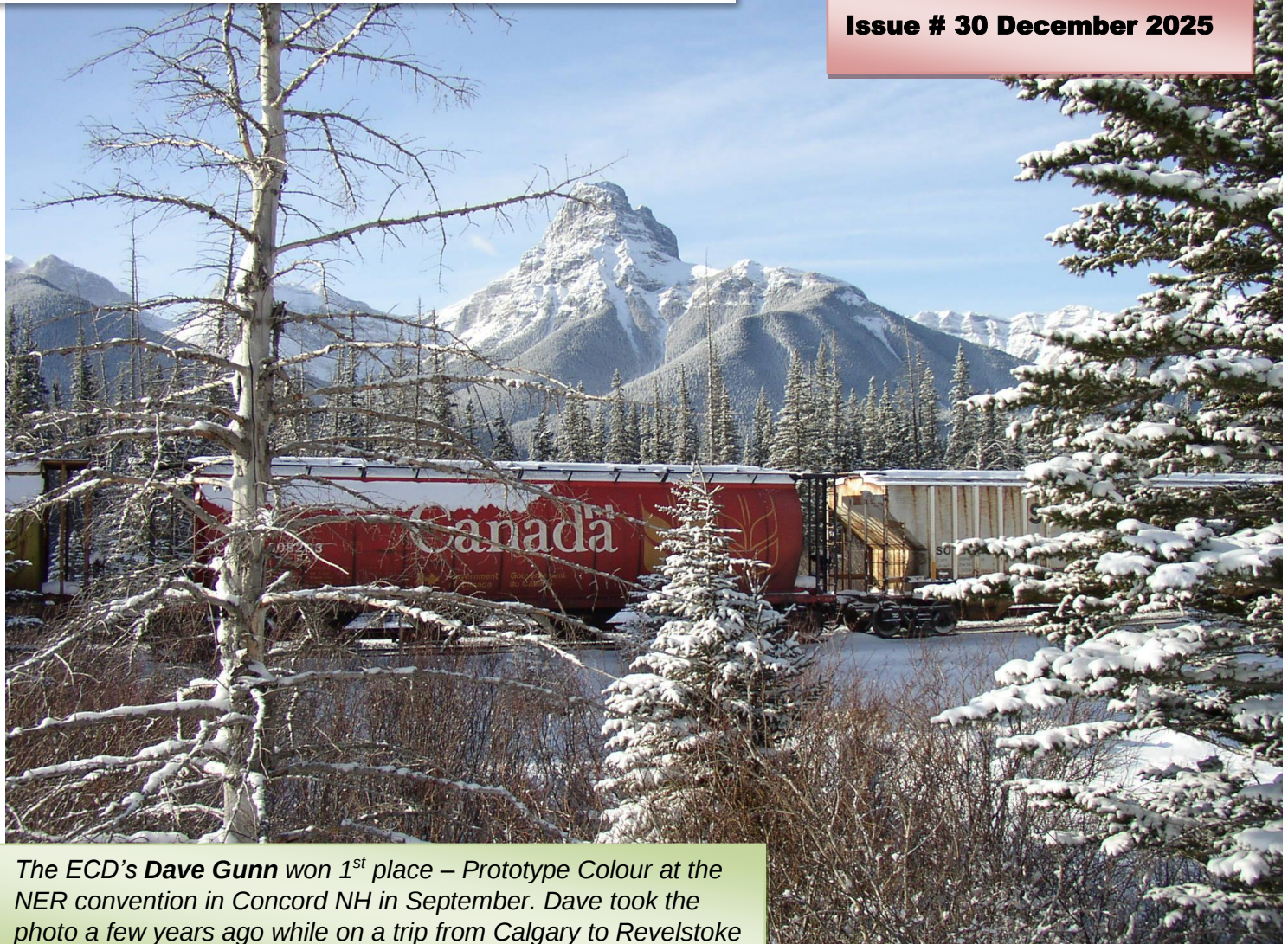


The Hot Box

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



Issue # 30 December 2025



*The ECD's **Dave Gunn** won 1st place – Prototype Colour at the NER convention in Concord NH in September. Dave took the photo a few years ago while on a trip from Calgary to Revelstoke*

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- [Call Board](#)- the NMRA and the Region
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- [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 #30

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President's Message



Greg Williams (President, Eastern Canada Division)



Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink. For some reason, this quote from the “Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner” was a favorite of my mother’s. Lots of water features in this issue! Of course, water does factor large in our modelling, we are coastal people! Here’s an idea! What if someone modelled the much-enlarged Port of Saint John? Certainly, there is much more rail activity going on in this Greatest Little City in the East!

What this causes me to think about is the vast amount of inspiration that surrounds us. While the Eastern provinces are often ignored, there is a rich railway history to inspire us. I am fortunate to have a copy of Omer LaValle’s “Narrow Gauge Railways of Canada”. Several narrow-gauge railways are featured that were in our area. We don’t often associate narrow gauge with our provinces, aside of course from the mighty Newfoundland Railway, which itself is a neglected prototype.

So why don’t you go and look for something unique and special to inspire your modelling? It doesn’t have to be an entire layout, maybe just a one-off model or diorama that depicts some unique are of railway history.

Railways have existed and do exist East of Montreal!

Our ECD Executive and Board of Directors:

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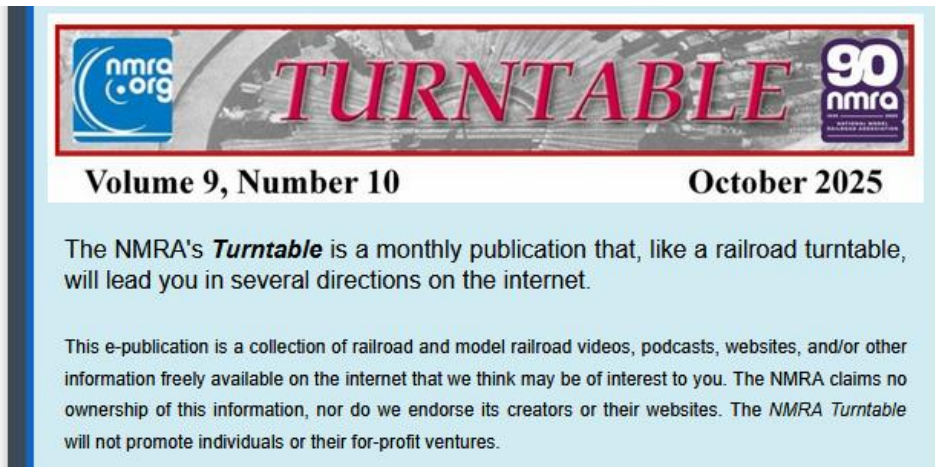
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Call Board - the NMRA and the Region

If you have registered online, you should be receiving the **TURNTABLE**, a monthly e-publication that provides a wide variety of interesting topics. All issues since 2017 can be viewed by logging into the NMRA website and selecting "Publications"



The Autumn 2025 issue of the **NER Coupler** bids farewell to its editor, Chris Carfaro. Chris has been a great supporter of the Eastern Canada Division. On behalf of all of us in Atlantic Canada, we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. It also contains a great photo review of the **2025 Concord Flyer Convention** held in Concord NH in September.

The issue also features an n-scale version of the CNJ Bronx Terminal with its intricate track layout.

To view the **NER Coupler**, go to:

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

If you wish to receive printed issues of the Coupler, it is \$28 per year to a Canadian address. Go to:

<https://nernmra.knack.com/coupler-store>

You only need your email address and the default password

"coupler" to login.



Balloon Track – News around our Division

Monthly Workshops

Thursday, **December 18**, 2025, at 08:00 pm AST (UTC-4): **“The Halifax Explosion Rescue Train from Kentville”**, by **Dan Conlin**.

Thursday, **January 15**, 2026, at 08:00 pm AST (UTC-4): **“Testing a First Diode Laser Cutter with CAD Files”**, by **James Whatley**.

Thursday, **February 19**, 2026, at 08:00 pm AST (UTC-4): **“The Truro Railway Infrastructure”**, by **Andrew Blackburn**.

Thursday, **March 12**, 2026, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“An Update on 3-D Printing”**, by **Greg Williams**.

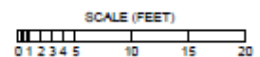
Thursday, **April 16**, 2026, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“British Columbia Railway in the 1980s”**, by **Ron Tuff**.

Thursday, **May 21**, 2026, at 08:00 pm ADT (UTC-3): **“Scratchbuilding Detail Parts for Rolling Stock Projects”**, by **James Whatley**

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

by James Whatley, MMR

A white and red lighthouse structure, likely a historical marker or monument, stands in a grassy area. The lighthouse has a white body with a prominent red vertical stripe and a red roof. A red maple leaf is painted on the white door. A wooden walkway with stairs leads up to the entrance. In the background, a playground with a red slide and other structures is visible under a cloudy sky.



1. DRAWING BASED ON FIELD MEASUREMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 14 APR AND 1 MAY, 2023.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS IN INCHES.
3. DRAWING INDICATED TO OBTAIN NEW FOUNDATION AND NAILS ADDED FOLLOWING RE-LOCATION TO COGNATE NAILING.
4. ENTRY ITEMS DRAWN TO REFLECT VERTICAL PRACTICE.
5. BUILT UP LAYOUT HAS A 1/4" WIDE VERTICAL RED PRACTICE STRIP (ORIGINALLY 1/2").

Fig	04-FYI-2023	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
TITLE COCAGNE RANGE FRONT LIGHTHOUSE		
DRN BY J.A. WHITLEY		
SCALE	3.5 mm = 1'-0"	SHEET 1 OF 1
DATE	26 OCT 2023	REVISION RO

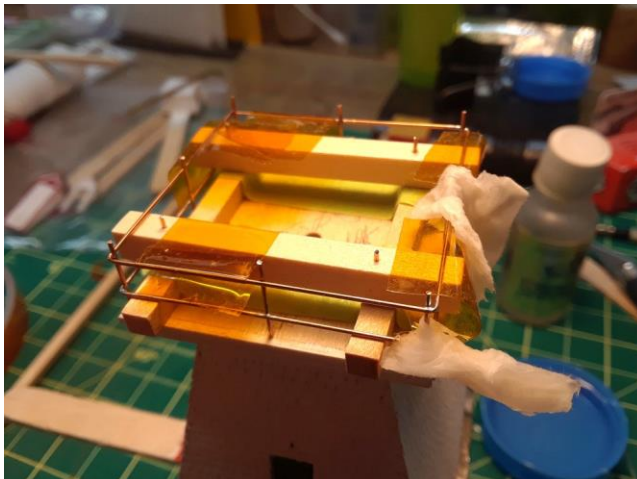
In 2023, my wife assisted me in measuring the structure, and I subsequently made a drawing from the field notes using the computer aided drafting (CAD) program DraftSight. DraftSight is a very compatible but cheaper alternative to AutoCAD. The steps involved were summarized in my presentation “Update on Photo Interpretation for Model Makers”, which is available to view on the NMRax YouTube channel. For those wishing to make a similar model, please feel free to copy the drawing for your personal use only. Although the drawing title block indicates HO scale, I encourage you to use the scale bar within the drawing to ensure copies are printed correctly in any desired scale. This is due to the vagaries in reproduction on various printers, including material received via electronic publications.

Note that the four tapered walls recede away from the base, as they rise towards the balcony, and are actually taller than they appear on a flat, 2-dimensional drawing. Therefore, when laying out the model wall parts, it's important to obtain their actual size using the total length of the diagonal as shown in the side elevation views.



My model was built using mostly traditional methods, except for the shingles. The walls are 1/16" basswood sheet, capped with four mitered sections of dollhouse cove moulding I purchased from Freedom Miniatures (Shelley Acker). Plenty of sturdy internal bracing was added. The deck is 3/32" basswood, with smaller sections of 1/16" basswood sheet used to complete the walls under the glassed-in cupola light. The walls are shingled with laser-cut paper representing random cedar shakes, also drawn in CAD. The door and window are made from individual pieces of sheet and stripwood, carefully cut and assembled to ensure the vertical surfaces remained truly vertical.

The 3-tab asphalt shingles over these areas are also laser cut.



The railings deserve special note. They are made from pieces of phosphor bronze wire (Tichy), carefully bent to shape to match the drawing, using round jaw pliers. Vertical posts were inserted into holes in the platform, that were drilled using a pin chuck in a conventional drill press. Extra careful measuring was required to ensure accuracy. The parts were soldered together using a technique derived from jewelry making. First, the lower horizontal railing was supported at the correct height on small pieces of stripwood and held in place using Kapton (polyamide film) tape (available from several

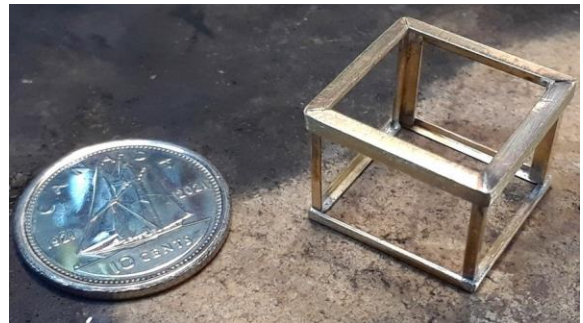
Internet sources), ensuring all posts were in contact with the railing. Kapton tape is extremely versatile as a modelling aid since it can withstand normal soft-soldering temperatures.



A tiny amount of Tix Flux was applied to each joint in turn, using the small, supplied cap brush (Tix Flux, also available on the Internet, is an excellent choice for this type of work. Be sure to follow all safety warnings). A tiny sliver of ordinary 60/40 solder was cut with a # 11 knife blade and placed into the flux at each joint.

Both wires at each intersection were simultaneously heated using a fine-tipped 40 W pencil iron, until the solder melted and ran freely into the joint. Small pieces of wet tissue were used to protect adjacent joints from conducted heat. The upper railing was attached similarly. Afterwards, the whole railing assembly was washed with tap water to remove any lingering traces of flux. Using this

method, there is often no post-soldering clean-up required, if the solder sliver size is judiciously chosen.



The lighthouse cupola came next. Initially, I planned on using a square section of cast acrylic bar, with a small hole drilled out for the light. However, the result just didn't look right, due to the four cast surfaces not being really flat. So, I resorted to soldering together a box made from small brass angle. The Fresnel lens was made from a small costume jewelry bead, with the back drilled out to accept a pre-wired surface-mount LED. The roof is a separate assembly, capped off with a small brass vent turned on my lathe.

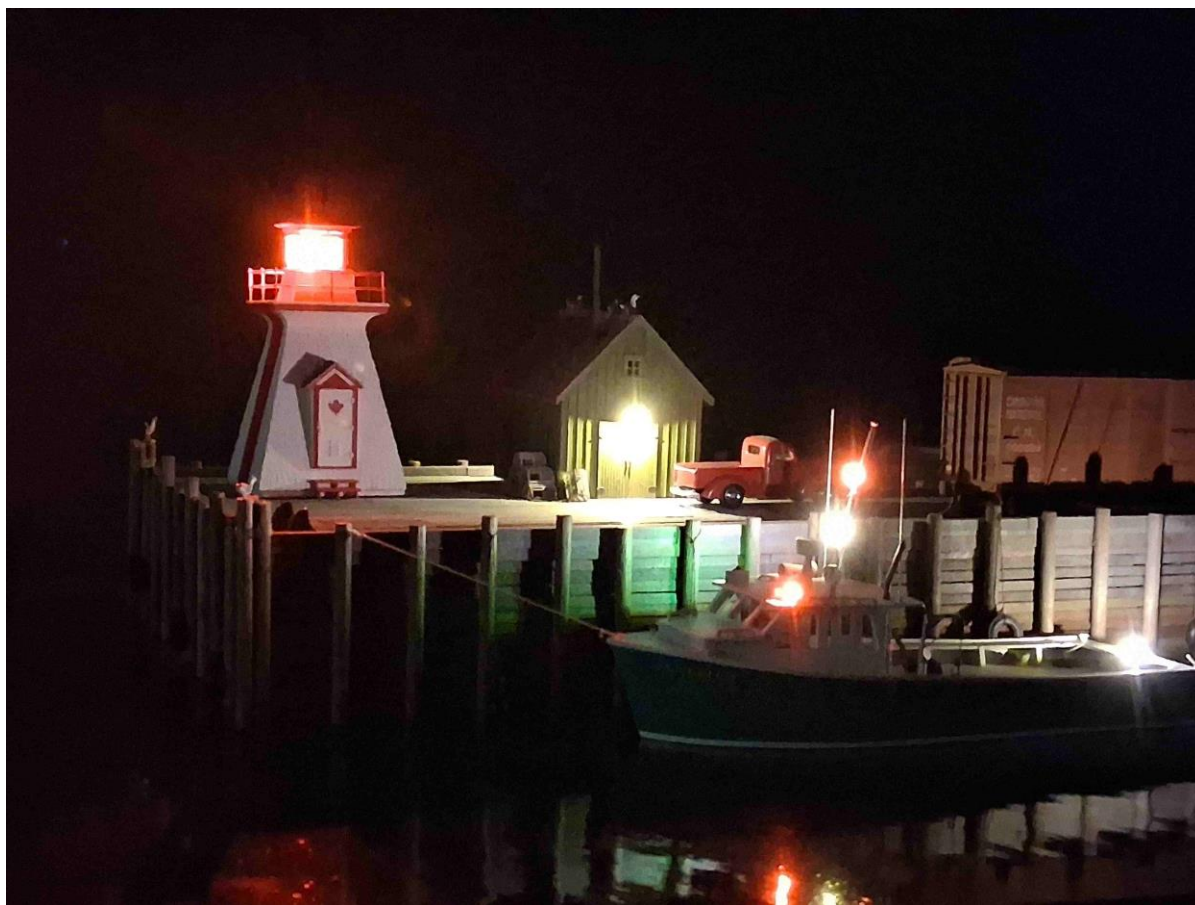


All glazing for the cupola and rear window was cut from microscope slide coverslip glass (about 0.006" thick), with a diamond tipped scribe using a very light touch. The glass and scribe are both available from the Internet. The process is similar to scoring and breaking styrene. Real glass on models reflects light just like the prototype and in my opinion, is well worth using. Wear enclosed safety glasses and pay very close attention to where the scrap shards of glass end up, as they can be hazardous in the wrong places!

The model's separate sub-assemblies were painted in the usual way using an airbrush. Where required, Tamiya masking tape was used for colour separations. The metal parts were first primed with Tamiya Metal Primer. The Canadian Flag was printed on a thin piece of paper, cut-out and applied to the front door. A light clear coat of Vallejo Ultra Matt Polyurethane Varnish was applied before installing the window glazing.



Finally, the job was complete. I hope this project will inspire you to build a similar lighthouse for your own layout!



Sydney & Louisburg Museum layout

In recent issues of the Hot Box, we have briefly visited **Fergus Francey's** efforts on the Sydney & Louisburg Museum layout. While teaching at the Canadian Coast Guard Academy in CBRM, he has spent countless hours of his free time working on re-creating the road bridge that once spanned the Mira Gut. The finished model is now installed on the Museum's layout. Congratulations, **Fergus**, on a masterful job!



BTW, **Fergus** is not always in CCG uniform

Here's a prototype photo of the former road bridge that **Fergus** re-created



And the open swing bridge in place at the S&L Museum





Achievement Program

Congratulations to **Douglas Margison** on having received his final two Merit Awards leading to his Certificate of Achievement **Master Builder - Cars**



Low Tide at Grand Manan

Photo credit – Peter Mesheau



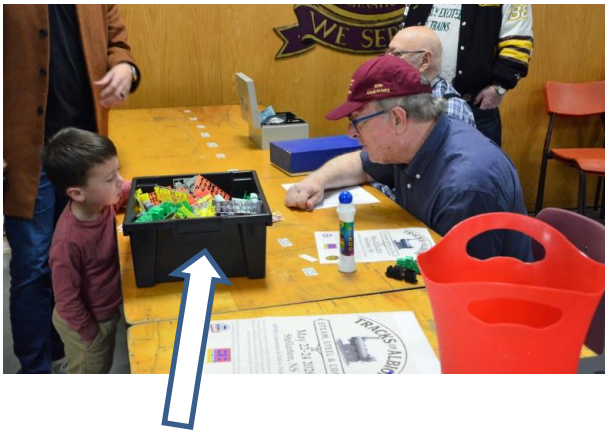
Events

Truro – October 18, 2025

Reports are that this may have been a record breaker for attendance. Unfortunately, the Hot Box editor was unable to snag any photos.

Saint John / Quispamsis – October 25 2025

The best-attended show in years with trains in 7 1/4", G, O, On30, HO, N, and Lego.



3D printed train kits were a real hit with kids



Our **NB Live Steamers** were set up outside **Bob Boyce's** G-scale layout



Andy Small's dockside loading scene





Greg Williams' junk box model contest

Our new 4-legged "Show Director"



Modellers' Corner



Large LEGO layout with lots of action

Saint John club HO loops



Hap Mabey hosting "Let's Make a Deal"



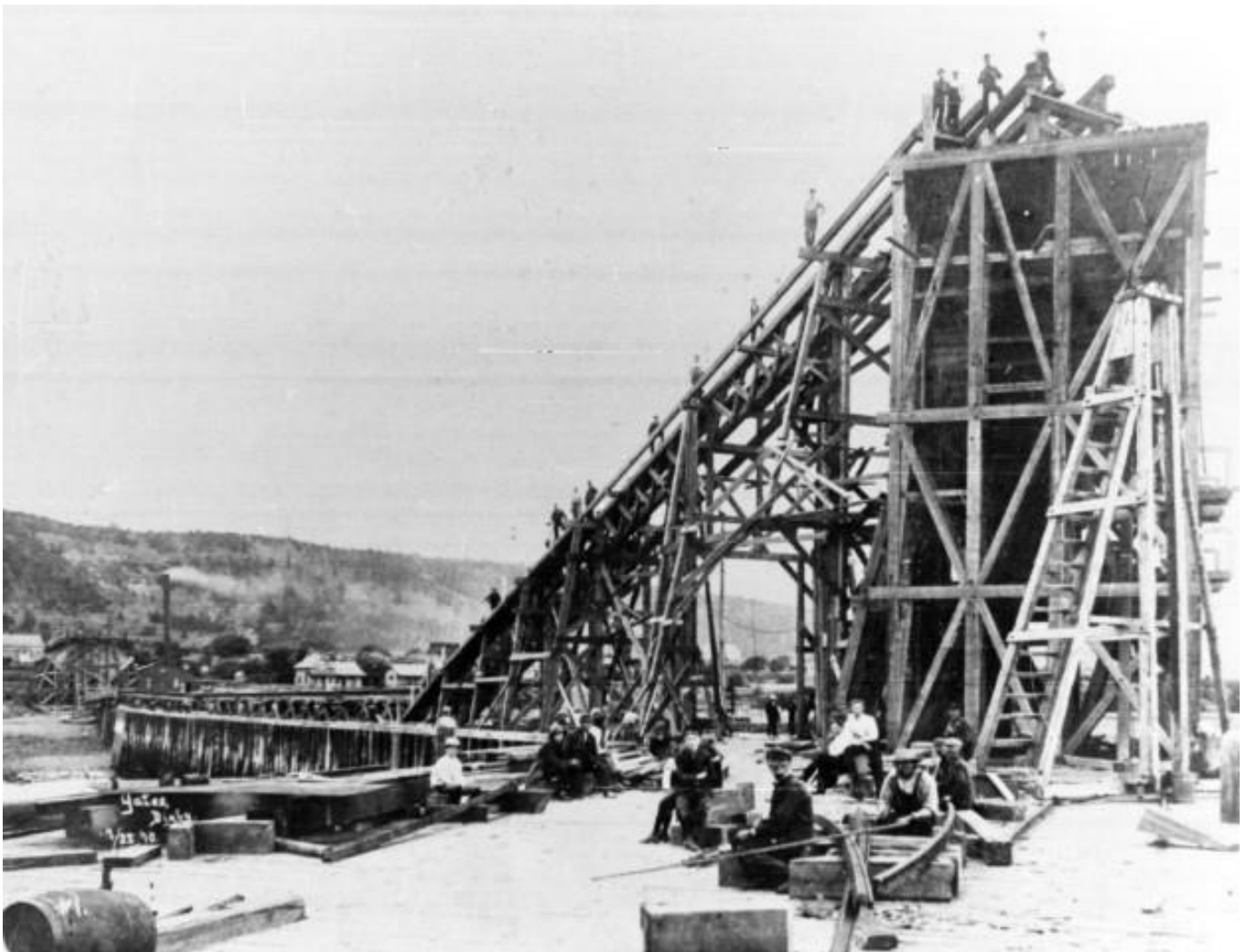
Amherst (Tentative date) **Saturday March 21** at the Amherst Centre Mall, sponsored by the Cumberland and Area Train Cub

Moncton / Riverview (tentative date) **Saturday April 4** at the Coverdale Centre, Riverview

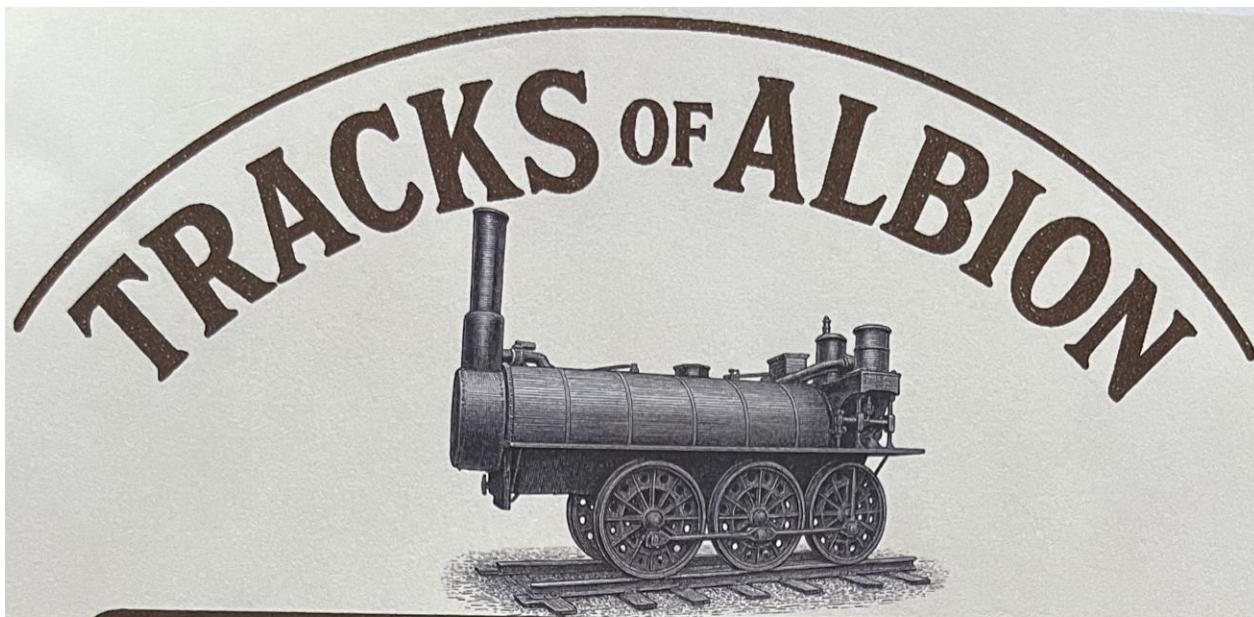
More details for both shows will be available for our next issue at the 1st of March

A Quiz

I received this photo from a friend in Nova Scotia; likely taken in the Annapolis Valley on the old D.A.R. route. Does anyone know what this structure was and where it was located?



2026 MFMR Convention



STEAM, STEEL & COAL

May 22-24 2026
Stellarton, NS

MFMR Convention & Public Train Show

Join us as we explore Nova Scotia's rich industrial and railway heritage! Enjoy a weekend filled with engaging clinics, MFMR-Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours, and all the great events you've come to expect from our annual convention.

Hotel booking details and Convention Registration will be available soon — mark your calendars and plan to join us for an unforgettable weekend in Stellarton!





Canadian Resources for Railway Modelers (Rev 1, 11 November 2025, J.A. Whatley)

Technical Resources – Model Railways

Eastern Canada Division <https://easterncanadadivision.org/>

Hobby Shops

Freedom Miniatures (Kentville, NS): <https://freedomminiatures.com/>

Styrene, wood, tools, paint, glue; regularly supports public train shows and events in the Maritimes.

Elm City Hobbies (Fredericton, NB):

https://www.elmcityhobbies.com/shop/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=171234262&gbraid=0AAAAADo15WKZ6Zui3fjSHFzt_3AXXNouo&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIqJ3hksjCkAMVdlj_AR3E5TYmEAAYASAAEgJgLPD_BwE

Styrene, tools, paint, glue; car, ship, military and airplane kits.

Great Hobbies (Charlottetown, PEI and Dartmouth, NS):

https://www.greathobbies.com/?srsltid=AfmBOogbRf6b9mVtsIC9me0E6zDruFf_mANj71NagA_L1HydJ3-Xvwz2

TMR Distributing (Milton, ON) <https://tmrdistributing.com/presta/>

Otter Valley Railroad (Tillsonburg, ON) <https://www.ovrtrains.com/>

Credit Valley Railway Company (Mississauga, ON) <https://www.cvrco.ca/>

Panther Hobbies (Mississauga, ON) <https://pantherhobbies.com/>

George's Trains (Toronto, ON) <https://www.georgestrains.com/>

Sunward Hobbies (Mississauga, ON)

https://www.sunwardhobbies.ca/?absrc=Google&abid&abcampid=17854858780&abgroupid&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIufGj1tTCKAMVt2dHAR015wRREAAYASAAEgKcdfD BwE&abkwdid&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=19861187698&gbraid=0AAAAADuwvGNrZ4 K7Wd4ENfkufu7EF NE

Modele BT (Drummondville QC)

<https://modelebt.com/en?srsId=AfmBOorwbYCc 2W5tkNOgk56qIF8yglEQFh4M8KVre7CqFi7wLLWy V-v>

Jac Hobby in Montreal <https://jachobby.com/en/>

Canadian Express Line <https://canadianexpressline.com/>

Kingston Locomotive Works <https://www.locomotiveworks.ca/index.php/pages/store>

Canadian Kit and Part Suppliers:

Osborn Model Kits (buildings, boats, planes): <https://www.osbornmodelkits.com/>

Kaslo Shops Distributing (3-D printed and resin kit railway rolling stock): <https://www.kasloshops.com/>

Black Cat Publishing (decals and photo etched parts): <https://www.blackcatdecals.com/>

Yelton Models (3-D printed parts and kits): <https://www.yeltonmodels.com/>

Monashee Laser Engineering (structure kits):

<https://www.monasheelaserengineering.ca/?srsId=AfmBOopwIxp9pc7EDMDAdpIKtUcvEdi5MxsrgiAh UdyiUh5QmJ4oRFqu>

BedaRail (3-D printed railway car kits): <https://bedarail.com/>

ABR Model Works (laser cut and 3-D printed building kits and parts): <https://abrmodelworks.com/>

Mini Prints (3-D printed figures and parts):

<https://miniprints.com/?srsId=AfmBOoqvaYd8wZAUAK1u27pHBNUBIZqtWu6Y3NMTf7XbF5-lqTw9KkQU>

ITLA Scale Models Inc. (laser structure kits and detail parts): <https://itlascalemodels.com/>

Inter-Action Hobbies in Chase BC (craftsman kits) <https://www.interactionhobbies.com/>

Signalogic Systems in Edmonton AB (custom decals) <https://signalogicsystems.com/>

Precision Design Co, Altona MB (stock and custom decals) <https://www.pdc.ca/rr/catalog>

The F.R.E.D.

Nova Scotian historian, Jocelyn Snyder Freeman, posted a history of early railroading in Nova Scotia along with a collection of 40+ photos on Facebook (Photo Source: Shelburne County Museum)



<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2045839649501744&type=3>

Steve Hill had an article published in the Sept/Oct '25 issue of the Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette. Steve's train was voted Best-in-Show at the 2024 MFMR convention in Sackville NB



In a tradition spanning decades, the members of the Saint John club have developed, refined and perfected **"The Pose"** (Photo by **James Whatley**)



Welcome to Winter!

Circa 1970 Acadia
University (credit Bob
Bowlby)

*And on that
note, I wish
you all a
Merry
Christmas!*



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

