

7th Division Report - 2020

Our membership levels are relatively constant, though recruitment this year has been difficult because of the many train show cancellations. There remains the problem we all share of a slowly aging demographic and a shortage of younger members and willing volunteers.

We are pleased to welcome Victor Gilbert to our group as Assistant Superintendent and look forward to his energy and enthusiasm. Our thanks to retiring A/Super Dan Rowsell for his many contributions to our organization.

Divisional activities seem to have ground to a discouragingly abrupt halt. The 2020 Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) has been cancelled, as has the 2020 Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) and most other events.

However, good model railroaders won't be kept down. We are extremely fortunate to be involved in a hobby that conforms very well to enforced social isolation and many of us are tackling long postponed projects.

Despite being stuck at home, the RMMBC committee has created a way to offer a video conference alternative to the popular and highly regarded annual event. Presentations begin (or began, depending on when you read this) May 21, 2020 via "Zoom" and continue every Thursday for 4 weeks. We're hoping to reach an even wider audience than usual. (Search "RMMBC" for more info.)

We are also planning to build upon the RMMBC experience to deliver clinics to every modeller in our rather large geographical area. Video conferencing has emerged as a practical and low-cost way to reach into each sub-division although, unfortunately, it falls short as a "social" experience.

We would like to thank Kurt Laidlaw for his service as President, particularly in these trying times. This has been a tough year for all PNR executives and the leaders in every division. I sincerely believe the general membership appreciates the efforts of each of you. Better days ahead!

John Martin
Superintendent