

Canadian Pacific Railway

Selected Bibliography

There are hundreds of resources in libraries, in museums and on the Internet that can help you to continue learning about the Canadian Pacific Railway and its history. This selective bibliography of books, websites, museums, and railways, lists some of our favourite resources.

History of the Railway

Selected Books on the Canadian Pacific Railway

The National Dream: The Great Railway, 1871-1881 by *Pierre Berton*

A dramatic historical account of the origin and launching of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, between the years 1871 and 1881. Told in a narrative and anecdotal fashion, the book portrays numerous personalities of the last century who played a key role in getting the construction of the transcontinental railway underway.

The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881-1885 by *Pierre Berton*

A sequel to "The National Dream", this historical novel reconstructs the five year period, between 1881 and 1885, during which the railway was built and two thousand miles of steel put down across the continent. Its historical material came from many primary sources such as unpublished manuscripts, diaries, letters, public documents and newspaper accounts of the era.

Tales of the CPR by *David Jones*

Written by a long-time CPR employee, this book is a collection of historical anecdotes and vignettes covering many of the aspects of the Canadian Pacific. The stories are fun, informative and illustrated.

Van Horne's Road: An illustrated account of the construction and first years of operation of the Canadian Pacific transcontinental railway by *Omer Lavallée*

The author, a former CPR archivist and historian, pays particular attention to the construction staff who made the achievement possible. The book contains more than 460 photographs, illustrations, and historic documents.

The Spiral Tunnels and The Big Hill: A Canadian Railway Adventure by *Graeme Pole*

Read about the construction of CPR's tunnels through British Columbia's Kicking Horse Pass making the journey through steep and unforgiving mountains less dangerous.

Biographies

From Telegrapher to Titan: The Life of William C. Van Horne by *Valerie Knowles*

American-born William Van Horne came to Canada in 1881 as the general manager of the brand-new CPR. Van Horne led the railway's construction and eventually became its president. This biography tells the story of this fascinating man.

Lords of the Line by *David Cruise & Alison Griffiths*

A compilation of biographies of the men "who combined foresight, power and wealth to create Canada's greatest institution – the C.P.R. – and through it helped shape a nation". From George Stephen to Ian Sinclair, the lives of the presidents of the Canadian Pacific are illuminated through the use of archival letters, private papers and anecdotal material.

Pictures of the Canadian Pacific Railway

Portraits of Canada: Photographic Treasures of the CPR by *Jonathan Hanna, Robert C. Kennell and Carol Lacourte*

This book is a carefully made selection of 158 of the most thought-provoking, stunning, and sometimes quixotic images from the historic collection in the Canadian Pacific Archives. Not only do the photographs record momentous events in Canadian history, but also the social changes that swept through Canada from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries.

Nicholas Morant's Canadian Pacific by J.F. Garden

Nicholas Morant was a "Special Photographer" for the CPR between 1939 and 1981. This book features many of his photographs, some of which are now famous world-wide. Stories and other information accompany the pictures.

Canadian Pacific: stand fast, Craigellachie! by Greg McDonnell

This tribute to CPR features the work of some of North America's top rail photographers. Excellent photography and essays bring the entire CPR system to life, from the east to the west coast.

Kid's Books

The Kids Book of Canada's Railway: and how the CPR was built by Deborah Hodge

Featuring many colourful illustrations, this book tells the amazing story of the CPR in easy to understand language.

Adventures in Canadian History, Canada Moves West by Pierre Berton

The Adventures in Canadian History series looks at many great and historic moments in Canadian history including a number of books dedicated to the building of the CPR.

General Rail Websites

Canada, by Train

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/trains/kids/index-e.html> or <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/trains/kids/index-f.html>

This website, created by Canada's National Library, provides a comprehensive look at railways in Canada. The site provides a short history of Canadian rail transportation along with a look at the railways' contribution to the country's growth. The site draws on the National Library's large collection of Canadian railway advertising and features dozens of full colour advertising posters. It also includes many photographs, audio and video clips.

Canadian Railroad Historical Association

<http://www.exporail.org/>

The Canadian Railroad Historical Association is a volunteer organization, dedicated to preserving and distributing information concerning Canada's railway heritage. The CRHA acquires artifacts and archival material illustrating the historical and technological development of Canada's railways.

The Association also manages the Canadian Railway Museum at Delson/Saint-Constant, Quebec. This museum offers a unique opportunity to see and experience life in the railway world through interactive activities and train rides.

Operation Lifesaver & Operation Lifesaver Canada

<http://www.oli.org/> & <http://www.operationlifesaver.ca/>

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit public education program. The American Operation Lifesaver was established in 1972 and the Canadian one was set-up several years later. Operation Lifesaver's aim is to end collisions, deaths and injuries at places where roadways cross train tracks, and on railroad rights-of-way. Both organizations are active in the community, making presentations to community groups and schools. Join Sly Fox, Birdie and Rover the Railway Rabbit as they teach students about railway safety with lots of interactive activities.

Atlas of Alberta Railways

<http://railways.library.ualberta.ca/>

This online atlas provides a fascinating graphical insight into Alberta's railways – including CPR. The site features 224 detailed maps along with articles, illustrations, historic photographs, charts, graphs and interesting trivia that provide a comprehensive overview of province's railways.

Rail Websites for Children

The Kids' Site of Canadian Trains

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/trains/kids/index-e.html>

This National Library and Archives of Canada site uses audio and video clips, first-person accounts, lots of photographs, and short quizzes to tell the story of Canadian trains. Learn about famous moments in Canadian train history, important people and special trains.

Museums & Archives

Railroad Museums Worldwide

<http://www.railmuseums.com/>

Planning a holiday? This website highlights railroad museums from around the world.

Exporail

<http://exporail.org/en/welcome-to-exporail/>

Exporail's collection of railway material is the largest in Canada and one of the most important in the world. Discover the fascinating world of trains... and an unforgettable railway experience.

The Bridge Line Historical Society

<http://www.bridge-line.org/>

This website traces the history of the Delaware & Hudson. The D&H, today part of CPR, started as a barge company and is the oldest continually running transportation company in the US.

The SooLine Historical and Technical Society

<http://www.sooline.org/>

The SooLine Historical and Technical Society collects and preserves equipment and historical materials associated with the Soo Line Railroad, now part of CPR.

Images Canada

<http://www.imagescanada.ca>

Images Canada provides access to thousands of pictures of Canadian events, people and places found on the websites of participating museums, universities and libraries. The website includes a photo essay on Railways in Canada.

Canada Science and Technology Museum

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/index.cfm>

Fosters scientific and technological literacy throughout Canada by establishing, maintaining and developing a collection of scientific and technological objects, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada, and by demonstrating the products and processes of science and technology and their economic, social and cultural relationships with society.

McCord Museum of Canadian History – Montreal, Quebec

<http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>

Montreal's McCord Museum features photos by William Notman, one of CPR's early photographers. The website includes many interactive features.

Canadian Museum of Civilization – Ottawa, Ontario

<http://www.civilization.ca/> & <http://www.civilization.ca/hist/phase2/mod1e.html>

The Canadian Pacific Gallery at Ottawa's Museum of Civilization highlights the completion of the CPR. The gallery features a CPR railway station, 1920s boxcar, artifacts and multimedia presentations.

Glenbow Museum – Calgary, Alberta

<http://www.glenbow.org/>

Calgary's Glenbow Museum highlights the history and culture of Western Canada. The museum collection, library and archives contain a wealth of material on CPR. CPR's original 1881 charter is currently on loan to the Glenbow and is featured in the museum's new permanent gallery.

Alberta Central Railway Museum – Wetaskiwin, Alberta

<http://www.abcentralrailway.com/>

Take a ride on a restored 1926 passenger coach at the Alberta Central Railway Museum. Through the museum's rail yard and exhibits, you can learn about the work of railroaders and CPR's impact on Western Canada.

Alberta Railway Museum – Edmonton, Alberta

The Alberta Railway Museum's collection of railway equipment and buildings, includes cars and locomotives from Canadian National and Northern Alberta Railway. You can take a ride on a speeder car or on one of the museum's regularly scheduled passenger train rides. The site also includes an extensive railway bibliography at

<http://www.albertarailwaymuseum.com/>

Canadian Museum of Rail Travel – Cranbrook, British Columbia

<http://www.trainsdeluxe.com/>

Canadian railroading history comes alive at Cranbrook's Canadian Museum of Rail Travel. The museum features several train sets from different eras, including the 1929 "Trans Canada Limited". Knowledgeable guides take visitors for tours of the railcars.

Revelstoke Railway Museum – Revelstoke, British Columbia

<http://www.railwaymuseum.com/>

Discover Canada's history and railway heritage at the Revelstoke Railway Museum. Learn about the CPR's construction and its present day operations. Just down the road you can visit Craigellachie, where CPR's Last Spike was driven in 1885.

West Coast Railway Association – Squamish, British Columbia

<http://www.wcra.org/>

The West Coast Railway Association is dedicated to preserving British Columbia's railway heritage. Their West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish, BC, is home to the Royal Hudson steam train. While at the park you can take a ride on a speeder or on the mini rail line.

The Chung Collection – Vancouver, British Columbia

<http://www.library.ubc.ca/chung/main.html>

The Chung Collection includes many rare and unique items that document the Chinese experience in North America, particularly in British Columbia, as well as the history of BC and the CPR.

Steamtown National Historic Site – Scranton, Pennsylvania

<http://www.nps.gov/stea/>

The Steamtown National Historic Site preserves the steam era. The museum is built around and incorporates a working turntable and roundhouse. Take a ride on one of the several working locomotives that offer short excursions through the park.

National Railroad Museum – Green Bay, Wisconsin

<http://www.nationalrrmuseum.org/>

The National Railroad Museum allows visitors to explore America's railroading heritage. You can sit in the cab of the world's largest steam locomotive, Union Pacific's Big Boy or consider the futuristic Aerotrain from the 1950s. Train rides are available daily from May to September.

Excursions and Train Travel

CanadabyRail.com

<http://www.canadabyrail.ca>

CanadabyRail.ca is a one-stop web resource for rail-related tourist opportunities in Canada. There are links to rail excursion companies, museums, historical societies, rail tour operators, books and videos, historic rail stations and designated heritage sites.

Via Rail

<http://www.viarail.ca>

Via Rail is Canada's national passenger train company, offering rail service across the country.

Amtrak

<http://www.amtrak.com>

Amtrak, the United States' national passenger rail system, provides rail service in 46 American states.

Credit Valley Explorer Tour Train – Orangeville, Ontario

<http://www.creditvalleyexplorer.com/>

The Credit Valley Explorer runs year-round, three hour long tours through the heart of Ontario's beautiful Credit Valley. The train is based in Orangeville.

South Simcoe Steam Train – Tottenham, Ontario

<http://www.steamtrain.com>

From May to October, the South Simcoe Steam Train offers hour-long return trips from Tottenham to Beeton.

Polar Bear Express – Cochrane, Ontario

<http://www.polarbearexpress.ca/>

Ontario Northland's Polar Bear Express runs from Cochrane to Moosonee and back on day long excursions during the summer months.

Algoma Central Railway – Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

<http://www.agawacanyontourtrain.com/>

Based in Sault Ste. Marie, this one day excursion takes you north of the Sault, through the awesome granite rock formations and mixed forests of the Canadian Shield.

Prairie Dog Central Railway – Winnipeg, Manitoba

<http://www.pdcrailway.com/>

Prairie Dog Central offers train journeys across the prairies aboard fully restored vintage rail coaches built between 1901-1913.

Alberta Prairie Railway Excursion – Stettler, Alberta

<http://www.absteamtrain.com/>

Alberta Prairie Railway Excursion offers one day adventures on board a steam or diesel-powered train. Different theme rides are offered throughout the season, including murder mysteries, dinner theatre, and teddy bear specials.

Rocky Mountaineer

<http://www.rockymountaineer.com>

The Rocky Mountaineer's signature train trip is a two-day, all-daylight rail journey through the spectacular Rocky Mountains. The Rocky Mountaineer won a 2005 World Travel Award for "World's Leading Travel Experience by Train."

Royal Canadian Pacific – Calgary, Alberta

<http://www.royalcanadianpacific.com/>

The Royal Canadian Pacific recreates the past, offering a luxury rail touring experience onboard CPR's beautifully restored business cars from the 1920s.

Kettle Valley Steam Railway – Summerland, British Columbia

<http://www.kettlevalleyrail.org/>

The Kettle Valley Steam Railway offers short steam train trips from May through to October.