

**Upcoming
events**

MAY

Brian Davis

Work party

Date to be set

JUNE 5

**Nord Open
House**

June 12

**Amsler Open
House**

June 18 & 19

**Huntsville
Model Railway
Exposition**

June 21-26

**NGRA
Overland Park
Kansas**

**NOTE
NORD OPEN
HOUSE
DATE
CHANGE
TO
JUNE 5th**

Backyard Railroaders

ISSUE # 5

MAY 2011



Work train passes waiting passengers on David Lloyds' railroad.

APRIL's meet was held on the 17th an nice day but still to cool to be outside for long. We had a small crowd due to holidays and Birthday parties, although Bruce Nord came and his family was going to celebrate his Birthday later in the day. (Hope you had a great day Bruce). Our first arrival of the day was a pleasant surprise David Lloyd a new member who joined in January. David has been in garden railroader for only a few years but as you'll see in the photos in this issue he's off to a great start. He is still working so it's a part-time hobby at the moment. I hope he will bring his wife Hanna to one of the upcoming meet/open house dates.



FOR SALE ARISTOCRAFT ROGERS 2-4-2
BEST OFFER CONTACT Bruce Nord
 Aristo now has the ART 21900 series of "slopeback" tenders



WELCOME DAVID LLOYD and his wife HANNA, who joined in January

Photos of our small group at the April meet.

Ivan Fraser don't panic
DID YOU KNOW?????

DOUBLING MARY ANNE'S HUMOROUS HAPPENINGS

By R.L. Kennedy

Doubling the grade is a time-honoured practice whereby a train that stalls unable to climb a steep grade leaves some of its cars, usually sitting right on the mainline, takes the first part up the grade to a siding (short stub-ended doubling sidings were sometimes placed at the top of a bad grade) and then returns for the rest of the train. Great care has to be taken when the train has been left standing on the mainline especially at night. It has sometimes happened that the returning engine runs into its own train! Some years ago, I overheard a crew that had arrived in Toronto Yard (CPR) off a Fleetwood Turn, say that they had to double Mary Anne's.

NOTE: Fleetwood Turns ran for a year or two in the 1970's to haul gravel out of a new pit operation at Fleetwood on the since abandoned Bobcaygeon Subdivision to Highland Creek Sand & Gravel in West Hill, on the Scarborough Pit Spur off the Belleville Sub. just east of Toronto Yard.

This remark stayed with me and I began to look into the subject with the result that I

discovered that while many older railroaders still recognized the name Mary Anne's, the origin was lost on them. Indeed, as more and more little places disappear officially from the timetables when stations are closed and sidings removed, some places that "never were" are still remembered and referred to. These locations although no longer in operating timetables are still well known to railroaders, the reason being to be better able to identify some place along the line. One such place is Mary Anne's, between Mileage 134 and 135 of the former Peterborough Subdivision (now the Have-lock Sub.). This was original Montreal-Toronto mainline (legally the Ontario & Quebec Railway) and a roller coaster of upgrades and downgrades. Between Agincourt and Peterborough there is one grade beyond Cavan through Tapley east of Draneol and another west of Draneol before Manvers. This is Mary Annes's. Westbound trains unable to make the grade here have to double Mary Anne's and go through to Pontypool.

This story dates back into the early 1900's. Mary Anne was an old woman who lived beside the track in the vicinity of the westbound grade. She had a cow, just one, and one day it wandered out onto the

CPR right-of-way as cows often do, and along came a freight train which struck and killed it, as trains often do! The CPR flatly denied any liability and refused to pay any compensation to the woman for the hapless bovine.

Immediately thereafter, westbound trains began to encounter a worse than normal battle for the grade. Each assault was marked by much slipping and stalling. Examination of the rails disclosed that they had been well-soaped! This continued and sharp-witted CPR officials suspected Mary Anne. However, she had the advantage of being on home ground and repeated attempts to catch her at her dirty (soapy?) deed were useless. Finally sensing that they were losing the battle for the hill in more ways than one, the CPR gave in and paid for the cow.

Things quickly returned to normal and trains only had their usual problems in climbing the grade at this point, steel against steel, minus the soap! Although the matter resolved itself, the notoriety remained and from that time on the grade came to be known as Mary Anne's. DOUBLE SIDINGS: One such double siding was located on the MacTier sub. at Mileage 32.6 and held 24 cars, and was used by southbound trains between Tottenham and Palgrave.



David Lloyd's Garden Railroad in North York.

David got a good start as he was able to purchase most of what you see from his late uncles' estate. David tells me his uncle lived in North Bay and was friends with the husband of the cartoonist Lynn Johnston (For Better For Worse) who lived in Corbeil and sold the 1" ride on trains.

THIS MONTHS ATTEMPT AT HUMOUR THE BOAT RACE

Once upon a time a Japanese Railway and an American Railway company decided to have a boat race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced hard and long to raise their peak performance. On the day of the big race the Japanese won by a mile. Afterwards, the American team became very discouraged and morale sagged. The American team's management decided that a reason for the crushing defeat had to be found. A new American "Management Team" made up of management from Omaha, St. Louis, Huston, and Los Angeles was formed. They would investigate and recommend appropriate action. Their conclusion was that the Japanese Team had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering. While the American Team had 1 person rowing and 8

people steering. So the American Railway's management hired another American efficiency consulting company and paid them incredible amounts of money and they advised that too many people were steering the boat and not enough were rowing.

To prevent losing to the Japanese again next year, the team's management structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 3 steering superintendents, 1 assistant superintendent steering manager. They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 1 person rowing the boat greater incentives to work harder. It was called "The Rowing Team Quality First Program" with meetings and dinners and many free pens for the rower. We must give the rower empowerment and enrichments they said, through our "Quality First Program".

The next year the Japanese team

won by at least two miles. Humiliated, the American Railway Company's management laid off the rower for poor performance, and halted capitol investments for new equipment. They then gave a special "High Performance" award to the 7 steering managers and distributed the moneys they saved as bonuses to the senior executives.

THE FOAMER CHANNEL

What if, somehow, some way, all the camera systems in the yards, existing and proposed, could be linked up, and the you could broadcast them over cable television. You know, like "The Foamer Cannel: ALL UP ALL THE TIME"....

"Ever notice how the people who tell you to calm down, are the ones that pissed you off in the first place?"

YORK CENTRAL RAILWAY'S DINING CAR "RECEIPE OF THE MONTH"

MUSTARD SAGE PORK CHOPS

Pork chops are simple and easy to cook, and they're the ultimate comfort food when served with creamy mashed potatoes.

INGREDIENTS

2 pork loin centre chops
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
1/2 onion chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
3/4 tbsp. crumbled dries sage
Pinch—each salt,& pepper
1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sodium-reduced chicken Stock
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 tbsp. minced fresh parsley

- Trim off all but 1/4 inch of the fat from chops: slash edges to prevent curling.
- In large skillet, heat half of the oil over medium-high heat: brown chops. Transfer to plate.
- Drain fat from pan: heat remaining oil over medium heat. Fry onion, garlic, sage, salt and pepper, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes.
- Sprinkle with flour: cook, stirring for 1 minute. Add chicken stock and mustard: bring to boil, stirring and scraping up any brown bits.
- Return chops and any juices to skillet. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer until just

a hint of pink remains inside pork, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley.

Makes 2 servings.

Per Serving: about 340 cal, 31 g pro, 20 g total fat (5 g sat fat), 7 g carb, 1 g fibre, 86 mg chol, 445 mg sodium, % RDI: 5% calcium, 12% iron, 1% vit A, 7% vit C, 8% folate.

ENJOY



Perennial Ground Covers

Solve Landscape

Challenges

Perennial ground covers are low growing, spreading perennials or woody plants that you can grow in spots in the garden where it's hard to grow anything else.

While rarely given a starring role, these plants can be a vital

Part of your garden's supporting cast, and once established, they leave little elbow room for weeds.

One thing to remember is that they're not as forgiving as lawn grass is for walking on, however, you can use stepping stones or a wood chip mulch to make a path through them.

You can use ground covers to replace lawn on steep slopes where mowing can be dangerous or difficult.

Shade-tolerant ground cover plants grow under trees and shrubs or in the shadow of buildings where lawn often struggles.

When thinking of perennial ground covers, the big three for shade - Japanese spurge, periwinkle and ivy—come to mind. They are popular because they stay evergreen and can take shade from mature trees, but can be invasive in some parts of the country, so use them with caution.

Like trees and shrubs, ground cover plantings are fairly permanent.

It's tough to expel a mass of well established ivy, so pick your spots carefully.

MIX AND MATCH; Perennial ground cover plantings don't need to be all of one type. Try planting a low-growing ground cover out of which taller perennials can grow (this is called underplanting). For example in the picture sweet woodruff is under hostas.

DO YOUR SOIL HOMEWORK: The most important job is to get rid of any perennial grasses and weeds and their underground roots and stems. By the way adding a thick layer of new soil over existing tree roots is NOT a good idea. You can damage trees by having too much soil over their roots, 2 inches of compost or soil is acceptable.

WHEN TO PLANT; Spring, as plants have a longer season to get established before it gets cold. Early fall is also good as long as plants have about six weeks before the ground freezes.

PLANTING DISTANCE: Space plants according to their size and their rate of growth habit. For example, pachysandra and periwinkle are usually spaced six to ten inches apart in parallel rows. If you plant too close together you will get mounding and then more winter kill.

BE PATIENT; It may take two or three years for your newly planted ground cover to fill in the areas you've planted. In the meantime you will need to weed between plants. Mulch on soil between will control weeds, conserve moisture and improve appearance.



Sweet woodruff ground cover around Hosta in shade garden.



Creeping cotoneaster ground cover over rocks.



Pachysandra ground cover.



THE NORD
OPEN HOUSE
NOW
JUNE 5TH
NOT
MAY 29
AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED

**THE AMSLER
OPEN HOUSE
JUNE 12**

IF YOU REQUIRE DIRECTIONS
PLEASE ASK
IAN OR JIM



WE'RE LOOKING
FOR MORE OPEN
HOUSES. THEY
ONLY HAVE TO BE
FOR 2 HOURS ANY
SAT. OR SUN.
NO REFRESHMENTS
NECESSARY
CONTACT
IAN