

ON TRACK

The E-Bulletin of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers

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Issue #14 November 2012

The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (MARP) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1973 to improve passenger train service, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations.

Monthly meetings are held at locations around the **state**. Check the website for dates and venues. Everyone is welcome.

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2012 MEETINGS

14 January – Williamston Depot-Museum

11 February – Old Dog Tavern, Kalamazoo

17 March - New Pontiac Station

21 April - Chelsea Depot

12 May - National Train Day

16 June – Muskegon Union Station

28 July –RAPID Central Station, Grand Rapids

August25 – Executive Committee Retreat

22 September –Annual Meeting at Durand Union Station

13 October – Pere Marquette Station, St. Louis MI

10 November – Michigan Central Station, Essex, Ontario

Visit <u>www.marp.org</u> Email marprail@yahoo.com

Another MARP First

November Meeting in Essex, Ontario

by Rosemary Horvath

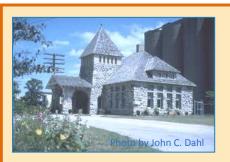
Essex, Ontario's historic Michigan Central Station will be the setting for MARP's first ever meeting beyond the border. Beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 10, the meeting will feature guest speakers William Gay, historian/treasurer of Heritage Essex Inc., and Harry Gow, renowned Canadian public transportation activist.

Following an abbreviated business meeting, Mr. Gay will highlight southern Ontario's vibrant railroad, the Canada Southern Railway, built along the Talbot Trail in 1873. We will hear about the original crossing of the Detroit River via Grosse Isle, construction of the Detroit River tunnel, construction of the Essex Station in 1887, bankruptcy of Penn Central and finally of the railroad's demise.

Heritage Essex Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of local history, fully restored the building, which features a community meeting room and heritage museum. The Essex Railway Station was constructed of Michigan fieldstone and was key to establishing Essex as a shipping center.

Mr. Gow, founder and past president of Transport Action Canada, will discuss the history of Via Rail Canada, a government created and supported rail system that was patterned after the U.S. Amtrak system. In recent years, Via Rail has been subject to falling government financing and cuts in service.

(**ESSEX** continues on page 2)



MARP MEMBER MEETING
Saturday, November 10
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Historic Essex Train Station
Station St, Essex, Ontario N8M 2L8

Plan to attend MARP's first meeting held outside the United States. You will enjoy an interesting and informative program as we hear from railroad historian William Gay as well as one of Canada's premier rail advocates, Harry Gow, past president of Transport Canada.

Details on the website www.marp.org If you have questions or if you would like to carpool to the meeting, send an email to marprail@yahoo.com or leave a message at (269)388-3777.

(ESSEX continued from on page 1)

Gow has been instrumental in launching a series of town hall workshops across Canada. Known as the "National Dream Renewed", the initiative aims to create "a blueprint for VIA's revival and expansion based on the input of Canadians from Atlantic to Pacific to Hudson Bay."

MARP member Doug Wilson, event organizer, noted that Essex County is in the southernmost part of Canada, wedged between two lakes: Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. It was "a very busy part of the world" at a time where the system of highways, railways and marine transportation converged, he said.

Wilson added that rail has taken a beating in the last 20 years, leaving only a rich heritage to reflect upon. "Southern Ontario, the most populous part of Canada, wants and needs better surface transportation."

MARP members will hear similar testaments from the speakers. Mr. Gay lamented in a local history publication that Canadian National "ripped up 85 miles of railway that could have been used to alleviate cross-border traffic," because Essex Station connected directly to the rail tunnel under the Detroit River.

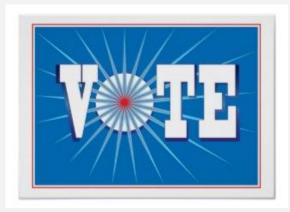
Following the meeting, all are urged to gather at Rizzo's Crossing (23 Victoria Avenue Essex, ON N8M 1M4), a family-style restaurant noted for its home-cooking and use of locally-sourced ingredients.

The distance from the Detroit Windsor Tunnel to the city of Essex is about 20 miles, or 42 minutes. Click here for <u>Map and Driving Directions</u>. Be sure to carry your valid passport or your Michigan Enhanced Driver's License.

The toll for both the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel is \$4.75 US each direction (includes automobile, driver & passengers). Carpooling is suggested to share fuel and toll costs. If you would like to find someone to carpool with, send email to marprail@yahoo.com or leave a phone message at 269-388-3777.

Election 2012 Tuesday, November 6

Please exercise your right to vote in this very important election.



MARP Members are Urged to Vote NO Proposal 5

At its October 13 meeting at the depot in St. Louis, Michigan, the MARP membership voted to take a position in opposition to Proposal 5. This ballot initiative seeks to amend the Michigan Constitution to prohibit new or additional taxes by the State of Michigan unless approved by a 2/3 majority of members in each chamber of the legislature or by a statewide vote of the people. If it passes, just 13 state senators would gain the power to block tax votes supported by the other 135 members of the Legislature, in essence ensuring minority rule in the Legislature.

Even with the current rules, state funding for transit has not been increased in 25 years and passenger train advocates have had to fight to maintain funding for trains. This proposal would make it far harder to adequately fund transit, trains, and other important state services.

NOTE: taking this position is fully legal under MARP's 501(c)(3) status. While we cannot and will not support or oppose any candidate for public office, nonprofits are permitted to advocate for and against ballot measures.

Here are some sources of election information --

Michigan Voter Information Center

2012 Statewide Ballot Proposals

Generate a Sample Ballot

AMTRAK Adding Michigan Trains for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Effective November 21 - 26, 2012

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

Click Here for <u>Special Thanksgiving Holiday Timetable</u>

Wolverine Service Amtrak Train 356				
All Times		Days of Operation		
Local		WeFrSaSu		
9:00 a.m.	Dp	Chicago		
11:39 a.m.	Dp	New Buffalo, Mich.		
12:03 p.m.	Dp	Niles, Mich.		
12:37 p.m.	Dp	Kalamazoo, Mich.		
1:09 p.m.	Dp	Battle Creek, Mich.		
2:00 p.m.	Dp	Jackson, Mich.		
3:00 p.m.	Ar	Ann Arbor, Mich.		

Wolverine Service Amtrak Train 357			
All Times Local		Days of Operation ThFrSaSuMo	
6:15 a.m.	Dp	Kalamazoo, Mich.	
6:40 a.m.	Dp	Dowagiac, Mich.	
6:52 a.m.	Dp	Niles, Mich.	
7:12 a.m.	Dp	New Buffalo, Mich.	
6:22 a.m.	Dp	Michigan City, Ind.	
7:45 a.m.	Ar	Chicago	

Wolverine Service Amtrak Train 358			
All Times		Days of Operation	
Local		WeThFrSaSu	
10:00 p.m.	Dp	Chicago	
11:01 p.m.	Dp	Michigan City, Ind.	
12:12 a.m.	Dp	New Buffalo, Mich.	
12:35 a.m.	Dp	Niles, Mich.	
12:46 a.m.	Dp	Dowagiac, Mich.	
1:30 a.m.	Ar	Kalamazoo, Mich.	

Wolverine Service Amtrak Train 359				
All Times Local		Days of Operation WeFrSaSu		
4:05 p.m.	Dp	Ann Arbor, Mich.		
4:45 p.m.	Dp	Jackson, Mich.		
5:44 p.m.	Dp	Battle Creek, Mich.		
6:15 p.m.	Dp	Kalamazoo, Mich.		
6:51 p.m.	Dp	Niles, Mich.		
7:12 p.m.	Dp	New Buffalo, Mich.		
7:45 p.m.	Ar	Chicago		

