

Okanagan Area Report

November 2020

The year started off with lots of promise for NMRA members in the Okanagan but quickly morphed into what our monarch referred to as anno horribilis.

There were two mini-meets planned, train shows to participate in and a request from members in the south to come to the Kettle Valley Steam Railway for an opportunity to get “Down and Dirty” with railway structures and equipment. Then we were all put into lock-down and the ever-popular events we look forward to started to get cancelled. Calgary’s Super-Train, the PNR Convention, the NMRA National the 7th Div.’s own VTEX and the Great Northern Historical Association and the Canadian Pacific Historical Assoc. convention were all casualties of the Pandemic. Monthly club meetings were only held in open air venues and then curtailed all together.

Here in the Okanagan, members have availed themselves of the opportunity to work on their own layouts extensively or club layouts while respecting social distancing and personal bubbles. One local member had totally downsized prior to going into apartment living only to repurchase his train equipment plus assorted tools for his own mental health and wellbeing. Going forward, it is hoped by the author that plans can be made to attend the KVR in the spring and that clubs can once again gather to share information, fellowship and the odd meal together. And that we can all return to normal in the coming year.

Submitted with respect,
Jim Guillaume
Okanagan Area Rep, 7th Div. PNR
October 15, 2020