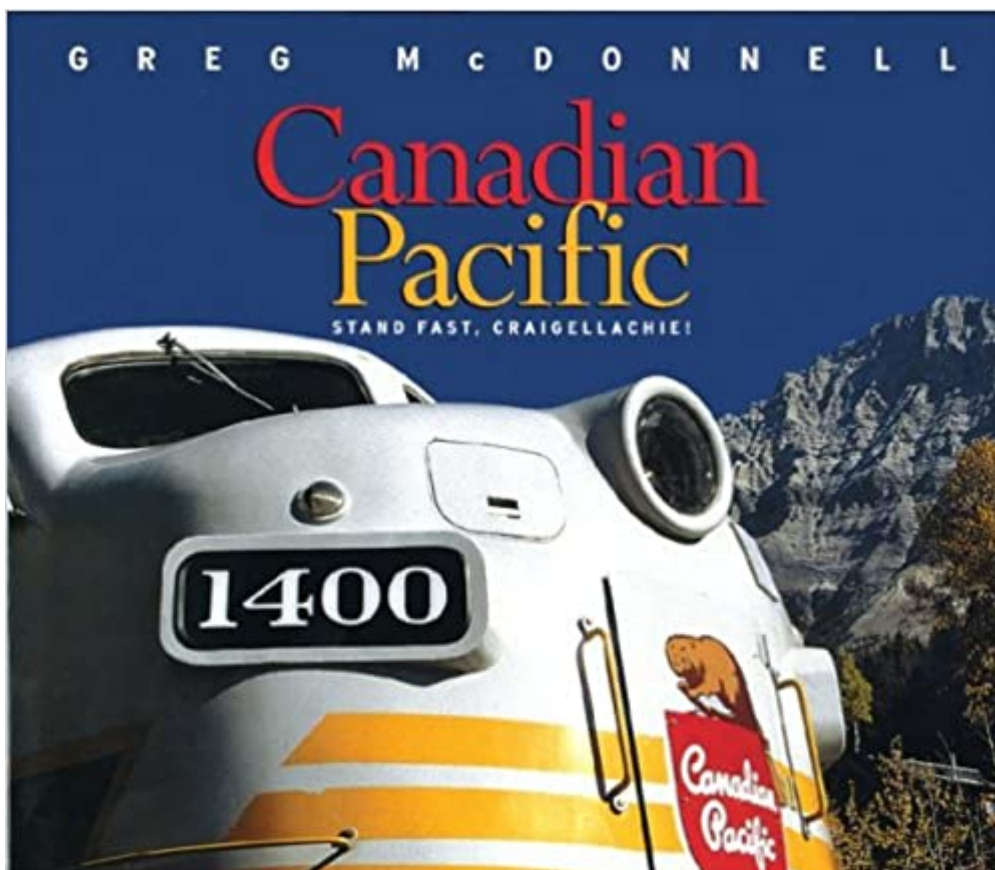




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Canadian Pacific: Stand Fast, Craigellachie!



Synopsis

A tribute to one of North America's great railway companies. This landmark tribute to the Canadian Pacific Railway features the work of many of North America's top rail photographers. Remarkable photography and essays cover the entire CPR system, from the east coast to the west coast and including Nova Scotia's Dominion Atlantic lines and Vancouver Island's Esquimalt and Nanaimo. Some of the best steam and diesel photographs ever published appear here, along with 1950s-vintage photos of steeple-cab electrics and passenger trains on the Electric Lines subsidiaries, the Grand River Railway and the Lake Erie and Northern. Canadian Pacific captures the pleasure of lingering in wood-frame stations where time was marked to the beat of a Seth Thomas clock, the stainless-steel glamour of The Canadian, the gritty drama of SD40s grinding up mountain grades, and the loneliness of a prairie wayfreight peddling grain empties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're a Canadian Pacific fan, this book is a must-have. And if you're not a CP fan, you'll become one after reading it. (MTH Railroaders Club magazine)[Globe and Mail 2006 Holiday Gift Book selection] An oversized volume of fabulous train photos. The trains are pretty and the scenery is lovely. What more is needed? (Globe and Mail 2006-12-09)A magnificent collection of photography covering the entire CP rail system... the book captures the magic that is the Canadian Pacific Railway. (PhotoLife)The attention to detail is superb... MacDonnell has given life to the photos. (Canadian Camera)Features 240 pages of not only Greg's [McDonnell] excellent photography but

also some fantastic photos of many well known Railfan Photographers... This is a truly spectacular volume. (Paul Brown Branchline [Bytown Railway Society]) Insightful text and splendid illustrations. (David J. Mrozek Michigan Railfan) A train aficionado's dream collection of archival and current photos. (Macleans 2003-12-08) Recommended reading... This beautiful work is a tribute in words and photographs from Greg McDonnell, who writes with knowledge and affection... But the photos... are the stars here. (Robert S. McGonigal Trains) A gorgeous book, with photos of old and new trains and some wonderful Canadian landscape. (Bill Robertson Saskatoon Star Phoenix 2003-12-13) Jammed full of technical and historical details... many enjoyable and interesting photographs. (Don Denton Victoria Times-Colonist 2003-12-21) There are enough details and facts to satisfy any true railroad historian, while the pictures show the beauty of those trains. (Lynn Crothers Winnipeg Free Press 2003-12-07) The subject has a grand and glorious history... It is as if McDonnell asked his best friends to supply their favorites [photographs] for publication in this special tribute volume. (Bryce Lee RailPace Magazine)

Greg McDonnell has spent a lifetime observing, photographing and writing about railroads. His writing and photography appear in North America's leading rail publications. His first of numerous books, *The History of Canadian Railroads*, was published in 1985. He is also the series editor for Boston Mills' *Masters of Railroad Photography* series. He lives in Cambridge, Ontario.

Although not a comprehensive history of Canadian Pacific Rail, this book is a great narrative of a great railroad. It would have been nice for there to be more included on CP's airline, hotel and ocean liner operations but this book was obviously written with the rail fan and railroad professional in mind. The photography of the railroad and Canada is superb and the graphic presentation is excellent. Easily worth 5 stars.

First class publication all round. If you are interested in the Canadian Pacific Railway System and I do mean the one that came in the good old longland script complete with beaver then this is a book for you. Dig in and enjoy. Loose your self in possibly the greatest transportation system in the world!

Gregg McDonnell tells the story of the Canadian Pacific Railway using amazing photo's My compliments to the photographers! Great job!

Canadian Pacific is one of those legendary names in transportation, a company with an impressive

history, which, at the height of its influence billed itself "The World's Greatest Travel System". Prolific author Greg McDonnell delivers a tasteful tribute to this historic company that, in an era of bland mega-railroads, has not been afraid to celebrate its employees and its history. The "Craigellachie" in the book's title refers to the location where, in 1885, CPR official Donald Smith drove the ceremonial last spike that symbolically uniting eastern and western Canada. The name came from a place in Scotland that had historical significance to Mr. Smith and his cousin, then-CPR president George Stephen. It might help to say what this book is not: it's not a comprehensive history of the entire Canadian Pacific Railway, although the volume contains historical content including many excellent photos from the post WW2 era. Nor, despite the title of the first chapter, is it an overview of the entire Travel System, as the ships, airline and hotels are only briefly mentioned. Rather, the book is a salute to a company that has survived for over 120 years, adapting to the changing transportation market while remaining conscious of its heritage. In fact, CPR is one of only two "class 1" North American railway systems to have an active steam program. The book is divided into seven major chapters. Before Chapter 1 there is a brief Foreword by CP's President and CEO Robert Ritchie, a Preface by CPR employee Stan Small and the author's dedications. Chapter 1 starts with some autobiographical recollections by the author, with first person recollections of the decline and fall of CP passenger service and the revival of same in the form of the Royal Canadian Pacific. Following this narrative, we are treated to a series of historic photos, with a few of the Royal Canadian Pacific thrown in for good measure. There are many good subjects here; the reviewer's personal favorites are the color views of the late steam and early diesel era. Chapter 2 covers and little-known CP subsidiary: the electrified Grand River Railway. Prior to reading this book, the reviewer had no clue that this photogenic operation existed. The highlight of this chapter is another Robert Sandusky color photo showing an interurban passenger train passing the Mount Pleasant station. Of course, with the passage of time, the former 70-mile electric line is now an 11-mile spur and we see photographs of the more prosaic SW1200RS units that currently serve the line's freight customers. Chapter 3, "Stand Fast, Craigellachie!" stands as a salute to the spirit of CP and its employees. After an introduction that describes that last spike ceremony of 1885, there is a large selection of photos, ranging from views of employees at work to scenic and moody photos of the trains. A favorite in this chapter is on page 99, where an approaching AC4400CW is framed perfectly by Winnipeg's Red River Bridge. Also, on pages 116 and 117, there are excellent photos of modern power leading freight trains in scenic British Columbia. "Sweating the Assets", the title of Chapter 4, refers to the railway's practice of getting the maximum return out of its locomotives, and this chapter's photos are the highlight of the book.

Although the phrase is attributed to Mr. Ritchie in reference to new AC4400CW locomotives from GE, the author expands upon the concept, relating it to steam and early diesels. And, once again there's a superb selection of photographs to look at, and wish that some of the subjects were still around to photograph. We see things like the final batch of FM/CLC cab units and Train Masters, Alco/MLW FAs and M630s, and lots of steam. The photo selection also includes plenty of employees at work, contributing to the human interest. Chapter 5 is devoted to the restoration and return to service of 4-6-4 2619. It's an inspiring story: major railroad company repatriates surplus steam locomotive from south of the border and spends the big bucks to do a class restoration. Attractive steam locomotive barnstorms the country entertaining young and old alike. The reviewer wishes a certain other major North American railroad that abandoned its steam program had Mr. Ritchie's vision. Furthermore, the reviewer hopes that 2816 will remain active long after Mr. Ritchie retires. The next chapter, "Lest We Forget" features the railroad's community involvement, with coverage of CP's annual holiday trains. The author also mentions the manner in which CP commemorates those lost their lives in war. In 1999 CEO Ritchie started a Remembrance Day/Veteran's Day tradition wherein all CP trains stop at 1100 on November 11 to observe a moment of silence followed by a horn blast in tribute. It's this type of observance that puts a human face on what otherwise would be a large faceless corporation, the exact opposite impression than that given by certain large railroads based in the eastern USA. A somewhat ETTS chapter 7, "Not Fade Away" tells the story of the Wood Mountain Sub, a branch line whose fortunes rose and fell with the economics of hauling grain. This is somewhat of a bittersweet way to end the book considering the larger amount of images showing soon to close branch lines and grain operations. The photography in this book is excellent, and the landscape format allows for good presentation while avoiding the "gutter" effect that has ruined so many otherwise excellent photo books over the years. A Robert Sandusky photo of CP FP7 1400 leading the Royal Canadian Pacific out of Crowsnest is a case in point. The well-lit, well-composed photograph is neatly centered on the page, with just a caption and no distracting clutter or smaller photos to ruin the appearance. Indeed, photos are generally one or two to a page, which makes for an agreeable layout. The reviewer can therefore recommend this book to any fan that wants to get an idea of what makes this major railway tick. It's quite a volume.

To have a good eye in photography means not only taking pretty pictures but more importantly taking photographs that tell a story, that provide context and that make the viewer think. Mr. McDonnell's photographs do all those things. They are a wonderful photographic history of the CPR.

And like any good photographer, Mr. McDonnell finds wonderful stories in the detail; the small things that tell the bigger story. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the CPR, in railways in general or in photography. Bravo Mr. McDonnell.

The book was sealed and packed with an air pillow to prevent damage to the book. It arrived in perfect condition. All Canadian Pacific fans would love the dramatic photos in this book.

Another Excellent Book from a Great Canadian Author!

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