

The "5001"



By Chuck Guarino

The Manitoba Provincial Parks have placed a large "wooden" replica of the Canadian National Railway's steam locomotive number "5095" in the general area of where the old railway station once existed at Grand Beach. A "pathetic" tribute to the wonderful steam locomotives that actually ran to Grand and Victoria Beaches. Factually, this steam locomotive, the "5095" does not represent the steam locomotives that actually ran in daily service on the Victoria Beach Subdivision of the Canadian Northern (CNoR) Railway.

True, the 5095 ran to Grand Beach, frequently in the late 1940's into the 60's when the rail line was abandoned. Factually, it does not represent the earlier, beautiful steam locomotives that were in regular service when the Canadian Northern Railways, (CNoR) who built the railway and resort, operated Grand Beach. That honour should go to the "The 5001", one of the earlier, original Canadian Northern Railway's (CNoR) locomotives.

When I was a little boy in the 1920's, I made many trips to Grand and Victoria Beaches (unofficially) with my father, Joe Guarino, who was an early Canadian Northern Railway (CNoR) locomotive firemen assigned to the run. All were made on "The 5001".

The above photo shows "the 702", an "identical" twin to "The 5001". "The 5095" did not run to Grand Beach until well into the 1920's. In fact, "The 5095" was originally a Grand Trunk Railway locomotive, which became part of the Canadian National Railways after several Canadian railways amalgamated in 1918.

The two American entrepreneurs (McKenzie & Mann) behind the Canadian Northern Railway (CNoR) had previously built the Great Northern Railway in the U.S.A. Even the railway stations that they built at Grand and Victoria Beaches were identical to those that they had built for the Great Northern Railway.

I have written a larger and more complete version of this story on The Grand Beach Realty website. You can view it by going to

www.grandbeachrealty.ca/THE_5001.html

Happy Surfing!