

CARM Toronto Chapter - What are you working on?

October 2017

Hello everyone:

August and September were very busy months for CARM Toronto Chapter members. My request for photos and a brief summary of what members are up to was very successful, so thank you everyone! Some of the responses are “longer” than 75 words but I am so very happy to hear that Toronto members are out there modelling and having fun that I have included everyone’s full response here. Grab some tea or coffee and enjoy reading about what some members have been doing over the last couple of months. And don’t forget to send me something that you have been working on for the next update!

- 1. Lakeshore Model Railroaders Association Flea Market CARM Booth:** The CARM Toronto Chapter was well represented at the CARM booth at the *Lakeshore Model Railroaders Association* flea market held on Sunday, September 10th, 2017 at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre at 4300 Cawthra Road, Mississauga. CARM Toronto president Willie Waithe, CARM Toronto Secretary James Rasor, and CARM Toronto members Richard Morrison and Andy Malette attended the CARM table answering questions about CARM and giving out Junior Engineer’s Certificates to successful young engineers who completed the new CARM Toronto switching layout created by Gerald Harper and William Waithe.

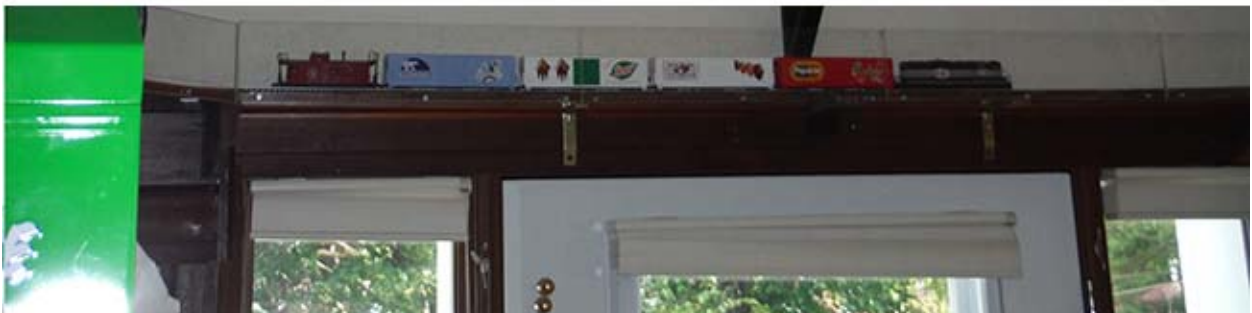


(Photo by James Rasor: Richard Morrison and Andrew Malette at the CARM booth)

2. **Ian Jameson Orley Station Layout Tour:** This falls first CARM Toronto layout tour of Ian Jameson's Orley Station Layout was well attended by CARM members. Ian has an ingenious space saving layout that sits on a car parking stacker above his car in the garage and he writes the following about his layout (Photos by Ian Jameson):

My railway scale is HO and it all started with a 1960's Lionel HO scale Pennsylvania Railroad starter kit with a steam engine and tender with badge number 0602 and with Sante Fe rolling stock that my Dad bought for me as a young lad. I still have my Lionel train set and a few long years ago I began to set it up to run in a circle on a half sheet of plywood under the annual Christmas tree. But I could only keep the Christmas tree up for so long so sadly the train set went back into the boxes in the middle of January.

I wanted to expand that small layout so I convinced my wife Anya that I should build a two track new layout on a platform above the plate rail in the dining room of our circa 1926 house. I got a friend of mine to colour match stain of the gum wood trim of the plate rail by using green poplar to make the new platform less of a visual distraction. I built a hybrid DCC/analog system where the trains are controlled by an MRC Prodigy II system and the switches and the lights in the buildings are controlled by an analog system that I designed and built myself. It is a unique shelf layout but it is limiting in what you can detail as the tracks are almost 7 feet above the floor with both tracks running around the circumference of the room and you cannot see much from the floor even in the deep curves on the corners.



As my wife works from our home as a massage therapist with the basement as her home practice and office, our basement was off limits for a bigger layout and so I had to think outside of the house so to speak. I thought about creating a new layout in the tall attic space of our house but after some research I found out that I would have to take the roof off and reframing the house with a new roof in order to create a space up there for a train layout. So that wasn't going to happen.



I have a tall concrete block garage in my back yard so I decided that I would build my new layout in the garage. But my wife wanted to put her vehicle in the garage especially in the winter, so whatever I created out there needed to take that into consideration.



I did some calculations and determined that if I put a car lift stacker unit in my garage I could build a 9' x 14' layout on top of the platform and still get the car underneath the platform. So when I want to play with my train layout I take her car out and lower the layout platform.



I have created a freelance Canadian themed layout mixed together with a strong influence from my personal life. In my day to day life I design commercial kitchens for a living so there is a strong food based theme to my layout along with adding some elements from my friends and workplace.



I have built another hybrid DCC/analog system where the trains are controlled by a Digitrax Super Empire Builder Extra DCC system and the lights and accessories are controlled by an analog switching system that I designed and built to suit my layout.

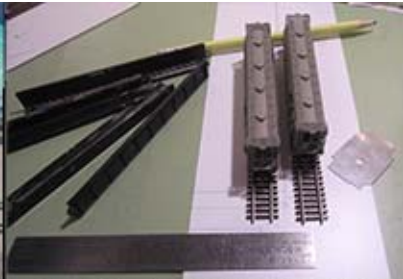
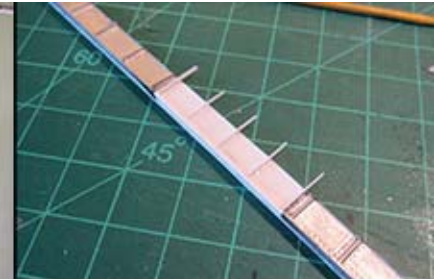
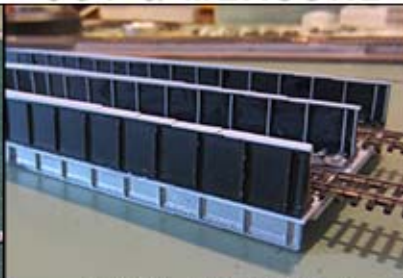


I have put down multiple tracks in my layout and built a number of varied buildings that form a small cityscape with a large train station and a small European highland village. I am in the process of starting my landscape finishes in order to make my layout more realistic and more complete. But there is always room for more changes and alterations to the bigger plan! - G. Ian Jameson



(Photos of Ian Jameson at his layout by Richard Morrison)

3. **James Rasor's Kit Bashed Double-Track Plate-Girder Bridge:** This is one of my favourite, kit bashes for William Waithe's CN Weston Layout: an N Scale, double-track, plate-girder bridge using a couple of Willie's old, unused, Atlas bridges along with Evergreen polystyrene plastic shapes, strips, and sheets. Four Atlas bridges were cut apart for the sides, a scratch-built center plate girder was added, plastic strips were used for the steel top plates, plastic strips for the side gussets, an awl punch was used to simulate rivets, and then some "rust" red and "black" spray paint was applied to finished it all off.

START**FINISH****CUT & MEASURE****EXTEND****ASSEMBLE****TOP PLATES****PAINT**

(Photos by James Rasor)

4. **Richard Morrison is Renovating Part of His Layout:** Richard writes the following about his decision to make some changes following a layout visit to Trevor Marshall's layout:

My visit to Trevor Marshall's S-scale layout on April 1 was an eye-opening experience. Where master model railroad track planner John Armstrong had stuffed his plans with lots of track, Trevor had lots of scenery and little track, and it looked superb. This gave me an idea: Less track, more scenery.

I had built my yard too high so the only visible part of most cars was their roofs, making switching difficult.



The adjacent roundhouse was fine, but I could never get the turntable to work properly.

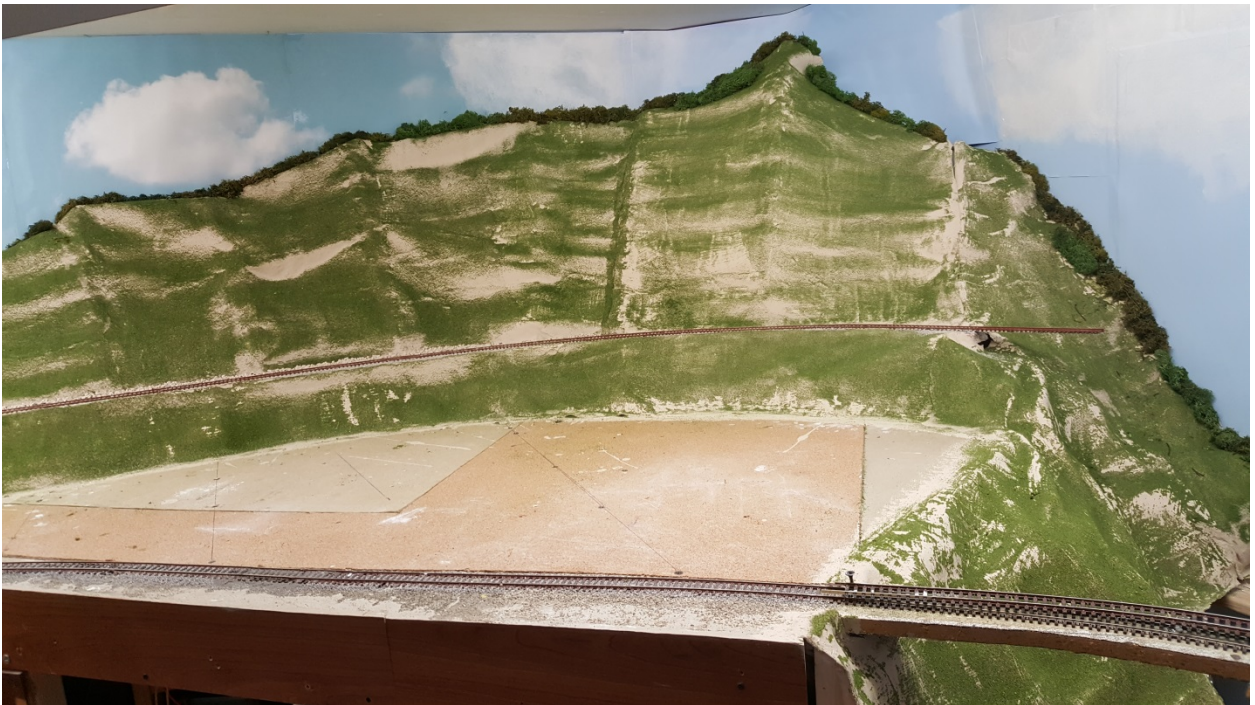


If I rebuilt the yard somewhere lower I could see the sides of the cars better, and if I abandoned the engine facility, I could use the resulting freed-up 3 x 10 foot space for a pair of big hills separated by a deep river valley, with a pair of a curved trestles carrying the front and rear loops of track over the river.

Over the next month I tore out the yard, turntable and roundhouse and stored everything. A town that had been at a lower elevation was dismantled, the structures put in storage and the track pulled up for later use. In May, I built a 6-track, 40-car double ended yard where the town had been, shown here.



In June, July and August I built the southeast mountain and the river valley in the space where the roundhouse and turntable had been. I used plaster cloth over window screen tacked to wood profile boards, covered with thick paint and ground cover, shown here:



I've started framing out the southwest mountain. Once both mountains are complete, I will paint the riverbed, drop in some gravel, logs and boats, and pour in Woodland Scenics water to make the stream.

Later this fall I'll build the two curved trestles: a 32" long kit from JV models and a smaller one from Campbell Scale Models. In the meantime I might make temporary bridges from scrap wood so the trains can run over the valley, or I may leave the valley unspanned and simply wait until the trestles are complete before running trains again.

(Photos by Richard Morrison)

5. **Andrew Malette's New Layout:** Andrew, when he is not working outside on his new deck and siding for his house, has been starting a brand new S Scale layout inside his house using an existing wet bar. He writes that: *The room is messy but it is the beginning of the end of the wet bar which is in the way of north end of Owen Sound.*



(Photos by Andrew Malette)

6. **Charlie Ellis's layout in Waterloo:** Ian McIntosh writes that last May he attended an operating session on Charlie Ellis's layout in Waterloo. He had previously seen it during a Doubleheaders visit and says that there is nothing like attending an operating session of a layout vs just visiting a layout.



7. (Photo by Ian McIntosh)

That's the end of October's email for *What are you working on?*

We would like to hear more of what *CARM Toronto chapter members* have been working on!

1. **Send me a photo** of your:
 - present model railway project,
 - or your most recent prized purchase,
 - or your layout,
 - or your current scratch building project,
 - or your favourite rolling stock,

- or your latest operating session,
 - or your research sketches,
 - or your custom track build,
 - or your first decoder install,
 - or your latest weathering,
 - or the most recent disaster that happened,
 - or your landscape project,
 - or your lighting project,
 - or the area you just pulled apart to start all over again!
 - or any model railway related item that you have been working on.
2. **Include a brief description**, 75 to 100 words maximum, or less if you want, that's okay too!
 3. **Don't have a camera?** That's okay; just send me a 75 to 100 word description of what you are working on. You do not always need a picture, but we do want to hear from you!
 4. **Send it to me** CARMtoronto.jamesrasor@gmail.com **by the 28th day of the following months: September, November, January, March, and May.**

I will then take the information, put it together with the other submissions, and issue it within the **first week of the following months: October, December, February, April, June.**

Let us know what **you** are working on, have fun, and ***stay in touch!***

Yours truly,

James Rasor, Secretary
CARM Zone 2 - Toronto Chapter

For more information on the *Canadian Association of Railway Modellers* go to <http://www.caorm.org/>