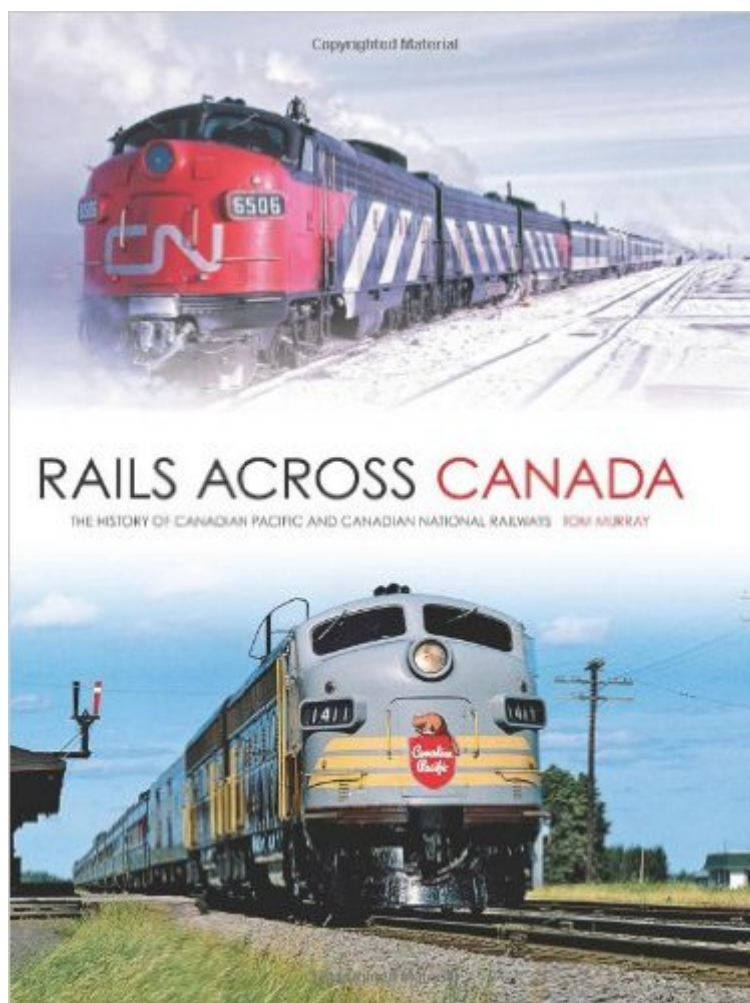


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Rails Across Canada: The History Of Canadian Pacific And Canadian National Railways



Synopsis

A Few stories in the annals of railroading are as compelling as the construction, evolution, and astounding successes of the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways. This sprawling volume combines two of Voyageur Press' most successful Railroad Color History titles into one volume taking in the grand scope of both railroads. Author Tom Murray presents fastidiously researched and concisely presented histories of each railroad, along with more than 300 photographs, including rare archival black-and-white images and modern and period color photography sourced from national archives and private collections.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is two books into one, with a section each for both CN and CP. The great photos are worth the price of the book alone. American readers might be surprised in how much both companies figure in US rail history including Grand Trunk and Illinois Central both owned north of the border. Hopefully, some time soon, all North American railways will get back into the passenger business, it just might start making money for them, and anything beats being in a sardine can.

For all those who either can't find or can't afford the earlier hardcover MBI Railroad Color History books on Canadian Pacific or Canadian National by Tom Murray, here is a much cheaper alternative - especially considering the high \$75 to \$300 prices some want for the earlier out of print versions. This book is the exact same contents of both of those 2004-2006 books combined, but now with a different softer cover. The only people I can see being upset about this new version are

those who paid elevated prices for the hardcover versions, or those now trying to get steep prices for those because they are out of print. And by the way, anybody taking the time to read either the copyright page or the table of contents page (both of which has in the Look Inside preview) should have realized this book to have been a newer 2011 version of the old 2004 and 2006 separate books. Those who didn't and are upset about the duplication can always try to sell their hardcover versions and get back their money on them.

This book is essentially a combination of the Railroad Color History Series books Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway both by Tom Murray, and published by Voyageur Press. The Railroad Color History Series books published by Voyageur Press are Excellent Railroad books that give you great histories of the railroad companies from their creation to present day without boring the reader to death with the Corporate Demographics, and the politics of the company but instead give you a straight forward and understandable history of the Railroad companies with amazing photography as well. I highly recommend this book and all the books in this series to Railroaders, Railbuffs, model railroaders, and to anyone who has interests in Railroads and trains in general.

Fitting two books into a single volume unites the entire story of Canadian rail into a single story. Previously, the story of the Canadian Pacific railroad and the Canadian National railroad were two different volumes in this series. Having purchased the single volume on the Canadian National railroad, I was eager to obtain and read the volume on the Canadian Pacific railroad. I did so purchasing this combined volume and as I read the book, I became aware of the interrelationship of the two railroads in Canadian history.

Rails Across Canada provides a comprehensive history of the Canadian Pacific (CP) and Canadian National (CN) Railways. Living in the United States, my knowledge of railroad history north of the border has been quite limited. Since the 1990's, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National both have expanded into the United States and become more frequent visitors on US railroads. The new title Rails Across Canada brings together the two previously published titles from the Railroad Color History on the CP and CN into one combined volume. The book by Tom Murray is illustrated by more than 300 photographs sourced from the national archives and private collections. The variety of photographs provides a visual history illustrating the highlights of both systems. I particularly enjoyed the items from the author's collection including vintage timetables. I enjoyed learning about the railroad and political history of these lines which is covered in great detail. The

construction of the lines in Canada were just as challenging as the more famous western roads here in the US. This book brings the engineering and operational accomplishments to light. The book also delves lightly into the non-railroad properties which the railroads owned. The most famous of these are probably the CP Steamships and the famous hotels across Canada which were owned by both roads. The history of the roads ends when the original books were completed. For the Canadian Pacific this was 2006 and for the Canadian National it was 2004. I'd love to see an update on the history from then to today in a future version of the book. *Rails Across Canada* by Voyageur Press will hopefully encourage you to learn more about the CN and CP and their operations!

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