

# MMR 98, Stafford Swain

personality profile/Tom Madden



Our 98th Master Model Railroader is Stafford Swain of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Stafford holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Association Official, Association Volunteer, and Author. Stafford was General Chairman of Railway Jamboree '83 this past summer in Winnipeg, and was especially proud to receive his MMR award at the convention banquet in his home town.

Professionally, Stafford is a 38-year-old chartered accountant in public practice with Touche Ross & Co. His wife and two daughters are not involved in the hobby but, he says, they "tolerate my idiosyncracies well."

Stafford's earliest model railroading recollections are of watching his father build live steam models in the immediate postwar years. By the 1950's it was Lionel O-27, a series of layouts, and

weekend visits to his father's live steam club. Around 1957, Stafford and some of his chums left their Lionel and American Flyer train sets and got involved in HO scale. This period produced, in retrospect, some fairly laughable attempts at scratchbuilding. But it was a good time to be observing the end of the steam era on the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific.

Like many modelers, Stafford found "other things to do" in his teens and early twenties, but the completion of his formal education in 1969 and a few extra dollars (and hours) reawakened his interest in the hobby.

Stafford models the CNR as it appeared in the 1950's, and particularly enjoys scratchbuilding structures and rolling stock. His pike, the Whiteshell Subdivision of the CNR, has become

very well known through his numerous articles and photo features in the commercial press. Stafford's writing skills have also taken him beyond his own basement, in preparing features on the work of his fellow Winnipeggers.

An active member of the Thousand Lakes Region, Stafford serves on the Region Board as Secretary. He has also held most of the elected offices in the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club, an institution which he credits for much of the high degree of modeling skill demonstrated by Winnipeg area modelers.

Stafford's views on the Achievement Program echo those of other MMR's: It is our way of recognizing those who have developed a reasonable level of skill in each of the hobby's many disciplines, and who have given service to the hobby. In return for this recognition, the individual's willingness to teach and help others is expected to continue beyond the award.⊗