



Photo: G. Gagné

Owner of the Pontiac 1957 Hi-Rail makes another trip on the Gaspé Peninsula line with rail fan friend

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-OMER: – A certain number of Gaspésians and tourists probably shook their heads a couple of times on August 27, 28 and 29 when they saw a Pontiac 1957, a Hi-Rail model, rolling on the Gaspé Peninsula railway. The owner, Alan Freed, right, is a long time enthusiast of the Gaspé Coast and of its railway, as his first visits date back many years. He was part of the June 27-29, 1998, excursion organized by NARCOA, the North American Railcar Operators' Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and safe, legal operation of railroad equipment historically used for maintenance of way. Mr. Freed is from the state of Virginia. For the occasion, his rail fan friend Douglas Brenner, a resident of California, joined him. The two men had figured out that the end of August would be a good time to breathe some cool air in the Gaspé Peninsula. When SPEC met them, on August 27, the temperature was in the 25-26 degree range in the shade, and above 30 under the sun. SPEC will present an article about them and their hobby in its next issue. They were accompanied during their trip east of Matapédia by a crew of the Gaspésie Railway Society, in a maintenance and track inspection pickup truck passing in front of the Pontiac 1957.