

## **GEORGE TUPPER CONNOR**

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The George Tupper Connor story started in 1889, Alma Alberta, County New Brunswick. In 1911, he came to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and the Moose Jaw Electric Railway Company, (MJER), and was employed as engineer in charge of a generating plant (diesel engines) until 1919. From 1920 to 1924, George worked for MJER as master mechanic. In 1924, George was appointed General Superintendent of the Moose Jaw Electric Railway.

George Connor was the last superintendent of the Moose Jaw Electric Railway. He was the first to introduce busses to Moose Jaw as feeders to the Moose Jaw Electric Railway and then as the Moose Jaw Transportation Company. Moose Jaw was the first city in Canada to go to all diesel or gas bus fleet. Mr. Connor also operated bus systems in Weyburn and Estevan.

George sat on the board of Prairie Airways (started by the Moose Jaw Flying Club under the leadership of Richard (Dick) Ryan. Canadian Pacific Airlines later purchased Prairie Airways and Dick Ryan later went on to become Vice President of Canadian Pacific Air.

At midnight October 8, 1932 the streetcars of Moose Jaw ceased operations. Moose Jaw was without streetcar or bus service from October 9 to October 11, 1932. Commencing October 11, 1932, Mr. Connor started the Moose Jaw Transportation Company with three busses and the promise of five more to come. On December 19, 1932 the first of the five busses arrived in Moose Jaw with the second arriving December 21 and a total of four arriving in December of that year.

The Moose Jaw Electric Railway started an amusement park in the Moose Jaw river valley known as Kingsway Park. Kingsway Park has since been renamed Connor Park in honour of George.

Inducted into  
The Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame  
June 2017