



Wednesday, October 6, 2021
7:00pm → Sproat Lake Community Hall
Minutes

Attending:
Bert Simpson
Bill Collette
Dan Washington
Gareth Flostrand
Ken Watson
Nancy Blair
Pam Craig
Penny Cote
Willa Thorpe (staff)

Regrets:
Ed Ross
Colin Schult

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering/PW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Rec. & Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Development Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Comm. Summary</i>
File # <i>0230-20-AVMHC</i>	

1. Called to order: 7:11pm
2. Moved by Pam that the agenda of the October 6, 2021 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Minutes
 - a. Moved by Ken that the minutes of the June 2, 2021 meeting be approved as circulated.
 - b. Moved by Nancy that the minutes of the September 1, 2021 meeting be approved as circulated.
4. Old Business
 - a. Train Station
 - i. The IHS did a great job of clearing the Train Station and truck bay to enable construction work; the City has paid for storage for the IHS to store and sort artefacts at the Fall Fairgrounds from Sept. 2021 – August 2022
 - ii. The Architect is approaching a prospective contractor on providing a Class B cost estimate for the construction work
 - iii. Staff are developing an RFP for a Construction Manager to liaise between City staff and the sub-contractors
 - iv. With the appetite of contractors returning, Council has confirmed their comfort with going to RFP for prospective tenants, rather than EOI. Staff will be updating the draft RFP for the construction work with the new information (drawings) based on the draft reviewed by Heritage Commission members
 - b. BC Arts Council Grant
 - i. Staff applied for the annual operating grant on September 24, 2021 for the 2022 fiscal year



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5. Correspondence – none

6. New Business

a. Election of Chair

i. Gareth Flostrand has been elected as Chair by acclamation

7. Reports

a. Museum

- i. The exhibit Body Language: Reawakening Cultural Tattooing of Northwest Coast (circulated by the Bill Reid Gallery) is open and drawing some good attention – we are offering school programs starting October 8, and the exhibit runs until December 11.
- ii. Our next exhibit is Snapshots of Canada an exhibit from the Canadian Museum of History. Paul Henderson scores the winning goal in the 1972 Summit Series. A little boy runs after his father marching off to war. Terry Fox is silhouetted by headlights of a police cruiser on his Marathon of Hope. Exploring unforgettable moments in our history, this travelling exhibition pairs compelling images with texts by well-known authors, journalists and historians. Images ranging from high drama to simple joy are tangible reminders of the triumphs, failures and sacrifices that have shaped our country. This exhibit will run January – April, 2022.
- iii. The first working meeting with the team developing the Alberni Residential School Survivor Memories of George Clutesi project was held September 15 here in Port Alberni.
- iv. Museum staff were busy over the last few weeks working with the IHS to sort, pack and relocate artefacts and items at the train station. As of September 29, the train station is completely empty.
- v. With our new Education Assistant now in place, programming planning has resumed – tours for the Body Language Exhibit and our Pioneer Christmas school program will be offered and some public programming, with additional offerings in the new year.
- vi. Staff continue to work with the Nanaimo Museum and Darrell Ross in repatriating the artefact back to this community.
- vii. Promotional material for the 2022 Heritage Fair will be distributed soon.
- viii. Working with Toronto Film Circuit and Landmark Cinemas to get Film Fest back up and running in January 2022.
- ix. Technology development project – we have reviewed a few systems for touch screen interpretation of collections and are exploring the options of QR codes for personal devices as well as handheld tour systems. We have attended some web-based workshops and info sessions are working now on



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developing a plan based on selected systems.

b. School District

- i. SD70 2021/22 enrollment up slightly. Many students have returned to in class instruction.
- ii. SD70 Indigenous Education department's monthly newsletter for September had many class room resources for all age groups on the true history of Residential Schools. All schools and classes studied age appropriate Indigenous history to commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- iii. One Sept 29th 2021, SD70 Pacific Rim held a 'School Renaming Ceremony'. The whole process began six and a half years ago when Trustee Rosemarie Buchanan brought the issue to the Board. She had been contacted by an ADSS graduate, Christopher Stephenson, who had researched the origin of A.W. Neill Elementary School name. It was found that Mr. Neill, a Member of Parliament for Alberni in the 1920's, had very deep racist views against Japanese Canadians. He voted in Parliament to disallow Japanese Canadians the right to vote. He placed a covenant on his property to disallow Asian immigrants to own the property only to work on the property. Neill was also the Indian Agent for Alberni region and supported the operation of Residential Schools. Trustee Buchanan urged the Board of Education several times to change the name of the school. The Board turned to district Policy and rewrote the Policy for naming school district facilities which now strongly suggest not to use names of individuals. The Board took a careful measured consultative approach giving time for the District Partners to fully consider the proposal. The suggestions that came from many students were focused on nature and the environment. It became obvious, that it was fitting to choose the name of a very important river in the Alberni Valley. The Tsuma-as (Somass River) is a resource for the whole community and connects all members of the community. The Tsuma-as carries water and nutrients and provides habitat and food for all who live in the Valley. The Indigenous Peoples of this region relied on Tsuma-as for hundreds of years often referring to it as the 'River of life'. The opportunity to officially announce and celebrate the new name was chosen to be commemorated on the day before the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. SD70 Students from all Districts Schools studied and researched the history of Residential Schools to understand the significance of the name change and the day of Sept 30th. The Nations of the Nuuchah-nulth were on hand to witness the ceremony. The Tseshaht and the Hupacasath Nations were important participants in the activities on Sept 29. The ceremony was based



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on Indigenous protocols. The event was Live streamed and broadcast on Shaw TV.

- iv. On Sept 30th Ucluelet Secondary School Hosted a public showing of a museum quality exhibit, Escaping Residential Schools: Running for Their Lives, from the Legacy of Hope foundation which presented the stories from Residential School Survivors. Each grade grouping had assignments to research and present in the exhibit.

c. Community Arts Council

- i. Rollin Art Centre hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ii. CURRENT EXHIBIT
October 5 – November 6, 21: CAC Invitation exhibit – various local submissions showcasing works created during the Pandemic time in 2020.
- iii. UPCOMING EXHIBITS
November 13 – December 24 – ARTisan/Mistletoe Market – assorted artists and crafters.
- iv. STAFF
Mary-Ann McGrath hired as of September 9. New job title is Arts Centre Team Member.
- v. REAWAKENING THE ARTS
Collaborative event with Char's Landing, Portal Players and Art Rave others to celebrate a post-pandemic reopening of society and the arts – postponed until next spring and subject to changing circumstances of the pandemic.
- vi. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
Oct 1 – Eco-Printing/Dyeing on paper and cotton; Oct 2 Indigo Dyeing – Connie Chaplin
Oct 7 and Oct 21 – Two events with Jim Sears, pen and ink/watercolour wash.
- vii. RAFFLES
Tickets are available at RAC for the beautiful “travelling” quilt created by Saturday morning quilting group until the draw 3:00 pm on November 15. \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5; a fundraiser for Rollin Art Centre. Tickets for our Christmas raffle basket will go on sale soon.
- viii. RAC
We hired Alberni Electric to upgrade the electrical panel as the old one was failing and unsafe.
- ix. NEW WEBSITE
New website funded through Launch Online is nearly ready to go Live and will have a link to Shopify.
- x. 2022



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Planning now for January closure and strategic planning, inventory, etc.;
reopen to public February 1.

xi. **BOOK SALE**

RAC is once again accepting good condition books. The book sale will be at
the Athletic Hall May 6 and 7.

xii. **BOTTLE DEPOT**

Reminder that you can benefit Arts Council by taking all your recyclable
beverage containers to the Bottle Depot in clear, plastic recycling bags. At
the machine around the back, key in our phone number 250 724 3412 and
print a label for each bag, then place in one of the bins.

d. **Maritime Heritage Society**

- i. 1964 Tsunami Exhibit – The update to this permanent exhibit is still
underway and nearing completion. It will be a great improvement to the
original. Thanks again to the AV Museum staff for their help.
- ii. Nahanni/Pelican Project – Weekly work sessions have re-commenced on
Wednesdays 10am to 2pm on this vessel's restoration. Interpretive signage
regarding this project has now been installed. Come on out to help if you
would like to work on this historic WWII boat.
- iii. Language Revitalization Pole- We are very pleased to see that this wonderful
project has now been installed at a great location on the waterfront.
Congratulations to Tim Paul and the other carvers! Thanks also to the San
Group for undertaking installation of the completed pole.
- iv. Maritime Heritage Night Presentations – We are placing these events on
hold until staffing and COVID regulations will allow "real time" meetings
once again.
- v. Teak Lady – This heritage vessel which has a colourful history both in the far
east and the Alberni Valley is now in our compound. Thanks very much to
Bob Cole for his generous donation for this vessel.
- vi. Adopt an Artefact – We will be participating in the AV Museum's Adopt an
Artefact program by adopting the Water Barrel & Dipper from the Lady
Rose.
- vii. Lighthouse Siding Repairs – this iconic facility is now over 20 years old and a
combination of weather and vandalism has caused considerable damage to
the building's "shingle" siding. Particularly on the water side. We are
investigating repair options and potential fundraising sources to undertake
this needed work.
- viii. Board Change – Gareth Flostrand has undertaken the Secretary position on
our Board. Thanks Gareth!



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- ix. Facility Hours – The Gallery and Lighthouse are currently closed while we make arrangements for staffing going forward. We hope to re-open on a limited winter hours schedule in late October.
- e. Regional District
 - i. UBCM was held virtually
 - ii. Reviewing the region's emergency evacuation plan (traffic flow, travellers, infrastructure)
 - iii. Vancouver Island Regional Library
 - 1. New Executive Director – Ben Heiman (from UBC)
 - 2. Strategic planning should be starting shortly
 - iv. Branch at Echo Centre will receive a \$1 million renovation
- f. Chamber of Commerce
 - i. Our new website came to life mid-September: www.AlberniChamber.ca. Best of all is a much improved Membership experience. Each internal page has a random Member Spotlight feature that highlights one of our 320 members. We are not charging for this (unlike many of our colleagues).
 - ii. With the new site comes the need to completely overhaul the information on file for each of our Members. As such, at this writing we are only at about 40% updated.
 - iii. Chamber continues to work with the Better Buy Port Alberni website and hopes to secure outside funding to improve the program and extend our financial support of those businesses who participate. The Chamber has covered 100% of all costs associated with the website to date.
 - iv. Visitor Centre remains slow though there are some surprising days for us. We are seeing more Americans come through the door and we continue to see a significant number of new residents coming in.
 - v. We are excited to announce plans to host three events in the upcoming few months:
 - 1. Storytelling: Tuesday, November 9th Dog Mountain Brewery. This event will be hosted by the Chamber and Dog Mountain featuring up to five local businesses who wish to tell their story of the past 20 or so months. We also plan to invite a guest speaker from Abbotsford who will speak to the value of group insurance plans for employers/employees. All the more important in these times of staff shortages.
 - 2. Welcome Back Tourism: This event is planned for 3pm – 7pm on Friday, April 29/22. The event will take place on the MV Frances Barkley which we've chartered for a 3 hour sail that day. We will be inviting as many local tourism related businesses as possible.



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3. Community Excellence Awards: This event is currently planned for Friday, June 17/22 at the McLean Mill. We expect to host most of the event outdoors under tents where possible. We have some really exciting plans in place for this event. Stay tuned!

g. McLean Mill

- i. We've conducted a few events lately including 3 Celebrations of Life with all of them coming to us via strong connections to the site. The most recent was for Jack James (JJ Logging Show). The family was very pleased with the event. Nice to be there and to see the sense of respect and admiration for Mr. James.
- ii. We've also had a couple of recent weddings and we have another booked for later October. At least one booked for November and oddly another is currently booked for January. Feedback thus far has been full marks all around.
- iii. Plans are in place for the Heritage Christmas Village which ended up being cancelled last year just prior to us opening it up for visits. We are cautiously optimistic that we'll be permitted to run the event as we'd imagined it last year. The event is sponsored by: Robbins and Co. here in Port Alberni.
- iv. On the above we have also applied for a grant under the Fairs, Festivals Events Grant program. If successful we'd receive 20% of our budgeted expenses. Our budget does suggest that we'll lose money on the event so the assistance would be most welcome. We should find out by early November.
- v. We are currently planning to place Christmas Lights through the site once again. The light-up will be part of the Heritage Christmas Village experience.
- vi. Both the Chamber and the MM are experiencing similar employment challenges to most of the community. This has resulted in us having to decide to open for fewer days/hours at the MM than anticipated. We are continuing to look for additional HR.


h. City Council

- i. Council extended its endorsement of the City's Guidelines for Temporary Sidewalk Patios and use of the Licence to Occupy agreement until June 1, 2022 and in the interim directed staff to establish criteria that commercial operators would be required to meet in order to be considered permanent.
- ii. Council authorized the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to apply to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment Program, to receive and manage grant funding on behalf of the City of Port Alberni as it relates to increasing our community's resiliency by undertaking community




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- based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk of wildfire.
- iii. Council authorized that the \$10,000 allocated in the 2020 Financial Plan for a Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society [WVIHS] business plan be redirected to allow for WVIHS to first undertake internal organizational changes and external relationship building.
 - iv. Council proclaimed the month of October 2021 as 'Community Inclusion Month' and 'Foster Family Month' in Port Alberni.
 - v. Effective September 30, 2021 all water restrictions are lifted within the City of Port Alberni.
 - vi. The City wishes to acknowledge residents and businesses for their conservation efforts and adherence to the water restrictions during the summer months.
 - vii. Council for the City of Port Alberni is looking forward to the return of in-person Council meetings, and barring any change in provincial guidelines, in-person meetings are scheduled to resume at 2:00 pm on October 12, 2021 in Council Chambers at City Hall. The City is committed to following the direction of the Provincial Health Officer and the Province of BC to ensure the health and safety of members of Council, staff and the public. Members of the public who wish to attend meetings of Council, are required to wear a mask.



**WELCOME TO
CONNECT THE
QUAYS PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
2021!**



JOIN US AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!
Connect the Quays Pathway Open House
Echo '67 Community Centre
Wednesday, October 6th, 4-7:30 pm

 **For more information check out**
letsconnect.pa.ca/connect-the-quays or call City Hall at 250-720-2830



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- i. Historical Society
 - i. Our great group of dedicated ladies have log in 204 ¾ hrs in September. Between Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2021, the total of volunteer hours is 1651 ¼.
 - ii. Starting Oct. 1, our new hours are Tues – Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm. We will be 4 volunteers per day. Doors will NOT be open to the public. On Fridays, by appointment only, Judy will be on site to help any researcher. The researcher, who must be double vaccinated, will be seated at the door of the archives. If you have a research request, please send us an email at: aadhs1@gmail.com.
 - iii. The Archives is looking into electronic payment for our research time, electronic scans & photocopies. Hopefully our Bank has this opportunity available.
 - iv. Check out the Facebook Page "You knew you grew up in Port Alberni ...". Each week one of our members Diane Dobson has an article about one of our pioneers, or a place or group that was here in the past. Great reading! Thanks to Glenda Noiles for bringing the research to Diane.
 - j. Industrial Heritage Society
 - i. IHS and logging crew took part in Jack James' celebration of life
 - ii. All hands on deck to consolidate and downsize the collection in order to vacate the train station that the IHS and volunteers had restored for use back in 1990
 - iii. IHS crew working on chain link compound to store some equipment outside the IHC
 - iv. IHS has retained Lucas Banton to spearhead getting the train back on the tracks
 - k. Community at Large – no report
 - l. Hupacasath First Nation – no report
 - m. Tseshah First Nation – no report
8. Next Meeting
- a. Wednesday, November 3 → 7pm (Tentatively at Rollin Art Centre)
9. Adjourn
- a. Moved by Pam to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm.