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MAR 06 2023

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Alberni Valley Museum  
and Heritage Commission



Heritage Commission Meeting  
February 1, 2023  
Minutes

Location:  
Alberni Valley Museum

Attendees:  
Charles Mealey  
Claudia Romaniuk  
Colin Schult  
Don Jones (Maritime Heritage alternate)  
Elliot Drew (McLean Mill alternate)  
Gareth Flostrand  
Pam Craig  
Penny Cote  
Kirsten Smith (staff)  
Shelley Harding (staff)  
Willa Thorpe (staff)

Regrets:  
Don Mallon  
Ken Watson  
Bill Collette  
Ed Ross

<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other

File # 0540-20-AVMHC *Com Summary Rcm Mar 13/23*

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Pam that the agenda of the February 1, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Colin that the minutes of the January 4, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Old Business
  - a. Staff to confirm contact information for the Hupačasath representative on the Heritage Commission
    - i. Since the Hupacasath First Nation will be completing an election in the coming months, staff recommend that the Heritage Commission engages Hupačasath after the election
  - b. Staff confirmed alternate representatives for each Heritage Commission organization and included alternates on meeting agendas and minutes
4. Correspondence – none

ENTERED

J.1(f)



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5. New Business

- a. Train Station – Proposed Alterations to Building Envelope
  - i. Presentation by Will King (Waymark Architecture) regarding facilitating a commercial kitchen for prospective tenants in the Train Station.
  - ii. Staff will present the following recommendation to Council: Preserve the look of the Train Station exterior; updates to doors are fine, as they are minor changes that keep with the current look. No changes to the roof.
    - 1. Moved by Pam, seconded by Claudia. Carried.
- b. 2023 Meeting Locations
  - i. April: McLean Mill
  - ii. May: Maritime Heritage
  - iii. June: Sproat Lake Hall

6. Reports

- a. Industrial Heritage Society
  - i. Volunteer hours at Industrial Heritage Center for the year 2022 were 5000 hours, we have not calculated the hours at the Roundhouse (train station) or the Logging show (McLean Mill). We had about 500 visitors sign our guest book last year. Visitors started to show up after February and the numbers remained low until after April. We had visitors from France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium and USA. The majority of visitors were from BC and six other provinces Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. We hosted twelve group events and activities, including four children's groups, five tour groups, a Celebrations of Life and a Christmas Market.
  - ii. January 23, 2023 visit to IHS building from a group from the Port Alberni Friendship Center.
  - iii. February 8 we will be hosting a class of 20 kindergarten/grade one kids and 3 adults from Alberni Elementary School.
  - iv. February 22, 2023 the IHS will be hosting an open house in honour of Heritage Week.
  - v. April 12, 2023 we will be having our AGM at Echo Center Cedar room 7.00pm, we are hoping to have a guest speaker.
- b. Maritime Heritage Society
  - i. Canoe Exhibit

A new exhibit is now in the Gallery centering around the wonderful "Ladies Canoe" that is on loan to us from the Tseshah First Nation. This display includes a beautiful model of a Hesquiaht canoe carved by Tim Paul. At the



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2022 Reconciliation Day Ceremony, Tim presented the carving to PAMHS in recognition of hosting himself and fellow carvers in our compound while they created the Language Revitalization Pole. Thank you Dave Cox and Geo Monrufet for your work on this exhibit.

ii. Port Alberni Harbour Photo Contest

The harbour photo contest winning entries and a selection of other submitted photo are on display in the Gallery. A recent article in the Alberni Valley News about this exhibit has brought to our museum visitors wanting to see the photos. Thank you, Jean McIntosh, Dave Cox and Chris Johnson, for your inspiration and completion of the exhibit. Thank you, Alberni Valley Museum, for printing the images.

iii. Junior Lightkeeper's Club

This new initiative is designed to involve children in the stewardship of the lighthouse and its exhibits, as well as creating a fun way to learn facts and skills relating to the work of lighthouse keepers and mariners. Trial days of this program brought us eight new junior members and interest from a teacher in Budapest, Hungary. Our coordinator is now working with this person on a short video presentation for her grade 6 ESL class which will include a vocabulary lesson with lighthouse and maritime related words. This initiative may possibly be useful for other ESL classes. Commenced January 1, the Junior Lightkeeper's Club is promoted on our Facebook page. If you know of a child who might be interested, ask the parent to come to the Gallery and speak to our coordinator, Chris Johnson.

iv. Our Periodic Newsletter, "Ahoy Mates"

Hard copies of our January, 2023 edition of "Ahoy Mates" is available in the Gallery and on the PAMHS website ([portalbernimaritimeheritage.ca](http://portalbernimaritimeheritage.ca)) in image format. Major articles include "What Is A Crash Boat?", "December 6 Earthquake", "Alberni's First Wooden Ship" and "2022 In Review." Short articles consist of our new exhibit, the awarding of the SS Beaver Medal to the MV Frances Barkley, our photo contest, the Junior Lightkeepers Club and becoming a 2023 PAMHS member.

v. Community Engagement

Lately, our coordinator has received requests for tours and speaking engagements. Last week, a tour was given to 10 pre-schoolers from Stepping Stones Day care for which we received positive feedback from the supervisors. This week, a group of 10 adult employment students from the Port Alberni Friendship Centre visited us. Thank you, Dave Cox, for giving the tour. And in mid-February, we are speaking about the Santiago to a grade 3/4 class who are beginning a unit on early exploration.





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vi. Open Hours

Currently, we are open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come visit us, meet Chris, our coordinator and learn some interesting facts about maritime history as it relates to Port Alberni, Alberni Inlet, Barkley Sound and the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

c. Historical Society

- i. Our first public evening in 2023 will be held Thursday, Feb. 16th, 7 pm in the Museum. Our guest speaker is Michael Andruff, a former resident of Port Alberni. He will speak on his new book "The Russian Refugees". There will be time for questions, a snack and to purchase his book. FREE admission.
- ii. The "Huff General Store" ledger from the early 1900's is undergoing a cleaning at this time. When this job is finished, indexing will take place.
- iii. Researching is ongoing. Most enquiries come via emails. E-transfer is so great for receiving donations for this research.
- iv. The Archives are open Tues-Thurs, 11am to 3 pm.

d. Regional District

- i. Appointments to Heritage Commission confirmed
- ii. Commencing budget process
- iii. Code of conduct drafted on February 1

e. Community at Large

i. February Activities Around Town

3rd and 4th 38th Annual Armada Invitational Wrestling Tournament @ ADSS  
4th Family Literacy Day -- 10-12 Echo Centre -- free  
4th Stages Youth Theatre @ Capitol Theatre 7pm  
6th City of PA 2023-27 Financial Plan introduced @ 6pm attend in person or stream live  
6th – 12th I Love Winter GoByBike week – register and take a pic – also Free Pancake Breakfast Feb 11 at Jumping Slug on Saturday 11th 9-11am  
8th AV Nature Club – 9am start (Spencer St) @ Dyke look for sandwich boards. Pulling ivy, more info on FB site  
9th ADSS students screening of "Bones of Crows" – free admission  
10th – 11th Spread the Love Market @ Leave her Wild Container Design Sat 4pm – Sun 2pm  
11th Public screening of "Bones of Crows" @ ADSS 7pm – free admission FCFS



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- 11th Valentine's Day Dance @ Glenwood 8-1am Proceeds to SD70 Bursary Program for Mental Health
- 11th Seedy Saturday 10-2 @ Echo Centre (Dogwood) seeds and cuttings from Island producers.
- 12th Super Bowl Sunday @ RCL 2pm
- 13th City of PA @ 2pm – 1st reading for Council – draft to be discussed
- 21st City of PA – Informal budget talk with Public, COW members and staff
- 24th 2:00pm – 5:00pm at the Five Acre Co Events Centre – Fall Fair Grounds. Networking event featuring Minister Osborne. Tickets will be available soon at [www.albernichamber.ca](http://www.albernichamber.ca)
- 25th Coldest Night of the Year – fundraising for Sage Haven walk to support the hungry, hurting and homeless, starts and finishes @ Sage Haven 3082 Third Ave, check in @ 4pm walk starts @ 5pm
- 25th VI Pro Wrestling @ Maht Mahs Gym 630pm
- 26th PA Film Fest – The Last Buss 5pm

f. School District

- i. Jan 16, 2023 - Curriculum Implementation Day – All district school staff and guests gather to engage in Learning and continue ongoing commitment to action in Truth and Reconciliation:
  - 1. Special Guest from all First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth region.
  - 2. All Valley school staff met at ADSS; Ucluelet Elementary, Ucluelet Secondary and Wickanninish Elementary meeting at USS. Bamfield Community School meet in Bamfield.
  - 3. The CI Day background and context from the "First Peoples Principles of Learning". Reflection of the four Nuu-chah-nulth Principles – everything is one – hacatkma cawaak; respect – iisaak; helping each other – hupiiicstat; taking care – u aatuk. Professional development activity based on Jo Chrona's book 'Wayi Wah'.
- ii. Public Consultation on Policy development is on SD70 website for eight policies:  
Anti-racism Policy; Childcare Policy; District Student Advisory Council; Employee Conflict of Interest Policy; Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy; Non-discrimination Policy; student hardship Policy and truth and Reconciliation Policy.
- iii. SD70 has submitted a grant application to the government for a new Childcare facility at Wood school.
- iv. Board of Education met with City council to introduce new Councillors and Trustees. Plans are in the works to meet again in a few months.



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- v. B.C. Public School Employer's Association AGM Jan 26 & 27. Teacher bargaining complete. Support staff bargaining has only 2 tables to complete in the province – SD70 has completed locally.
- vi. Family Literacy Day Sat. Feb 4 - 10am to 12pm at Echo Centre – first 100 families will take home a “make your own soup kit”. ‘A free fun event for the entire family’. Representatives available from local agencies who support families of children and youth in the Alberni Valley.
- g. Chamber of Commerce
  - i. Our Office Manager started with the Chamber on Feb. 1.
  - ii. We are continuing with the recruitment of an Executive Director.
  - iii. Our membership renewals have been going very well. In fact, we appear to be well-ahead of previous years in terms of renewal rates. Additionally, we have welcomed two new members to the Chamber in the last couple of weeks including Black Dog Fencing (located on 3rd Avenue) and Island Express Bus Inc.
  - iv. We will be hosting a networking event on Friday, February 24th in the late morning/early afternoon featuring Minister Josie Osborne. This event will be held at the new space set up by Five Acre Productions – at the Fall Fair Grounds.
  - v. Our priorities over the next while will be the training of our new Office Manager, completion of the search for an ED, our annual audit, and progress with our Indigenous Learning Project.
- h. McLean Mill
  - i. We continue to prepare for the 2023 season. A renewed push to bring the heritage of the site back to the fore and building upon the good work that has been put into the commercial activities since the Chamber took over operations are the overarching goals for 2023. We are already almost 70% to our target for events for the upcoming year and are working on expanding our offerings to renters to increase revenues. A one-of-a-kind, local focus for the gift shop and a streamlined food service model to enhance our visitor experience are also in development.
  - ii. We are pleased to reengage with the City's Parks, Recreation and Heritage dept. to begin restoring key historical assets and plans back into our business model and are beginning to research how best to bring a digital form of storytelling into our presentations to maximize our ability to share valuable information to our guest.





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- iii. We are pushing for our campground to start booking as of March 1st with potential openings for March Break. We will once again be offering 7 serviced RV sites, 2 non-powered RV sites and 5 tent sites.
- iv. April 2nd the Mill will be hosting a 10km run as part of the Vancouver Island Race Series. In partnership with Ridge View Health and Performance, we are planning to welcome approx. 400 runners and friends to this event from across the Island and beyond. This race series has been extremely popular this year and our event seems to be one of the more anticipated runs. We are always looking for volunteers and if you would like to help let us know.

i. Community Arts Council

i. Gallery Exhibits

The gallery is opening with a new exhibit, Alberni Valley Landmarks, co-sponsored by Arrowsmith Rotary. Arrowsmith Rotary will be sponsoring a people's choice award of \$500 and the opportunity to have the winning image featured on a puzzle. The meet and greet will be Saturday, February 4, from 1-3 at the Grove gallery on the Quay. This exhibit will be on until March 24.

- ii. Following the Landmarks exhibit will be exhibit with the theme of "climate change". This exhibit was suggested by John Mayba of Alberni Climate Action. This exhibit will begin on March 29 and will run until May 26.

iii. Workshops

Jim Sears is holding a sketch book/journal development workshop on Saturday, March 4, 12:30pm-3pm. Cost is \$55.

iv. Membership Open House

This has been postponed until probably April.

v. Packing up Rollin

We spent two days getting rid of files etc. from more than ten years ago, and boxing up more recent files. We found many historical documents and documents about our permanent collection.

- vi. We are going to display our many years of scrapbooks at the museum.

vii. Book Sale

We have received permission from the Hupačasath First Nation to stay in Gill School until we have our book sale in May. We have also been invited to present to them a case for us continuing storing our books at Gill in the future. We are working on preparing that case. Many thanks go to Superintendent Tim Davie for making the initial contact for us.



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- j. City Council
  - i. Budget meetings start on Feb. 6
- k. Museum
  - i. Exhibit: We had good showings of both the Mushroom and the Suitcase Project exhibits. The Clutesi exhibit will open March 25 and run through to September.
  - ii. In February, we will be presenting a small exhibit on Minnie Patterson featuring the recent acquisition of her medal of bravery and her wedding ring, and the Arts Council's scrapbook collection on the history of Rollin Art Centre – these exhibits will be nice additions to feature during Heritage Week.
  - iii. Film Fest – Our fall series was a great success with all three films sold out. We are presenting four films for the spring series and we only have six tickets left for the last two films. Thank you to Film Fest volunteers Pam Craig and Gareth Flostrand who are faithfully there every screening and make sure all goes well.
  - iv. Museum Shop – We did well over the Christmas season with exciting new products that were well received. We have some special sales on right now and will be gearing up for spring and summer seasons.
  - v. School and Public programs – it is so gratifying to see our school and public programs back up to pre-COVID levels. We are booked through to mid-March with Birthday parties, school programs are running well, and we will be hosting two spring break day camps. Plans for spring and summer programs are in full swing.
  - vi. The Clutesi Exhibit is well in progress and will open at the Alberni Valley Museum on Saturday, March 25 with a special gala opening – we are working with family elders and contractors to plan opening, special events and school programs during the run of the exhibit.
  - vii. Discussions are still underway with members of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation regarding repatriation of artefacts and have provided accession and documentation records to the contract Curator; a meeting is scheduled for early February.
- l. Hupačasath First Nation – no report
- m. Tseshaht First Nation – no report

**7. Next Meeting**

- a. Wednesday, March 1 → 7pm (Alberni Valley Museum)





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8. Adjourn
  - a. Moved by Pam to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm