



Heritage Commission Meeting  
March 1, 2023

Minutes

Location:  
Alberni Valley Museum

Attendees:

ACRD	Susan Roth
City Council	Charles Mealey
Community Arts Council	Claudia Romaniuk
Community at Large	Colin Schult
Historical Society	Gareth Flostrand
Industrial Heritage	Don Mallon, Richard Spencer
Maritime Heritage	Don Jones
McLean Mill	Elliot Drew
School District 70	Pam Craig
Staff	Willa Thorpe

Regrets:

Tseshah First Nation	Ed Ross
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<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 <u>Corr Into.</u>
File #	<u>0540-20-AVHHC</u>

Called to order: 7:00pm

1. Moved by Colin that the agenda of the March 1, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Pam that the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting be approved as amended.
3. Old Business
  - a. Train Station
    - i. The Commission's input from the February meeting will be provided to Council, in public, if/when Council considers the exterior modifications as a component of a lease agreement consideration
4. Correspondence – none



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5. New Business

a. Heritage Week 2024

- i. Will be held February 19 – 25
- ii. Willa to add to June Heritage Commission agenda

6. Reports

a. Community Arts Council

i. Gallery Exhibits

1. January 31 to March 24 – AV Landmarks – sponsored by Arrowsmith Rotary
2. March 29 – May 26 “Climate Change” Meet and greet Saturday April 1, 1-3
3. September October Art Exhibit using heritage images of the valley and artists create their renditions.

ii. Workshops

1. Jim Sear – Sketch book/Journal Development Saturday March 4th 1230-3 cost \$55
2. Susan Schaefer – Acrylic painting - May 6

iii. Solstice Arts Festival

Saturday June 17, 11-6 \$30 for artisans

iv. Scrapbooks

Community Arts scrapbooks are on display for February as part of heritage week.

v. Book Sale

We are collecting books in our new bin outside the gallery.

vi. AGM

We had our AGM on February 23. Happy to report that we have 4 new board members.

b. Regional District

- i. Budget talks are ongoing



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#### c. Maritime Heritage Society



### **Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society March 1, 2023 Report to the Heritage Commission**

#### **Trans Pacific Telegraph Cable Exhibit**

A new addition to our exhibits in the Ken Hutcheson Gallery consists of a 1 ½ metre piece of the Trans Pacific telegraph cable which was laid on the ocean floor in 1902 and connected Canada to Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. Our display consists of a piece from the Bamfield-Port Alberni section. Many thanks go to Geo Monruffet, who donated us the piece of telegraph cable and built a base for the cable, and to Dave Cox who wrote the text for this exhibit.

#### **Canoe Exhibit**

The "Ladies Canoe" that is on loan to us from the Tseshaht First Nation has been relocated to our temporary exhibits area. This display now includes a beautiful model of a Hesquiaht canoe carved by Tim Paul. At the 2022 Reconciliation Day Ceremony, Tim presented the carving to the society in recognition of hosting himself and fellow carvers in our compound while they created the Language Revitalization Pole. Thank you Dave Cox and Geo Monruffet for your work on this exhibit.

#### **Port Alberni Harbour Photo Contest**

The harbour photo contest winning entries and a selection of other submitted photos 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 for inspiration and completion of the exhibit. Thank you Alberni Valley Museum for printing the images.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Visitors**

In January, 91 people, which included 2 tour groups, visited us and in February, we had 68 visitors.

Submitted by Don Jones, PAMHS Alternate to the Heritage Commission





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d. Chamber of Commerce

- i. February has been a productive month with training for our new Office Manager, Lil Tardif in full swing. Lil and I also attended a one-day workshop hosted by Destination BC on Working with Indigenous Communities that was very insightful. We continue to finalize our financials for 2022 and work on our budget for 2023. Planning for our busy season at the Visitor Center and the continuation of the Ambassador Program at the Grove is ongoing. We are however looking for volunteer Ambassador for 3 or more hours a week. If you know anyone who would like to help, please have them contact us at the visitor centre.
- ii. 2023 membership renewals continue to go very well and we are well-ahead of previous years in terms of renewal rates. Additionally, we have welcomed new members to the Chamber in February including Access IDEAs, who have rented the third office in our building. Jack Rowland, a new realtor with Royal LePage and Magnolia Child Care Society who operate at the c̓uumaʔas Tsuma-as Elementary School on Compton Rd.
- iii. We are also thrilled to have hosted our first networking event of 2023 on Feb 24th featuring Minister Josie Osborne. The event held at the new space set up by Five Acre Productions – at the Fall Fair Grounds featured delicious food provided by Ironworks Creperie and was a productive and enjoyable afternoon for the many who attended.
- iv. We are also pleased to have already set our next Network Event for Mar 29th. Main speakers will be James Stuart and David Hayden of Island Rail to update us on the Island Corridor Foundation. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more information which should be available in the upcoming days.
- v. Finally, The Board has announced that it has hired Jolleen Dick as the new CEO of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. She will be starting as of April 1st and we are very excited to welcome her aboard. It goes without saying how grateful we are to Bill Collette for his years of service and great contributions to our organization and to this community and we wish him all the best as he moves into his next chapter.

e. McLean Mill

- i. As we continue to prepare for the 2023 season the work to bring the heritage of the site back to the fore and to build upon the commercial activities the Chamber has set into operation is coming into focus. We are have closing in on our target for events for the upcoming year and are working on expanding our offerings to renters to increase revenues. We have received over a dozen request for information over the last weeks and



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have already started working on booking a couple of events for 2024. A one-of-a-kind, local focus for the gift shop and a streamlined food service model to enhance our visitor experience continue to develop.

- ii. We are pleased to have been working with the City's Heritage dept. to begin restoring key historical assets and plans back into our business model. This is an ongoing process of discovery as we dig not only into the history of the site but the more recent incarnations of how it has been presented to the public. Thank you to Shelley and Kirsten for their support, knowledge, and expertise as we strive to be the best custodians of history we have been entrusted with.
  - iii. Due to weather and the need for some deep cleaning we have pushed our campground opening to later this month however booking should be open for reservation within the next few days. We will once again be offering 7 service RV sites, 2 non-powered RV sites and 5 tent sites. With the opening of the campground we will now begin to have regular office hours at the Mill Thursday-Sunday 10 am – 4pm as we prepare for our regular season opening in May. Our E-Bike program will also be available during these times.
  - 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 593 runners, who are now registered, 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.
- f. Industrial Heritage Society
- i. Volunteer hours total for year ending 2022: 6683.
  - ii. A videographer from Shaw took footage at the Roundhouse of the Two Spot, Number 7 locomotive, CN caboose and the Shay.
  - iii. Membership purchases and renewals are now available online
  - iv. Heritage week: a number of volunteers showed up to host visitors on Wednesday, unfortunately no visitors came. There was some discussion as to why no one came, felt there was no publicity and lack of coordination of events in the heritage community.
  - v. AGM: April 12, 7pm



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g. Historical Society

- i. Our first public evening in 2023 with guest speaker Michael Andruff, a former resident of Port Alberni was well attended and very interesting. Michael donated a copy of his book "The Russian Refugees" to the Archives.
- ii. Volunteer hours for February were 242 ½. Lots of great work by our dedicated volunteers.
- iii. Researching is ongoing. Most enquiries come via emails. E-transfer is so great for receiving donations for this research.
- iv. If you have any "paper treasures" pertaining to the Alberni Valley, contact the Archives and we will check our records and see if we have any copies. If we don't have copies and you are willing to donate your treasures, please contact the Archives at 250-723-2181 (ask the switchboard for the Archives) during the hours below.
- v. The Archives are open Tues-Thur, 11am to 3 pm.

h. Community at Large

i. March Activities Around Town

- 2nd – Wounded Warriors arrive in PA about 1-2pm, Fundraising dinner at RCL @ 530pm, \$20 spaghetti dinner
- 2nd – Mount Klitsa Garden Club meeting @ 7pm Dogwood Room
- 3rd – Zoom meeting – AV Pride and Ally Program – learn how to create a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ2+ folks in our communities 3-430pm
- 3rd – AV Makerspace – Open House 3620 3rd Ave
- 5th – Kid's Bike Exchange at The Jumping Slug 11am-3pm, free exchange of bikes, BBQ
- 8th – International Women's Day Market – Leave Her Wild 2pm
- 11th - Cherry Creek By-Election 8-8 @ the Hall
- 11th – Eagle Eyes (tribute band) with Cameron Whitcomb @ Kinsmen Comm Centre 7pm
- 11th-12th – AV Rock and Gem Club – Annual R&G Show @ Athletic Hall: 10-5 and 10-4
- 11th and 12th – PA Home Show at the Glenwood Centre Free Admission 10-6 and 10-4
- 15th – AV Transition Town Society – monthly meeting @ Char's 6pm
- 18 – PA Black Sheep Rugby Club – fundraising fiesta 5pm 19+ event, tix @All Mex'd Up or the Clubhouse
- 18th – St Patrick's Day Dance @ Beaver Creek Hall 7pm tix at Pete's MMeats and Beaufort Barbers
- 19th – George Canyon – Our Country Tour @ Kinsmen Comm Centre 6pm
- 25th – Alive 'N Kissin' – Vancouver tribute band @ Rainbow Room 8pm





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26th – PA Film Fest presents Rosie 5pm @ Paramount

April 1st – Spring Fling Indoor Market @ BW Barclay 11-4

1st – Echo Sunshine Club -Craft and Bake sale @ Echo Centre 1-3pm

#### i. School District

- i. Feb 21, 2023, was the public release of the results of Phase 1 findings of the extensive research and ground penetrating radar of the former Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS). Superintendent Davie and Board Chair Pam Craig attended the presentation on Tseshahst territory. All schools, students and staff of SD70 fully recognized the day of this announcement with learning and observance. Many individuals wore their orange shirts in recognition.
- ii. The Canadian Flags at each School District site remain at half-mast since the announcement by leaders of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc in May of 2022 (formerly Kamloops Indian Residential school). This decision of the Board was made as an act of reconciliation and unity with Tseshahst First Nation in recognition of the extensive research and scanning work being conducted here on Tseshahst lands. The flags will remain at half-mast through this period and district staff will collaborate, listen to and receive guidance from members of the Elder's Culture Council as to timing, protocol and cultural understandings as to when and how the flags will be appropriately raised.
- iii. The emblem for Pink Shirt Day Canada's 2023 campaign was created by Ucluelet Secondary School Indigenous artist Koyah Morgan. Initially, Morgan had entered a local design competition with Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council, but WITS (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, and Seek help) Programs Foundation contacted her soon after she had won the Indigenous contest to express their love of her design. Morgan's creation features two hands holding a heart and the words 'Be Kind'. The 17-year-old artist from Toquaht Nation says she took inspiration from praying hands in Indigenous culture.
- iv. ADSS 2023 musical is booked for March 30 & April 1st at ADSS. The story is the "High School Musical" show.
- v. The Board of Education will be traveling to Courtenay for the Vancouver Island School Trustees (VISTA) Spring Conference March 2 & 4, 2023.

#### j. City Council

- i. Budget → Committee of the Whole meeting on March 6 @ 6pm
- ii. Community Futures presented regarding an Adventure Sport Park



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k. Museum

i. Exhibits:

We will be presenting a small exhibit on Minnie Patterson featuring the recent acquisition of her medal of bravery and her wedding ring – as well as the Arts Council's scrapbook collection on the history of Rollin Art Centre.

- ii. Film Fest – The winter series is off to a good start four films are being shown – three of the four are sold out with only four tickets left for the April film. Working with TIFF on special event to host a special screening of a Canadian Film Riceboy Sleeps with the director in attendance to introduce film and do a question/answer/ discussion post screening – tentatively March 24th.

- iii. Museum Shop – We have some special sales on right now and will be gearing up for spring and summer seasons. We are bringing in the Easter line from Peace by Chocolate following our great success with their Christmas chocolates. They will go on sale March 1.

- iv. 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.

- v. We have two spring break day camps coming up, a Family Day program, and lots of plans for spring and summer programs. We brought back the learn to knit classes the first set just finished, Literacy Day Event was well attended with 65 and Family Day was busy with 210 guests.

- vi. The Clutesi Exhibit is well in progress and will open at the Alberni Valley Museum on Saturday March 25, 2023 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. School programs are in development now as is a Pro-D workshop for teachers.

l. Hupacasath First Nation – no report

m. Tseshah First Nation – no report

7. Next Meeting

- a. Wednesday, April 5 → 7pm (McLean Mill)

8. Adjourn

- a. Moved by Colin to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm