



RECEIVED

OCT 16 2023

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Heritage Commission Meeting
September 6, 2023
7:00pm → AV Museum
Agenda

Location:
AV Museum

Attendees:

ACRD
Chamber of Commerce
Community Arts Council
Community at Large
Historical Society
Industrial Heritage
Maritime Heritage
McLean Mill
School District 70
Staff

Penny Cote
Jolleen Dick
Claudia Romaniuk
Colin Schult
Gareth Flostrand
Richard Spencer
Ken Watson
Elliot Drew
Pam Craig
Willa Thorpe

Regrets:

City Council
Hupačasath First Nation
cišaaʔath (Tseshah) First Nation

Charles Mealey

☒ Council
☒ Mayor
☒ CAO
☐ Finance
☒ Corporate Services
☒ Agenda
☐ Economic Development
☒ Engineering/PW
☒ Parks, Rec. & Heritage
☐ Development Services
☐ Community Safety
☐ Other _____
File # _____

RCM OCT 23/23
0640-20-AVHHC

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Pam that the agenda of the September 6, 2023 meeting be approved as amended.
2. Moved by Colin, seconded by Ken, that the minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Old Business
 - a. Train Station Update (Willa)
 - i. Consultation with the Heritage Commission regarding concealing the exterior venting
 1. Staff to contact the Architect with Heritage Commission preferences (accurate to 1950's, unobtrusive, tenant encouraged to utilize the wainscoting), and forward options to the Heritage Commission Chair for consideration. The Chair will consult with the Commission members, providing staff with feedback to forward to the Architect.
4. Correspondence – none



Heritage Commission Meeting

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Agenda

5. New Business

a. Heritage Week 2024 (Feb. 19 - 25)


- i. Commission members will brainstorm and bring ideas to the October meeting
- ii. The Commission will write a letter to Council to request the proclamation of Heritage Week

b. Election of Heritage Commission Chair


- i. Gareth elected as Chair by acclamation

6. Reports

a. Industrial Heritage Society



Western Vancouver Island
Industrial Heritage Society



September 6th, 2023 Report to the Heritage Commission

1. We have been given the deadline of September 30th to have everything removed from the McLean Mill Barn. Society volunteers are working with the AV Museum to coordinate this ordeal. I.H.S. volunteers have made several trips to the Mill site & Barn to prepare the clearance and have already cleared the centre alley of the building to facilitate access to both sides of the space. They have removed all IHS vehicles except for the Bullmoose, which is being used to lift out heavy items. They have spent several days working to make movable a couple of I.H.S.-owned vehicles at the open-faced garage, to make possible their removal, to create space to store the two 'McLean' trucks in the barn.
2. Cleanup at the APR Roundhouse happened over the summer with the society removing 90% of the blackberries with a rented machine. Fill will be delivered in the coming weeks to make the back area ready to move some items from the McLean Barn into storage at the property. The goal for the front field of the Roundhouse is to turn it into a static museum accessible year-round to visitors as another form of display and education.
3. The Alberni Pacific Railway budget and business plan is underway and will soon be released to City Council and staff as well as promoted publicly to show what the WVIHS is hoping to do with the Alberni Pacific Railway in 2024 and beyond.
4. A meeting was held with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, City of Port Alberni, Island Corridor Foundation, Tseshah First Nation, Hupacasath First Nation, Port Alberni Port Authority, San Terminals and the WVIHS to discuss the future of the Alberni Pacific Railway. All groups gave their verbal support to apply for grant funding to hire a consultant to do a feasibility study and write a business plan to get the Alberni Pacific Railway back to McLean Mill feasibly.
5. The WVIHS and the team at McLean Mill hosted a Tour Group of 40 Swedes to McLean Mill on August 31st. Although we were unable to run the logging show for them as requested, they still enjoyed the visit of what we could offer with a tour of the site, a demonstration by David Hooper at the logging site, and lunch catered by Smittys. The Swedes also visited the Industrial Heritage Centre.
6. We held our annual Antique Trucks and Machinery Show on September 2nd and 3rd at the IHC which was attended by many locals and visitors from all over. More than a thousand visitors each day! We made many connections with new volunteers and gave the community a great event.



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Agenda

- b. City Council – no report
- c. School District
 - i. Schools are ready throughout the District.
 - ii. New Reporting on Student Learning in B.C. – new Provincial Proficiency scale; contact: student.reporting@gov.bc.ca
 - iii. School District Board meetings and Partner committee meeting schedules have been adjusted. First meeting is Sept 26 in Bamfield.
 - iv. Flags in School District at half-mast; history explanation letter is on the district website. The new Residential School Survivor Flag will be added to all school district sites. Link to National TRC flag info – <https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>. Barney Williams of the Nuuchah-Nulth First Nations participated on the national committee of Residential School Survivors in the creation of the flag.
 - v. The District recently announced the expansion of our administrative team: Manager of Mental Health, Wellness and Addictions, Siri Curliss. Manager/Navigator of Early Learning for Indigenous Children, Tasha Sam Human Resources Executive Assistant, Hannah Fletcher.
 - vi. New District Strategic Plan 2023/2024 -2027/2028 is at the publishers – will be posted very soon on the district website. The District Operational Plan has already been created in consultation with Staff and the Superintendent as result of the completion of the Strategic Plan.
- d. Community at Large
 - i. September Activities Around Town
 - FRIDAYS 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Friday Night Market – Harbour Quay
 - 7-10 Alberni District Fall Fair
 - 8 -? APS CIK CHA CHIM HIY AP Making It Right | Road to Reconciliation
AV United Church 930-130, Luncheon provided. Providing a safe space for listening, healing, understanding cross-culturally with compassion & empathy. Moving forward together. Renewing Trust.
 - 9 – Fall Fair Parade – 10am Burde Street along 10th Ave
 - 10 – Trail Riding Jump Jam @ Williamson Park 12-5
 - Vern Wright Memorial Run commemorating Bill Surry 11am from Athletic Hall
 - 12 – Let's Communicate @3543 Galiano Drive – Develop speaking skills and confidence 645-8pm – Shirley Maxwell Toastmaster
 - 13 - Parade of Programs – City of PA/KidSport Alberni/AV Food Security Society @ Echo 530-7pm



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7:00pm → AV Museum

Agenda

Barkley Sounds Community Choir @ AV United Church 645

14 – Plant Vegan Potluck – AV United Church 530-8 bring a dish to share

16 – Kids Halloween Costume Swap – BC Comm Hall 2-5pm – FREE

Book Launch @ Mobius Books- Perry Bulwer's Misguided-My Jesus Freak
Life in a Doomsday Cult 11am

16-17 – Port Alberni Toy Run noon from Little Qual Falls, afternoon
festivities @ Glenwood, evening dance, Sunday breakfast 8am, Poker run at
930

Island Off Road Racing @ Alberni Motorsports Park, Trill Pit RD

17 – Family Farms Day @ Various AV farms 11-3, tours, activities, recipes

19-20-21 – PA Blood Donation Event 2-645 BW Barclay Hotel

20 – Meet the Babysitters – Echo Community Centre 5pm

The OK, DOPE Stand Up Comedy Tour @ DMB 7pm

23 – Alberni Co-Op Community Day @ Glenwood Centre 11-2

Featuring the story of “Stone Soup”, a classic story of bringing together
community after hardship and adversity.

On the day of our event the first 200 families will receive a “make your own
soup kit” upon arriving.

24 – AV Rivers Day @ BC Comm Hall 10-3 Games, Salmon dissection,
activities. Learn about Salmon migration. Concession stand

26 – Alberni Classical Concerts – Season opener with Eliot String Quartet
7pm, Arrowsmith Baptist Church

27 – Connect with your City – Open House 6-8pm Echo Community Centre

29 – Bubble Tea Party with Princess Bubbles – Mecca Tea 4-7pm \$15 each

Tour De Rock dinner @ RCL \$20, riders piped in @ 5:30pm

30 – Orange Shirt Day Gathering @ BW Barclay – Open House Art Show 10-3

30 – Oct 1 – Alberni Giver Take Hare scramble @ Alberni Cold Creek

Motocross Track 4pm

e. Community Arts Council

i. Art Exhibits

July 4- August 25 Wednesday Painters- we had \$3320.95 in sales, \$2388.05
went to the artists.

August 29 – October 27 Back in Time in partnership with the AV Museum
Meet and Greet

Saturday September 9, 1-3 October 31 to November 9 Art Auction –
Partnership with Rotary Auction evening event

Thursday November 9 7-9 pm November 14 – December 23 Mistletoe
Market



Heritage Commission Meeting

September 6, 2023

7:00pm → AV Museum

Agenda

- ii. 3 workshops in July and August
- iii. Children's Summer Program Attendance: age 7 -8, 22: age 9-11, 19: age 11-13, 17
- iv. Raffles Spring raffle basket winner Milvia Oldale
- v. Solstice Arts Festival 35 spaces were reserved. Apart from a lot of wind, this event was very successful. There was music by various groups during the festival.
- vi. Attendance Gallery attendance has been excellent over the summer: 1108 in June, 1111 in July, and 1025 approx. in August.
- vii. Friday Evenings at the Gallery Each Friday evening from 5-8 local artists have been demonstrating and displaying their art outside the gallery. The gallery has been open until 8.

f. Maritime Heritage Society



PAMHS Report to the Heritage Commission September 6, 2023

The PAMHS activities over the summer as well as upcoming events are summarized below:

- **Parks & Rec Summer Kickoff** – On June 23rd we hosted a booth at this event at Bob Daily Stadium. Our big Lighthouse model as well as the pin making station were a big hit with lots of families stopping by to visit us.
- **Alberni District Co-op Grant** – On June 14th we were very pleased to receive a \$5000 contribution towards the Lighthouse upgrades from the Alberni District Co-op Community Investment Fund. This funding will help greatly with our planned exterior upgrade on the Lighthouse to get it looking its best again.
- **Summer Programs** – Our summer programs were well attended this year with over 1171 visitors during July and August. Our Facilities Coordinator, Chris Johnson and our Exhibits Guide/Program Assistant, Kaylen Poirer kept the Gallery and Lighthouse open for visitors all summer and provided 8 "Maritime Monday" craft program events for children. In addition, on Friday's we provided a crafts event at the Lighthouse for kids attending Parks and Recreation's day camp program. Kids from the Salvation Army's day camp also attended regularly.
- **Pirate Day** – On August 14th we hosted "Pirate Day" which provided nautical adventures for 122 kids including a treasure hunt, walking the plank, face painting, and a spray tent to help keep cool as it was scorching hot day.
- **Open Hours** – We are now back to our fall hours open 4 days a week, Fridays to Monday from 11am to 4pm. Please stop in to our Gallery and lighthouse to meet our Facilities Coordinator Chris Johnson and learn some interesting facts about our maritime history in Port Alberni.



Heritage Commission Meeting
September 6, 2023
7:00pm → AV Museum
Agenda

g. Chamber of Commerce



Heritage Commission Report – Sept 2023
Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

Prepared by Jolleen Dick, CEO

- We had our AGM in June with 46 attendees and are welcoming new and returning members to the board. The Board of Directors at present consists of:
 - o Terry Deakin, President
 - o Chris Washington, Vice President
 - o Tim Morrison, 2nd Vice President
 - o Crystal Knudsen, Treasurer
 - o Peter Wienold, SecretaryDirectors: Dave Heinrichs, Nicholas Metzger, Tiana Bryant, Andy Richards, Jack Roland, David Michaud
- We were successful in securing funding to hire a total of 10 summer students to work at the Visitor Centre and McLean Mill
- Our focus over the past few months has been advocacy and information sharing because of the Cameron Bluff's Wildfire. We launched a survey to gather real-time feedback on challenges businesses were facing during the initial two-week closure. A measurement of the economic loss isn't available from the Alberni Valley at this point in time, but the work is on-going.
- The Chamber is increasing its membership base and have welcomed 12 new members since May 2023.
- We are looking forward to hosting networking events this fall, our next on is Friday, October 6th and is sponsored by the Port Alberni Port Authority. The event will run from 8am – 10am, with guest speaker Josie Osborne. Tickets and registration details to be released by the end of the week.
- The Port Alberni Visitor Centre had an exciting season with lots of down time due to the road closures. We became a source for local information, and we immediately received an influx of visitors when the roads were unexpectedly closed. I am extremely proud of how well everyone on our team handled the challenges and continued to provide excellent service and suggestions for what to do in the Alberni Valley.
- We had a total of Total: 5,058 engagements for the summer season:
 - o May: 685
 - o June: 1,114
 - o July: 1,668
 - o August: 1,591
- We look forward to completing our Indigenous Learning and Project grant with funding from Destination BC to improve our Visitor Services by the end of the year. We are replacing the Places of Interest Map and designing it with nuučaanliut phrases, and sites of interest for visitors. This project is done in partnership and consultation with Tseshah and Hupacasath First Nations.



Heritage Commission Meeting
September 6, 2023
7:00pm → AV Museum
Agenda

h. McLean Mill

- i. This summer season has been a trying one. The Cameron Bluff Fire saw a dramatic drop in tourist traffic. With visitation down 35% in July and 43% in August we had no choice but to curtail some activities to maintain our budget. The Admin building redesign and the Walking Tour signage project have been deferred until we have resources.
- ii. On the event front, McLean Mill hosted 4 wedding in July and August with 3 more to come in the fall season. All but one of our large out of town and international tours were unable to visit due to concerns about road closures. We were pleased to welcome Parks, Recreation and Heritage day camp participants numerous times to the site where our Youth Historic Interpreters we happy to pass along the valuable lessons gleaned from our heritage.
- iii. The Campground too was affected by the highway closures, the silver lining is that those that did stay had lots of room to spread out and enjoy the serenity of our surrounding forest.
- iv. The Mill was open 23 days in July and welcomed 810 guests during Office hours. August saw us open 21 days and 625 visitors attended. Due to the restricted travel most of our guest continue to be locals enjoying the nature of the site. International tourists make up about 25% of our visitors with most hailing from Germany, Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries.
- v. Our five Summer Students really enjoyed working on the site and with our guests. All of them have returned to their studies but we are fortunate to have a couple willing to fill in Weekends during the fall shoulder season.
- vi. Upcoming Fall events
 - Sept 16 – Wedding
 - Sept 23 – Wedding
 - Sept 27 – Corporate retreat day rental
 - Oct 13 – Wedding
 - Oct 21 – Community Arts Council Craft Fair
 - Oct 28 – ADAPS Haunted Mill
 - Nov 5 – Alberni Bowmen One Day Shoot

i. Historical Society

- i. We were open during the summer months. Enquiries came in & were addressed. A few items were taken into our collection. Guests came in and were helped with their research.
- ii. July & August volunteer hours were 316 & ¼. Lots of work was accomplished by our dedicated ladies!



Heritage Commission Meeting

September 6, 2023

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Agenda

- iii. Congratulations go out to Shelley Harding on her upcoming retirement. Her last day is Oct. 27th. We wish her well on her next journey! Thank you, Shelley, for all your help & advice.
- iv. The Archives are open Tues-Thurs., 11am to 3 pm.

- j. Regional District
 - i. Sproat Lake Community Association celebrated 70th Anniversary of registered society August 12th at the Sproat Lake Hall with over 250 participants. Thanks to the AV Historical Society for help with a commemorative card from an old Sproat Lake Regatta Program from 1954 showing the concept drawing of the now SL Hall. Thank you to Gareth for attending and representing the Heritage Commission.
 - ii. Sproat Lake is at the lowest lake level and in crisis for many water intakes and environmentally damaging foreshore from docks, dry streams for fish habitat.
 - iii. Sproat River weir plates were not replaced in the spring and Somass Fish Flow have advised the plates will not be replaced at this time due to lack of water in the rivers for fish flow.
 - iv. Water conservation is advised for the future at Sproat Lake.
 - v. The ACRD opened the EOC for one day at the beginning of the Cameron Bluff fire highway closure. There is an ACRD committee in place to investigate a secondary route for the highway by passing Cameron Lake.
 - vi. UBCM is September 18 - 22, 2023 in Vancouver. AVICC has invited Premier Eby to our Association lunch where we will have opportunity to speak to him. AVICC key issues are Legislative Reform, Water shed issues, Housing and Roads.
 - vii. August saw 3 SLVFD members and SL fire truck along with members from Beaver Creek and Cherry Creek FD's assist with the West Kelowna interface wildfire helping out to save homes.
 - viii. There is talk of the Water Bomber Flying Tankers leaving Sproat Lake. It is expected that at least one will be flying to the Victoria Aviation Museum.

- k. Museum
 - i. Exhibits:
 - 1. George Clutesi exhibit continues to be very popular and a powerful exhibit for those visiting. With the passing of George Clutesi Jr., we are respecting the wishes of the family and are not planning events and activities that would involve the presence or participation of any family members. We had many family members in for special visits



Heritage Commission Meeting
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Agenda

and are using the exhibit with summer programs. Wrapping work with UVic and Royal BC Museum is happening now – take down and packing the week of September 5-8.

2. Next Exhibit – September to January → Eyes on the Skies: Managing Air Traffic in Canada from the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum. Eyes on the Skies examines the rapid evolution of air traffic management, exploring the systems, people, and technologies that keep these busy skies safe. We are planning a special opening, school program and birthday party option in conjunction with this exhibit. Reaching out to the local flying club for some programming partnership. Exhibit install takes place the last week of September.
- ii. The Fall Film Fest has been confirmed – tickets and series passes are now on sale. All films show at the Paramount theatre at 5pm on one Sunday a month:
 1. September 24 “What’s Love Got to do With It”
 2. October 22 “Past Lives”
 3. November 19 “The Miracle Club”
- iii. Work is continuing on the planning for the 2024 biannual Art Invitational exhibit – The dates will be mid-May to early September – Title: “What Moves Us”. Working with a committee from Art Rave.
- iv. Public programs – In August we continued with our summer day camps: Camp Roots, our Education Assistant helped deliver a French Day Camp and our Dinosaur Camp. Assisted the IHS with delivery programs and the IHC, programs and tours for other camps and groups were provided.
- v. Ongoing priority - Continue with working on a plan with IHS members to move their vehicles out of the barn at the McLean Mill – and have been challenged with developing a plan and suitable location for the large collection of McLean Mill artefacts now stored there. This is ongoing large project and working with IHS and City staff to develop and coordinate a plan to ensure the barn is empty by September 30, 2023.
- vi. Preparing a photo panel display for the IHS for their Annual Truck Show which takes place at the IHC September 2 and 3.
- vii. Research work continues with members of the Huu-ay-aht and their contract curator regarding repatriation of artefacts.
- viii. New in the Museum Shop: Three new Chocolate Bars from Coombs Country Candy White chocolate with cherries and coconut, milk chocolate with toffee and plain dark chocolate – wrappers feature heritage photographs or



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Agenda

a museum artefact.

l. Hupačasath First Nation – no report

m. Tseshaht [čišaaʔath] First Nation – no report

7. Next Meeting

a. October 4 → 7pm (AV Museum)

8. Moved by Colin to adjourn at 8:55pm.