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CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Alberni Valley Museum  
and Heritage Commission



Heritage Commission Meeting  
November 1, 2023  
Minutes

Location:  
AV Museum

Attendees:

ACRD  
City Council  
Community Arts Council  
Historical Society  
Industrial Heritage  
Maritime Heritage  
McLean Mill  
School District 70  
Staff

Penny Cote  
Charles Mealey  
Nancy Blair  
Gareth Flostrand  
Richard Spencer  
Don Jones  
Elliot Drew  
Janis Joseph  
Willa Thorpe

<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

Regrets:

Chamber of Commerce  
Community at Large  
Hupačasath First Nation  
čišaaʔath (Tseshah) First Nation

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Nancy that the agenda of the November 1, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Penny that the minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting be approved as amended.
3. Old Business
  - a. Train Station
    - i. As the wainscoting inside the Train Station was glued and nailed to the interior walls, it was unable to be salvaged for future use (the wainscoting was not a heritage component)
    - ii. Concealment options for roof – the Commission prefers option one (no concealment)
4. Correspondence
  - a. The 2024 Parks Canada Cost-Sharing grant is now live; staff will be submitting an application for the McLean Mill National Historic Site, same as in previous years



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5. New Business

- a. Shifting from Parks, Recreation and Heritage to Parks, Recreation and Culture
  - i. No further questions about this change in the department
- b. Two Spot Locomotive Display
  - i. Council meeting discussion (starting at 7:23 at <https://www.youtube.com/live/eFMOKhMpEw4?si=U7cGzandtGBbaxZm>)
  - ii. Carried motion from Council:  
THAT Council direct staff to invite comment from the Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission and prepare a report outlining alternate locations to display the Two Spot Locomotive within the proximity of the train station.  
Resolution No. No. 23-288
    - 1. The Commission will forward staff feedback by November 8 for inclusion in the staff report


6. Reports

- a. Historical Society
  - i. October volunteer hours were 200.5. Thank you to all our very dedicated volunteers!
  - ii. We are looking for the following year telephone books: 1969; 1983 & 2007. If you have a copy that you would care to donate to the Archives, we would appreciate it very much.
  - iii. The index of businesses in the Alberni Valley has been updated. We now have 1890-1990. Still a long way to go.
  - iv. The Archives are open Tues-Thurs., 11am to 3 pm.



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b. Chamber of Commerce



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office@albernichamber.ca

November 1, 2023

Chamber Report to Heritage Commission  
Submitted by Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer

**Fall Activities & Highlights**

**Regional Alberni-Clayoquot Economic Recovery and Resiliency Initiative**

- We had our kick-off meeting on Tues Oct 31, 10-12 to make sure we are on the right track with stakeholders and rightsholders to provide a report on the impacts of the Highway 4 road closures due to the Cameron Bluff's Wildfire.

**Events - Business Leaders Breakfast**

- Our first event of this style was a great success with 40 attendees at the Hospitality Inn with MLA Josie Osborne. We're pleased with the sponsorship from the Port Alberni Port Authority. We welcome future sponsorships to continue providing these events.

**Small Business Week – October 16 – 20th**

- MP Gord Johns and I went on a business walk to hear from local businesses on what their challenges were. We heard an increase in vandalism, social issues, staffing, and CEBA loans being some of the main issues.

**Highlights**

- Travelled on the new chip-sealed road to Bamfield and Anacla to celebrate the Huu-ay-aht Road Reconciliation project.
- Attended the Vancouver Island Economic Summit in Nanaimo, it was great to reconnect with Island Leaders and businesses and learn about trends and insights on the island.

albernichamber.ca

*Respectfully conducting our business on the unceded traditional territory of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht [cišac̓at:] First Nations.*



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c. McLean Mill


- i. October has brought a very busy end to our regular 2023 season at McLean Mill. We have continued our shoulder season hours of Thursday thru Sunday 10 am to 4 pm but regular staffed hours have finished with the end of the month. Attendance has become very weather dependant and Camping and e-Bike rentals have trickled to a halt. Guided Tours are available by appointment but self-guided tours are, as always, available at all times by donation. The Giftshop remained open during staffed hours and has now closed with remaining stock heading to the AVCOC Visitor Center for the holiday season.
- ii. We hosted our final wedding of the season on Friday, Oct 13th bringing our 2024 total to 10. The Community Arts Council partnered with us on Oct 21 to host a Pre-Christmas Craft Market that was a great success with 308 attendees and 21 vendors, making for a very busy and profitable day for all involved. The ADAPS Haunted Mill fundraiser returned to the Mill on the 28th with resounding results. 2325 visitors dared to face the spooky fun. We are still awaiting final accounting, but I am sure that we will well surpass the \$6000 raised last year.
- iii. As always it is a thrill to welcome young people to the site and have opportunities to share the importance of heritage with the next generation. In October we hosted a group of 20 from St. Michaels University School in Victoria. On Oct 17, Richard and I visited ADSS to share the heritage and business of McLean Mill with the Tourism 12 class. This was a wonderful experience to share not only the importance of having our national historic site but also the how's and why's of its economic impact on our community.
- iv. As we enter of Winter season, we have a lot of work to do on site packing up artefacts and preparing for the return of harsh weather. We do continue to have events and usage of the hall and courtyard through the upcoming months but now we turn to reflecting on our operational wins and challenges from this season and making plans to make 2024 our best year yet.
- v. The Mill was open 17 days in October and welcomed 403 guests during Office hours outside of events.
- vi. Upcoming Fall events  
Nov 5 – Alberni Bowmen One Day Shoot  
Dec 8 – Christmas Party  
Dec 16 – Christmas Party





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- d. Heritage Week
  - i. Elliot has started initial outreach
- e. City Council – no report
- f. Industrial Heritage Society



**Western Vancouver Island  
Industrial Heritage Society**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Report to the Heritage Commission**

1. On October 5 Noon Rotary Club Members had a Guided Tour of the Alberni Pacific Rail Roundhouse, to see the "Two Spot", the "No. 7" locomotive and the restored 1909 Caboose.
2. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, President Ron Corbeil and Vice-President Richard Spencer made a presentation to City Council providing information on what the WVIHS has been up to this year and our future plans with the Alberni Pacific Railway.
3. The WVIHS sadly lost one of our directors on October 21<sup>st</sup>, Barry Dobrensky, who was one of the leaders and head boilermaker in multiple boiler rebuild projects, including the latest rebuild of the 1929 Baldwin #7 Steam Locomotive. Barry and the Boilermakers worked on all three of the City-owned steam engines and got them re-certified over the last ten years. No. 7, the Farquhar steam tractor and the Steam Donkey. Barry had been trying to plan a public steam up event at the APR Roundhouse this past summer, but had been put on hold due to regulation requirements.
4. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, members attended the retirement party for Shelley Harding. She was presented with a framed painting and a card. The society wishes Shelley the best on her retirement and future endeavours, and would like to thank her for all the support she's given us over the years.
5. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, five volunteers participated in "The Haunting" Haunted Mill hosted by ADAPS at McLean Mill. We provided a candy donation that volunteers handed out to children in the haunted village, and brought three historic trucks up for the occasion.
6. The Alberni Pacific Railway Business Plan, Budget and supporting documents has been posted to the public via our new website, [www.albernipacificrailway.ca](http://www.albernipacificrailway.ca). We want to be as public as possible with our plan going forward. APR Manager Richard Spencer is always willing to answer questions, and hear comments and concerns about the plan. He can be reached at [info@albernipacificrailway.ca](mailto:info@albernipacificrailway.ca) or by phone at (250) 735-5440.
7. October 31 marked the 40th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Industrial Heritage Society. There is a Special Edition of the "Spot Newsletter" in honour of the occasion. On November 29, there will be an Anniversary Dinner, followed by a Presentation on "Rail Logging on Vancouver Island" by Doug Harrison.
8. Christmas Art Show & Market at the Industrial Heritage Centre. Saturday, December 2nd.

Submitted by  
Richard Spencer, Vice-President  
Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society

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- g. Regional District



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- i. Grant in Aid process open until January 31
- h. Community Arts Council
  - i. Art Exhibits
    - 1. We are just finishing a very successful exhibit, "Back in Time" in partnership with the Alberni Valley Museum.
    - 2. Beginning October 31 and finishing on November 9th, we are having an art fundraiser in partnership with the Rotary Club. Most of the donated pieces of art will be part of a silent auction and on Thursday, November 9th, 7-9 pm there will be a live auction with Councillor Charles Mealy as the auctioneer. This is a ticketed event, \$40 a ticket. There will be food, drink, and music. Food catered by Grass Roots, music by Dennis & Guy.
    - 3. November 14th - December 23rd will be our annual Mistletoe Market.
  - ii. Workshops
    - 1. November 25th - dying with weaving and spinning presented by Janet Finch
    - 2. Kids Crafts - November and December
  - iii. Fundraising
    - 1. On October 21, 10 - 4, we had our first (for many years) Christmas at the Mill. Over 300 attended, including a food truck. The weather cooperated. We are hoping this will become an annual event.
    - 2. Poinsettia/wreath - must be ordered by November 6
    - 3. Christmas Raffle basket, November 1 to December 20
  - iv. Harbour Quay Light up

December 1, 530 pm. The CAC is organizing this event again this year. We are hoping for the ADSS band, and Timbre Choir to perform, and, also hoping for good weather.
- i. School District
  - i. The Pacific Rim School District's next Public meeting is Nov 28 at 5pm at John Howitt Elementary School.
  - ii. The Board of Education's October 24, 2023 Regular Public meeting was held at Ucluelet Elementary in Ucluelet. The Board had a special presentation from Kaamat (Levi Martin) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. Kaamat presented a moving lesson for Trustees with story, humour and in the language of his Nation which illustrated the deep meaning of the new goals set in the District's strategic Plan. Kaamat is a fluent speaker from his Nation.



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- iii. The BC Government introduced legislation on Oct 26 in regards to systemic changes in the School Act. The changes are aimed at improving First Nation student learning outcomes. The changes will involve Local Education Agreements with Boards of Education (Pacific Rim has LEA's with all the Nations of the region). All Boards will be required to have local Indigenous Education Councils (Pacific Rim has had an IEAC for many years). Districts will also be required to offer 'school-of-choice' for students who live on reserve, self-governing or Treaty Lands will attend.
- iv. Pacific Rim Trustees attended the VISTA Fall Conference in Nanaimo Oct 13 & 14. All 12 Vancouver Island Boards were represented at the conference. The VISTA Branch is the largest branch in the province. The professional development for Trustees at the conference was an exceptional presentation from the Snunymuxw First Nation CAO, Chief Joan Brown, on the teachings from the Nation on protecting the climate. The Trustees also discussed Motions that will be brought forward at the Provincial Trustees AGM in April. – final details to come. The provincial association for Trustees will meet for Pro-D Nov 23 to 25 for the Fall Academy in Vancouver.
- v. Pacific Rim Students will all attend Remembrance Day services at their individual Schools. Trustees have received the schedule and will be in attendance depending on their personal schedules.





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j. Maritime Heritage Society

The logo for the Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society, featuring a lighthouse inside a circular frame.

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

**Visitor Totals**  
October saw 100 visitors to our facilities, which is down significantly from the prior month.

**Gift Shop Consignment**  
We are now including, on a consignment basis, local art and craft items in our Gallery Gift Shop. Local artist Guy Langlois has three paintings hanging in the Gallery. Please contact our Facilities Coordinator, Chris Johnson, if you are interested in viewing his paintings.

**Maritime Mondays**  
We had one Maritime Monday in October. Attendance was low but the children had a lot of fun.

**Space Rentals Available**  
Both the Lighthouse and the Gallery are available for special event rentals on a very affordable basis. We welcome bookings for weddings, birthday parties and other family events. Check our Facebook page or contact our Facility Coordinator for rates and availability.

**Lighthouse Upgrades**  
We are fundraising towards our goal of \$70,000 to undertake exterior upgrades to our iconic waterfront lighthouse structure. So far, we have received grants totaling \$10,000 for this project. Many thanks are extended to the Alberni District Co-operative Association Community Investment Fund and the Alberni Valley Community Foundation for their support towards this project.

**Historical Society Joint Meeting**  
Scheduled for April 17, 2024 is a joint meeting between the Alberni District Historical Society and the Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society which will be held at 7:00 pm. in our Gallery.

**New Sign Case**  
Our glass picture frame "open hours" sign broke and has been replaced by a lockable display case on the Gallery's exterior wall. This will be used to post open days/hours and information about the space and up-coming events. Many thanks go to Geo Monruffet for this beautiful display case.

**Annual General Meeting**  
Our annual general meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm. in the Gallery.

**Open Hours**  
Currently, we do not have scheduled open hours for the public until January 1, 2024. Groups can make bookings to view the Gallery and/or the Lighthouse by contacting our Facilities Coordinator, Chris Johnson, by telephone, email or on our Facebook page.  
Contact information as follows:  
Telephone 250-723-6164  
Website portalbernimaritimeheritage.ca  
Facebook maritimediscoverycentre

k. Community at Large – no report

l. Museum

- i. Congratulations to Shelley Harding on her retirement after 33 years with our Museum!
- ii. The barn at the McLean Mill is almost completely empty; the remaining artefacts will be stored on-site
- iii. The winter series of the Film Fest starts on January 21; tickets go on sale on November 15





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- iv. Plans for the 2024 Art Show are ongoing
- v. The Heritage Fair will be re-imagined for 2025 (no Fair in 2024)
- m. Hupačasath First Nation – no report
- n. čišaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation – no report
- 7. Next Meeting
  - a. December 6 → 7pm (AV Museum)
- 8. Moved by Elliot to adjourn at 8:32pm.