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APR 11 2024

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Alberni Valley Museum  
and Heritage Commission



Heritage Commission Meeting

March 6, 2024

Minutes

Location:  
AV Museum

Attendees:

ACRD	Mike Sparrow
City Council	Charles Mealey
Community at Large	Colin Schult
Historical Society	Gareth Flostrand
Industrial Heritage	Richard Spencer
Maritime Heritage	Ken Watson
McLean Mill	Elliot Drew
School District 70	Pam Craig
Staff	Jennifer Robinson
Staff	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

RCM Apr. 22/24

Regrets:

Chamber of Commerce  
Community Arts Council  
Hupačasath First Nation  
čišaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation

Called to order: 7:01pm

1. Moved by Pam that the agenda of the March 6, 2024 meeting be approved as amended.
2. Moved by Mike that the minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Old Business
  - a. Future tenant at Rollin Art Centre
    - i. Heritage Commission to write a letter to City Council with recommendations of prospective tenants for Council's consideration (moved by Pam, seconded by Elliot, carried unanimously)
4. Correspondence – none
5. New Business
  - a. Arrowsmith Rotary – Community Banners  
Announced to City Council that after 15 years, this will be the final installation of the community banner program. Arrowsmith Rotary is happy to work with a new organization to take over the program.

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**6. Reports**

**a. Historical Society**

- i. During the year 2023 our active group of volunteers have logged in 2,320 hours. They are also starting 2024 with a bang - 290 hours. A busy season ahead!
- ii. We need the following Telephone Books to complete the collection in the Archives – 1969; 1983; 2007. Please check and see if you have a copy you would donate.
- iii. Please check newspapers from other Vancouver Island locations for current or former Port Alberni residents who have passed away out of the Alberni Valley. Sometimes the obit doesn't get published in our local paper.
- iv. We have the following gently used books for sale:  
George Watts ...Creating Greatness by Matilda Watts - \$4.00  
High School Algebra – Copyright 1915 – Published 1918 - \$4.00  
North of the Snakerail Fence by Meg Trebitt - \$10.00  
If you have any or know of anyone who has paper treasures and would like to donate them to the Archives, please contact the Archives, Tuesday – Thursday, 11 am – 3 pm. Thank you in advance.



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b. Industrial Heritage Society

The logo for the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society, featuring a yellow logging truck on the left and a steam locomotive on the right, with evergreen trees on either side. The text "Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society" is centered between the images.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Report to the Heritage Commission**


1. The WVIHS held our Annual General Meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the Steelworkers Union Hall. The AGM was attended by 45 members and 5 guests. Elliot Drew made a short presentation on activities at McLean Mill, and Al Boyko, our guest speaker, made a presentation on the History of Logging in the Alberni Valley.
2. Our executive for 2024 are; President - Ron Corbeil, Vice-President – Richard Spencer, Treasurer – Andy Richards, Secretary – Joel Larsen. The executive are accompanied by eight directors; Mel Francoeur, Kevin Hunter, Bill Walker, John Land, Bruce Holland, Laurie LaPlante, Chuck Sokolowski and Daniel Ennis.
3. So far this year, the WVIHS has applied for five grants. ICET's Investment Readiness Fund, Canada Summer Jobs, Co-op Community Spaces Grant, AV Community Foundation Grant and the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund. We are happy to announce that we were successful in receiving the ICET Grant.
4. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we met with the APR Action Group once again to review the ICET Grant results and make plans for going forward. The group will be putting out an RFP for the contract to do the study on rail returning to McLean Mill in the coming weeks.
5. Work continues on many projects, the 1958 Hayes Logging Truck, Displays at the IHC, Displays at the APR Roundhouse, APR Hilton/Office Renovation, APR Speeder #102, and Safety Management System development with Technical Safety BC.
6. Memberships renewals are open for 2024. Anyone wanting to renew a membership or become a new member of the WVIHS can do so by visiting the Industrial Heritage Center during open hours or going online to [www.ihsportalbemi.ca/membership](http://www.ihsportalbemi.ca/membership).





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c. Maritime Heritage Society



**Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society**  
**March 6, 2024 Report to the Heritage Commission**

**Facilities Coordinator Position**  
We will be recruiting for a new Facilities Coordinator position in the near future. Watch for the Position Information on our website and facebook page shortly. Our sincere thanks to our outgoing Facilities Coordinator, Chris Johnson, for all his hard work and the innovative initiatives he undertook over the past year and a half. Good luck with your future endeavors Chris!

**Open Hours**  
Currently, we do not have scheduled open hours for the public until we have a new Coordinator on deck. Groups can make bookings to view the Gallery and/or the Lighthouse by contacting us through the links shown below.

**Art Sale Exhibit and Fund Raiser**  
We are reaching out to artists to produce maritimed themed pieces of art which will be chosen by a committee of our Directors to be displayed and for sale in the Hutcheson Gallery in May of 2024. A poster has been created to promote this event to the Alberni Valley art community. Artists have until the end of April to submit a photo of their work.

**Lighthouse Upgrades**  
We are continuing our fundraising to undertake exterior upgrades to our iconic waterfront Lighthouse. To date we have received grants totaling \$32,000 for the project. Many thanks are extended to the Alberni Valley Community Forest, Alberni Valley Community Foundation, the Alberni District Co-op, Port Alberni Port Authority, Coulson Group, Catalyst Paper, Roc-Star Enterprises, and Western Canadian Marine Recovery for their support. Addition funds are still needed so if you would like to make a donation towards this project please contact us.

**Tsunami 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**  
March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1964 was the date of the devastating tsunami that impacted Port Alberni and other coastal communities dramatically. To commemorate this we are hosting an event at the Gallery on the evening of March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Scheduled speakers will include representatives from agencies ready to respond to a potential future tsunami as well as folks that took a role in the response to our 1964 event. There will also be an open mike opportunity for you to talk about your experience during the 64 event. Door prizes and a silent auction for emergency response equipment are also planned. Hope to see you there!

**Historical Society Joint Meeting**  
A joint meeting between the Alberni District Historical Society and the Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society is scheduled for April 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm. in our Gallery.

**Contact Information**  
Telephone: 250-723-6164      Facebook: maritimediscoverycentre  
Website: portalbernimaritimeheritage.ca      Email: portalbernimhs@gmail.com

d. Regional District – no report

e. Community Arts Council

i. Gallery Exhibits:

Present exhibit – Cairis Wall and Lorne McNab Mixed Media

March 26 to April 26 – OPEN – when colour speaks to you – Ignite your imagination



## Heritage Commission Meeting

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- ii. Meet and Greet April 6, 1-3
- iii. Workshops 2024  
Two day Paverpol workshop with Cheryl Frehlich – March 16 and March 23 ,  
Saturdays 10:30 to 3:30
- iv. Fundraisers:
  - 1. Greater Victoria Police Chorus – Sunday, April 14, 230pm  
ADSS Auditorium  
Tickets\$30
  - 2. SAGE – joint partnership creating birdhouses (Sage) and artists to  
paint (CAC) spring baskets April 12 to May 31
  - 3. McLean Mill – Teas at the Mill  
July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25
  - 4. Book Sale – Mother’s Day weekend. Friday 6pm to 8pm, and  
Saturday 9am to 3pm. Athletic Hall. Rugby Club will be carrying out  
the boxes to the truck and into the hall as soon as they can get to  
Gill School after school.
- v. Changes at the Gallery.  
We will be posting imminently for a full-time assistant gallery/digital  
responsibilities position. We will evaluate both positions in September.  
These changes are partially because we will need to be open many more  
hours during the summer.
- f. Chamber of Commerce – no report
- g. McLean Mill
  - i. February has continued our off-season theme of planning, paperwork, and  
purging.
  - ii. To aid in our planning we visited Chris Gale and Neil Malbon at the BC Forest  
Discovery Center in Duncan for insight in how their operation works and  
ideas we could implement to improve our visitor experience. I also had the  
pleasure to present at the IHS AGM, sharing our success from 2023 and a  
rough plan for 2024. The 2024 season picture is still waiting on two major  
pieces before plans can be finalized and we are hoping to have those  
decision in place for next month, so we can begin to share and market our  
next phase of growth.
  - iii. We also finalized our paperwork for 2023 and are excited to get the final  
word back from the accountants so we can share how we weathered a  
challenging year.
  - iv. The purge continues as we make room for the future, and we will be holding  
a virtual give away later this month once I have got everything together.



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With the spring weather springing our attention is turning back to our exterior space as we begin to prepare the site for visitors. Luckily this winter has been fairly mild and so while the job is expansive it should be manageable. Also, a big thank you to Marley Bros Excavating and owner Zach Marley, who have been working on the Septic Project at the Mill. They have gone above and beyond to help do some road repair that will ensure our visitors can safely navigate our site this season.

- v. We are pleased to welcome back Ridgeview Health and Performance back to the Mill on Apr 7th for the return of the McLean Mill 10KM run. We are also pleased that April will also see us hosting the Alberni Bowmen 3-day shoot Apr 19th – 21st.
- vi. As planning and booking for the season continues, we look forward to updating you on all the exciting developments coming to our National Heritage Site.

h. School District

- i. Pacific Rim Board of Education's next public meeting is Tuesday Match 12 at Eighth Avenue Learning Centre at 5pm.
- ii. School District Canada Flags are at half-mast in honour of the passing of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney until sunset of the day of the funeral.
- iii. Two key Board Motions passed at Feb 27th Public Meeting:

1. Land Based Learning Programs:

THAT the Board of Education direct staff through the Superintendent, to commence Land Based Learning Programs for Alberni District Secondary School and Ucluelet Secondary School, starting in September 2024; and to commence the Pacific Rim Wild Experience and Pacific Rim Wild Guide and Outfitting Programs, starting in the Summer 2024.

2. Co-governance with Nuuchahnulth Nations:

THAT the Board of Education direct staff through the Superintendent to invite the following Nuuchahnulth Nations, ʕaahuusʔaʔh (Ahousesht First Nation), ʕišaaʔaʔh (Tseshahst First Nation), diitiidʔaaʔtx (Ditidaht First Nation), ʕaʔuukʷiʔaʔh (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation), ʕukʷaaʔaʔh (Toquaht Nation), hiškʷiiʔaʔh (Hesquiaht First Nation), hupačasath (Hupacasath First Nation), ʕuuʕuqʕisʔaʔh (Uchucklesaht First Nation), huuʔiiʔaʔh (Huu-ay-aht First Nation), and Yuuʕuʔiʔaʔh Government, to provide written expression of their interest in moving forward with Co-Governance, sitting with the Board of Education and Standing Committee members at Public Board Meetings and Standing Committee





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Meetings, in a collaborative, consultative and consensus building manner, supporting the decision-making processes of the governing body; and

THAT the Board of Education direct staff through the Superintendent, to request each of the above-named Nuu-chah-nulth Nations to provide the name of a selected representative, selected to sit in the above-described cogoverning structure, on behalf of their respective Nations.

- iv. New replacement Board Office signage on Roger Street.
- v. Public Consultation on Policies posted to District website.
- vi. Trustees will be attending the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association Spring Conference March 8 & 9 in Qualicum School District.
- vii. Two important District initiatives:
  - 1. FIT – Focused Intervention Team – grade 8-12 - funded by Ministry Public Safety and Solicitor General. Specific criteria are in-risk youth, substance use/addiction, extreme vulnerability, sexual exploitation, trafficking, street/gang entrenched, homelessness. The focus is on bridging high risk youth with existing community resources, school supports, and promoting/building/strengthening/ protective factors.
  - 2. ICY – Integrated Child Youth Teams – currently have Clinician working, soon to hire a Peer Support Worker (lived understanding of mental health and/or substance use) team building in process but will include an integrated approach with multi-ministerial service providers, including a substance use specialist.
- i. Community at Large
  - i. March Activities Around Town
    - 5,6,7th – PA Blood donation event @ BW Barclay 2-645pm
    - 6th – Gardening for Life, the Biodynamic Way @ Char's 6-8pm led by Gary/Louise Swann, Leda Farm, entrance by donation
    - 7th – Quizbang Trivia at DMB 7pm
    - Drop In Spin/fibre night at AV Museum 6-8pm
    - Mt Klitsa Garden Club Echo Centre 7pm Dogwood – March Surprises and Survivors
    - 7/8/9th – Calendar Girls at the Capitol 630 for 730 start tix on sale on-line @ [www.atthecapitol.org](http://www.atthecapitol.org)
    - 8th – Ladies ONLY Kickboxing 630-730pm 4358 Roger St, every Wed and Friday
    - International Women's Day Event- highlighting local women owned businesses in PA – 4951 Benjamin RD 12-7



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ADSS Drama Club – “She Kills Monsters” 7pm  
9th – Watercolour Drop-in hosted by Courageous Community, United Church 11am, by donation  
PushMe PullYou Dance workshop @ Char’s 2-4pm, tix \$20 (\$17 seniors)  
ADSS Drama Club – “She Kills Monsters” 1pm and 7pm  
Int’l Women’s Day Market – Leave her wild container design 12-7pm  
Fundraiser for Youth @ Hupačasath House of Gathering- Loonie Twoonie 9-4  
9th-10th – AV Rock and Gem Club – Annual R&G Show @ Athletic Hall: 10-5 and 10-4  
9th and 10th – PA Home Show at the Glenwood Centre Free Admission 10-6 and 10-4  
12th – West Coast Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band AGM at Legion 7pm  
AV Fibre Guild – monthly meeting 6pm AV Athletic Hall conf room  
14/15/16th - Calendar Girls at the Capitol 630 for 730 start tix on sale on-line @ [www.atthecapitol.org](http://www.atthecapitol.org)  
16th – Mandala dotting – Gateway Church 6-9pm \$45 per person, must reserve a spot, appies included – Stress relieving Art  
20th – AVCOC Luncheon Eagles Nest Golf Course tix 34.82/46.01 @ 12pm – Networking luncheon  
Port Alberni 2024-2044 Economic Futures – Focus on jobs and affordability @ Char’s 7pm, free event by AVTTS  
21/22/23rd - Calendar Girls at the Capitol 630 for 730 start tix on sale on-line @ [www.atthecapitol.org](http://www.atthecapitol.org)  
23rd – Spring into the Season 2024 – online event by Alberni District Fall Fair 11-230. Meet vendors and products online March 17-22 then meet in person in pick up purchases, visit other vendors and enjoy the day  
31st – Neighbourhood Easter Pancake Breakfast – Arrowsmith Baptist Church 930-1015am  
30th – Easter Egg-stravaganza – Gyro Park 10am

j. City Council

- i. Right in the thick of budget process. There was a full house at Monday’s Committee of the Whole meeting where the Mayor suggested a variety of items to decrease the 2024 taxation percentages.  
The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Monday, March 11.

k. Museum

- i. Dr. Jennifer Robinson started as our Manager of Culture on Monday
- ii. Sylvia Gropp, our Education Curator, starts on April 2





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- iii. Our Family Day event was a huge success, with 200 families (over 400 people) participating
  - iv. Due to the departure of a staff member, we have cancelled our Spring Break camps and have pressed pause on hosting birthday parties and programs until staff have the chance to review next steps
  - v. The merchandise in the shop has now shifted to spring; staff encourage you to have a peek
- l. Hupačasath First Nation – no report
- m. čišaaʔath (Tsessaht) First Nation – no report
7. Next Meeting
- a. April 3 → 7pm (McLean Mill)
8. Moved by Colin to adjourn at 8:34pm.