

Alberni Valley Museum  
and Heritage Commission



**Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission**  
**Meeting of Wednesday June 7, 2017**  
**7:00 pm in the AV Museum**

**Minutes**

**Attending:**

Bert Simpson  
Penny Cote  
Libby Manson  
Judy Carlson  
John Douglas  
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage and Culture

**Regrets:**

Pam Craig  
Jolleen Dick  
Deanna Beaudoin  
Nancy Blair  
Gareth Flostrand  
Dan Washington

Called to order 7:05pm

1. Thank you to Bert Simpson for acting as Chair at this meeting, in the absence of Gareth Flostrand.
2. Moved by Penny Cote, seconded by Judy Carlson, that the agenda of the June 7, 2017 meeting be approved.
3. Moved by Penny Cote, seconded by John Douglas, that the minutes of the May 3, 2017 meeting be approved.
4. Correspondence
  - No correspondence – but noted that Shaw TV had started running a new “Time Traveller” segment discussing the 1967 Amalgamation of Alberni & Port Alberni.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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5. Updates:

- Read the letter responding to the ACRD request for input from the AVMHC concerning the Friends of Rails to Trails Vancouver Island's proposal to convert the E & N corridor to trails, following the motion carried at the May meeting:
  - a. that the AV Museum and Heritage Commission strongly endorsed the maintenance of the corridor, but does not support a rail to trail conversion, preferring the installation of trails in addition to the rail right-of-way, so as to not impede potential rail use.
- Heritage Notes – taken from the 1967 newspapers in the Community Archives collection – are being prepared for presentation at the City Council meetings in the fall – final arrangements for their presentation TBD.
- It was decided that informal, open Heritage Commission meetings would be held in July and August this year, to focus on the form the Commission should take moving forward. John Douglas offered the use of the Maritime Discovery Centre for the first meeting, to be held at 7:00 PM, July 5, 2017, at the Hutcheson Gallery of PAMHS.

6. Reports:

6.1 Bert Simpson reported for the WVIHS.

- The trains are running – the BCIT training is taking place this week – but the heavier locomotives are restricted to the city side of the trestles – the #7 Baldwin steam locomotive is up and running, but its range restricted because of this. There was some discussion – Bert Simpson clarified that the #11 diesel-electric switching engine could run to McLean Mill, as it weighs 45 tons, compared to 90 tons for the #7, and 135 tons for the Alco diesel-electric locomotive. This places it within the current load-bearing capacity of the trestles.
- Les Stevens & Mike Hobson plan to take steam equipment to McLean Mill for demonstrations, but not until an on-site caretaker is hired.
- The JJ Logging operation, following some minor adjustments to meet Worksafe requirements, is cleared to offer its demonstrations this summer, on Fridays only. Work Bee was held to cut fire wood for Steam Donkey on Saturday.
- The IHC contingent is getting trucks ready for the July 1 Canada Day parade – the Centennial Belles will be riding on the lowbed, although it sounds like City Councillors will not be riding with the WVIHS this year.

6.2 Judy Carlson reported for the ADHS

- The ADHS AGM took place on May 18, with the same Board, but two new directors, Sandy Smith & Marta Williamson. Sharon Hill presented on the book project from Ty Watson House, based on 70 interviews with loggers.
- In October, the Historical Society will be presenting a program in cooperation with the PAMHS.

6.3 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum.

- There is no news of progress on the proposed tripartite agreement for the management of the Alberni Valley Museum.
- Preliminary talks and work is starting on the development of the "Home Front" exhibit, in cooperation with the Royal BC Museum, funded by the \$21,000 Canada 150 grant

from the BC Museums Association. Objects and graphic materials will be selected from the RBCM collection to present the "provincial" section of the exhibit.

- Our summer student will be starting soon, and as well as some work on the exhibit above, will be working to develop updated walking tours, as well as interpretive materials for the permanent galleries of the AVM.
- The 2017 Regional Heritage Fair took place successfully on May 5-6 – with a good turnout of students, and about 80 community volunteers. In spite of the lack of a train, the visit to McLean Mill NHS went smoothly, due to the efforts of the staff of SD70. Thanks are due to all the students, teachers, volunteers, sponsors, and organizing committee who make this event possible
- Alberni Film Fest will be returning in the fall, with a three-film series – as well as providing films otherwise unavailable to the community, this raises funds for the AVM education program.

#### 6.4 John Douglas reported for the PAMHS.

- Students are hired for the summer season.
- Jenn Preedy has been working out well as the group's Co-ordinator.
- Preparing for Port Days on June 17 – things are going well.
- Work is continuing on the shelter for the steam launch *Swan*, and interpretive materials will be prepared for it also.
- The MDC hosted a travelling group of Thai Rotary members – they also visited the AV Museum.

#### 6.5 Libby Manson reported for the Community at Large.

- The ADSS Drama presentation of "Rock of Ages" May 11-13 was successful – a good production.
- The Valedictorian and Master of Ceremonies were chosen today for the 2017 ADSS Graduation Ceremonies – the last day of school – June 21 – is coming up quickly.
- Port Alberni Pride Fest is coming on the July 22-23 weekend, with a range of activities offered over two days

#### 6.6 Penny Cote reported for the ACRD

- The annual Sproat Lake Regatta is taking place again on the weekend of July 14-16.
- The Sproat Lake Community Hall has had an AED Defibrillator installed for cardiac emergencies, and community members are being trained in its use.
- Noted the issues and controversy over the closure of McCoy Lake Road due to the washing out of the Nook Creek Bridge – presents a delay for first responder access – but on private land – and the landowner and Ministry of Transport both have gates up. A temporary bridge is to be installed this month in advance of the salmon run – discussion continues between landowner & government.
- The Airport expansion project is completed – the airport is now operational and open again.
- Pleased with the "Time Traveller" series as a way of promoting heritage & the AV Museum.

7. Next Meeting
  - Discussion about holding informal meetings of the Heritage Commission in July & August – it was decided to do so – with the July meeting to be facilitated by Penny Cote, following the Open Space and World Café models.
  - 7:00 PM, Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at the Maritime Discovery Centre of the PAMHS.
8. Adjournment
  - Moved at 8:10 by Penny Cote to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair  
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

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Davina Hartwell, City Clerk  
City of Port Alberni