

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



**Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday April 2, 2014
6:30 pm at the Maritime Discovery Centre & Train Station**

Minutes

Attending:

Mike McDowall, Chair
Pam Craig
Bert Simpson
Marta Williamson
Neil Malbon
Gayle Stephen Player
Judy Carlson
Denis Bill
Penny Cote
Dan Washington
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage & Culture

Regrets:

David Taberner
Gareth Flostrand

1. Heritage Commission Priorities – part 2 of the review of collections held by the various Heritage Network partners.
 - At 6:30 the Commission was given a tour of the Hutcheson Gallery and the Lighthouse, comprising the Maritime Discovery Centre, operated by the Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society. Status of the collections, exhibits, and operational issues were presented by HC Chair and PAMHS board member Mike McDowall.
 - At 7:05, the Commission reconvened to tour the historic Train Station, one of the facilities operated by the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society. Status of the collections, exhibits, and operational issues were presented by HC members and HIS board members Bert Simpson and David Taberner.
 - The regular meeting was called to order at 7:38.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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2. Moved by Dan Washington, seconded by Marta Williamson, that the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting be approved.
3. Centennial (Harrison) Legacy Fund.
 - Recommendations of the subcommittee presented by Mike McDowall & Jamie Morton – that the surplus funds from the provincial centennial grant [approximately \$14,500] be used to fund the installation of the centennial pond at the AV Museum entrance, and the installation of a permanent sign/monument to commemorate the 1964 Port Alberni tsunami, consistent with the earlier direction of the HC.
 - Moved by Penny Cote, seconded by Marta Williamson, that the application from the ADHS for \$300, for the purchase and installation of a microform reader-printer, and the application from the IHS for \$300, for the restoration of the McLean Mill steam donkey, be approved, and the funds directed to these organizations for the stated purposes. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Paper Mill Stones Monument relocation initiative:
 - Jamie Morton briefly updated the situation – he is working on a letter to City Council presenting the current issue and the position of the Heritage Commission.
5. Community Heritage Register – update:
 - Marta Williamson reported on some of the activity and issues involved in adding more structures to the Community Heritage Register – noted the complexity of the process, and the need to meet provincial and federal standards.
 - Buildings being considered include the Arlington Hotel, the Yates Funeral Home/former Anglican church, the Wynans home, and the Patterson home.
6. Reports:
 - 6.1 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill
 - The McLean Mill van is to be used as a mobile visitor centre by the Chamber of Commerce – to be repaired and “wrapped” with graphics.
 - This will be done in conjunction with the promotion of the MyAlberni App – another Chamber initiative, in partnership with Derek Appleton, to promote the region.
 - Work is proceeding on the Kitsuksis Creek Fishway project – the saddle berm is built, and the logging demonstration area is mostly prepared.
 - Visited by Neil Jerome – working on the research project & website – “Sawmills & Sawdust People” – an overview of the industry on Vancouver Island – lists 500 employees for McLean Mill – great source of collected information.
 - 6.2 Bert Simpson reported for the IHS
 - April 1 monthly board meeting was postponed to April 8 due to the BCIT course.
 - Work proceeding at the IHC on the McLean Mill steam donkey – some issues encountered with the swaging equipment – and on a couple of truck projects.
 - IHS members working on various projects at McLean Mill, including the Kitsuksis Creek project, building repairs, etc.
 - 6.3 Mike McDowall reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society
 - Tseshaht First Nation whaling exhibit for the summer proceeding – looking forward to its installation.
 - PAMHS board meeting of March 25 focussed on questions of governance and funding/budgeting – issues for the future.

- MDC hosted a visit from Maquinna school – the Port Authority boat and others were involved also – a good experience for the students.
- The lighthouse register continues to grow, with Nootka lighthouse now added.
- The tsunami 50th anniversary commemoration event hosted at the Hutcheson Gallery on March 28 was successful – Jamie Morton noted that about 130 attended, and speakers included tsunami survivors, Luke George of Tseshah First Nation, and MLA Scott Fraser.
- The PAMHS will be hosting a presentation about the sinking of the *Valencia*, confirmed for Trinity Church, on April 24 at 7:00 PM. This is intended as a membership-building event.

6.4 Judy Carlson reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- Next public meeting coming up on April 17 – featuring Adrienne Mason presenting on the history of Tofino.
- The microform reader-printer is installed and operational – the first year of newspapers has been processed, and so will be searchable.

6.5 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Successful events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Port Alberni tsunami – Emergency Preparedness event at ADSS March 27, historical commemoration event at MDC March 28 – good turnout for both.
- Other recognition – interviews & filming with Shaw, Global, CTV TV, CBC & CFax radio, AV Times & AV News, Vancouver Province, etc. Presentation to Chamber of Commerce March 26.
- Design for permanent sign/monument is complete – will be installed next to the Starboard Grill at Harbour Quay – still need to establish the height of water at that point – conflicting stories.
- Working on improving the Museum gift shop – buying some new stock, and improving the display systems.
- School tours and birthday parties continuing at the AV Museum.
- Preparation under way for the regional Heritage Fair – about 120 students expected.
- Work proceeding on the Kitsukis Creek/Fishway project at McLean Mill – everything completed on time and on budget for the first DFO reporting stage – March 31.
- Good cooperation on this project between funding partners – West Coast Aquatic and City of Port Alberni – and various parties involved in design, construction, environmental monitoring, etc.
- Coordinating and juggling the various summer exhibits – Nelson Joseph at the AV Museum, tsunami exhibit from the MDC to the Train Station, Tseshah whaling exhibit to be installed in the MDC.

6.6 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation

- Noting the media coverage of the tsunami anniversary.
- Work on the development of the Tseshah whaling exhibit continuing – calls have been put out for the fabrication of replicas of traditional whaling equipment/gear, and for the production of commissioned prints and artwork specifically for the exhibit.

6.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- The “Mountains & Mist” exhibit is closing soon – with a new exhibit of the works of Shayne Lloyd beginning on April 11.
- Fundraising raffle is ongoing, with baskets as the prizes.
- New initiative in partnership with Parks, Recreation & Heritage to have a juried competition for the installation of permanent community murals in the Echo Centre Pool enclosure.

- The book sale – a major fundraiser – is to be held at Echo Centre on Saturday, May 10. To be followed by a garden sale, hosted by the Mt. Klitsa Garden Club.
- The Tea on the Terrace program planned again for this summer.
- A pumpkin carving event & contest is planned for October 25.
- December 6-7 & 13-14 – the dates for the Christmas Craft Sale.
- Days with the Arts 2015 is in the planning stage – to be held April 25-26.

6.8 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce

- Quotes are being received for the restoration of the Focal Point sign – generally quite expensive.
- Executive Director Bill Collette has written and submitted to the media a strong and effective response to the *MoneySense* article describing Port Alberni as the worst place to live in Canada.
- A “character map” is being developed for Port Alberni.
- The Business after Business program has been well-received – popular and effective for networking.
- Tsunami presentation was included at the Chamber’s dinner event on March 26.

6.9 Gayle Stephen Player reported for the community at large

- The Business Women’s Group [including Gayle Stephen Player] has taken on responsibility for the Canada Day Parade – partnering with the Folkfest Multicultural Society – organization is starting for this year’s event.
- The Alien Sports purchase mentioned last month involved Asian brokers working with immigrant applicants – interesting investment for immigration model represented.
- Kevin Wright of Steampunk Café is implementing the installation of street speakers in the Uptown district.
- Noted the creation of the “worst place” spoof webpage – going viral with responses to the *MoneySense* article.

6.10 Penny Cote reported for the Regional District

- The Sproat Lake Regatta revival is continuing to organize – has a 10 year deal with BC Parks to use the provincial park – has applied for a noise exemption with the ACRD.
- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference coming up.
- Met with the new regional Director of North Island College, Andrea Baluchi, who seems very positive about the community.
- Advocated for initiatives such as the “Molehill” program in Vancouver, in which a block of historic houses off Burrard was purchased, rehabilitated, and reused – such a program of rehabilitating whole blocks of housing may work well in Port Alberni.

6.11 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- The final result of cost-cutting in the budget was to reduce the increase in residential taxes to 2.2% - much lower than originally anticipated.
- Council will meet on April 14 at 1:00 PM live in front of the students at ADSS – to see the operations of Council in person.
- In response to a question about Canal Beach, Dan Washington noted that he had asked for a year in which to approach service groups and develop alternative plans for developing the beach at minimal cost to taxpayers.

6. Next Meeting

- 6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at the Roundhouse & Industrial Heritage Centre.

9. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:50 by Dennis Bill to adjourn the meeting.



Mike McDowall, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni