

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



**Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday March 5, 2014
6:30 pm in the Museum**

Minutes

Attending:

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

1. Heritage Commission Priorities – part 1 of the review of collections held by the Heritage Network partners.
 - At 6:30 the Commission was given a tour of the AV Museum galleries and storage/work areas – with status of the collections and issues presented reported by Museum curators Kirsten Smith and Shelley Harding.
 - Following this the group toured the ADHS Archives – with Judy Carlson reporting on the collections and issues that the Historical Society faces in administering that collection.
 - The regular meeting was called to order at 7:15.
2. Moved by David Taberner, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting be approved.
3. Centennial (Harrison) Legacy Fund.
 - Subcommittee had not met to determine protocols for allocating money from this fund.
 - Subcommittee meeting booked for 1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 19 to discuss.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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4. Paper Mill Stones Monument relocation initiative:
 - Dan Washington and Jamie Morton outlined the current situation.
 - Penny Cote, Pam Craig, and Neil Malbon reiterated the point that this should remain a City of Port Alberni project, given that there was consensus that the City wanted the monument/stones. Would a recommendation concerning location assist in this?
 - Discussion – Penny Cote, Pam Craig, Neil Malbon, and Dan Washington – resulting in direction to the Museum Manager to prepare a letter to City Council presenting the current issue and the position of the Heritage Commission.
5. Tsunami 50th Anniversary Commemoration March 27-28:
 - Events include:
 - a. March 27 @ 7:00 PM - event at ADSS – organized by emergency services, with speakers, possible historical display.
 - b. March 28 AM – emergency preparedness workshop – siren, etc.
 - c. March 28 1:00 – 4:00 PM – open house/event at the Maritime Discovery Centre, hosted by the PA Maritime Heritage Society.
 - Jamie Morton inquired if funds from the Centennial Legacy Fund could be used to fabricate and install a permanent monument to the event, to incorporate the plaque & line salvaged from the demolished Clutesi Haven building.
 - Following discussion, it was moved by Pam Craig, seconded by Marta Williamson, that funds from the Centennial Legacy Fund could be allocated to fabricate and install such a monument. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Community Heritage Register Redux
 - Marta Williamson reported on the revival of the Community Heritage Register following some years of inactivity.
 - Buildings being considered include the Arlington Hotel, the Yates Funeral Home/former Anglican church, the Wynans home, and the Patterson home.
 - Some discussion took place concerning commemorative/recognition signs – the cost, design, and placement of them. Pam Craig was adamant that brass plaques not be used, and the Powell River signs were mentioned as a model.
 - Museum staff will investigate some options and report back.
7. Reports:
 - 7.1 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill
 - Hosted the Heritage Week event – thanks to AVM & Shelley for organizing.
 - Lumber deck reconstruction continuing.
 - Brad Berry Enterprises won the contract to construct the Kitsuksis Fishway – work starting soon.
 - 7.2.1 David Taberner reported for the IHS
 - BCIT course will be hosted at the end of March – particularly arduous schedule this year.
 - 7.2.2 Bert Simpson reported for the IHS
 - Hosted the Heritage Week event at the IHC – successful – also the Dad's Night Out event at the same facility – over 50 people attended.
 - Winter maintenance on the #7 locomotive at the Roundhouse.
 - Track work bee at the Roundhouse.
 - Steam donkey rebuilding project continuing at the IHC.

7.3 Mike McDowall reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- Tseshah First Nation whaling exhibit for the summer – Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared – waiting to hear back – work plan due March 20.
- Hosted an Heritage Week event – c.25 attended.

7.4 Judy Carlson reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- Next public meeting coming up March 20 – to recognize the provincial centenary of the 4H Society.
- Judy Carlson was interviewed by Shaw Cable concerning the cancellation of the Canada Day parade.
- Progress on developing a trail on the CNPR railbed – lease agreement signed between Island Timberlands and the ACRD.

7.5 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Went over some of the issues – such as the open storage philosophy – in caring for & displaying the collection housed in the AV Museum.
- Mentioned the Industrial Collection also – housed in the IHC, Roundhouse, and at McLean Mill – cared for by the IHS, but part of the City/Museum collection.
- Outlined the comments from BCAC concerning the grant application – reminder that a community steering group is required for municipal museums [!], and concern about the downgrading of the director's position to a manager.
- Summarized the McLean Mill fishway project – letting the contract and starting construction.
- Outlined the various events in support of the 50th anniversary of the PA tsunami [see item 5 above].
- Active with school tours and birthday programs – preparations starting for Heritage Fair in May.
- Meetings to develop the summer Nelson Joseph exhibit.

7.6 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation

- AGM being held for the overall community.
- Question of hereditary chief – Adam Shewish was not replaced on his passing, although there are 3 lower-ranking hereditary chiefs in place.
- Research is proceeding concerning rights – some concern about encroachment from other First Nations – Tseshah will be asserting their position more clearly – there may be a role for the Heritage Commission and AV Museum in clarifying some of these issues.
- Later discussion confirmed that it is appropriate to acknowledge both the Tseshah First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation as traditional holders of the land in the Alberni Valley – for instance at City of Port Alberni or ACRD events.
- The new "Orange Bridge" sign – who put it there? This is a prominent feature for the Tseshah.

7.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- Jason Titian, with students from EJ Dunn School, is carving a totem for the Children's Garden at the Rollin Art Centre.
- November 29 is the planned date for the Rollin Light-Up.
- December 6, 7, & 14 – for the McLean Mill Light-Up & Craft Fair.

7.8 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce

- Community Excellence Awards to be held April 25 – sponsored by the See Group of Companies.
- Chamber will have a booth at the Abbotsford Sportsmen's Show.

- Chamber carrying out a study/survey on the contributions made to charity & non-profit organizations by businesses in the Valley.

7.9.1 Gayle Stephen Player reported for the community at large

- Alien Sports has been purchased by a foreign investor.
- The purchase of the Federal Building on Argyle is in process.
- An RFP has been issued for a float plane service to Port Alberni Harbour.
- The Uptown Merchants Association purchased a block of radio ads on The Peak.

7.9.2 Gareth Flostrand reported for the community at large

- The AV Bulldogs made the playoffs, which is driving ticket sales – also has a trickle-down effect as out-of-town visitors come to attend the games.

7.10 Pam Craig reported for the School District

- A successful anti-bullying/pink shirt day was held at district schools on February 26.
- PAC seems revitalized – stronger and more active in the district – 150 comments were posted to the website – all of which were read by the trustees.
- School Board elections coming up – to elect trustees for a 4-year term.

7.11 Penny Cote reported for the Regional District

- As noted by Judy, the Inlet Trail project is moving ahead.
- Penny Cote is arranging for a budget to include a referendum to fund heritage in the fall elections.
- Work proceeds on the Sproat Lake Regatta revival – verbal approval has been received from BC Parks to use the provincial park – raffle tickets will include Westjet tickets as prizes.
- The Uchucklesaht First Nation has now joined the Regional District – so three First Nations are now members.

7.12 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- Budget deliberations continue – still some discussion of charging an entry fee to the AV Museum.
- Dan Washington and Penny Cote reinforced the idea that it was important to make the benefits of heritage clear to City Council as well as the Directors of the ACRD.

7. Next Meeting

- 6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at the Maritime Discovery Centre.

9. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:35 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Mike McDowall, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni