

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday May 7, 2014
6:30 pm at the Roundhouse and Industrial Heritage Centre

Minutes

Attending:

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

1. Heritage Commission Priorities – part 3 of the review of collections held by the various Heritage Network partners.
 - At 6:30 the Commission was given a tour of the Roundhouse by HC members and WVIHS Directors Bert Simpson and David Taberner. This included an overview of the scope and nature of the APR railway collection, jointly owned by the City and the WVIHS, the facilities for storage and maintenance, and the nature of the work performed by the volunteers. Operational and collection management issues were reviewed.
 - At 7:00, the Commission reconvened to tour the Industrial Heritage Centre [Old Arena] another of the facilities operated by the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society. Again, the status of the City and IHS Industrial Collections, the facilities, and operational and collection management issues were presented by Bert Simpson and David Taberner.
 - The regular meeting was called to order in the IHC at 7:30.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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2. Moved by Judy Carlson, seconded by David Taberner, that the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting be approved.
3. Updates.
 - Centennial (Harrison) Legacy Fund – cheques will be prepared for the approved applications from the ADHS for \$300, for the purchase and installation of a microform reader-printer, and from the IHS for \$300, for the restoration of the McLean Mill steam donkey.
 - Paper Mill Stones Monument – letter to City Council is still in preparation – the issue seems to have faded away again.
 - Community Heritage Register – the submissions have been prepared and submitted for the new nominations – the response from the Provincial Register has been less than helpful – simply suggesting that the committee “consult the format” in order to make the submissions conform more closely to the required style.
4. *Komagata Maru* Commemorative Event:
 - HC Chair Mike McDowall has been in discussion with members of the Port Alberni Sikh Temple concerning an event to commemorate the centenary of the *Komagata Maru* incident, when South Asian immigrants were prevented from landing in Vancouver. There was a Port Alberni connection, with the discussion of this city becoming an alternate port of entry.
 - The event is to be held on Sunday, May 18 at 11:00 AM – Jamie Morton will forward the invitation to the Heritage Commission members.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill
 - Preparations are under way for the opening of the summer season.
 - Several school classes visited last week as part of the “Gently Down the Creek” program, augmenting salmonid study in the classroom.
 - The Heritage Fair participant train/visit to McLean Mill went well – good weather for the event.
 - A wedding is booked for Saturday May 10, and Mother’s Day is May 11 – train runs planned for both events – also a cruise ship visit on Friday May 16.
 - Work is proceeding on the Kitsuksis Creek Fishway project, and on the preparation of the logging demonstration area – the gin pole is to be raised on May 14, with the ADSS forestry class attending, and the spar tree is to be raised on May 24.
 - 5.2.1 David Taberner reported for the IHS
 - The #11 MB switching engine was used for the Heritage Fair run, due to #7 being down for repairs – successful, but a heavy load for it. The RS3 will be used for the wedding and regular runs until the #7 is repaired and operating again.
 - The tank car rebuild is complete – still intending to add a pump to it.
 - 5.2.2 Bert Simpson reported for the IHS
 - Mandatory Rules and Tests have been completed for railway crews
 - Work proceeding on the spar tree/logging demonstration site at McLean Mill.
 - Repairs have been made to the vandalized rail line past McLean Mill – thanks to Ken Fyfe, who contributed one of his excavators, and a local quad group that helped.
 - Work proceeding at the IHC on the McLean Mill steam donkey, and on the Hayes chain drive truck.

- The model room at the Train Station has been completed, now including a model of the Cameron Lake trestle.
- Work is proceeding at the Roundhouse to repair the superheater tubes of #7, and to make the Macdonald's caboose operational.
- Neil Malbon offered a reminder about the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Franklin River camps – to be held July 26-27 at McLean Mill.

5.3 Mike McDowall reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- The last PAMHS board meeting – April 29 – was very long - questions of governance and plans for the future.
- One summer student position was approved – 2 requested – but there is a possibility of a student through the Nuuchah-nulth summer hiring program.
- The tsunami exhibit is down in the Hutcheson Gallery, and work is proceeding on the Tseshah whaling exhibit – text is being reviewed, images are selected, and reproductions of whaling gear have been commissioned – the tentative soft opening date is June 9.
- June 14 is planned as a documentary film night/event – details TBA.
- The presentation about the sinking of the *Valencia* at Trinity Church on April 24 was very successful – good attendance, some memberships sold, and an interesting presentation.
- Mike McDowall hosted an unexpected visit from a Vancouver school who were stranded in the area when their bus broke down – more school groups are anticipated.
- The PAMHS will be hosting its AGM on May 27, at the Echo Field House.

5.4 Judy Carlson reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- The next meeting is the AGM – to be held on May 15 at the AV Museum.
- The typewriter and quill pen used as props in the Archives for Heritage Fair were very well received by the students – much interest.
- Maxine Munsil is developing expertise in the operation of the new microform reader/printer.

5.5 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Heritage Fair – May 2-3 – again a great success – thanks to AV Museum staff - Shelley, Kirsten, Cathy, Sandra – to Pam Craig and the other HC members that worked on it – and to all the groups and individuals that contributed – with presentations and demonstrations, as judges and organizers – all went very smoothly, with nearly 120 students and great projects. The students seemed to enjoy it – nice to see the PA students explaining things to the out of town students.
- The improvements to the Museum gift shop – buying some new stock, and improving the display systems – are starting to pay off, with increasing sales.
- School tours and birthday parties continuing at the AV Museum.
- Work proceeding on the Kitsukis Creek/Fishway project at McLean Mill – things are moving along, with some weather delays – but the new channel is being dug, the donated bridge has been moved on site, and work has started on it – work nearly complete on preparing the logging demonstration site in preparation for raising the spar tree – good cooperation between contractor Brad Berry, WVHHS volunteers, DFO and environmental representatives, as well as between the funding partners – West Coast Aquatic and City of Port Alberni.
- Work continues on coordinating the summer exhibits – Nelson Joseph at the AV Museum, tsunami exhibit to be installed in the Train Station, Tseshah whaling exhibit to be installed in the MDC.

- Received approval for a grant from Young Canada Works/Canadian Museums Association for one summer student – to be associated primarily with the tsunami exhibit at the Train Station – but the hiring process has been slowed down by the need to meet City requirements – applications closing May 30.

5.6 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation

- Work on the development of the Tseshah whaling exhibit continuing – progress is good, and the community is excited about the project.
- Mike McDowall mentioned that the BC Maritime Museum had expressed interest in the exhibit.
- Pam Craig suggested promoting the exhibit through the Chamber of Commerce.

5.7 Gareth Flostrand reported [for Marta Williamson] for the Community Arts Council

- The book sale fundraiser is to be held at Echo Centre this Saturday, May 10, from 9:00 – 3:00. The plant and garden sale at the Rollin Centre, hosted by the Mt. Klitsa Garden Club, is taking place from 10:00 – 12:00 the same day.
- The Tea on the Terrace program will be taking place on Thursdays at the Rollin Centre in July and August.
- Work is proceeding on the gardens at the Rollin Centre.

5.8 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce

- Jenny's Fine Foods, Gifts & Eclectica is opening its new location at the Chamber's Visitor Centre on May 17.
- The Community Excellence Awards were held on April 25 – sold out event.
- Gayle Stephen Player recognized HC member Gareth Flostrand, who won the Volunteer of the Year award at the event – congratulations Gareth!
- The successful Business after Business series will be hosted at Steampunk Café on May 15 at 5:30.
- There are discussions underway about including the APR train runs in the Ambassador program this summer.

5.9.1 Gayle Stephen Player reported for the community at large

- The Uptown Merchants' Association participated in a district cleanup last Tuesday.
- The Business Women's Group is working on the Canada Day Parade.
- Bill Collette and the Chamber of Commerce are working on a bubble map of the city – which is linked to the MyAlberni app, developed by Derek Appleton.
- The 2014 Official Visitors' Guide has been released – looks good.

5.9.2 Gareth Flostrand reported for the community at large

- Very impressed by the entries at this year's Heritage Fair – quality is up overall.
- There will be a presentation on alternate power at Char's Landing on May 21.

5.10 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- 14 parade entries have been received to date – hoping for 100.
- There were 56 judges, monitors, and workshop presenters who participated in this year's Heritage Fair – the volunteers make it possible, and link to the community.
- Next Tuesday – May 13 – the first Board meeting since the resignation of superintendent Cam Pinkerton – the meetings may run through the summer.
- The ADSS awards event is to be held on June 11.
- Choirfest is taking place this Thursday night.

5.11 Penny Cote reported for the Regional District

- The Sproat Lake Regatta revival is ready to go, including a show & shine, races, and a poker run – on the weekend of July 18-20.
- Island Timberlands is putting in a road and a boat launch as part of the program.
- Are there historic outboard motors available for the show & shine?

5.12 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- Things are going smoothly at City Hall.
- An open house was held to discuss Canal Beach, with some good ideas brought forward.
- April 14 Council meeting was held at ADSS – a positive experience for all.
- Attended the ADSS wrestling awards, and was very impressed by the calibre of the student athletes.
- With Mayor Douglas in Ontario, Dan Washington will be Acting Mayor for the May 26 Council meeting.

6. New Business:

- Penny Cote raised the idea of a Heritage Commission presentation to the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board – to incorporate heritage more into the promotion of living in the community. A committee meeting was organized for May 21, with Mike McDowall, Pam Craig, and Jamie Morton participating.

7. Next Meeting

- 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at McLean Mill NHS.

9. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:22 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Mike McDowall, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni