

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



**Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday September 3, 2014
7:00 pm at the AV Museum**

Minutes

Attending:

Mike McDowall, Chair
Jolleen Dick
Pam Craig
Jake Heid [substitute for Bert Simpson]
David Taberner
Dan Washington
Dennis Bill
Judy Carlson
Gayle Stephen Player
Penny Cote
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage & Culture

Regrets:

Gareth Flostrand
Marta Williamson
Neil Malbon

Called to order 7:01 PM.

1. Moved by David Taberner, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting be approved.
2. Introduction and welcome to new Heritage Commission member, Jolleen Dick, representing the Hupacasath First Nation.
3. Heritage Commission Priorities for 2014:
 - The tours of Heritage Network facilities have been completed, although there is a possibility of touring other facilities that have cultural collections, such as that of the Tseshah First Nation, and the Rollin Art Centre of the Community Arts Council.
 - To move forward, a workshop will be held, at which more specific issues will be raised, and questions posed, to assist the Heritage Commission in formulating a position concerning heritage collections that may be presented to Council.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

4255 Wallace Street Port Alberni BC Canada V9Y3Y6

TEL (250) 723 2181 FAX (250) 723 1035

- J. Morton will facilitate this workshop, and will prepare a set of briefing materials for distribution to the Commission prior to the workshop. He will distribute some possible dates and times in late October and early November 2014, and will set a time in consultation with the Commission for the workshop.

4. Updates.

- Centennial (Harrison) Legacy Fund
 - a. Centennial Fountain: the anticipated cost of installing a fountain at the entry to the AV Museum is probably more than the available funds will cover. An alternative is to place the fountain in the former fountain base in the Echo Centre parking lot – it already has provisions for plumbing and power, and will require less site preparation and excavation. We are waiting on an estimated cost for fountain installation in this location to determine if it can be covered by the funds available. Penny Cote raised the issue of the Centennial time capsule, which was to be incorporated in the fountain project – this will be included in the estimate.
 - b. Tsunami Plaque at Harbour Quay: the plaque itself has been received, and we are now waiting on an opening in the Parks & Recreation construction schedule to have the base built. Although it is intended to incorporate the former high water marker from the Clutesi Haven Marina in this base, Penny Cote expressed concern about combining these elements, and would prefer to have the Clutesi Haven plaque replaced approximately in its original location. The possibility of doing this will be investigated.
- Paper Mill Stones Monument: this has been referred to the Heritage Commission for advice. The City website has a survey, closing September 15, and the results will be used as the basis for the Heritage Commission's recommendations to City Council concerning a location for the monument. From that, Council will decide how it wishes to proceed with this initiative.
- Martin Mars Water Bomber: this has become a more pressing issue, due to the possibility of the Hawaii Mars being sold out of the community. Stacey Gaiga is advocating for ways to keep the plane in the community, and the Heritage Commission should anticipate a role in this discussion.
- Other updates: Penny Cote mentioned the need to proceed with the initiative to collaborate with the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board in support of heritage. A committee meeting will be held at the AV Museum on September 8 at 4:00 PM to discuss this further.

5. Reports:

5.1 David Taberner [for Neil Malbon] reported for McLean Mill

- The former McLean Mill Van – now Chamber of Commerce Mobile Visitor Centre – has been active throughout the summer.
- The bridge is in place and open to traffic as the Kitsuksis Creek Fishway project proceeds.
- The steam logging demonstration area was completed in June, and operated throughout the summer season.
- The Franklin River 80th anniversary event that took place at McLean Mill was very successful, with over 500 visitors participating.

5.2 David Taberner reported for the IHS

- Ridership on the Alberni Pacific Railway is up 8% over last year – special events, like the Beaufort Gang "robberies," were filled to capacity [190 passengers], with people turned away.

- A group of speeder enthusiasts from out of town, including the USA, will be visiting Port Alberni and McLean Mill on Monday & Tuesday next week [Sept. 8-9].
- The Labour Day Truck Show, held this year at the IHC, was a big success, with 54 trucks participating, a good turnout of visitors, and donations totalling more than \$3,800, including a single \$1,500 cheque.
- Visitation to the Train Station was good this summer, with over 1,000 names in the visitors' book, and many viewing the new model train room.
- IHS participation in the Qualicum train station centennial was well-received – it included speeders, a velocipede, and trucks.
- The Farquhar steam tractor was the hit of the historic tractor show in Nanaimo – thanks to Les Stevens.

5.3 Mike McDowall reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- A successful summer season, although total visitation was down to a little over 5,000 people.
- There were fewer children's events, but more children participated in them.
- The new Tseshahst exhibit – *Hishok: One with the Whale Spirit: Tseshahst Whaling* – was well-received.
- The missing ramp from the wharf to the float was an issue, but is a Port Alberni Port Authority responsibility, so little information on when it might be resolved.
- The application for a gaming grant was turned down, so there are concerns about the finances of the organization.
- The last PAMHS board meeting – April 29 – was very long - questions of governance and plans for the future.

5.4 Judy Carlson reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- It was a quiet summer overall for the Society & the Archives.
- Maxine Munsil has been training more people in the operation of the new microform reader/printer.
- October 16 is the next meeting, with Dr. Patrick Dunae as the featured speaker.

5.5 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- The *Nelson Joseph* exhibit is ending September 6 – to be followed by *We Are All One* – based on the children's paintings from the Alberni Indian Residential School – which will have a soft opening October 9, and official opening October 16 [in conflict with the ADHS event – this will be resolved].
- The Tsunami exhibit at the Train Station has ended for the summer, and our summer student, Jacqueline Savoie, has left to return to school. This was a successful venture, with Jacqueline documenting interaction with over 500 visitors in the exhibit, and many more viewing it in addition – she also provided excellent support to the APR operation, as well as keeping the Station open more hours than ever before in the tourist season.
- Preparing for the Fall Fair – for the first time the AV Museum will be sharing a station with Parks & Recreation – we have a good location, and anticipating many visitors.
- Preparing financial statements and proposals for the BC Arts Council operating assistance grant.
- Sneak preview of the Emily Carr oil painting of Sproat Lake that is in the process of donation from Ralph Tieleman of Tofino – once we have the signed gift form, it will be unveiled for a one-week period between the temporary exhibits, to highlight this great addition to the City art collection – and to the community.
- Work proceeding on the Kitsukis Creek/Fishway project at McLean Mill – still need to complete the pond berm and diversion mechanism, but the project is nearing completion.

5.6 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshaht First Nation

- Noting the success of the *Hishok: One with the Whale Spirit: Tseshaht Whaling* exhibit, important to the Tseshaht and a good collaboration – a meeting is coming up with the BC Maritime Museum in Victoria to discuss travelling the exhibit to that facility.
- The Residential School Memorial, designed by Connie Watts, has been installed, but unfortunately has been vandalized.

5.7 Jolleen Dick reported for the Hupacasath First Nation

- The Sunset Market has ended for the season.
- The Hupacasath welcome sign on Highway 4 on the east side of town has been replaced, and another is planned to greet visitors approached from the west.
- A Barber grant has been approved to assist with the digitization of records & materials in the Hupacasath collection.
- Pam Craig noted that Rotary was supporting the installation of First Nations themed wraps on BC Hydro boxes.
- Penny Cote mentioned that the ACRD would like to be involved in any signage programs.

5.8 Gayle Stephen Player reported for the community at large

- The new visitor's map has been released – and looks good – it is linked to the My Alberni app.
- Jolleen Dick mentioned that the "tide table" map may be updated also.
- The Canada Day Parade was held successfully, thanks to the Women's Business Network stepping in to assume responsibility.
- Summer events held in the Uptown area, including the Uptown Street Fair, and the Art Rave.
- Demolition of the Somass Hotel as a notable event in the Uptown neighbourhood this summer.
- Global TV did a Saturday morning feature on Port Alberni.

5.9 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- The School Board is meeting next Tuesday [Sept. 9].
- Literacy Alberni – which operates the Raise a Reader campaign – has received a major cut to its provincial funding this year – expected that provincial funding will be coming to an end soon.
- September 11 – a fund raising event for Literacy Alberni – the Road Hockey Challenge – with Bulldogs versus celebrities.
- Wednesday, September 24 is Raise a Reader Day – with newspapers sold for donations, and volunteers/participants wearing orange shirts.

5.10 Penny Cote reported for the Regional District

- Tuesday, September 30 – orange shirt event – "Every Child Counts."
- The Sproat Lake Regatta revival was very successful – all went smoothly.
- Will be attending the UBCM conference at the end of September – and will be lobbying for heritage at it.

5.11 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- The "Our Town" program had a successful 29th season – with over 700 people attending each event.
- A better year for the Salmon Festival, with 1,800 rods sold/entries, and 1,300 fish caught.
- Will be attending the UBCM conference at the end of September.

6. Next Meeting
 - 7:00 PM, Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at the AV Museum.
7. Adjournment
 - Moved at 8:21 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Mike McDowall, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni