



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society News

Volume 6 No. 1



Spring 2005

FVHRS registered as Recreational Railway.

On March 18th the FVHRS was registered as the 19th official Recreational Railway in British Columbia. Certificate number 88363 was announced by the BC Safety Authority, allowing the FVHRS to operate the speeder and trailer on the oval track around the Sullivan car barn.

Please see the web site, www.FVHRS.org for the many supporters of this project. Join us for a ride at our Open Houses this year.



Call to Convention

In accordance with the Society Act, the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society will hold its fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 23rd, 2005 at the Hampton Inn, 19500 Langley Bypass, Surrey.

Registration at 12:30pm, meeting starts at 1:00, to 3:00. Keynote speaker: Henry Ewert Renowned historian

Five Directorial positions up for election.

If you wish to stand, contact Bob Ashton at 604-591-8141 or by e-mail rashton@dccnet.com

Bring your membership card to vote.

STEADY PROGRESS

Your society has a simple business plan: **Get Cars, Restore Cars, Operate Cars.** It sounds simple. Putting all the parts together is a little more complicated. Heritage Interurban cars are artifacts worthy of a museum. To protect the cars, the Society has built a car barn at Sullivan.

The winter of 2004 – 2005 has seen progress on several fronts:

1304 & 1225: FVHRS has entered into agreements to acquire two of the few remaining BCER Interurban cars. BCER 1304 (the Connaught Car) is owned by the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine and kept by the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society near Brooks, Oregon. BCER 1225 is owned by the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California

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SIGN UP WITH THE 2005 CREW!

"Any Job can be done if enough hands pull on the line," is an old adage that could not be more appropriate for our challenging projects.

We are now recruiting for volunteers to help bring the car barn, speeder and interurban restoration to life. We need assistance in many areas, from one day help to ongoing projects. If you have energy and

STEADY PROGRESS *Continued from page 1*

CAR BARN: Heritage Interurban cars are artifacts worthy of a museum. To protect the cars FVHRS has on contract, the Society has built a car barn at Sullivan on land provided by the City of Surrey.

“B” CERTIFICATION: The cars are rare and hence expensive. To take advantage of Federal tax incentives to repatriate Canada’s heritage, FVHRS has applied for “B” status. This allows 100% tax certificates to donors funding acquisition. To qualify for the “B” certificate, FVHRS has created and adopted a series of policies covering everything from heritage restoration of artifacts to potential disasters.

SULLIVAN STATION REPLICA: An exact replica of the original Sullivan Station has been built. It is “portable” and can be moved to its original location on the Interurban line. FVHRS has also obtained the remains of the original station which will be stabilized as an exhibit.

SPEEDER: A Speeder and Trailer are now in our inventory along with an oval of track at the Sullivan compound. The speeder will be used to finalize training and operating procedures. Revenues from rides will help with expenses. The 600 foot oval track can generate public interest by staging events and competitions for industry and institutions to use the track for testing new speeder designs and power options.

FUND RAISING: The Society has raised about \$900,000 in cash or kind for our various projects as of this writing. We are \$75,000 away from acquiring BCER Car 1225 (price \$300,000 Cdn). We have made a number of presentations to various financial institutions, all of whom have provided encouragement and support.



1879: The first electric train is built by Ernst Werner von Siemens (1816 – 1892) at the Berlin Industrial Exhibition. 30 passengers are hauled around a circular 600 yard track by a 5 horsepower locomotive at a speed of 4 miles per hour

Open House, 2005

Join the Board of Directors of the FVHRS for tours of the Sullivan Stations, the car barn, Streetcar #30 and take a ride on the speeder pulling 1225 ½. Starting **Monday May 23rd, Noon to 4:00 pm**. Through the summer on the 3rd Sunday each month. See the web site for details.

Sign up *continued from page 1*

interest in helping, contact any one of the board members to volunteer. We expect our first interurban this summer, and have many Open Houses planned along with some special events. For the semi-retired or retired qualified tradesman there will be opportunities to volunteer to be part of the restoration team.

Positions currently available:

- Board Member
- Chief Interpreter (organize and assign interpreters)
- Interpreters (Tour Guides)
- Grounds Keeper(s)
- Electrician (s)
- Carpenter(s)
- Welder
- Special Events Assistant(s) - flag person, crowd control, ticket taker, etc.



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society News

The Fraser Valley Heritage Society NEWS is published quarterly by the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society for its membership, sponsors and limited public distribution.

The Editorial Board welcomes brief letters and stories including remembrances of when the BCER's interurban trains plied the Fraser Valley Line between Westminster and Chilliwack.

Please send your contributions to:
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or tylster@shaw.ca.

Business card size ads at \$20 per placement per issue are welcome at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

For additional information about FVHRS contact:

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www.FVHRS.org