



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society NEWS

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Streetcar 30 - new home, new name!

The Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society has moved one step closer to its goal of revitalizing heritage electric interurban tourism passenger rail service on the Fraser Valley Line with the leasing of Streetcar 30, a 1912 J.G. Brill, single-truck trolley for use in Cloverdale.

A 10-year lease will allow the Society to restore the streetcar to operating condition. Restoration is being funded by the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce (CDCOC) and the Cloverdale Business Improvement Association (CBIA). The plan is to operate the streetcar on the Fairgrounds and through Cloverdale's town centre to connect with the interurban system at Cloverdale Station.

FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton signed a ceremonial document marking the start of the leasing period during a Welcoming Ceremony

representatives of the Island Transit Insurance Society (ITAS) and B.C. Transit - Victoria, the streetcar's co-owners and many members of the Society and Board of Directors present on Wednesday, July 31.

The ceremony, organized by Bill Reid, CDCOC President, featured BC Hydro Chair and CEO Larry Bell as its special guest. BC Hydro's Corporate Donations Program paid for the transportation of the streetcar from Victoria and for its housing, which is being planned.

Other guests at the Welcoming Ceremony included: Acting Mayor - Surrey Councillor and FVHRS Council Liaison Judy Higginbotham; Surrey Councillor and Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Chair Gary Tymoschuk (The site was provided courtesy of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.); Surrey Councillor and PRC Commission member Barbara Steele; Surrey - Cloverdale MLA Kevin Falcon; BC Transit Board Member Bob de Clark; ITAS President Brendan Read; and, a number of Surrey City Hall senior management personnel, including Bev Sommer, Manager of Heritage Services.

The Society's Restoration Program aims to have the streetcar restored to operational condition during the next two years.

Members of the Society who are interested in the restoration program are asked to contact FVHRS Director Graham MacDonell at 604-866-0022 or by e-mail at: gemcom@shaw.ca or through the Society's mailing address.



Streetcar 30, now called the "Clover Belle", has a new home next to the Surrey Museum and Archives. PNR Rail Contractors of Abbotsford (bottom left) moved the streetcar from Victoria in mid-July. FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton (at right, top) addressed the audience at the Welcoming Ceremony (main photo), organized by the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce, held on July 31. The FVHRS will oversee restoration of the former Oporto, Portugal streetcar to operate in Cloverdale.

Photos by Robert Ashton and Graham MacDonell

A Message from the FVHRS Chair

As the Society enters its second year, I am amazed at how fast several components of our Interurban Revitalization Project have moved forward.

With financial backing by BC Hydro and Surrey merchants, the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce and the Cloverdale Business Improvement Association paid for the transportation of the Brill single truck streetcar (which the Society has leased from its owners in Victoria) to a temporary site next to the Surrey Museum and Archives where a shelter is being built to protect it. Moving the streetcar happened very quickly in mid-July when BC Transit found a tenant for the building housing the streetcar; then the contractor surprised us with an earlier delivery date than expected!

Negotiations are still underway with the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, Ca. to acquire BCER 1225; however, during the same time, the Society has started negotiations with the New England Electric Railway Historical Society (otherwise known as the Seashore Trolley Museum) to acquire BCER 1304 - the most historic BCER interurban as it was the last wooden interurban built in North America.

And, to top things off, the City of Surrey has okayed a three-year lease on a two-acre site in Sullivan adjacent to the Southern Railway line and the Sullivan Community Hall for construction of our Operational Centre, which is now in the planning stages.

Robert Ashton
Chair, FVHRS

Sullivan becomes Society's home

FVHRS Operations Centre to be built on land leased from Surrey next to rail line

The historic community of Sullivan will initially become the Society's interurban restoration and operational base instead of Cloverdale after a year-long search for an environment problem-free rail-accessible site.

"Cloverdale was our first choice to begin operations," said FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton, "but the provincial government's freeze on college capital expenditures put our hopes for leasing a one-acre site on Kwantlen University College's Cloverdale Campus on hold."

Other Cloverdale sites examined by the Society included the Petro-Canada cardlock facility (behind the Clover Square Village Shopping Centre) and the Shell Oil facility (on 176th Street opposite the Red Barn) but both were rejected due to access and environmental problems.

Easier to get started in Sullivan

"The City of Surrey recently purchased a two-acre site adjacent to the Sullivan Community Hall," Ashton advised. "When the Society learned about that, we approached the City to lease part of the site for the FVHRS operations centre."

The site is also adjacent to the Southern Railway mainline just east of 152nd Street at 64th Avenue.

The City has approved a three-year lease with a possible two-year renewal. The Society, which has

developed plans for the site, is seeking a Temporary Use Permit and Development/Building Permit in order to erect a 3,000 square foot car barn.

"A number of intersections in the Sullivan area already have signals and gates," Ashton continued. "Southern Railway has advised that signals and gates would be required at all crossings if we wanted to obtain a running rights agreement."

With signals and gates at 152nd Street, 64th Avenue and 148th Street, the Society only needs to address safety concerns at 156th Street in order to provide a 4.7 kilometre (three mile) ride from Newton to Old McLellan Road.

Society to restore Sullivan Station

As part of the Sullivan Strategy, the Society has taken over the project of restoring the original Sullivan Station, which has been sitting in a nearby farm field as a chicken coop for over 40 years.

In conjunction with the Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission, FVHRS has adopted the restoration of the original BCER station and will be seeking community support in restoring it.

"We are discussing the siting of the station on its original, historic location with BC Hydro," advised FVHRS Secretary Allen Aubert. "We can meet their requirements for siting the

building on the rail corridor."

Getting Southern Railway's endorsement is next.

"Having the restored station near the FVHRS Operations Centre," Aubert explained, "would add a high degree of security."

The Society will be using some of the \$50,000 grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC to restore and relocate the station.

Operations Centre planned

The Society has prepared site plans that include over 400 feet of double track from a turnout off the Southern Railway line and a preliminary drawing / floor plan of the restoration / operations facility.

"We have met with the Sullivan Community Association, which has endorsed our decision to locate on the property," Aubert added. "The merchants at the nearby shopping centre are also very supportive."

The FVHRS Operations Centre would be large enough initially for two interurbans and have a workshop and office for the Society attached.

"The Sullivan site has excellent exposure that would assist FVHRS to raise the profile for the entire interurban project," concluded Aubert.

For further information, contact Aubert at 604-538-9611.

Board negotiating for BCER Interurbans 1225 and 1304

While negotiations with Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California to lease-to-buy BCER Interurban Car 1225 were started earlier this year, discussions with the owners of BCER Interurban Car 1304 have started and are moving forward quite quickly.

BCER 1304 has been owned by the New England Electric Railway Historical Society in Kennebunkport, Maine since 1958. The society is also known as the Seashore Trolley Museum, the oldest streetcar museum in the United States.

BCER 1304, also called the 'Connaught Car', is the only one of the remaining seven BCER interurban cars that plied the rails of the Fraser Valley. It was used by the Duke of Connaught for his visit to the Lower Mainland in 1912. It is the last wooden interurban car built in North America.



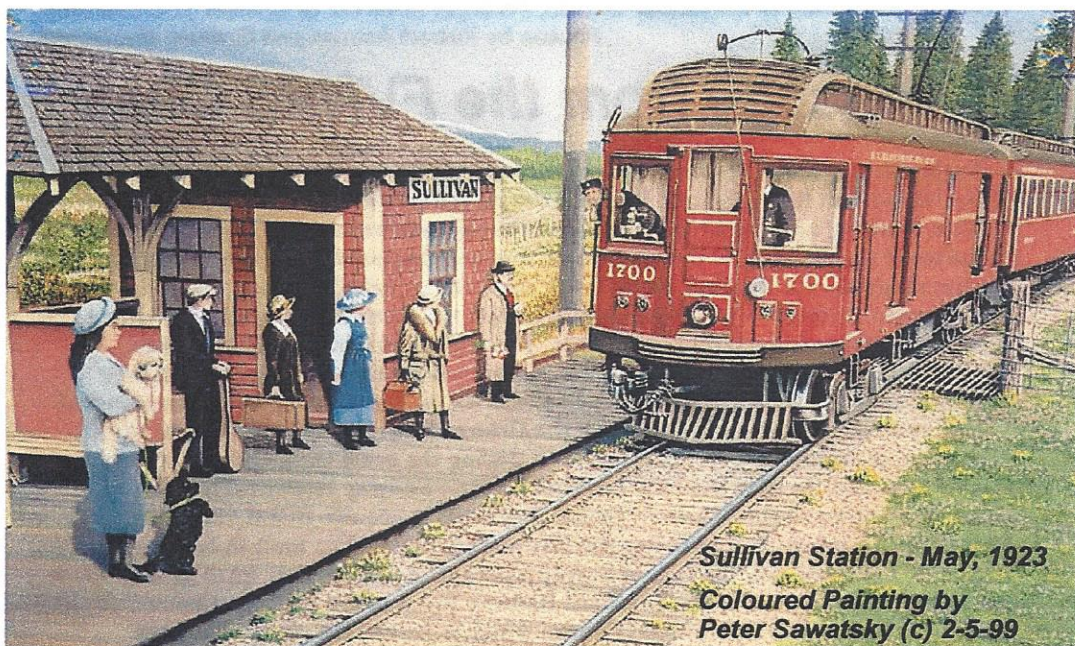
The Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society NEWS is published quarterly by the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society for its membership, sponsors and limited public distribution.

The Editorial Board welcomes brief letters and stories from readers who remember the Fraser Valley Line when BCER's interurban trains plied the rails between New Westminster and Chilliwack.

Please send your contributions to: Graham MacDonell, Editor, Heritage Railway NEWS, 148 - 3160 Townline Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 5P4 or e-mail: gemcom@shaw.ca

The Editorial Board also welcomes advertising for business card size ads at \$20 per placement per issue.

For additional information about FVHRS, contact: Allen Aubert, Secretary, FVHRS 1045 - 165th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9A2



Sullivan Station - May, 1923
Coloured Painting by
Peter Sawatsky (c) 2-5-99

The restoration and reconstruction of the original Sullivan Station is part of the FVHRS "Sullivan Strategy" as the Society shifts its operational focus to the historic community.