



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society

NEWS

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Summer 2003

Society officially receives Surrey grant



Surrey Councillor and FVHRS Society Director Judy Higginbotham hand-delivered a cheque for \$200,000 from the City of Surrey to FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton on Friday, May 16.

Plans for the Sullivan car barn and acquisition of the Society's first authentic BCER interurban car are moving ahead quickly now that Surrey Council has presented the Society with the cheque for \$200,000 as promised, says FVHRS Board Chair Robert Ashton.

Earlier this year, Surrey approved in-principle a three-year lease with a two-year extension for a 1.3 acre site on 152nd Street next to the Sullivan Community Hall. The three-year land lease with an option for a two-year extension has now been signed by the Society.

The FVHRS has been granted property tax exemption by the City and awarded grants that will make the progress on the project easier for the Society and allow the project to move forward more quickly. Detailed design work on the car barn and operation centre has been completed under the direction of former FVHRS Director Larry Fisher, President and CEO of the Lark Group, a Cloverdale-based construction / property development firm.

"With the complete designs for the buildings and city building permits pending, construction should start on the site during August," advised Society Secretary Allen Aubert. Construction of the car bar will be completed by October, 2003. The Society will be ready to receive its first interurban car after that.

The 1.3-acre site that the Society is leasing will allow for the construction of a 3,500 square foot modular pole car barn, capable of housing two interurban cars initially. The structure can be increased in size at a later date, if necessary. (See diagram on back page.)

A Message from the FVHRS Chair

As the banner for this edition reads, the FVHRS received the \$200,000.00 as voted and passed by Surrey City Council. As Chair, it gave me great pleasure to accept the cheque from Councillor Judith Higginbotham as once we had the money in the bank it would give our Society instant credibility: We are "on the tracks"!

Throughout the summer, members are invited to view the construction of our car barn at Sullivan Park, 64th Avenue and 152nd Street. If an opportunity does present itself and directors of the society are there, please stop them and get an update; however, we request that members do not enter the work site unless invited. Visitor parking is available in the parking lot next to Sullivan Community Centre. Also, take some time and visit the local businesses across the street. They are as excited about our Society's car barn and, later, the interurban coming to their location as we are about having it there.

Do you have the wherewithal, or simply put, the connections to help us with construction material? Now I'm not talking about a few pieces of wood but perhaps a considerable amount of a particular size or your brother-in-law operates a paving business and wishes to donate material and time for a tax receipt and get his name on our "Board of Thanks". That sort of thing. If so, please call me. What we are not looking for though is just going to the site and leaving stuff.

At the last AGM, the Society elected three new Directors. The FVHRS would like to welcome Doug Watkins, Kelly Breaks, and Gerry Landsman to the Board as well as Stephen Plant, CGA, as our new Treasurer. Howard Reich, CA moved to Vancouver from Surrey and as such could not get to Board meetings. He did, graciously stay on until Stephen joined the Board this June. Leaving the Board of Directors is Larry Fisher, President of the Lark Group, which will be the design-builders for the construction of the car barn.

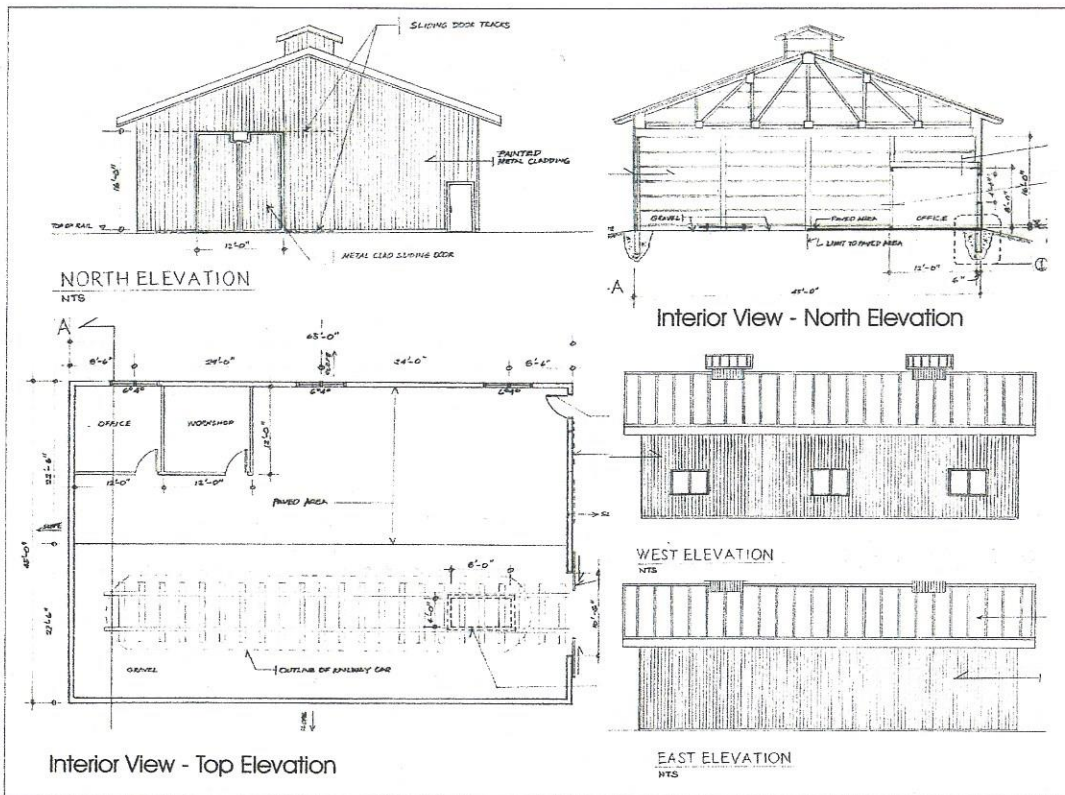
Robert Ashton
Chair, FVHRS

DON'T FORGET!

"Railways Run Through It", a display of the history of rail in Surrey, featuring a display panel on the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society, is still "running" at the Surrey Museum until Friday, August 22.

The Museum is open
Tuesdays to Saturdays,
9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.
Admission by donation.
Contact Gail at 604-502-6456

FVHRS car barn plans and siting



The proposed FVHRS 2,925 square-foot car barn to be located in Sullivan will be a demountable pole barn building with a pitched gable roof. The exterior walls and roof will be finished in painted metal siding similar to rural countryside barn buildings to blend in with the Sullivan surroundings. While the west elevation will have three windows, the east will be a solid wall. The facility will be large enough to have two bays capable of storing two 55-foot-long cars and allow crews to work on restoring the body and mechanical components; however, an office and workshop will be located inside until the Society acquires a second interurban.



The FVHRS' car barn in Sullivan will be constructed on a 1.3-acre property that could be leased for up to five years from the City of Surrey. Looking at the site from the Southern Railway of BC tracks, the car barn will be built to the left of the centre of the above photo. (See box.) In the distance is the Sullivan Community Association's hall and parking lot. The site is adjacent to Sullivan Park, which is to the left of the photo. To its right is 152nd Avenue or Johnston Road as it is also known by. The BC Hydro right-of-way and SRY trackage as well as 64th Avenue are behind the photographer's position. The restored Sullivan Station may be located on the ROW, between the tracks and 64th Avenue.

Second AGM sees three new directors join the Board

At the Society's second annual general meeting, held on Wednesday, March 26, three new directors were elected to the Board:

- Doug Watkins, a former realtor and councillor in Surrey. Doug, who recently retired from BC Housing Corporation, will be assisting the Society in fundraising and land-related issues;
- Gerry Landsman, well known for co-ordinating Fort Langley's "Railway Days, who has a good background in marketing;
- Kelly Breaks, owner of Valley Alarms & Communications Ltd., in northwest Newton, who will be also be helping in fundraising.

That brings the Board to its full complement with a wide range of professional skills and talents to help the Society realize its goals.



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