



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society

# NEWS

FALL 2006

## SKELETON IN THE BARN



BCER rehabilitation progress update. By Robert Ashton, Vice Chair FVHRS & BCER 1225 Rehabilitation Coordinator

A dedicated group of volunteers have been working on the rehabilitation of BCER 1225 during the summer of 2006. For some it has been a learning experience: For others an education. For the experienced wood worker, each piece of original or replacement wood seems to present its own problem.

Years of use as a public transportation vehicle in the Greater Vancouver area and a lackluster maintenance program by the BC Electric over the final years of service reduced BCER1225 to a patch work of repairs, especially at each end of the interurban.

Various woods have been incorporated into the floor of the "A" end vestibule. No doubt the original wood was shattered or destroyed in various accidents: Not an uncommon occurrence old-time employees have stated. For example, originally, there was a mortise and tennon connection joining the train door jambs to

the floor. Today, a piece of metal and a nut supporting and strengthening the jambs has taken the place of the artisan's work. Workers of years ago using cutting torches on repairs caused fires on the original wood. A number of door jambs and corner pieces show the blackened scars. Pieces of wood destroyed by accidents or other causes have been cut out and patches nailed or screwed in. Paint and moldings hide a myriad of mistakes or sloppy work.

Thus, for some of the volunteers it has been a frustration of identifying, what is original and what is replacement? On the other hand, others find, it a fascinating journey of exploration that allows the imagination to take over and place himself or herself into the age of the BCER worker who was, because of company financial concerns, challenged and/or pressured to get the car back in service as cheaply and as quickly as possible.

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# WORKSHOP ADDITION BIG BOOST TO FVHRS



Fully equipped workshop clean and tidy for the final Open House of the year, Thanksgiving Monday, October 16th.

Photos by Jarret Kaufman

The construction of a new, fully equipped and heated workshop and materials storage facility has been completed. Designs were created during December of 2005. Fundraising there after to cover the projected \$80,000 construction cost was successful, with an award of a BC Gaming Grant to cover much of the work. Subsequent construction trade and supplier discounts has reduced the cost to \$47,800. The construction is in the form of prefinished metal on a wood frame addition measuring 57 feet x 20 feet, to the East side of the car barn to match the architecture of the car barn.

The Lark Group were the Construction Managers, with Mufford Construction

undertaking the on site labour. The workshop has a concrete floor, industrial lighting and thermostatic controlled unit heaters. The workshop is fully insulated and has ample power outlets to operate the power tools. The electrical work was designed and installed by the Colwin Electrical Group who completed the electrical for the car barn and station.

Construction commenced in mid June and was completed by the end of July. The volunteers spent most of August constructing work benches and storage shelving making the facility ready for the woodworkers to move forward during the Fall and winter.

The FVHRS now has a workshop and

material storage facility where the volunteers can work safely and efficiently.

## Sponsors of the workshop and material storage facility include:

BC Gaming (funds to build workshop)  
The Lark Group (project management)  
Country Lumber  
Roy Mufford (excavation and back fill )  
Bogdonov Pao Associates (structural engineering services)  
Colwin Electrical Group  
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## T'Giving Open House Success



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