

Signal Express will publish in spring and fall in print and digital format. available on Website and Facebook.  
[www.fvhrs.org](http://www.fvhrs.org), [www.facebook.com/fvhrs/](https://www.facebook.com/fvhrs/) or 604.574.9056. Station: #10 Hwy & 176A Street, in Cloverdale.

## NOW WE ARE FOUR! BCER 1231 COMES TO CLOVERDALE



Car 1231 during Downtown Heritage Rail operations. Photographed on the platform are Terry Nichols, Conductor, and Elsie Taylor, Motorman.

At the FVHRS Annual General Meeting, Director Hugh Parkinson, announced that we have acquired Car 1231, sister car of 1225. 1231 has been stored in the False Creek car barn of the now defunct Downtown Heritage Rail operation in Vancouver.

Hugh was the lead director during the lengthy acquisition process.

In January 2016, the companion car to 1231 in the DHR, 1207, was donated to the FVHRS by its Seattle owner, Byron Cole. Hugh was instrumental in conducting that acquisition as well.

## IT'S CANADA'S 150 BIRTHDAY, THE YEAR OF THE CONNAUGHT

**\$930,000 awarded to the FVHRS in grants, volunteer effort, member donations, materials and services to complete it's three Canada 150 legacy projects**



BC Heritage Minister, Peter Fassbender, Chair John Sprung, Cloverdale MLA Stephanie Cadieux, Panorama MLA Marvin Hunt, with BCMA President, Gord McDonald and Catherine Ouelette-Martin, BCMA Board member.



### The BCER 1304 Restoration Project \$620,000

- The Province of BC awarded \$50,000 toward refurbishing 1304's trucks.
- The BC Museums Association awarded \$50,000 toward refurbishing 1304's trucks as part of the BC/Canada 150 programme.
- FVHRS volunteer work to restore the car body, electrical system and trucks (16,000 hours over 5 years) value \$ 480,000
- FVHRS members donated \$25,000 to the Canada 150 Connaught restoration legacy project, and \$15,000 toward restoration of the 1304 seats.

*(more funding details on next page)*

As we approach the completion of the 5 year restoration of 1304, we are planning a grand celebration as Car 1304 is returned to service on the Fraser Valley Line.

1304 was the interurban car used to carry Prince Arthur, third son of Queen Victoria, the Duke of Connaught and the Governor General of Canada, when he toured the B.C. Lower Mainland in 1912. It was named the "Connaught" car from then on.

The re-launch of the 105 year old Interurban, the only surviving "Chilliwack" car, will mark the return of 1304 the "Connaught" to (heritage) passenger service, on the line it was built for. We are planning a big party with dignitaries, very special guests and a few surprises!

**And you are all invited!**

**2017 Season May 6 through October 1, Saturdays and Sundays, closed holiday Mondays**



## Funding the Connaught cont'd

### Track expansion & connection project \$120,000

To launch BCER 1304 from the car barn a new 150-foot long connecting track and switch is required. PNR Railworks, Southern Railway of BC, and Mainland Sand & Gravel are donating the material labour necessary as their Canada 150 legacy project, to facilitate the launch of 1304. Twenty PNR employees agreed to donate their personal time over a 5-week period to lay the new connecting track.



### Carbarn expansion project \$190,000

- The City of Surrey awarded \$150,000 toward the carbarn expansion to house BCER 1304, its generator and the trackmobile.
- RDM Enterprises Group: gave excavation and backfill services.
- RJP Contracting donation toward foundation formwork.
- FVHRS exterior and interior finishes to building.

Construction of the barn expansion should be complete by the end of July.



**Value of BCER 1304 the Connaught when fully operational \$1.5 million including acquisition.**

## Launch celebration will be September 9, 2017

### Canada 150



**2017 is a special year for Canada, and we have created a logo to celebrate Canada 150, the year of the Connaught.**

This logo is displayed prominently on our publications and social media. A collector's pin has been sent to all members. and a very limited number of pins, mugs, linen tea towels, shirts and hats all bearing the Canada 150/Connaught logo are available for purchase at the Cloverdale station.



**Would you consider making a legacy donation on line?**  
**The process is simple and you will receive an automatic tax receipt.**  
**Over forty-one members have made a legacy donation so far.**  
**For details please see our website at [www.fvhrs.org](http://www.fvhrs.org)**



## SPECIAL EVENTS 2016 Christmas Experience, Ghost Train

The Halloween and Christmas events were quickly sold out. Tickets to go on sale in August of 2017

### December 2016: Christmas Train

The Special Events team presented "Christmas 1916" a moving story written and produced by Stephen Plant. The Cloverdale



station became a typical Christmas home with Father Christmas, Christmas music and good cheer. The train was the stage for



a wistful letter home from a young soldier in France. We met a war nurse, Ebenezer Scrooge reborn with Tiny Tim, visited the



riders to deliver hugs and hellos instead of humbugs! I wonder, what will be in the stocking for next Christmas? Come and see!

### October 2016: Halloween Ghost Train

With the same passion as Halloween 2015, the volunteers greeted the little and big goblins, princesses and other costumed trick



or treaters with pumpkins, grim reapers, Spidey the Speeder and the ghost of the Duke of Connaught. Very scary was the report



of the little ghost hunters aboard the haunted train, in the spooky station, and the dark barn. Scare you up next year!



**Activities 2016 / 2017****20,000th Passenger**

On October 2, our youngest engineer, Lachlan Down (centre) became our 20,000th passenger!

**Civic Treasure**

FVHRS Secretary, Allen Aubert was recognized by Surrey's Mayor, Linda Hepner as a **City Treasure**

**Volunteer Orientation**

BCER 961 locomotive has returned to its original home at the Oregon Electric Railway Museum, it will be restored and operated there. Space by the barn is needed to house BCER 1304, its generator and the FVHRS trackmobile.

**Changes in your board of directors:**

Directors Ron Powers and Hugh Parkinson have performed exceptional service in the development and management of the FVHRS, and after many years, have decided to step down as directors. Peter Finch, Motorman, and Shane Suter, Station Master have been named directors by acclamation,

**Job Well Done!**

Ron Powers



Hugh Parkinson



Peter Finch



Shane Suter

**Welcome Aboard!**

Made possible through the generous support of



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