

Celebrating Canada 150 in 2017



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Launch of BCER 1304 the "Connaught"

With the generous support of:



SRY Rail Link



2017: Amazing! 2018: Outlook Bright

by John Sprung, Chair

This has been a very busy year, There was launch of the Connaught, the Halloween and Christmas events, the rodeo and Christmas parades, and lots of work to get ready for our fifth season with special events added throughout the year. All that work was worth it! During the season we carried just about as many passengers as the previous season.

I have noticed everything works mainly because this is a team effort. During the year I, and some of the other Directors, made presentations to groups. I know that even if I'm the only one speaking it has the force of all your efforts behind it as the true value of the society.

BC's Lt. Governor Judith Guichon escorted by John Sprung to the reception following the rededication of BCER 1304, the Connaught.



In October, I made a presentation to Surrey City Council to update the Mayor and Councillors on how we are doing with the implementation their project. This time around, I asked council to continue the ride, but consider a change. Now that the Surrey LRT project is just about ready to get underway, our trains should meet it in Newton rather than continue on to the Scott Road Skytrain station as originally planned. We also wish to continue to deal directly with city staff to make this happen.

When the presentation was done I expected some questions, however there were none, but Mayor Hepner and councillors LeFranc and Steele had some of comments:



"I can assure you we're pretty proud of that project in Cloverdale, and all the people you have behind you doing the volunteer work, and it's particularly nice to see all those new young faces also being engaged in the interurban heritage."



I had the honour of doing a tour of the car barn and taking a trip on the train. I'm just so impressed by the quality of the work that you've done in the restoration of the cars. Kudos to your volunteers and the fine workmanship you've done.



I've been involved with this for probably as many years as it's been going. It's always been a pleasure to see the results of your work as Councillor LeFranc has said that there's nothing other than perfection involved here and it's always been expensive but a pleasure to be working on it here and proud to be there.



Acting Mayor Dave Woods presents Surrey's Canada 150 Project book, *Surrey: A City of Stories*, to Lt. Gov. Judith Guichon at the Connaught Launch



Brad Snelling



Snelling Senior



Report from the Chair *continued*

Many of the 6000 plus guests this past season also noticed and benefited by your actions, but they often don't say much, and then once in a while some one does. Brad Snelling brought his father to Cloverdale in June for Father's Day. Brad was not sure how it would go, but later he wrote to me:

"...Yesterday, I brought my Dad and a good friend to your attraction as he is a massive fan of all things rail. We all had been here on a visit a few years ago and I suggested that we go back to help celebrate Father's Day. My dad's face lit up. I was a bit nervous about how things would go, but I needn't have worried at all. From the moment we parked the car, every member of your volunteer staff was friendly, smiling, caring and right there to help us out.

My dad suffered a severe stroke a number of years ago and has good and bad days. Mrs. Bruce was right there to show me where to buy my tickets and assisted by providing a wheelchair for my dad. She even took him to where the wash-room was before the train trip. Everyone patiently waited for him to get ready. Tony then helped dad onto the train. In fact, whenever dad needed help with stairs or with moving about, Tony was always right there with a kind smile and a gentle touch. Tony's girlfriend Debbie also was there and was happy to direct me to different exhibits all around the area.

I am afraid that I am terrible with names...the list of amazing people is too great. ... Everyone who worked on Sunday, June 11th was wonderful. Not one person I met in your volunteer corps was in a bad mood or indifferent. The conductors on the train and boys in the barn were also fantastic. All the boys helped Dad onto the mini rail car and this experience turned out to be the highlight of the trip.

Please give them all my thanks. We will be back very soon! "

Not everyone who visits takes the time to write, call or say "Thanks" on the way out. But I think that each and every one has had the best experience that you can provide.

Well done!



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2017



The friendly comfortable atmosphere, and with some alterations to the menu agreed, we will return November 2018.

The 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held for the second time at the Hazelmere Golf Club. The warm atmosphere made for a wonderful evening.

The regular MC for this event, Chair John Sprung conveyed his report to the volunteers by video from New Zealand where he was vacationing.



Conducting the events of the evening were Director Ray Hudson and Volunteer David Hobson.



MP John Aldag and MLA Marvin Hunt had words of greeting and encouragement for the volunteers.



Joining us were two of the society's strong friends and supporters, Ron Madsen of RDM Enterprises, and Al Schoeder of PNR Railworks, with their spouses. These two companies were the reason we have the expanded track and connections for the expanded car barn.



Recognized with tokens of thanks for service are Al Schoeder, PNR, Ron Madsen, RDM, and Floridor who supervised the PNR Canada 150 Project.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2017



Director Gary Ridout provided an entertaining and informative feature for the evening comprising the extensive road trip of Central Canada, the Maritimes, and US east coast, returning across America. The aim of the trip was to visit as many railway museums as possible, looking for activities and ideas that could be brought back to the SHR.



Diane Bishop



Don Bruce



Lorna Bruce



Sten Christensen



Art Crowther



Terry Krausher



Anthony Marier



Terry Nichols



Bob Storey



Shane Suter



Neal Wilkie



Ray Crowther



Want to nominate someone for an award?
Send a note to Harry Taylor whose team
will investigate the nomination.

Salute to the volunteers who participated in the restoration of 1304

Canada 150 and the Connaught



September 9, 2017 was a dark and stormy day! In a summer when the Lower Mainland of BC had not seen rain since sometime in May, there was no avoiding the fact that our parade was about to get rained upon.

The planning had begun a year earlier with a letter to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II about our intention to relaunch BCER 1304 known as the Connaught, the BC Electric Railway car used by her great great grand uncle, Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, when as Governor General of Canada, he and his family toured the Lower Mainland in September 1912.

The Palace wrote an encouraging letter with appreciation for the notification of the event and wished the FVHRS best wishes for a successful event.

The rain, which continued relentlessly through out the event dampen just about everything except for the spirits of everyone who attended. The ceremonies began with the arrival of Her Honour the Lt. Governor of BC, Judith Guichon who was greeted by FVHRS Chair, John Sprung. She was accompanied by her Aide de Camp Major Rick Lewis.

But First...we lower 1304 back onto her trucks



For several years 1304 sat six feet in the air for ease of crew to work under the car. Finally the area was cleared and the trucks (wheel and motor assemblies) were moved into place and lined up with the king pin to connect the car to the wheels.



Hydraulic jacks were inserted at critical points, and activated with precision to allow for the removal of the wooden support piles until the steel I-beams could be removed and the car settled back onto its trucks, an operation of several hours.

Launch of the Connaught 09:09:17

Set up



Station Crew first briefing



Operating crew members



Car 1207, Speeder and 1225 behind



Parrish & Heimbecher locomotive stood in for generator for first run



1304 all dressed up and ready to go!



BCR Cadets shelter in Car 1207



BCR Cadets prepare to go on parade



John Sprung interviewed by CBC TV



Sorry, my umbrella isn't big enough



Arvid Westberg on the station switch



LG and Sprung arrive at station

Launch of the Connaught 09:09:17

The Launch



Lt. Governor Judith Guichon launches the day's event.



"Mr. Superintendent, Please call the car."



Connaught passes BC Regiment guard and pipers to break ribbon and be reinaugurated to heritage service.



Lt. Gov. Dave Woods, John Sprung and MC Don Evans with Regimental Bugler and Irish Pipers (front).



Lt. Governor Judith Guichon receives City of Surrey's City of Stories from Acting Mayor, Cllr. Dave Woods.



BC Regiment "Connaught's Own Rifles" Hon. Col. Ted Hawthorne on the historic role of the Duke of Connaught.

Launch of the Connaught 09:09:17

Dedication of 1304



MP John Aldag, Cloverdale-Langley City



MC Don Evans, MLAs Stepahanie Cadieux and Jinny Sims
MLA Marvin Hunt and Councillor Dave Woods



Bugler and Pipers play as train loads



BCER 1304, the Connaught, on its Inaugural run.



Ron Jones, Peter Finch, Lt. Gov Judith Guichon, John Sprung and Sten Christiansen in 1304's vestibule.



BCR Cadet Honour Guard

Launch of the Connaught 09:09:17 Reception



Head table



Singh Biln SRY Raillink



Steve Higginbottom, BC Hydro



Steve Dooley, Exec Dir, SFU Surrey



Don Evans, Heritage Rail Alliance



Marlyn Graziano, VP KPU



Marlene Penner, Yarrow Riders



Luncheon courtesy of Arbor Memorial



Judy Higginbotham, Life Member



Diane Bishop



Lt. Governor Farewell



Russell Newcombe



Gary Ridout



Bob Webster

Restoring the Connaught

1304: Glimpses of the restoration



1304 years on jacks



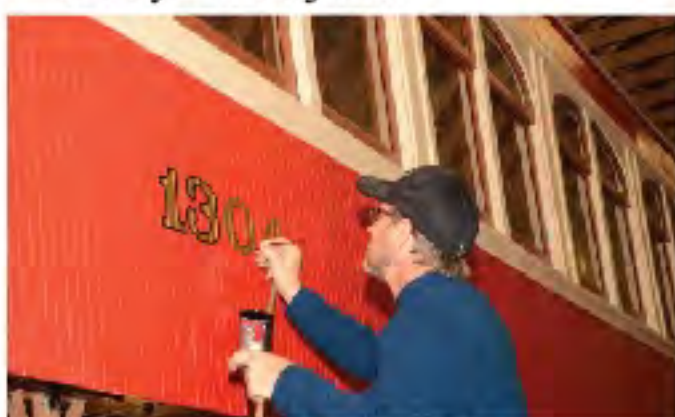
reinforcing front end



New paint



Hugh Parkinson Larry Perkins



Hand lettered 1304



Ron Powers



Vince Holmes



Roger Crick



Roger Crick



1304 stripped inside



Terry Nichols



Andrew Newery & Bob Storey



Don McKay



Larry Perkins Don McKay



Terry Krausher

2018: 5th Year of Operations

Car 1231 Joins the Cloverdale Fleet



Around 2:30 am, Thursday, November 9, almost two years after the arrival of 1207, a convoy of flashing amber lights lit up the night reflecting off of the wet pavement. The PNR Railworks special transporter, carrying BCER 1231 turned off of Highway #10 onto 176 Ave. and jockeyed into position to drive truck and trialer the last 15 metres through the west doors of the FVHRS Carbarn.

The run from Cambie and Second Avenue in Vancouver was uneventful, and within the next hour the car was delivered to the tracks in the Cloverdale carbarn, to take its place in the fleet with 1207, its sister car 1225 and the Connaught, 1304.

A crew of volunteers were wide awake, waiting to witness, and help with, this historic event.

Art Crowther, Sten Christiansen and Terry Nichols prepare to couple 1231 with the Trackmobile.



1231 in the old DHR Barn



Final move from the DHR barn



PNR's Richard Tracy & Hugh Parkinson



Sten Christiansen at the head end



Peter Cheng of PNR and Ray Crowther watch the loading to the special trailer.



1231 was loaded on PNR's special rail car carrier, then it was left until early the following morning to move to Cloverdale.

2018: 5th Year of Operations

Car 1231 Joins the Cloverdale Fleet



Pilot car arrives at 176 Avenue

Ron Powers, Terry Krausher and Harry Taylor watch the Truck and 1231 arrive.



Amazing driving to line up with door. and then the truck drove into the barn, tractor removed, the Trackmobile took over.



View from the street Ron Powers drives the Trackmobile as it takes over the tow job to pull the car from the trailer.



Ray Crowther supervises the work

as 1231 settles into its new home

in the Cloverdale carbarn

2018: 5th Year of Operations

Halloween 2017:



The Special Events Team Chaired by Directors Stephen Plant and Ray Hudson came together in the spring of 2017 to begin development of the Halloween and Christmas events.

We concluded that, since we could not provide the full seasonal excursion, the event should put less stress on the train as the primary focus, so the decision was taken to widen the focus of the event from a "Halloween Train" to a Halloween experience with the theme of Super Heroes. It was fun, the costumes were great (of volunteers as well as visitors) and everyone had a wonderful time.



Ron Peterson



Dolores Sleutel, Elizabeth Alkire, Bill Robinson



Jay Rai & Debbie B



Arvid, Sten, Jim, Roger & Gary



Stephen Plant



Bob Storey (head waiter)



Arvid (Spiderman), Don Bruce



Cathy Bassetto, Arvid Westberg
Elizabeth Alkire, Bill (Hook) Robinson



Super Heroes and Parents



2018: 5th Year of Operations

Halloween 2017



Michael Gibbs, Cathy Bassetto



Circle of Friends Murdoch, Ben, Ray, Lana



Gary Ridout, Jim Voight



Tony & Debbie



Ray Crowther & Ron Powers



Lana Panko



Diane Bishop, Doreen Anderson, Bill Robinson



Lorna Bruce, Allen Aubert



Andrew Newery, Bob Bose



Liz Aubert



Jim Kelly



Bob Alkire



The Family

The Electric Express

2017 saw the second annual history excursion aboard BCER 1225 in which the story is told of the Christmas period 100 years ago. The story, written and produced by **Stephen Plant**, portrayed the story of a soldier who fought at Vimy Ridge, where he was wounded, and, after recuperating returned to the trenches and fought in the battles at Passchendaele. Another character in the story is a nurse who worked her magic behind the front lines, winning an award for valor.

Complete with Christmas music of the era, we dip even further back to the time of Dickens' Christmas Carol and a visit from none other than the reformed Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim as the train then delivers the riders to the workshop of Father Christmas to see the elves at work in the toy shop, and other delights of the season.



Cloverdale Station becomes a store and public music room in 1917:



Pvt. Ray Cobleigh ^
(Alan Cumberlidge)
waiting for his troop train
◀ Grace Gauthier & Bob Bose



Cathy, Bob A. Bob S.



Christmas 1917, 100 years ago

The Electric Express



Ukelele Ladies sing Christmas tunes



Ray Hudson and Cathy Bassetto



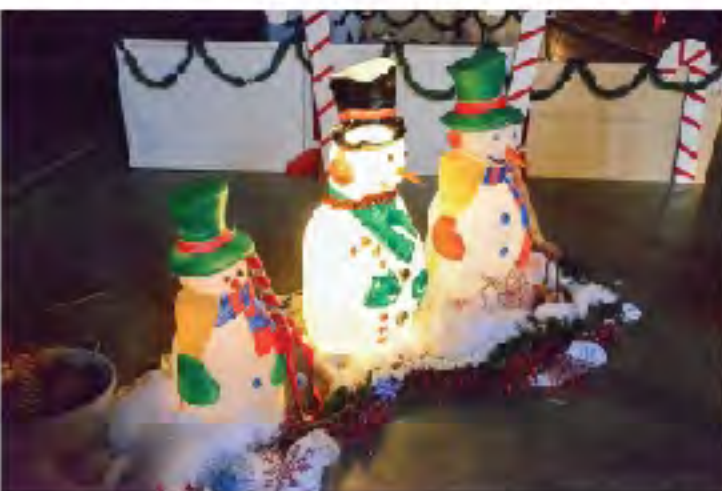
Director Terry Nichols



The (his)tory on the train ride. Introducing the soldier (Alan Cumberlidge) 1917 and WW1 nurse, Ellen Edwards



Then the train arrives at St. Nicholas' workshop. But it's dark. The elves are all asleep, St. Nicholas is asleep too! WAKE UP!



The visitors awaken the elves who spring into action. Lights come on, the electric trains start and St. Nick greets the kids!

Christmas 1917, 100 years ago

The Genius of Decorating



Museum room dressed for Halloween

Cathy Bassette surprised everyone several years ago when she took on the job of designing and managing the volunteer team of talented volunteers to turn our railway station back 100 years, or into a scary space for Halloween, or St. Nick's toy shop. Well done volunteers - Brilliant!!



General Store 1917



Museum room dressed as the Christmas Music Parlour



In Memorium



Norman Shepherd
Passed: December 17, 2017
member of the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society, the West Coast Railway Association, the Kamloops Heritage Railway Society and the Transit Museum. He is remembered for his skill restoring historic railway cars and locomotives.

John Phillip Welsh
Passed: January 4, 2018
Member and Volunteer survived by Bonnie, his wife of sixty years. This VPD veteran loved to restore cars with rubber and steel tires.





Presents


**SURREY'S
Heritage
Rail**

Paint The Train

**A multi-medium art competition to celebrate
Surrey's Heritage Rail and Surrey's Artists**



Surrey's Heritage Rail in partnership with the **Arts Council of Surrey** is embarking on contest to see how people 'see' our heritage Interurban train and system, with the **first annual** Paint the Train competition.

No, you don't get to paint our rolling stock, but you do get to enter a competition to capture any number of aspects of the historic BC Electric Railway, which was central to the development of the Lower Mainland over the last century.

You can use camera or canvas, ceramic or crepe paper to "paint" (capture) the train, the station, signals, tracks, related equipment, the right-of-way and adjacent scenery. Go to fvhrs.org.

Train operations begin May 5.

Entry deadline May 15, Submission August 1

Prizes will be awarded. Information: Arts Council of Surrey:
info@artscouncilofsurrey.ca



Director Gary Ridout Retires

Member since 2015, became Chair of the Guest Experience team to enhance the experience of our visitors at the Heritage Equipment and Discovery Centre. Thanks and good luck on Vancouver Island Gary!

2017 Board of Directors



John
Sprung
Chair



Ray
Crowther
Vice-Chair



Allen
Aubert
Secretary



Stephen
Plant
Treasurer



Sten
Christiansen



Peter
Finch



Ray
Hudson



Terry
Nichols



Harry
Taylor



Shane
Suter



Gary
Ridout



Dave
Woods
Council Liaison

Annual General Meeting

All members in good standing are invited to attend the society's Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 28, 2018, 12 noon

Refreshments 12:30, Meeting 1:00 pm

Valleyview Reception Centre

14660 72 Avenue, Surrey (Newton) BC

Bring your FVHRS Membership card to register

Contact the Signal Editor, Ray Hudson: rayhudson.eagle@yahoo.ca 778.840.7208

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