

Entering Our Third Era

Christmas In Evergreen



Hallmark movie shot at the
FVHRS Cloverdale Station: Page 5

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Hallmark Movie Features 1225 & 1304

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Entering Our Third Era

by John Sprung, Chair



As mentioned at the 2019 Volunteer's Appreciation Dinner, we are now entering the THIRD ERA for the FVHRS. Our FIRST era was the formation and acquisition stage where the society was still somewhat focused internally. This saw the creation of the society and initial funding, a place to exist at Sullivan Park, and erecting of a (potential) Car Barn. The growth of the society also saw this stage move from acquisition to restoration of the acquired Interurbans.

Our SECOND era was the move from restoration to Operation. This included the building of a new purpose-built facility, the move from Sullivan to Cloverdale and the start of service running the restored car (BCER 1225) as Surrey's Heritage Rail Experience (SHR).

Our THIRD era is the growth from running one Interurban, to having a System, specifically multiple cars, multiple stations (or stops) and multiple routes. We now have two operational Interurbans: BCER 1225 and BCER 1304 Connaught, multiple speeders and people powered vehicles - the 4-person hand cart and the velocipede. We also have stations at Cloverdale and Sullivan, although we are

only using one of them currently. As to multiple routes, we have our Sullivan Excursion using the SRY mainline to Sullivan, and our own Training and Event track also known as the Spur.

We have seen tremendous growth for the events that use our own track including the after-season weekend events of Halloween and Christmas. The largest growth is in our School and special events involving multiple trips or cars to run up and down the spur and may involve round trips from the Cloverdale station to the end of the spur, or depart the station to the end of the track then proceeding to the car barn (Discovery Centre) for a function, then returning to the Cloverdale station.

The next phase for the society will bring new challenges and greater opportunities. The challenges include actually getting to the next stop, which we expect will be Newton. To this end, we will be working with our partners, SRY Railink, BC Hydro and the City of Surrey, to come to agreement on safety and other protocols to move past Sullivan.

Expanding the route will also require activation of the Sullivan Station. This is a process that involves SRY and agreement on passenger safety protocols, and lead to a more complex operational structure: for reasonable passenger time we will (eventually) look at running two cars at the same time starting from both Newton and Cloverdale. One further operational issue arising from this, will be the need for double the number of operators and station crew. We will need to invite and train more people to become part of the FVHRS family.

Passenger Numbers

We are a heritage train operation, offering an experience of life as it was 100 years ago as Living History. As such, we want to know how well we are doing, attracting passengers year by year. The most obvious measurement is the Passenger count. There is some distinction on what a "Passenger" is for these reports. For some of the Special Events where we offer the package of a tram ride and a tour through the Frank Horne Heritage Rail Discovery Centre, we count everyone who comes on-site. For specific routes we only count those who actually board a tram and take a ride of some type, mainly for the Sullivan Excursion. The Sullivan Excursion numbers have increased over last year. Looking at the different areas, this past year saw increases in the City's Door's Open event (many more people came by and took the Discovery Centre tour) and the Electric Express Christmas event was not only way up, it was over-sold!

Entering Our Third Era (Continued)

School tour numbers are expected to be higher than previously reported when 2020 the spring term bookings start. We made a few changes this past year for school tours, including a slight fee increase. These tours are becoming a big draw item for new passengers. Other In-Season special events included the Heritage Rail Association conference, the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce luncheon and the first of an annual celebration for First Responders.

The out-of-season major events show different trends: The Hallowe'en event numbers have dramatically decreased while the **Electric Express** numbers are way up. The Special Events Committee and the board have decided to suspend the Hallowe'en event in 2020.

And while not 'passengers' as such, we did have a very large increase in other visitor numbers to view our demonstration Honeybee hives. Our Partner, The Honeybee Centre, actually added a second hive to keep up with the action. The most impressive numbers were those of honey production! Although the beekeepers didn't keep records on each hive, by observation they all said that the Cloverdale Station wildflower meadow hives were out-producing all the other city park demonstration hives.



Retail items

We added some new items to the store this year. Director and Station Master David Hobson wrote a children's book, **Pieter, Daisy and The Milk Train**, and provided copies for sale in the station. New buttons were added to the counter offerings. At the end of the season the anticipated **Railway Socks** were added and are expected to 'pull up' sales in the coming season.

Two often-asked-for items were added during the year: a Gift Card can be purchased to provide a ride for someone else – available for purchase at the station as the category of ticket needs to be punched, and paid for. The other requested item is a Seasons Pass. this is also only for sale at the station and must be purchased for a particular ticket class. The cost is about twice the value for one ride and thus means the 'third' and following rides are 'free.' This pass allows unlimited rides for one season only and is in line with what other tourist railway operators provide.

Marketing

The society has stepped up the joint marketing efforts with the Museum of Surrey (MoS), the Arts Council of Surrey (ACS) and the Honeybee Centre. We also continue to work with the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce to create awareness, not only of the SHR within Cloverdale, but also to promote the Cloverdale Heritage district.

We now have a presence at MoS on a regular basis by participating in the School District's "Professional Day" events at the museum. The society also participated in the new Christmas Tree Festival, a partnership between the MoS and the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce (see page 23) with a quickly gathered-group who decorated one of the 25 trees in the main hall. We understand this will be a recurring event so we will be looking for some new tree ornaments next season.

The major event with ACS is the Paint the Train (PtT) visual arts competition (see Page 10). This past year, the second annual event attracted more artists and submissions, as well as increased attendance at the awards reception. This year saw the first **Peoples Choice Award** pictured at the right of the page. We are working with the ACS to expand the third annual competition.



Entering Our Third Era *(Continued)*

Having the hard-working honeybees in the meadow also meant that we were invited to have a booth at the annual Honeybee Festival. This was a great time to promote the connection to the other side of Cloverdale and our wildflower meadow.

Working with the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce, we continued to have a float in the two major parades this year: the Rodeo and Christmas. As we now have a great float to show off, we made an appearance in the White Rock Sea Festival parade. If you are interested in being a part of the parade crew, do get in touch with us.



Operations Report

Dave King, Director (Operations)

2019's Operating Season was impacted by a number of construction projects on the mainline, which adversely affected our excursion schedule to Sullivan and back. On a number of occasions, road works at 168th Street and #10 Highway put the train signals out of action requiring our Conductor to get off the car and use the STOP sign, a tricky operation which had to be timed carefully. Also, reconstruction of the Serpentine River Bridge affected the crossing signals on Highway 10. Fortunately, Southern Railway loaned us a special radio to operate the crossing gates remotely. Hopefully, next year's operations will not be affected.

On a positive note, car 1304 made its inaugural run to Sullivan and back, on August 3rd, followed by several subsequent trips. This allowed our Operators to become familiar with the vehicle's characteristics, which are different to 1225. In addition, 1304 made several trips along the spur as "Speeder" trips.

Speeder 2 - the yellow unit - was activated during the summer while Speeder 1 - the red unit - is overhauled and repainted. Speeder 2 is a more powerful unit, and features a 4-speed transmission - in contrast to Speeder 1's automatic transmission. Speeder 2 is popular with Operators!



Speeder 2

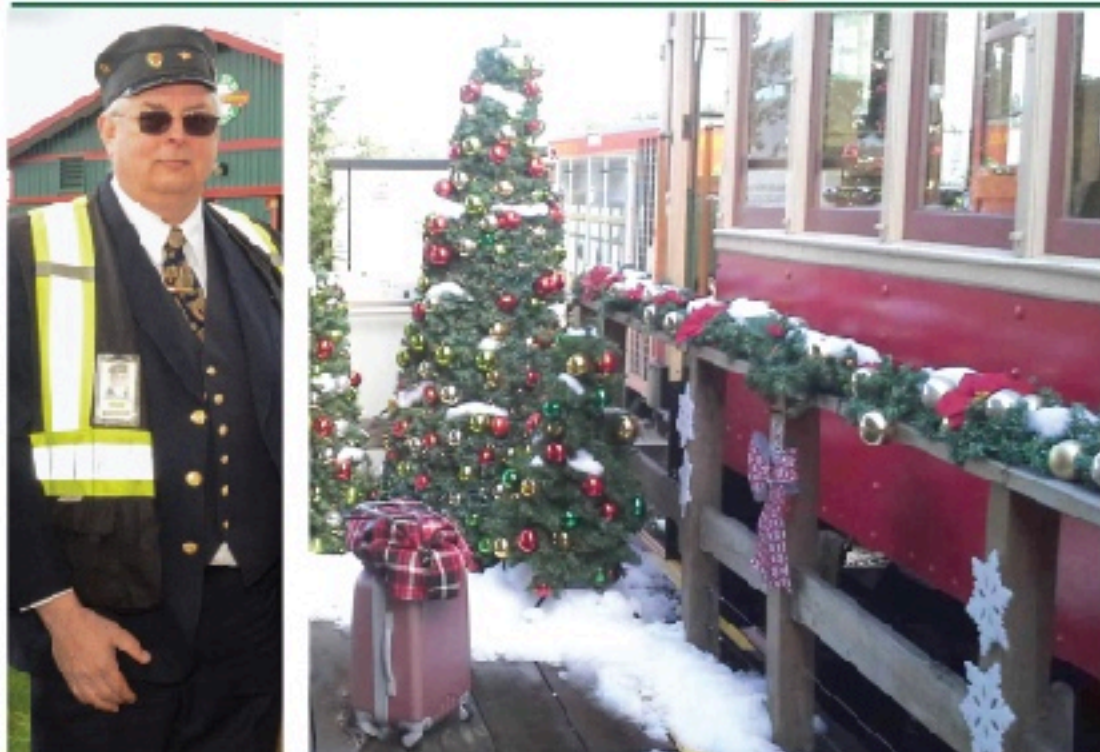


Speeder 1



Despite the operational hiccups, we carried over 4,600 passengers on our excursions to Sullivan, which is about 38% of our capacity. On our best weekend, August 24/25, which was overcast on both days, we carried 318 passengers. Both our opening weekend and final weekend were well attended, carrying 272 and 295 passengers respectively. Our 11:15 and 12:30 runs seemed to be the most popular, by a small margin.

Christmas in Evergreen - Tidings of Joy



Directors Terry Nichols and Ray Crowther wound up in the movies at the filming of Hallmark's Christmas Film

The first thing we see is a multi-car train snaking its way around mountains in winter. The next scene is of people inside the car - hey - wait a minute - that's Car 1225, pulling into the station in mythical Evergreen Vermont.

The car pulls to a stop at the platform. It's Cloverdale Station with a name change (Evergreen), and the train car we see comes to a stop, with the gold numbers, 1225, filling the screen. Another interior train shot is 1304 the Connaught.

This feel-good formula Christmas season movie does a good job, and for those in the know, it gives one a good feeling to see our interurbans do well used. But wait! As the train arrives passengers with luggage are helped off the train while others have their tickets checked. The two trainmen are none other than Terry Nichols and Ray Crowther.

"It was a terrific experience," said Nichols. "We were supposed to be there to drive the car into the scene, and help where we could. We had a meeting with some of the crew led by the Assistant Director, and they asked what we could do for them, and in turn, we ended up in the film."

"The day of the shoot, September 5th, was a summer-like twenty-seven degrees. For snow, the crew bought a truck-load of ice chips from a local fish plant, and whenever there was a break in the action, two crew would appear with a plastic wheel-barrow full of "snow" to place around the edges of the wet platform to make it appear as a salted surface in winter."

"I must say the crew was terrific to work with. We were even invited to sit in the studio to "watch how the magic was done" as they referred to it."



In order to modify the changing daylight, a filtering shroud was placed over the car.



Similarly, 1304 was surrounded by drapes so outside scenery could be added at a later time.



Equipment and catering vehicles parked beside the barn.

1st Annual First Responders Day

Stephen Plant, Director



Members of the Surrey RCMP (in red serge), Canadian Armed Forces (Hon. Capt. Anita Hubberman), Firefighters from Cloverdale Hall 8, Cllr. Linda Annis, Council Liaison, MLA Jinny Sims, and MPs John Aldag and Gordie Hogg.



Our newest event was First Responders Day. On this Saturday of the Canada Day weekend, we honoured Fire Hall number 8 in Cloverdale. The firefighters arrived in their fire truck and received an award of recognition and gratitude.

The guests were piped to the station by the Surrey Firefighters Pipe and Drum band. It was quite a sight. We offered all first responders complimentary rides on that day. The Smile Band made their first appearance at our station and really rocked the place - it would not be their last appearance, at this now annual event.



Station Masters: *The Fellowship of the Green Hats*



As in a play, there are no small parts when it comes to volunteers for the SHR. But one of the functions critical to the passenger side of the operation (and after all, it is really all about passengers) is the Station Master who is the one individual charged with the safe and efficient flow of passengers onto and off the trains, as well as on and around the station. The badge of authority is the Station Master's distinctive green hat.



Currently we have eight volunteers qualified to wear the green hat: Alan Cumberlidge, Barb Ducharme, David Hobson, Isabel McCurdy, Michael Gibbs, Shane Suter, and Elizabeth Alkire (Station Master Coordinator).

We welcomed our youngest, and eighth Station Master, Kyra Dutton-Piskorik, (centre) who learned the ropes and ably took on the responsibilities that wearing a green hat entails. Kyra shadowed both David and Elizabeth over the course of a few weeks and on August 19th, she was presented with her hat and name badge.

We are always looking to qualify additional Station Masters. Any volunteer interested in learning more about the role should contact Elizabeth or David.



Surrey Doors Open

FVHRS has been an active participant in the **Surrey Doors Open** program for over five years. Our facility ranks as one of the most popular venues in the day's activities. It has anchored the Cloverdale destination in the city-wide event that showcases the historical heritage of the community. This free event, was designed to encourage people to learn more about what their city has to offer.

Our heritage railway hits every note as a living piece of history and showcases the natural setting we live in; and is integral, economically, to our tourist offerings by showing the benefits of alternate transportation options.

We can all be rightly proud of the part that Surrey's Heritage Rail plays in this event. Its popularity amongst visitors lifts the program as a whole and increases awareness of the city's commitment to heritage in all its forms.

Michael Gibbs

Cloverdale Chamber Luncheon In The Discovery Centre



John Sprung, at left, and Chamber Executive Director Scott Wheatley, right, spoke to the membership.

The FVHRS is a member of the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce and hosted the Chamber's monthly luncheon on August 13, 2019. For many chamber members this was the first time they had visited the heritage railway and taken a ride on the restored interurban BCER 1225.

FVHRS Chair John Sprung welcomed the Chamber members, then invited them to tour the Discovery Centre and check out the rolling stock. On the way to lunch everyone had an opportunity to view the wild flower meadow, the honeybees and bee hotel. This is our sustainability initiative in partnership with the Surrey Honey Bee Centre, to promote the pollinators.

Those attending were very impressed by the facilities and there were many promises of return visits in the future. Coast & Country Caterers of Cloverdale provided an excellent buffet with a variety of food items.



FVHRS Historian Henry Ewert on the BCE Railway

HRA Convention Tour Comes to Cloverdale



Lunch was served accompanied by a helping of Interurban History by Henry Ewert before boarding 1225 for a short run.

We had an opportunity to host a tour and lunch for delegates from the Heritage Rail Association conference in June. The theme for the visit was **Cloverdale Station 1920: Centre of the Fraser valley**.

The Heritage Players went into action and put on a great performance. The Surrey Firefighters Pipe and Drum band were on hand to welcome the large group and pipe them off the bus and into the station.

The pipers returned when the delegates left the station aboard 1225.

They were treated to a wonderful west coast lunch then rode on all of our vehicles including 1304, and Historian-in-Residence Henry Ewert, gave a great speech on "the Golden Age of the Interurbans". The feedback confirmed that the delegates had been highly impressed.

Cloverdale Rodeo, Cloverdale Christmas & White Rock Sea Festival



Cloverdale Rodeo Parade passing the statue of the late Frank Horne, still checking that we're on time. Under the tireless leadership of FVHRS volunteer Ron Powers several volunteers prepared and decorated the FVHRS mini interurban play structure, and on three occasions we were able to participate in community street parades. We again entered the Cloverdale Rodeo and Christmas parades, using the play structure as a "decorated float" pulled along on our new custom trailer by our Trackmobile.

For the first time, we entered our float in the 2019 White Rock Sea Festival Parade. We expect to continue participation in these community events with the added appearances this year by our new 'Heritage Rail Players' in period costume.



Dolores Sleutel, Don Bruce and grandsons Jory and Scott Walker



Dolores, Stephen Plant and Miss BC, Bremiella DeGuzman



Ron Petersen, Ron Powers, Tom Allam, Bob Storey, Barb Ducharme

Guest Experience Team

This was our first year with a Director of Guest Experience, Stephen Plant. He was ably assisted by Barb Ducharme, Grace Ducharme, Liz and Allen Aubert.

Early in the year the Heritage Rail Players was formed as a group of our volunteers who are keen to participate in portraying life around the BC Electric Railway 100 years ago, at our special events. They get to dress up in period costumes according to the theme to entertain our guests. We are a small group, but are most open to welcoming additional volunteers who have a flair for the "lime light and grease paint."

"As Guest Experience Director, I am especially proud of how our volunteers work with our guests with disabilities, and consistently see these folks are treated with respect and compassion so that they can enjoy our offerings to the full."



Paint The Train 2.0 for 2019

Last year, we partnered with the prestigious Arts Council of Surrey to bring local artists together with Surrey's heritage, specifically the BC Electric Railway. Following on the success of last year's event, we are delighted to say that the second year has been even better.

It is exciting to see how our artisans interpreted the history and romance of the railway that spearheaded the early development of the Fraser Valley, the restoration of the 100 plus year-old Interurban cars, the tracks they ran on (and still do), the various pieces of railroad gear, the railroaders themselves and, of course the scenic panorama through which the trains travelled.

We have been in discussion with our sponsors, RBC Royal Bank and Buchanan Printing, who are keen to see the competition continue, so we have begun planning year three with Carol Giardi of the Arts Council of Surrey. We are delighted to see that there is a very diverse approach to interpreting Surrey's Heritage Rail on canvas, glass, textiles and so on. ***I can't wait to see what this year yields. More details will come in the spring. John Sprung***



1st: Ryan Broderick: "Fragments"



2nd: Sarah Power: "Passengers"



3rd: Judy Lewis: "Flowers at the station"

Honourable Mentions:



Nancy Wright



Colin Pronger



Carla Maskall



1207

Virbaski Branislav



The **Peoples' Choice Award** is an additional award that has evolved from those who attended the reception. They were encouraged to vote for *their* favourite painting. The winner was *A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood* by Jenny Lewis.



What's That Buzz? *by Allen Aubert*



Grace Ducharme delivers her Wildflower and Bee presentation as part of the Discovery Centre tour, as the bees buzz on.

2019 saw the wildflower meadow at the Cloverdale station in full bloom again, plus the addition of a beehive and bee hotel. This was our second year of wildflowers and included, for the first time, an excellent display of purple lupins that the bees were keen to explore.

The FVHRS is partnering with the Honey Bee Centre of Surrey, and every few weeks a beekeeper from the Centre came to check out our hive and make sure the bees were happy. Not only were 'our' bees very happy but they were producing a great deal of honey. They obviously liked the idea of exiting the hive and finding food just seconds away. Apparently we had over 100,000 bees in our hive during the summer.

Harry Taylor designed and constructed our unique bee hotel that is positioned near our pathway so visitors can observe the bees checking out the hotel rooms, making a selection and then leaving by **blocking up the entrance with a mud** type substance. There are almost 40 bees in the hotel enjoying a winter rest.

Specifically, bee hotels target solitary bees that live independently of other individuals and that nest in above-ground cavities. Solitary bees provide essential pollinating services for plants that produce many of our fruits, vegetables and flowers. The mud "doors" in the hotel mean a female bee has laid an egg inside. After the bee hatches, it will eat a supply of pollen until it is ready to break through the mud and fly away.



Our Discovery Centre guided tours included a popular stop at the wild flower meadow when our visitors were introduced to the importance of this initiative that supports the sustainability of our bee population and pollination.

Retail Centre Named Bill's Corner



We are pleased to report that sales have doubled this year and will continue to grow as additional items are added. Under the leadership of Stephen Plant and the extra work put in by Barb and Grace Ducharme, the retail area had a major facelift, adding two upright shelving units to display additional merchandise, and portable units to hang shirts for guests to peruse. We have a host of new items including: **1225 T-Shirts**, **Wildflower meadow T-Shirts**, new **Design Hats** in four colours, **honey**, new **Coffee Mugs**, two styles of **Souvenir Buttons** and now our **Interurban Socks** in two colours. We also carry copies of an Interurban themed children's book, by our very own **David Hobson** named **Pieter, Daisy and The Milk Train**.

The glass counter displays some rare model trains.

In Memoriam



In early July we suffered a big loss as our long time primary Storekeeper, Bill Robinson, passed away suddenly. In his memory, we have named our expanded retail area **"Bill's Corner Store"**

PIETER, DAISY AND THE MILK TRAIN



BY DAVID HOBSON



Motorman Bob Webster Retires After Last Run



It was September 29, 2019 when Motorman Bob Webster made his last run as a Motorman on Surrey Heritage Rail's BC Electric Interurban 1225. "Arriving at the platform I gave a long blast of the whistle and stepped off the car."

He was escorted to the museum room of the station. "The volunteers were there, giving me a retirement party which I never expected, nor the gifts, especially the pen made out of the wood taken from the 1304. I just will never forget your friendliness." And we won't forget your dedication and service either, Bob.

Discovery Centre Tour



Presentation on wildflower meadow and honey bee project



Quad Handcar rides
Velocipede rides
Speeder rides



History tour

This year significant improvements were made to our Discovery Centre Tour which now begins at the Wildflower Meadow about 10 minutes before the next train departure. From there the guests load onto the speeder and follow the train down the spur track. As the train reverses direction and travels west on the main line the speeder passengers can wave at the car as it goes by. A fun new experience, particularly good for picture-taking.

We have also added the new Quad Handcar to the tour attractions. The Quad has become a very

popular additional ride along with the Velocipede and Speeder.

Each Discovery Centre tour is completed before the arrival of the next train.

And now for something really special, starting the 2020 season, guests will be able to have another hands-on experience by visiting the newly commissioned Signal Shack (see Page 19) where they can actually operate the remotely located railway signals, or semaphores.

Chilliwack & Vancouver Train Show



The interurban simulator is always a popular attraction at the Vancouver Train show.

Directors David Hobson and Michael Gibbs at the Chilliwack Train Show tell our story.



The Annual Chilliwack Train Show was well attended and once again the FVHRS had a display featuring pictures, maps and books. David Hobson and Michael Gibbs were on hand to talk about the operation and answer questions. Many people wanted to know when we were going to restore service to Chilliwack. However, the fact that we are keeping history alive and running restored Interurbans from Cloverdale to Sullivan interested many people who promised to come and seek us out. A couple of people even signed up to become members.

Clayburn Signals Installed



The Clayburn Diamond Signals, situated where the BCER line crossed the CPR tracks in the Clayburn area of Abbotsford, was one of the last manually operated crossing signals in operation in North America.

The signal shack and semaphore signals were donated by SRY In 2012 . It was about a year before space was created and restoration could begin. The roof had to be replaced and shingles for siding, that matched the original material, had to be located .

Once the shack was rebuilt and the switch levers were cleaned, a new base for the shack came next. The levers were placed in the foundation and a Hiab, courtesy of Kingston Construction, placed the building on its new foundation. Finally the connecting rods were installed and the semaphores became fully operational. Another terrific hands-on feature for our guests to explore.

In memory of Barry Turriff, his wife and daughter, on behalf of the family, gave a cheque to John Sprung towards the restoration of the Clayburn Shack (photo at right side).



Bob Brown, David Baker, Bob Storey, Ray Crowther, John Sprung and Larry Perkins Ray, John, the Turriffs and Bill Green

1231 Truck and Motor Removal For Restoration



Work crew includes Andrew Newey, Terry Nichols, Aaron Lau, Roger Crick and Russell Newcombe



The first thing to be done after lifting the body was to remove all of the brake rigging and loosen the bolts holding the motors to the frame. The trucks were then pushed outside and the gear cases removed. It was dirty work as there was lots of heavy oil and grease in the gear cases.

A scaffold with beams was set up to lift the motors which weigh approximately 3500 lbs each. To properly remove the motors from the trucks, two chain hoists were necessary, not only to remove them, but to fix them on to pallets for shipping to the motor shop.

Hallowe'en



The Hallowe'en event, which we held a weekend earlier this year, was very well performed but did not attract as many visitors as in previous years.

Following a review by the volunteers and the Board of Directors we decided not to hold the event in 2020 and further consider the future of this event .

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2019



The Society held the 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Hazelmere Golf Club, for the fourth year, enjoying an evening of fun, fellowship and recognition to celebrate the contribution of both the volunteers and spouses.



Greetings from Council liaison Linda Annis



John & Allen



Now, where does the film go in his camera?



Elizabeth Alkire and Allen Aubert greeted the volunteers and guests on their arrival, and ushered them into the banquet room for entertainment from the Smile Band. Circulating among the tables, Debbie Buzunis (above) and Tony Marier delivered their annual Christmas cards and candy canes to their colleagues.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards 2019



Georgina Myles - Rookie Volunteer of the Year



Art Crowther - 2019 Directors Volunteer



Don Bruce - Unsung Hero

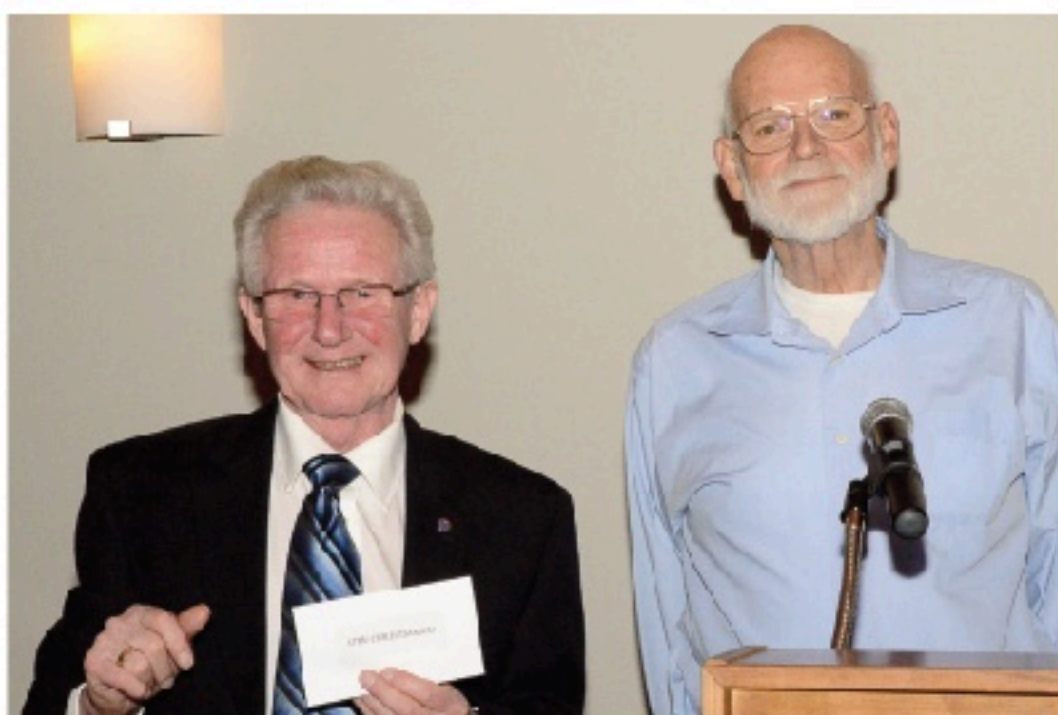


Lorna Bruce - Gold Star Award



Volunteer Pin recipients: Carol Hood, Faye Koll, Glenys Baker, David Baker, Georgina Myles, Gumoor Bajwa, Sue Bryant, Cheryl Lim, Gary McKluskey, Wayne Campbell. Surrey Councillor Linda Annis congratulated the volunteers.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards 2019



Sten Christiansen received his 15 year pin and Ron Jones his 10 year pin from Vice-Chair Ray Crowther



Five year pins were awarded to Michael Gibbs (Director), Ellie Ewert, Andrew Newey, Don McKay, David King (Director) and Bob Brown.

Volunteers Enjoying the November 22nd, event.



David King



Ellie & Henry Ewert



Ken Silen



Harry Taylor, Ray Crowther

Really have fun this season: Join the Heritage Rail Players

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2019



Don McKay



Wayne Campbell



Bill Fee



Ron Powers, Barb Ducharme



Terry Kraucher Aaron Lau



Hugh Parkinson, Larry Perkins, Dolores Sleutel



Jasmine Gill, Malika Bopari, Gurnoor Bajwa



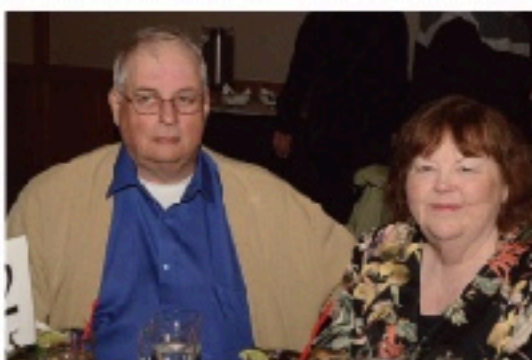
Michael Gibbs, Sue Bryant



Harry Taylor



Neil Wilkie, Peter Leyland



Terry Nichols



Liz Aubert Barb Ducharme



Terry Kraucher Andrew Newey



Art & Ray Crowther, Rene Doyharcabal



John Cowan



Larry Perkins, Doreen Anderson, Ron Finlayson



Alan Cumberlidge



Wayne Campbell



Roger Bose



Dolores Sleutel, Heather Brown



Faye Koll, Gary McKluskey



Lorna & Don Bruce



Tony Marier, Debbie Buzunis, Georgina Myles,



Hugh Parkinson, Sten Christiansen,



Myrna McRae

The Electric Express

We ended the year with our fourth annual "Electric Express - 100 Years ago". Our supposed capacity for the weekend was 600 guests, but somehow we hosted 635. The most important thing is the feedback we received from our guests was truly amazing. Our volunteer group really outdid themselves. Perhaps the biggest surprise was how many seniors we attracted and how much fun they had.

Next year we will amend the storyline to reflect the start of the Roaring 20s.

Thanks to Wayne Campbell who portrayed St. Nicholas and Heather (fairie) Brown.



Merry Christmas to all, but no winter wonderland on the outside, just the gentle flurries of.....RAIN



Lorna, Georgina, Ray - What fun!



Bob's not your uncle, he's your elf!



Lorna and Cheryl Lim



Elizabeth Alkire, Don Mckay



Michael and Bob - ALL Aboard!



Now the excitement begins!



David Baker, Art Crowther



Passengers Feeling the Magic



Sten Christiansen, David Baker



Ellen Edwards portrays
Nurse Francis Ellwood



David Hobson, Narrator, Stephen Plant, writer /producer



Soldier portrayed by
Alan Cumberlidge



Arvid Westberg as
Ebenezer Scrooge

Each year we invite our visitors along on a trip which transports them 100 years into the past to experience the Christmas season in the town of Cloverdale. By then it had become a bustling crossroads of three railway companies.

It's 1919. The Cloverdale Station (replica), is the setting for a trip on the **very trams** that ran on these **same** tracks. The traveller hears the familiar music such as White Christmas, while riding on the very BC Electric Railway tram that brought the soldiers and nurses back from the great war. But wait - this train is magically diverted to a track to the northern abode of St. Nicholas, aka Father Christmas.

It's a magic kingdom for kids of all ages, so enjoy the warmth, the music and the joy of the Electric Express on your visit to yesterday!



Dolores Sleutel
as Tiny Tim



Inside the warm station, the most wonderful time of the year is energized by musicians. Please do sing along!



Harry Taylor and Roger Bose entertain the visitors in the music parlour, close by, the Gift Shop has many railway Stocking Stuffers.



Greeting Father Christmas



The Magic of meeting Father Christmas



The Book of "Naughty or Nice"



Fr. Christmas listens to the wishes



Elf Alkire shows how he makes toys



Lots of elves were on hand to welcome the visitors



What is that???



Everyone loves the magic of model trains in a winter setting. It's all about the kids, young in age or in heart!



Workshop at the North Pole



Meet the Alkire Elf!



Faye Koll and Glenys Baker

Museum Christmas Tree Competition



We entered the Surrey Museum Christmas Tree event



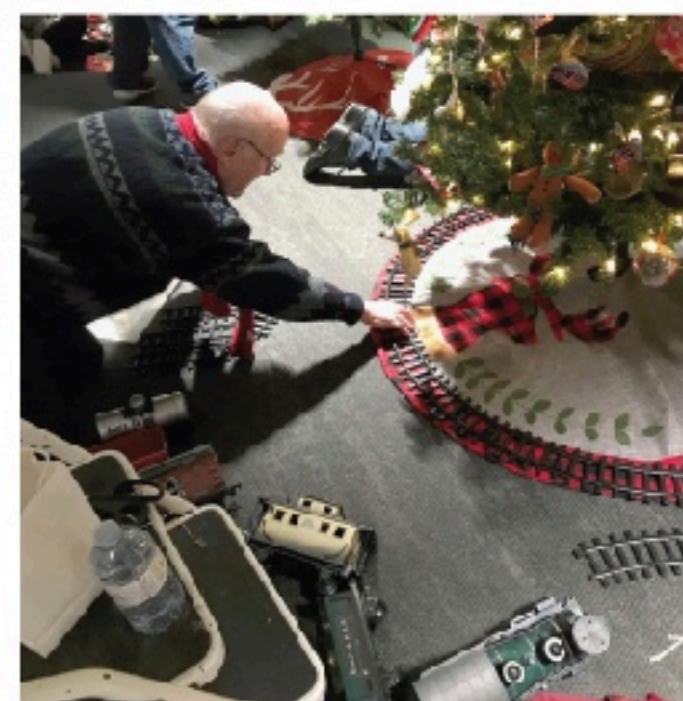
Our decorating team was Barb and Grace Ducharme Stephen Plant and Liz and Allen Aubert



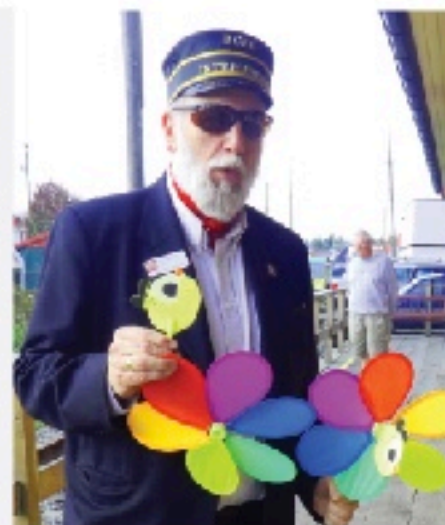
The Team did a great Job. We were well represented by great people



The event attracted 25 entries and will become a must do annual event



Photos that don't fit anywhere else



2019 Board of Directors



John
Sprung
Chair



Ray
Crowther
Vice-Chair



Allen
Aubert
Secretary



Stephen
Plant
Treasurer



Elizabeth
Alkire



Sten
Christiansen



Barb
Ducharme



Terry
Nichols



Aaron
Lau



David
Hobson



Michael
Gibbs



Roger
Crick



David
King



Cllr Linda
Annis

**2020 Annual
General
Meeting**
Saturday, Oct 17
12:30 pm
**Valleyview
Reception Centre**
14460 72 Avenue
Surrey (Newton) BC
 All members
 in good standing
 are invited to
 attend

Address comments to the Communications Group
info@fvhrs.org - Mailing address 1045 165th Ave, Surrey BC V4A9A2

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 Ray Hudson