



Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society 1045 165 St, Surrey, B.C., Canada, V4A 9A2

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting held April 4th, 2009
1.00pm. to 3.00pm.

Location: Hampton Inn, 19500 Langley By-Pass. Surrey, B.C.

Present:

Executive

John Sprung, Chair
Bob Ashton, Vice Chair
Allen Aubert, Secretary
Stephen Plant, Treasurer

Board members

Roy Mufford
Jerry Gosling
Ray Hudson
Peter Holt
Ron Powers. New board member
Rene Doyharcabal. New board member

Keynote speakers:

Councillor Marvin Hunt
Ken Doiron Vice President Marketing & Sales
Southern Railway of BC
Robert Ashton 1225 rehabilitation presentation update

Regrets: Councillor Barbara Steele, Surrey City Council Liaison
Doug Watkins

Society Members

Michael Aubert
Donald Bladon
Harold Braker
Les Brown
Gary Davis
Lois Dick
Ken Estenson
Henry Ewert
James Foulkes
Karl Goerndt
Roy Griffith
Gordon Hall
Frank & Pearl Horne
Vincent Holmes
Judy Higgingbotham
Ron Jones

Lorraine Johnstone
Gloria & Gordon Kelly
Bruce & Phyllis Kerfoot
Albert Maw
Kenneth Maycock
Neil McLeod
Bill Meeks
Jim Mihaley
Lorne Pearson
Al Pegg
Larry Perkins
David Powell
Gil Reynolds
Vic Sharman
Ken Silen
MervTinck
Stewart Walker
Bill Watson
Ben Weaver
John Welsh
Total attendance 51

Call to order by John Sprung, Chair @ 1.00pm

1 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Bob Ashton, 2nd by Peter Holt. Carried

2. Approval of minutes of 2008 AGM

Moved by Jerry Gosling, 2nd by Bill Watson. Carried

3. Annual and Committee Reports

3.1 Chair's report

John Sprung reported on the past year. A complete report follows:

Chair's report

AGM 2009

Change happens!

Looking back over the past year many things have happened. Most of what we have seen, both within our society and without, deal with change.

South of the border, "Change" was the cry, the promise and the result of the American election.

Closer to home we hear about change in our upcoming provincial election.

We have all felt, one way or another, the change in the global economic situation.

But sometimes change not only brings challenges, it also brings a renewed enthusiasm for the often new road ahead.

This past year saw many changes for our society:

Foremost is a change in our relation with the City of Surrey. We said a short Good-bye to our longstanding city Liaison, Judy Higgenbotham, and then a very warm welcome to her as our newest Lifetime member.

We are welcoming our new city Liaison, Councillor Barbara Steele, who has already taken up the task of

representing your society to City Hall, and in turn representing City hall for the Board of Directors. I can tell you that she has already made a big impact in advancing our cause. Barbara cannot be here today as she is representing the Mayor at a regional crime prevention meeting. Councillor Marvin Hunt is here today to bring greetings from Council.

We also have a closer working team with City staff. Jeff Arason from Engineering is working with the society to advance the various components to achieve the third stage of our “Get car; Fix car; Run car” mandate.

This year we also see changes in our Board of Directors. The AGM is the time for the membership to effect change in the composition of the board. There are times when members of the board also seek changes.

This year one of honoured directors has decided to step down and make room for new voices at the table. I wish to thank Doug Watkins for his many years of support for the society both at the board table and in the community where he reached many people. We all give Doug our best wishes for the future. Our Vice Chair, Bob Ashton, will report on new board members a bit later.

We see a change in the community awareness and support. With the many events we attend we are now spreading the word about returning the interurban cars to the Fraser Valley line. From Yarrow & Chilliwack to Delta, with many stops in between, more and more people are hearing the message that we are coming. One of the delightful venues last year was the 80th Anniversary of the Bradner Flower show, which had as its theme the Interurban line. If you have not had a chance to visit this wonderful spot in the valley, please join us at the next show in Bradner in two weeks. On April 18 and 19 we will again show the film *the Chilliwack Run*. This year we will be accompanied by our *Circle of Friends* – who performed at each of our Open House events this past year. Ray Hudson, a Director of both our society and The Circle of Friends, showed others talents with his composition *The Ballad of 1225*.

Community support is also evident in requests to present our story at local service groups like Rotary, Probus, and the various Pioneer associations of large companies like CP & Air Canada. From these events we have heard many new stories of old and fondly remembered times on the various tram and interurban lines. From a casual question at a recent visit to BCER 1223 in Burnaby, a remembered picture of a family trip in 1966 lead to a re-visit with car 1225 for two brothers this past week. Ross and Ron Hodge drove with their father Victor around southern California in 1966 and after what Ross remembers as “a long drive to the middle of nowhere” arrived at a train museum in the dessert where they were very surprised to find a B.C. Electric “tram”. We were happy to have Ross and Ron visit this week and re-create the pictures and see the work progressing on the car. I hope they will return next year to update the pictures when we are back on the line.

Another positive change we see is the growth of our membership. The community presentations that help spread our story also help to bring in new members. As I look around the room I see many new faces. Would all those present who have joined in the last year and are attending their first AGM please raise your hand. Welcome to our family.

Support comes in many ways: the many local companies who donate goods and services, far too many to name today, continue to help on a daily basis. To see who they are, please look at the web site for the many groups and firms. A few examples are Cloverdale Paint who allow Bob Ashton to walk out with buckets of paint, United Protection Services who send three patrols a night, seven day a week, to make sure 1225 and all the parts stay in the barn overnight. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, who provide shop access for some small parts, and have provided a sabbatical for me this year to work full time with the society and the City of Surrey.

New corporate members this year have actually been with us in many different ways. Jim Mihaly and The *Leader* newspaper is stepping up to help with promotion of our activities, and the 100th Anniversary of the Fraser valley line next year. *The Leader* will be our media sponsor for events and help with our fundraising efforts. PNR Railworks have been with SIRS, and us, for a long time providing the Speeder, track installation and maintenance for the speeder track and most recently this Gold Spike to be used for the completion of the Sullivan spur. RDM enterprises, based in Langley, are also old friends, helping us with grounds and speeder track installations, we look forward to working with all of them for the new Sullivan spur to connect the car barn to the main line.

Another long time association with our *newest* corporate member is close to 100 years old. (Mr. Ken Doiron handed over the cheque for SRY corporate membership.) Southern Railway of BC continues the story of the BC Electric railway and has also provided track access to the line for our operations next year – at no charge. Ken Doiron will be our keynote speaker today and will tell us more about the past, and future,

of the Fraser Valley line. We look forward to building a successful heritage tourism operation with our newest partner.

As we enjoy the warm feeling of growth and success, we must also anticipate other changes. This year will be the last season of our regular Open House events. While we have been restricted to our island of track in the car barn, we have welcomed the community to come find us there. When we connect to the Southern Railway main line, and can go out into the community each weekend, we will not have the time to open the compound for the Open House events. Similarly, we will not be running the speeder and the 1225 ½ trailer as the oval track will have to be cut to allow the tracks from the car barn to the main line. We can take comfort in knowing future rides will be on the new rattan seats and not a hard wooden board. --- that is unless you want to ride in the smoking section.

Volunteers also see many changes, not only in the progression of the rehabilitation in 1225, but also in the number of new faces who are helping out. At this time I would like to ask all of the volunteers who have dedicated so much time to the society this year to stand please. ... Thank you for your commitment to returning the interurban to the Fraser Valley line.

Bob Ashton and crew achieved a milestone this past week when they reached 10,000 hours of volunteer time on 1225. This represents a \$300,000 value in sweat equity to the society.

This past year we also changed the location of the annual volunteer recognition dinner. Here, in this room, we were able to meet and mingle before, and during, the dinner. I think we will need a larger room this fall when we have even more volunteers to join us.

Now in case those of you who have been working on 1225 think your shop time will end when we get 1225 on the tracks, Bob Ashton tells me that we will have a new project arriving in three weeks. The arrival of the last remaining BC Electric interurban car, and the only surviving Chilliwack car, 1304 will be our big event of the Spring. April 25th will see the return of the “Duke of Connaught” to eventually run the line again. Starting with a breakfast at Sullivan Hall, we hope to see the two transport truck bring 1304 over the hill and then craned onto our tracks about 9:00am. The welcoming party will include Mr. Alex Budden, the British Consul-General based in Vancouver, who will recognise the car that carried His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Governor General of Canada in 1912. The Mayor and Council will be represented along with Mr. Frank Butzelaar, president of Southern railway of BC to help return 1304 to Canada and BC.

As many of you know, we have been working toward returning 1304 since the concept of the interurban heritage railway was sparked in 1996 at the Surrey Heritage Advisory committee, and the reports that followed that identified the last two cars still in the U.S. The return of 1304 is made possible by the work, dedication to restoration and complete financial undertaking of the Steveston Interurban Restoration Society or SIRS. We are working in partnership with SIRS to receive and house 1304 before rehabilitation work is started.

Word has spread about the return of 1304 and this has, in turn, brought renewed interest in sharing stories and pictures of the interurban line and cars. We have received from Mr. Ken Shattock in the Seattle area, donations of film clips recorded by Harold Hill in the 1950s. These clips will be available soon on the web site, and presented at Open house dates this year. We also received still images from our society member, Mr. Patrick Hind of Victoria, of 1304 at various locations on the BC electric lines. Some selected images from The Patrick O. Hind collection are on display at the side of the room.

In 2010 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of District 3, or the Fraser Valley line, to Chilliwack. We will be working with Southern Railway, and The Leader to promote awareness of the history, and the continued existence of this important transportation connection in the valley. The global economic challenges of this past year has renewed interest in all things “rail” - due in part to the realization of the value and efficiency of rail and light-rail for freight and passenger travel. As we start operation of the proof-of-concept demonstration project in 2010 to highlight the possibilities of heritage tourism in Surrey, and the valley, we will also spread awareness that the most sustainable future development is one that is based on the things that are already there, like an interurban corridor.

As we move into the “run car” phase, we will see other changes to our society. With over 1000 passengers on the speeder each year, we were able to realize donations that approached balancing our annual expenses. Moving to a “fare box” donation will change our financial intake. One unfortunate aspect of the global financial meltdown is to make our task much more difficult to raise capital and operating funds. The City of Surrey has provided donations and grants of over ½ Million Dollars since 2000. We have been able to

match this with goods and services in kind, cash donations and volunteer effort to achieve over \$1.3 Million dollars in value to the society. As we move forward, we will be responsible to raise more of our own funds. Being aware of the responsibility to change our requests for support to reflect reality, we have changed our plans to operate the interurban cars with a replica baggage car containing a generator set. We now look to use a trailer to support the gen-set, which is often referred to as a "donkey." This smaller appendage to 1225 will also mean we do not need to immediately extend the barn to house a third full-size interurban car.

We will continue to work toward a replica baggage-express car and also to explore the use of alternate fuels like methane-hydrogen to power the generators in the near future. We will, in time, raise a replica Cloverdale station as or Eastern terminus in Surrey. We will start to raise funds for these this year with a public campaign to continue through the anniversary year of 2010. Inspired by Ken Doiron, this campaign is themed "**One Passenger at a time**" to renew the B.C.E.R. line. At a "fare" of \$50 per passenger, we look to attract 30,000 passengers to stand on our platforms over the next 18 months. While this may seem a bit crowded on the Sullivan station platform, we will use a virtual platform to indicate the growing passenger count waiting for the train on our website, and on all our media communications.

How best can you help achieve this crowd of support? We will need even more help to move the real passengers from Cloverdale to Sullivan. Conductors, station "masters", ticket sales, souvenirs and "greeters" will be need when we operate weekends in the summer of 2010. You might wish to learn how to run the car as a motorman, or is that motorwoman? There will be more and more opportunities to help out, as we get closer to May 22nd, 2010 when the whistle blows for the first ride. If you interested in any of these opportunities to help, please talk to any one of the directors.

You can also take the celebration of the 100th Anniversary to your friends and your community. Give out brochures, bookmarks and fundraising material. Write to local newspapers and MLAs about the forgotten jewel in the valley.

We are all working toward the return of the interurban, one passenger at a time!

You can put yourself on the platform and be ready with the train comes in!

Thank You.

3.2 Treasurer's Report:

Stephen Plant, treasurer, distributed copies of the financial position as of February 28 2009, the FVHRS year-end.

- Total assets are \$820,712 as compared with \$753,974 in the previous year
 - Total liabilities are nil.
 - Held in trust for the Cloverdale Street Car 30 Society (yet to be formed) \$13,560 as compared with \$13,171 (the increase due to interest on the GIC) from the previous year.
 - Revenue of \$97,752 compared with \$115,119 from the previous year
 - Expenses of \$35,367 compared with \$27, 532 the previous year (the increase due to the community outreach advertising funded by grants fro BC Gaming and The Surrey Foundation)
 - Fund balance end of year \$714,879 compared with \$648,532 for the previous year
- Insurance and Community Outreach are the largest expenses.

3.3 Fundraising Chair's Report:

- Chair, Allen Aubert, reported that considerable success continued during the year with donations being made to the Society in cash and gifts in kind.

Total revenue in cash: \$97,752

Gifts in kind:

\$3,240 Hastings Brass in kind for brass castings

\$ 3,000 North Star security patrol in kind donation

\$85,620 Volunteer hours Jan 08 to Dec 30. 2,854 x \$30 (skilled labour volunteer rate)

\$5000. Administration hours

Total gifts in kind: \$96,860

Total 2008: \$97,752 cash +\$96,860 gifts in kind = \$194,612

3.4 Membership Chair's Report:

Chair, Allen Aubert reported that membership continues to climb, with currently Membership in 2006 reached 194 and 215 in 2007 by the AGM this year 2008 we have reached 265 Our goal was 250.

New members join following community presentations and attendance at open houses.

Renewals continue at the 98% with most members making a donation beyond the membership dues.

The goal for 2009 is to reach the 300 mark.

4. Receipt of Reports

Moved Henry Ewert 2nd by Peter Holt. Carried

5 Election of 2008 Board of Directors

The board of directors was elected by acclamation. (Executive positions for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be decided by the Board at the May board meeting)

The board for 2009 will be.

Robert Ashton,

Allen Aubert

Stephen Plant

John Sprung

Roy Mufford

Peter Holt

Jerry Gosling

Ray Hudson

Ron Powers

Rene Doyharcabal

Councillor Barbara Steele-council liaison

6 Other Business

100th anniversary of Fraser Valley line

John Sprung reported that plans are underway to celebrate the 2010 100th anniversary of the Fraser Valley line.

- A commemorative poster has been designed and printed
- A commemorative pin has been designed and will be ready very soon
- Commemorative T shirts with the 100th anniversary graphics have been designed and will be available shortly
- A large 100th anniversary graphic is being prepared to be installed on the side of the car barn.

• 1304 arrival April 25th.

Plans have been made to handle the arrival of 1304. There will be a catered breakfast followed by opening remarks and unloading of 1304.

7. Concluding Remarks

Councillor Marvin Hunt addressed the members, confirming Council's continuing interest and support for the FVHRS heritage rail interurban project.

8. Adjournment of Business

Moved by Ray Hudson, 2nd by Ron Powers that the 2009 AGM be adjourned.

Carried

9. Keynote speaker:

Ken Doiron Vice President Marketing & Sales

Southern Railway of BC

Ken addressed the members and made an interesting slide show that gave a history of Southern Railway of BC and how it is the predecessor of the BCER. Ken outlined the growth that Southern rail has made in

developing its freight business on the Fraser Valley line and confirmed the company's interest in working with the FVHRS to develop a successful heritage rail operation. Ken presented a cheque to the FVHRS for \$100 being their corporate membership dues for 2009. John Sprung welcomed Southern Railway as a corporate member of the FVHRS and expressed his pleasure that the society would now be working closely with Southern rail to complete the requirements to permit the FVHRS to operate on the Southern Rail's track. Ken announced that Southern rail as a corporate donation is making access to the track with out cost for the demonstration project in 2010.

Guest speaker

FVHRS Vice Chair presented a power point slide presentation update with a music background showing the BCER 1225 rehabilitation process to date. The presentation carried on from where it left off last year. The presentation then took the viewer through past year of rehabilitation activity to date. The presentation was well received and everyone was looking forward to completion of the rehabilitation of BCER 1225 by the end of 2009 and back on the track next May 2010, to operate as a demonstration project between Sullivan and Cloverdale on summer weekends.
END.