

**NOTES FROM THE 2010 NANAIMO HERITAGE SUMMIT
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-FEB-17, 7 – 9 P.M.,
AT THE NANAIMO MUSEUM,
HOSTED BY THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Attendees:

Michael Harrison	<i>Brechin Hill Community Association</i>	Anne & Bill Lewis	<i>British Club</i>
Sandra Zuccolini	<i>Cavalotti Lodge</i>	Leonard Krog, MLA	<i>Constituency Office</i>
Penny Bent	<i>Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association</i>	Matt Hussman	<i>DNPIA</i>
John Hofman	<i>Friends of Morden Mine Society / NCHC</i>	Marie De Vos	<i>Go Nanaimo</i>
Christine Meutzner	<i>Nanaimo Community Archives / NCHC</i>	Bill Gard	<i>NCHC</i>
Ron Blenk	<i>Nanaimo Family History Society</i>	Jill Stannard	<i>NCHC</i>
Debbie Trueman	<i>Nanaimo Museum</i>	Joan Perry	<i>NCHC</i>
Bill Merilees	<i>Newcastle Island Pavilion Society</i>	Gordon Miller	<i>Nanaimo Historical Society</i>
Paula Beltgens	<i>South End Neighbourhood Association (SECA)</i>	Pamela Mar	<i>Nanaimo Historical Society</i>
David Scott	<i>South End Neighbourhood Association (SECA)</i>	Daphne Paterson	<i>Nanaimo Yacht Club</i>
Helen Hunter	<i>St. Andrew's United Church</i>	Vicki Harrison	<i>NRLTA (Heritage Collection)</i>
Darren Moss	<i>Tectonica Management Inc.</i>	Lisa Webster-Gibson	<i>Snuneymuxw First Nation</i>
Andrè Sullivan	<i>Young Professionals of Nanaimo</i>	Will Frankling	<i>Military Museum</i>
Russ Thomson	<i>Neighbours of Nob Hill</i>	Zeni Maartman	<i>Tourism Nanaimo</i>

1. Introduction and Overview:

C. Sholberg welcomed everyone to the 2010 Heritage Summit.

2. E&N Railway Station Rehabilitation Project - Overview

C. Sholberg introduced Darren Moss of Tectonica Management Inc., and Andrè Sullivan of The Young Professionals of Nanaimo who are acting alongside the Island Corridor Foundation in the restoration of the E&N railway station. Built in 1920, the station is a significant part of Nanaimo's history and development.

Darren explained that the restoration will take place in two phases. Phase 1 will involve structural upgrades and exterior restoration such as replacing the foundation, restoring windows and doors, restoring brickwork, replacing stucco, etc. Phase 2 will focus on interior upgrades such as electrical and finishing.

Donations are still needed to help fund Phase 1. Phase 2 will be fully covered by the lease of a commercial tenant; an Irish pub/restaurant. The pub/restaurant will occupy 85% of the building and will have authentic features such as dark wood flooring and furniture. The remaining 15% of the building will be dedicated to a Via Rail waiting room / coffee shop.

The landscaping plan for the station will include inviting green space, hard space in the rear for vehicle movement, and a wooden boardwalk around the station. Details such as types of plants to be used are still being developed based on the tenants' input. There will be no on-site parking available, which will help to promote pedestrian traffic and maintain the original feel of the site. Restaurant patrons will be able to utilize the city-owned parking lot located behind the station (Prideaux Street), or surrounding on-street parking.

The anticipated project start date is April 1, 2010. They would like to start construction in May 2010, with Phase 1 lasting no longer than the summer. If this happens, the pub/restaurant could open January 2011.

C. Meutzner thanked Darren and Andrè, The Island Corridor Foundation, and the Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Area for putting in such a great effort into preserving the authenticity of this building.

Fundraising for this project is largely being done by The Young Professionals of Nanaimo. Andrè, Integrated Wealth Securities for The YPN, explained that the group was created in May for young professionals in Nanaimo that have a desire to improve the community. There are currently 80 members.

When The YPN realized that no progress was being made on this project and that the only reason was due to \$394,000 funding shortfall. They started a campaign on November 1, 2010 to raise the funds needed.

The total cost for Phase 1 is 1.3 million dollars. Via Rail has donated \$869,000 from insurance related to the 2007 fire, and the DNPIA has donated \$40,000.

The YPN will be hosting a historic train ride/dinner event for 250 guests called the "Wild West Express". Four vintage passenger cars are being barged over for the event. Guests will travel to the Cowichan Valley for a special feast which will include food, beverages, live auction, and period entertainment. Tickets are \$200, (\$100 toward donation), and can be purchased by e-mailing president@tpnanaimo.com or by contacting André Sullivan, 250-616-1111.

C. Sholberg thanked Darren and André for attending the summit and presenting their information. The most important point to be emphasized is the importance of making this project a reality while there is a driving force behind it. This may be the last push for rehabilitation that anyone makes on this building.

3. Round Table Discussion:

C. Sholberg briefly introduced the roundtable discussion. The following updates were given by community organization representatives:

Helen Hunter – St. Andrew's United Church

Helen Hunter is the past Board Chair for St. Andrew's United Church. The church is 117 years old and is in need of repair. They are starting a capital campaign entitled "Catch the Spirit" in April, and are hoping to raise \$780,000 to upgrade the church. Repairs needed include a new roof, organ replacement, pew repair, electricity upgrade, new furnace, and bell tower restoration (needs to be welded and secured before bell is rung). An engineer will be required to assess the work. Anyone who is interested in taking a look at the church, please feel free to stop by. The music festival will be starting shortly (held since 1925).

Bill Merilees – Newcastle Island Society

Bill Merilees explained that the Society has fallen on hard times but is trying to recuperate. They currently have four members. Mr. Merilees has 400 copies of the book "Newcastle Island, A Place of Discovery" for sale for \$8.00 each (retail for \$12.00). Anyone interested in selling this book can contact Mr. Merilees.

Penny Bent – Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association

Ms. Bent explained that the Association had attempted to make a list of heritage homes in the Departure Bay neighbourhood, but haven't been able to make this happen yet. They are currently working on a project to install historical plaques along the Departure Bay waterfront. The first plaque in the series "The Snuneymuxw Story" is complete. More plaques will be completed as finances become available. She noted that they are planning to install a plaque in the location of the first Dunsmuir house.

Christine Meutzner – Nanaimo Community Archives

C. Meutzner explained that the Nanaimo Community Archives is not project-driven. They collect archives from the community and process them so that they can be shared with others. Having a website has been very successful in shifting some of the burden off of staff. C. Meutzner mentioned that the EJ Hughes mural has finally been restored and installed in the Conference Centre, putting an end to a 15-year project. C. Meutzner noted that due to loss of gaming funds, the Archives will lose a staff member.

Daphne Paterson – Nanaimo Yacht Club Heritage Committee

The Nanaimo Yacht Club Heritage Committee started about 60 years ago. D. Paterson noted that they go through years of records, year by year, until they are all stored on the computer. She reminded everyone of the importance of organized file keeping. She reminded everyone to use acid-free folders and boxes when archiving their files. Take some time to sort and purge your records.

Ron Blenk – Nanaimo Family History Society

The Nanaimo Family History Society started in 1991. They have computers, microfilm, microfilm readers, genealogy websites, and publications for public use. They hold meetings on the third Monday of each month and feature guest speakers. They also publish newsletters and have publications for sale. They are located at 39-99 Victoria Avenue. On 2010-April-17, guests from the Society of Genealogists will present.

Russ Thomson – Neighbours of Nob Hill

Russ Thomson reported that the Neighbourhood Association has been working on getting a handrail installed on the Cavan Street steps, a wrought iron gateway installed in the park, and finding a place to start community gardens.

Matt Hussman – Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Area

The Partnership is under a new name and is now a membership organization. Property and business owners within the BIA will be receiving a package that will request correct contact information, nomination form for Board of Directors. Matt explained that the DNBA has been working with C. Sholberg to meld their façade grant program with the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission's Heritage Façade Grant Program. M. Hussman is glad to see the improvements being made to the E&N Railway Station. He emphasized the importance of the station reaching their fundraising goal, emphasizing that this may be the station's last and only chance for rehabilitation.

Will Franking – Military Museum

The Military Museum (Nanaimo North Town Centre) has many hidden treasures. It is a good place to find information about family members and other Canadian military history. The collection is heavily concentrated with World War II memorabilia. The Museum has approximately 55 volunteers ranging in age from 40 to 100 years old. They have been finding education

opportunities, such as supplying bookmarks during Remembrance Month to high school children. The Museum will be requesting permission from Council to send a Nanaimo flag to Afghanistan to show support.

Ann & Bill Lewis – British Club

The main intention of the British Club is to have fun. They have participated in various events such as the Victoria Day Parade. Anyone with British heritage is welcome to join. They hold meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. The meeting lasts approximately 30 minutes and the rest of the time is spent having fun.

Marie DeVos – Newcastle Neighbourhood Association

The Newcastle area is in the middle of the Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Planning Process. Marie noted that Newcastle has a very rich history with lots of heritage homes, a heritage tree and motel sign. They are planting 20 boulevard trees on Vancouver Avenue in March. If anyone would like to add information to their newsletter, contact them on their website.

Debbie Trueman – Nanaimo Museum

The Museum's next exhibit will be a Nanaimo's coal mining history. The artists who are creating the exhibit work on movie sets and are doing plaster casts of different scenes. The Museum is hoping to open the mine exhibit in June. The Bastion repair will soon be underway (hopefully March) courtesy of the City of Nanaimo. The Nanaimo Museum will be taking part in next year's Heritage Week by collaborating with the Port Alberni Museum to host a heritage fair in schools.

Sandra Zuccolini – Cavalotti Lodge

In 1958, the Cavalotti lodge built a fountain downtown in front of Harbour Park Mall. Approximately 150 members of the lodge worked on the project. Over time, the fountain has fallen into disrepair. Water used to spray out of the top and all of the interior tiles were hand cut in Mr. Rosetto's backyard. Because so much work has gone into the fountain, they would like to see it restored and maintained. A nomination to place the fountain on the City's heritage register was finally submitted.

David Scott, Paula Beltgens & Sandra Zuccolini – South End Community Association (SECA)

The South End is currently taking part in a Neighbourhood Planning Process and is very excited about it. They have been exploring ways to add an online feature to their website that allows residents to select different houses and leave personal stories. The Association produced a calendar this year that includes the 1891 map of Nanaimo. The calendars are for sale and proceeds go toward painting the Loaves and Fishes building.

Sandra added that the Miner's Picnic will take place at Devrille Square on June 26, 2010. The picnic includes a heritage walk and is free for kids. They are trying to arrange an appearance of a vintage fire truck. M. Harrison may be able to help with that. The South End is also planting 30 boulevard trees along Haliburton Street.

Gord Miller & Pamela Mar, Nanaimo Historical Society

The Society produces a number of publications and can help you find information about relatives from a long time ago. Their publications are available in the museum.

The Nanaimo Historical Society has been around since 1953. In 2009, the Society, with help from the City, completed a series of plaques along the waterfront entitled "Ships that Built Nanaimo" that highlight aspects of Nanaimo's maritime history. The Society meets every month, excluding summer, and each meeting features a special presenter. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bill Gard – Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission

Bill Gard thanked the NCHC members in attendance as well as Chris Sholberg for all of their hard work over the past year. Bill volunteers at Tourism Nanaimo. He thanked everyone for attending the Summit.

Andre Sullivan and Darren Moss – Tectonica Management Inc. / Young Professionals of Nanaimo

Fundraising will end April 1. Ways that you can help include attending the March 27 train ride and dinner, visiting the website (www.nanaimotrainstation.org) and spreading the word. They still have a long way to go before they reach their goal. If anyone would like more information, brochures are available.

John Hofman – The Friends of Morden Mine Society

The Friends of Morden Mine Society is a volunteer organization whose goal is to preserve the tipple and structure at Morden Mine. They have been collecting funds from various levels of government to help them create a Strategic Plan for the mine and surrounding structure. They have hired a specialist consultant for the job. Yesterday, they held an open house for the development of the Strategic Plan. There is another open house tomorrow night at the Cedar Heritage Centre, 6:30-9:00.

Michael Harrison -Brechin Hill Community Association

The Brechin Hill area is currently involved in the Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Planning Process. The Association has found that their biggest challenge is preservation of neighbourhood and waterfront views. Everyone is encouraged to attend their open houses and workshops on the plan. The Association produces a newsletter – if anyone has any interesting information about Brechin Hill, please contact them.

Vicki Harrison – NLRTA

The collection is located at NDSS in Room 159. Their collection consists of approximately 1300 textbooks, historical school files of students, and other memorabilia. The Association meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. They have spent the last two years cataloging their materials online. Their next step will be to make their collection open to the public, at least once per week.

Chris - Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission

The Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission has been working on many projects such as this summit, the Heritage Paint/Shoot-Out on September 19, heritage register updates, the heritage home/facade grant program, heritage plaques (Fire Department, Colliery Dam, Dean Finlayson), heritage walk brochure (Nob Hill/Chinatown), installation of the stone coat of arms at city hall, heritage posters, and the Heritage Action Plan. This year, they would like to hold the Paint/Shoot-Out in conjunction with the Coaltown Festival in August. They are also hoping to hold a public open house to review and update the Heritage Action Plan as well as seek the public's opinion on Nanaimo's Heritage in the fall.

C. Sholberg then thanked everyone for attending and participating in the 2010 Heritage Summit. He thanked Debbie and the Museum for use of the venue. The Summit concluded at 9:02 p.m.