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Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society

News

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Volunteers From Pacific Northern Rail Contractors (Railworks) and Southern Railway of BC (SRY) Look on as Surrey Councillor Judy Higginbotham Drives in “Golden” Spike on FVHRS Speeder Line.

Aug. 20. Volunteer crews from PNR and SRY showed up at the FVHRS car barn on Sept 20th, 2004 to begin laying track for the 600 ft circular speeder rail line.

All the equipment and track material was donated to the FVHRS by the two companies.

From early morning to the first big downpour of the summer, the volunteers worked, placing track, bending track and hammering in the spikes.

All the effort was to bring alive an idea of having an amusement RR put forward to the FVHRS Board of Directors after PNR had donated a crew speeder, along with a 10 passenger cart donated by SIRS.

As there will be a certain length of time between the time the first interurban arrives, is restored, and permission is granted to join up with, and operate, on SRY tracks there needs to be something to keep interest in the community high. A recreational RR seems to be the perfect plan.

The first attempt to operate the speeder on the new track took place on Oct. 10th. It was found that some more track work was required and once again PNR proved to be a fantastic community partner and volunteered to fix the problem.

Other volunteers and companies need to be recognized for their efforts: Ken Breaks for bulldozing, Mid Valley Fencing for a generous donation of labour. Mainland Sand and Gravel for trucking track ballast. Scotia Bank for a cash donation to pay for the ballast. GVC Credit Union for a donation of cash. (see back for story)





With **Surrey Councillor Marvin Hunt** (right) and Mr Glenn McLaughlin, GVC Director looking on, FVHRS chair Robert Ashton thanks Mr. R. Hattrick, GVC Branch Manager, Surrey for a \$1000.00 donation to the society. The money will be used to help complete the speeder project. The presentation took place at the GVC new branch office at 100th st and 152nd Ave. in Surrey. Also representing the FVHRS were Allen Aubert, Secretary and Director John Sprung.

The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission

OPEN HOUSE

Since May 2004 the FVHRS has had an Open House at the Sullivan car barn every 3rd Sunday. On Sunday, Oct 10th we had had the final one of the year. All the open houses were enjoyable as each FVHRS volunteer got to meet many members of our community from provincial to municipal politicians to inquisitive drive-bys who saw our banner attached to the fence or saw our ad in the local paper. Open houses will again return in the Spring of 2005. Dates have not been set as yet, but the first one will be during the Victoria Day long weekend and it is our fondest hope that when we open the big doors we can show off BCER 1225, back home to Greater Vancouver and the province of BC after many years in California

The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission members toured FVHRS Sullivan facility September 29, as part of their orientation of heritage facilities for new commission members. **Councillor Judy Higginbotham** led the Commission on a tour of the replicated Sullivan Station, the original remains of Sullivan Station, the car barn, the speeder and streetcar 30.



Councillor Judy Higginbotham (rear, center) explains the car barn, speeder project to members of the Surrey Heritage Commission. Other members look around.

BCER 1304

It was 54 years ago this October that passenger service was discontinued on the Fraser Valley line of the BCER. As a result BCER 1304 was transferred to the Central Park Line. It remained in service until 1955 when it was sold to the New England Electric Railway Museum. Never reaching the east coast the car went to Oregon where it remains today.

In Sept. The FVHRS received and accepted the resignation from the Board of Directors of Director Graham MacDonell. Since the formation of the society Graham has offered his expertise in many aspects of media presentation. He was the editor of the newsletter and produced many fine visual power point presentations for the society. Graham returned to his native Scotland.

Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society

NEWS



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