

Directors promote Society's mission



Sullivan resident Ron Fielding, 92, (at left) recalls riding on BCER Interurban Car 1220 featured in the photo held by FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton (second left) to Society Secretary Allen Aubert (right) while another long-time Sullivan resident, Jim Sullivan, looks on during Sullivan Days in mid-June. Mr. Sullivan, 88, is the oldest male member of the family which settled in the community in the early 1900's. (See story on Sullivan on back page.) In the background is a large photo of Cloverdale Station.

FVHRS 'lays tracks' to restore heritage interurban cars on FVL

The Board of Directors of the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society has developed a business plan to help it achieve its short- and long-term objectives.

"We are striving for 25 sustaining members for this year," said Business Plan Committee Chair Terry Lyster, who is also the Society's Membership Chair. "And, by 2002, we are hoping for 50 such members." (As sustaining member is defined as one who makes significant donations to the Society.)

The business plan outlines keys to success, including:

- a work program for 2001 (featured in the Spring 2001 Newsletter);
- a detailed listing of services needed for the Society to operate effectively;
- a skeletal marketing plan that identifies the types of members the Society needs to target;
- strategies for fundraising and management; and,
- a financial plan.

"We will need continued support from the City of Surrey," Lyster added, "along with significant volunteer efforts, substantial corporate support and co-operation by licensing and permitting authorities."

If you are interested in helping FVHRS, see the back page box for instructions.

Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society Board of Directors have been very active since the society was formed in March.

Among the many marketing tasks FVHRS board members have undertaken are:

- made a presentation to the Cloverdale Business Improvement Association at its Annual General Meeting in mid-June outlining what the Society's mission is and the work program for 2001, including showing the 32-minute video of a 1950 trip on the Fraser Valley Line;
- manned a display tent at the Sullivan Days in Sullivan (152nd & 64th Ave.) in early June (See photo caption at left);
- manned a display table complete with video presentation in the Showbarn at the Cloverdale Rodeo in mid-May; and
- made a presentation to the BC Heritage Society at its AGM in early June.

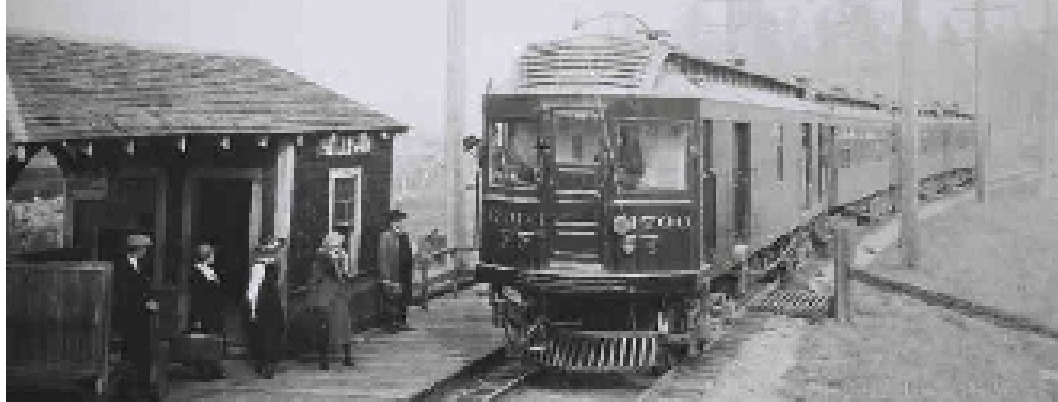
In addition, board members have:

- started a search for a building to be used as a car barn for at least two interurbans;
- begun a site search for the car barns that includes Kwantlen University College's Cloverdale site as a primary potential location;
- developed a detailed business plan;
- developed an preliminary communications and marketing plan;
- located the diaries of BCER interurban motorman Bert Johnson, who started his career on the Fraser Valley Line in 1910 and retired in 1947;
- developed a web page at <http://www.fvhers.org> (currently under construction); and,
- located a Brill street car that could possibly be used in Cloverdale to transport passengers to the Fairgrounds and Fraser Downs Racetrack.

"Your board of directors is working very hard to realize the first phase of the project by May, 2002," said FVHRS Chair Robert Ashton. "The first phase of the restored line would run from Cloverdale to Sullivan using Interurban Car 1220, acquired from the Steveston Interurban Restoration Society."

Any member who would like to help the Board in its efforts can contact FVHRS Secretary Allen Aubert. (See back page.)

Sullivan to become first stop on restored FV interurban line



BCER Baggage Car 1700 pulls into Sullivan Station in May 1923 on its mid-afternoon return run to Vancouver with three early 1-200 cars making up the typical four-car train. Waiting to board are five passengers, including May Farver (nee Dinsmore, third-left, white sleeve) and Tom Turnbull (fifth left, hat/cloth briefcase). The photo is an icon of the Fraser Valley Line.

The Sullivan area was a centre for logging operations during the latter 1800s, then known as the Johnston Settlement. In 1903, Henry Sullivan and his two brothers, Thomas and Jeremiah (Jem), acquired the Johnston quarter section south of Mahood Creek.

Initially, the Sullivans hand-logged the immediate Sullivan District to produce lumber and shingles at the Hiland/Sullivan Lumber Mill (LM) and the Surrey Shingle Manufacturing Co. (SM).

In 1909, the Sullivan logging crews built the BC Electric Railway right-of-way from Newton to Cloverdale. BCER built the Sullivan station (see above) at the southeast corner of Johnston and Bose Roads (later to become 152nd Street and 64th Avenue, respectively).

When the BCER line was being constructed in 1909, the two-storey Sullivan Store was being built just south of the right-of-way on the west side of Johnston Rd.

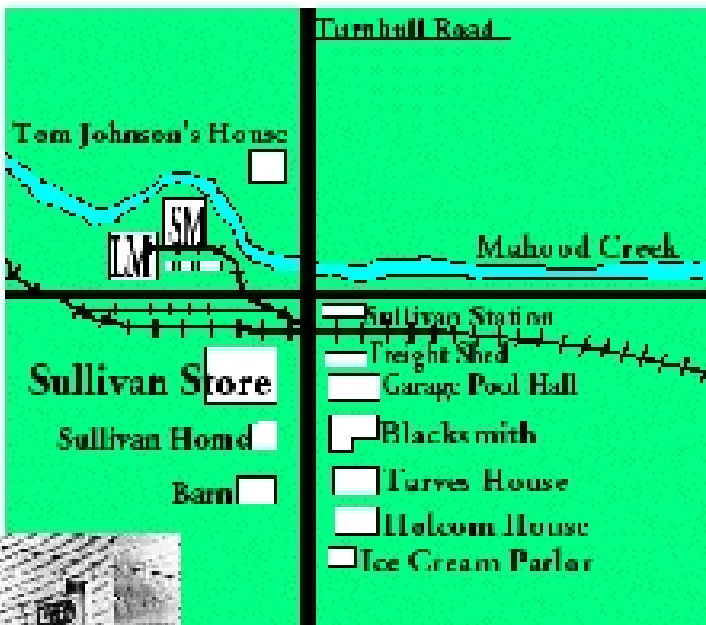
The Sullivan Store began operations shortly afterwards and was operated by Jem, who was the mill's timekeeper and office manager.

The opening of the BCER Station saw Sullivan develop as a regional focus with a post office opening in 1913 in the store with Jem (Jem's father) as the postmaster. The BCER was the mainstay for the Sullivan District.

From 1910 until 1950, it provided transportation to New Westminster and Vancouver, carried the mail and was used by the mills to ship shingles and lumber.

Sullivan students attended Surrey High School in Cloverdale by riding the interurban.

[Extracted from "The Historical Geography of South Surrey, British Columbia", Jack Brown's Masters Thesis of



Sullivan was in its heydays during the early 1920s when the Pacific Highway (running parallel to the Great Northern Rail line to the United States) was closed for paving. The store, next to Jim Sullivan's home, burned down in the early 1970s.

Tidbits...

about the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society

- It was incorporated as a society under the Society Act, Thursday March 15, 2001;
- There are 28 members with 12 on the Board of Directors;
- The first annual general meeting will be held on April 2, 2002;
- The first fiscal year will end on February 26, 2002;
- The Society has been named as a partner with the City of Surrey in an application for a grant from the Canada-BC Infrastructure Programme for \$4.9 million and is applying to the Provincial Community Partners Programme for a one-time capital grant;
- The Society has received the balance of the J. Wallace Foundation monies to help it during the start-up phase.



The Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society NEWS is published quarterly by the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society for its membership, sponsors and limited public distribution.

The Editorial Board welcomes brief letters and stories from readers who remember the Fraser Valley Line when BCER's interurban trains plied the rails between New Westminster and Chilliwack.

Please send your contributions to: Graham MacDonell, Editor, Heritage Railway NEWS, 148 - 3160 Townline Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 5P4 or e-mail: gmac@home.com

The Editorial Board also welcomes advertising for business card size ads at \$20 per placement per issue.

For additional information about FVHRS, contact: Allen Aubert, Secretary, FVHRS 1045 - 165th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 9A2