

SPOT NEWS

WESTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

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2018 I.H.S. Calendars available soon



A.P.R.'S WORKHORSE FOR 2017 - "MBL No. 11" at Port Alberni Station
The "MBL No. 11" is a 1942 "General-Electric" diesel-electric locomotive that used to shunt railcars at the "Alberni Pulp & Paper" mill. The 1912 Lima "Shay" - "Two Spot" - sits on display on the Station spur.

Photo: D. Hooper

APR News

The 2017 summer season was.... different. The "Number 7" ran very little, although it had been prepared and was certified to go. The 'BC Safety Authority' put load restrictions on the Kitsuksis and Rogers Creek Trestles so the 45-ton "MBL No. 11" was pressed into service for the regular runs to the McLean Mill all summer. However, being a small yard engine, it only pulled three passenger coaches up the hill, as opposed to the normal five. The "Seven", at 90 tons, was fired up on several occasions, such as for the July 1st "Triconic Challenge" but only rolled as far as Rogers Creek. Bridge ties have to be replaced and that has not happened yet.

The "Comox Logging" crew speeder was in service more than a dozen times—Waterfront runs for "Port (Harbour) Day" and 'shuttle service' / excursions to the Mill. Pete Geddes was the Operator. Other APR personnel have now been certified to drive it, as well.

Other regular railroad operations continued. Matt Gregory and Frank Holm kept the vegetation down on the right-of-way and Railyard. Pat Williamson earned his Diesel Locomotive Engineer's Certificate this summer. [See below]. Dave Newman covered the thankless job of Crew Scheduling with patience and grace.

Young Zack and his Gramps, Richard Anderson, did a magnificent job of removing the blackberry invasion that had threatened to engulf the Crew Trailer (aka the "Hilton") at the Roundhouse. His Grandma, Sally the "Flag Lady", continued to welcome the passengers as the trains passed her house.

The train operations, and the McLean Mill National Historic Site, are now being managed by the new "McLean Mill Society", selected by the City Council.



Newest Diesel Engineer

Pat Williamson (*middle*) receives his Certificate from senior Engineer, Rollie Hurst (l.) and I.H.S. President, Kevin Hunter.



"No. 7" making a run

"Seven" is seen here approaching Rogers St. Crossing. Rollie Hurst is in the Fireman's seat.



"Comox Logging & Railway" Crew Speeder Waiting for passengers at the Train Station. "Crew" - F. Holm (l.) & Operator P. Geddes.



(right) Zack and the Gramps

Getting ready to attack the last clump of blackberry vines beside the "Hilton". Photos: D. Hooper

"WORKIN" ON THE Railroad—"APR" Volunteers



R. Hurst (l.) and Dave Newman
(Below) P. Geddes (r.) and R. Hurst



"Conductors" - Barry Miller & Hugh Grist
(Below) Ted Mollet (l.) and John Land



AC-



TIVITY AT THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

The I.H.S. hosted five children's groups over the summer; four of them at the IHC. "Hands-on" old-time activities were the order of the day: splitting shakes with a froe, drilling holes with 'brace and bit', hammering nails. A whole crew took part at the "Our Town" event at the McLean Mill. (See children with their "Canada 150" shingle plaques, below left.)

Several other groups and many individuals visited the Centre over the summer. (More than 850 visited the displays at the Truck Bays at the Station.) Members took part in the 'Soap box' races, even building a car for a kid to drive. (See Randy Catto, below). Visitors were impressed by Mike Hobson's miniature Steam display. (below)



IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we report the passing of two members that have left a significant mark in the preservation of the industrial heritage of the Alberni Valley. George Williamson was an Engineer for the "Alberni Pacific Railway" for many years; John Reeves was active at the Industrial Heritage Centre.

Both men had a wealth of knowledge and experience, which they shared with other members, enabling the Society to achieve some amazing restorations. George was a "go-to" person in the West Coast Steam Community, and was involved in the restoration and preservation of several steam locomotives around the province - at the BC Forest Discovery Centre and here in Port Alberni, with the "No. 7". His last project was the restoration of the 1912 "Mann" steam truck in Duncan.

John Reeves was a Cabinet-maker who became a major contractor in the Alberni Valley and has left his mark on several buildings around



(l.) George Williamson & grand-daughter, Simone

the City—Bob Dailey Stadium, Echo Field houses, old Federal Building on Argyle Street, E.J. Dunn School, the Bank of Montreal on Third Avenue, to name a few.

With the I.H.S., John was especially active at the Heritage Centre, where his wood-working talent was invaluable in the restoration of some of the older vehicles, such as the 1918 "White" truck (*pictured here*).



(Above) **STEAM POWER**
George (r.) and APR mechanic, Dan Gledhill.

John built the cab. John was generous to the I.H.S. He donated the first fork lift used in the Valley and a 1947 "D-8" Cat. He also helped on several projects related to the APR, like the "Millwatts Express", where he and wife, Mame, dressed up as wizard and witch. With the "D-8", he helped with the site preparation for the logging demonstration.

John and George will be missed. R.I.P.

"SPOT NEWS"

"SPOT NEWS" is published thrice yearly and is a benefit of for articles membership in the I.H.S.... and you are supporting the preservation of Industrial heritage on Vancouver Island. Send queries or material to D. Hooper
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I.H.S. MEMBERS at WORK

Over the past summer, I.H.S. members were involved in many different activities, in the Valley and across the Island, promoting Industrial Heritage and our community. We attended four out-of-town Shows, thanks to the support of the 'Alberni Co-op' with fuel.

Ted Maurice took the "Challenger" model log truck to the Truck Show at the Duncan Forest Museum and to the North Island Show at Sayward, where it received a lot of attention. Russ McCoy took the "Reid" oilfield pumping engine to the Nanaimo and to the Comox Exhibitions.

There were three major displays in the Valley: Les and Mike Hobson set up their Steam Show at McLean Mill for the first part of summer; the "Antique Trucks & Machinery Show" was held at the IHC [See pp. 8-9]; a "Steam & Trucks" Display was active for three days at the Fall Fair. -[Below] A half-dozen members manned that display, which received a lot of interest. The "Farquhar" provided the steam for engines, the drag saw and... whistles!



(Above) Ted Maurice in Duncan.
Photos: D. Hooper

(r.) Les & Mike's Steam Show



I.H.S. volunteers took part in the "Our Town" event held at the McLean Mill in July. Hundreds of children showed up to pound nails, split shakes, drill holes and make plaques. There was still a line-up of 20 children when the event was supposed to close!



(Above) Bob East holds the shake plaque while the boy drills holes.



ROLLIE HURST

Senior Engineer, Rollie Hurst, has decided to “call it a day”. Here are some photos of “Rollie at work”.



Rollie acted as

“In the Office”
Rollie in the cabs of the 1929 “Baldwin”, “No. 7” and the 1954 “ALCO”, - “RS-3” “No. 8427”.



BCIT class & Rollie (in blue)

the “Rail Traffic Control” and Engineer for all twenty-eight of the BC Institute of Technology “Conductor Training” sessions that have taken place on the “Alberni Pacific” since they began in 2006. His patience with the student Conductors was extraordinary! His real-life experience on the CPR gave legitimacy to the training sessions and to the scenarios that he set up to test the students.

(r.) Rollie & Apprentice



Rollie doing Track Work
Photos: D. Hooper



“ROLLIE’S LAST RUN”

Rollie & Raeburn Hurst—50th Anniversary

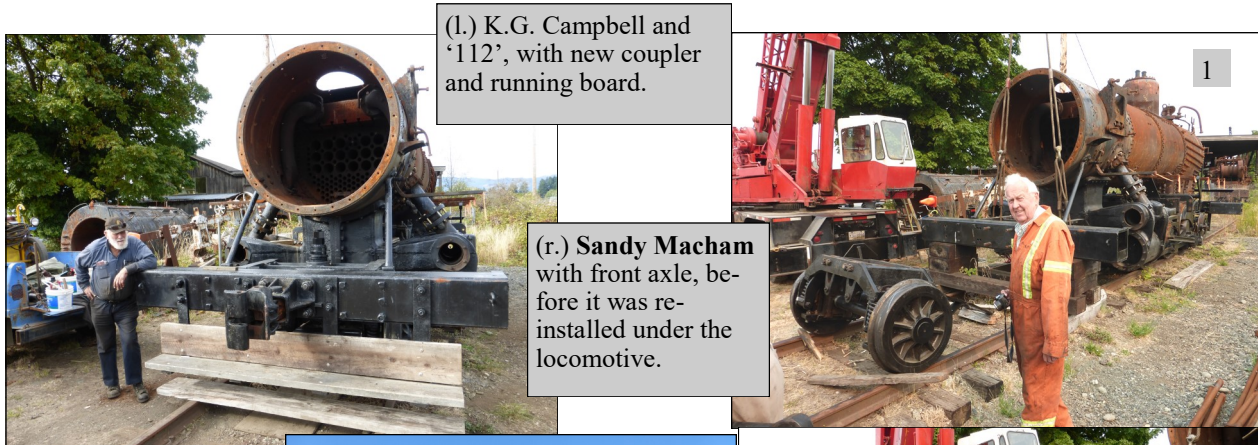


CANFOR '112' - Restoration continues

K.G. (Soup) Campbell, Sandy Macham and crew continue to plug away on this massive project. They plan to move the '112' inside the Roundhouse shortly, to make continued work less miserable during the winter.

Several key tasks have been completed in 2017. These include the pouring of new babbit for the front axle bearing, straightening that same axle, installing new front and back 'bumpers and running boards, servicing and re-installing the brake pots, putting the front axle back in place under the loci and re-installing couplers. Ken Fyfe drained the residual "Bunker C" oil from the fuel tank, which can be re-used. A new cab will be fabricated this winter.

Below is a 'Photo essay' showing the re-placing of the front axle under the loci. (photos 1-5)



(l.) K.G. Campbell and '112', with new coupler and running board.

(r.) Sandy Macham with front axle, before it was re-installed under the locomotive.



Fuel tank of the '112' Ken Fyfe indicates the fuel level that he found and drained. Small fuel tanks were common on logging locis as they did not haul long distances.



2

Photo 2: Installing the pin which links the front axle to the main frame. Harold Carlson, Michael Stewart and Big Steve wrestle the pin into place.



5

Photo 5: It is now a "2-6-2" locomotive again. The Roundhouse is visible behind the locomotive. The plan is to move the '112' under cover in the Roundhouse this winter.



3

Photo 3: Rolling the axle under the frame. (Steve Alder & Harold Carlson.) Steve is with the Vancouver Island Model Engineers' club in Victoria and was a surprise visitor.



4

Photo 4: Sandy Macham checks before the locomotive is lowered down.

More Photos from the 'Antique Trucks & Machinery Show'



The Sandbox was a popular destination for younger visitors. It was also in the shade! (Below)

"Hayes Row" (below)

1945 McLeans' "Big Red" with two 1947 models. A dozen of these vintage trucks were on display.



"Tami" steam train with Engineer, Steve Alder, and another load of happy passengers.

We are grateful to Scott Robinson ("Kingsley Trucking") for being the Sponsor of the Show. "Thanks" too, to "Alberni Co-op" for their support, enabling us to attend several Shows this summer.



Former Mayor, Ken McRae checks out Don Watt's albums inside the old Arena.



(Above) **"Big and Small"**
1966 "Hayes" HDX with 1/3 scale model "Challenger" completed by Hank Bakken this year.



(left) **The Smallest Fire Truck" - "Mabel"**
Sproat Lake V.F.D. brought their fire-fighting little "Jeep".

"ANTIQUe TRUCKS & MACHINERY SHOW - September 2-3

There were more than 70 'pieces' on display at this year's Show, which was hosted at the IHC (Old Arena) and surrounding Park on two of the hottest days of the summer. More than 1000 visitors attended, with many children enjoying a ride on the miniature steam train "Tami", brought by the Vancouver Island Model Engineers' Club in Victoria. Lou and Reg's R/C trucks and equipment models were a popular draw, as was the sandbox beside them.

The IHC "Steam Team" had the "Farquhar" (100th birthday!!) powering their display, which included steam whistles this year. The 1882 "Strathcona" Parlour car was on display inside the IHC, where visitors also enjoyed perusing Don Watt's many logging photo albums.



1918 "Maxwell" log truck from BCFDC (Duncan)

BOAT BASIN behind the Industrial Heritage Centre



Don Watt drives model "Challenger"



Al Mason and friends built this basin for their radio-controlled model boat show. This recreation of West Coast maritime activity was the hit of the Show.

Photos: D. Hooper



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The new steam whistle has just tooted.



"STEAM UP!" 1917 "Farquhar"

"J. J. LOGGING" at the McLean Mill

The hot, dry summer of 2017 had a serious effect on the activities of the Logging Crew. Due to the "Extreme" fire hazard rating, they were only able to do six demonstrations for the whole season. The previous six years, they presented 25 to 30 Shows per season for the visitors to the Mill site.

Two of the last three Shows were for Swedes—members of the "Woodlot Owners' Association" and of the "Swedish Forest Historical Association" - who made a most appreciative audience. This is the third year that they have visited.

The last show of the season was for the ADSS "Forestry" class and the Crew is always happy to do that one! [Photo: left].

Barista Ken Fyfe brewed up some 'Steam Donkey Coffee' and steamed dogs for the hungry students, with the help of Donna James.



Ken Fyfe & 'Steam Pot Café'
(Below) Students on Crosscut Saw



(Centre) **Lunchtime**
(l. to r.) A. Grieder, E. Netzer, R. Greene
T. Super, A. Whipp, Jack James.

Photos: D. Hooper

Jack's Re-Retirement
Art & Dylan Greider present to Jack James



(Above) **Jack's Re-Retirement**
Art (l.) & Dylan ("The Punk") Grieder present photo to Jack.
(r.) "Log Loading—the modern way"
Eric Netzer cleans up the logs at the end of the season, using the "Barko".

