

Revelstoke Heritage Railway Society

2021 Annual Report to Stakeholders

Like 2020, the 2021 calendar year turned out to be a study in adaptation, resilience and hard work. We are pleased to have made progress and accomplishment on several fronts in spite of the challenges we faced.

The combination of successive COVID pandemic waves and related restrictions, a major heat wave and drought, wildfires and dense smoke combined to severely impact visitation to the Museum and Craigellachie. Regional travel was further impacted by closures or restrictions on the Trans-Canada Highway due to the Kicking Horse Pass Project, and by road closures generally due to the flooding experienced in November 2021.

The Museum's total 2021 attendance was 17,687 people, our second successive year of marked downturns from the record attendance and revenues we enjoyed in 2019. Likewise, sales at our Last Spike Store in Craigellachie were heavily impacted. Given that the Museum's earned income programs are its primary funding source, this created a very challenging financial situation.

The Museum maintained its COVID protocols through successive COVID waves, believing that as a cultural cornerstone, we must act responsibly to ensure the health and safety of our employees, volunteers and visitors. When mask mandates were removed, we continued to wear masks in all public-facing positions and we continued to encourage mask wearing by our visitors.

We curtailed operating hours when it was prudent to do so and we watched our expenditures closely. To make up for the earned income shortfall, the Society pursued several operating subsidies (such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) and operating grants (notably, the Province of British Columbia's Major Anchor Attractions grant and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations grant). These, combined with the generosity of several private individuals, helped us turn the year from being completely untenable into one which enabled us to continue our core work and remain open.

This Annual Report summarizes the Society's activities and accomplishments over the 2021 calendar year.

*The Revelstoke Railway Museum acknowledges and honours
the four nations on whose traditional territory we gather:
the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwepemc and the Syilx.*

Exhibits

To create value for our communities and ensure our visitors had something new and interesting to see, the Revelstoke Railway Museum developed, borrowed or presented several new exhibits in 2021. Highlights included:

Interpretive Railcar Panels – The Museum implemented about a dozen new interpretive



panels for its rolling stock collection, funded by a grant from the City of Revelstoke through the Province of British Columbia's Resort Municipality Initiative program and through the Columbia Basin Trust. These panels were developed by Curator Laura VanZant and printed on a weather and UV-durable material which will help ensure their longevity. Written to prevailing museum accessibility standards and providing a visitor-friendly illustrated description of the rolling stock, the panels are a major upgrade from the previous laminated paper

labels which were in use and it was very heartening to see so many visitors reading them as they enjoyed our outdoor David Johnson Railyard and Rotary Peace Park greenspace.

"Macredie Works of Art: Cherished Memories of a Father's Career" Exhibit – The Museum borrowed and installed this travelling exhibit from ExpoRail, the Canadian Railway

Museum in St.-Constant Quebec. The exhibit consisted of nearly 30 paintings by the late Alice Macredie of Calgary and showcased feats of railway engineering and technology depicted through watercolour art. The exhibit drew in visitors and provided exciting new content, as well as giving the Museum the opportunity to debut its renewed Mezzanine level.



Historic Station Sign – The iconic station sign from Revelstoke's 1905 station was removed from the outside of the Museum's offices by our volunteer crew in the fall of 2020 and hung in the Museum in the spring of 2021. It is rare for a museum artifact to gain iconic status in



popular culture, but our historic station sign is the basis for Tourism Revelstoke's REVELSTOKE. word mark. The sign now hangs in a highly-visible area on the Great Hall's end wall. It is impossible to guess the number of people who saw this sign when it was in use – soldiers going off to war, King George VII and Queen Elizabeth on board the Royal Train of 1939, countless Revelstokians who saw the sign and realized they were home, and even more transcontinental railway passengers enjoying the

grandeur of the Selkirk Mountains and Rogers Pass. We are fortunate to have received funding for this project from the Province of British Columbia's Resort Municipality Initiative.

“Revelstoke is a Railway Town” Exhibit – Most notably, in 2021 Curator Laura VanZant started work in earnest in conceptualizing, developing, researching and writing a major new exhibit titled “Revelstoke is a Railway Town”. This exhibit, slated to open in time for the Annual General Meeting in April 2022, chronicles the social history of the CPR in our region, from the earliest days of the City of Revelstoke through to the current era. This is the first major exhibit produced in-house by the Museum in many years and it is sure to appeal to Revelstokians and tourists alike. We are grateful for funding for this major project by the Province of British Columbia’s Resort Municipality Initiative, the Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Impact Program, and the Revelstoke Credit Union.

Programs

Family Day 2021 – The BC Family statutory holiday would normally be celebrated with a special event at the Museum but was eclipsed by COVID restrictions. To provide a COVID-safe but family-friendly special offering, the Museum had a local artist produce a series of colouring sheets based on archival photos in the Museum’s collection and a scavenger hunt for children.

Stoke FM Morning Show Episodes – The Museum was invited to make regular appearances on Stoke FM’s morning show. In 2021 our executive director Jim Cullen made several live and pre-recorded appearances on the show. Topics ranged from Revelstoke’s railway town history to the challenges of our snowy climate on railway operations.

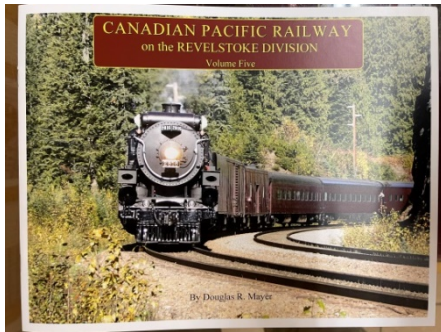
“One Way Ticket” Video and Guerrilla Gig – In May, the Museum served as the location of a



music video by local Revelstoke musician May “Maggie” Davis for her new song “One Way Ticket”. Several spots inside the Museum were used and the Museum outfitted Car No. 4 to look like a gleaming dining car. RHRS Vice President George Hopkins portrayed the friendly ticket agent. On July 17th Maggie performed at a sold out Arts Revelstoke “Guerrilla Gig” in the Museum’s Rotary Peace Park and David Johnson Railyard.

National Indigenous Peoples Day – The Museum hosted two special programs For National Indigenous Peoples Day. On June 21st Secwepemc Knowledge-Sharer Louis Thomas provided a special presentation on mobility of Indigenous peoples in the Revelstoke region. On June 23rd, we hosted Cathy English and Dr. Laura Stovel’s “Brown Bag” presentation on the story of the Sinixt people in the Revelstoke region. Both were simultaneously shown on social media and were well received; the latter video has become one of Revelstoke Museum and Archives’ most-viewed Brown Bag programs. We are grateful to Louis Thomas, Cathy English and Laura Stovel for their invaluable contribution to the Museum’s National Indigenous Peoples Day programming.

Holiday Cheer – While the pandemic wore on, the Museum hosted a family-friendly program involving finding Cornelius, our “Elf on the Shelf” and entering a draw for one of three family memberships. As with our 2020 program, participants were each given a goodie bag containing a packet of hot chocolate and a candy cane, both donated by Revelstoke’s Save-on-Foods.



“Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division Volume V” –

In the fall we launched the fifth volume in Doug Mayer’s popular series “Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division”. Sales were brisk and we have received very positive feedback on this most recent volume. It has also renewed interest in the rest of Doug’s series. Doug donates his research and writing time and expenses to the Museum and the Museum pays for printing and retains all profits from sales of these books.

Education Programs - In 2021 we started to conceptualize and develop educational programs. Strong museum education begins with matching museum subject matter with established curriculum, and engaging educators in determining what will be useful to them in making the most of their instructional hours. We were fortunate to have two School District 19 elementary school educators – Justine Kerluck and Michelle Gadbois – review the BC curriculum and identify the most promising elements of the Museum which would help them deliver this curriculum. We were excited to determine that the Museum is replete with curriculum connection points, particularly in science and social studies. In February we piloted a program on simple machines with one of Michelle Gadbois’ classes and received very positive feedback.

In the fall of 2021 we hosted a dozen classes led by Revelstoke SD 19 Indigenous Educators Lisa Moore and Marlene Krug on de-colonization. Students ranged from Kindergarten through to Grade XII and we received very positive feedback for hosting classes on this important topic.

Membership Program – We struck a membership working group in 2021 to help with maintaining our membership records and giving more timely reminders of renewal. We are grateful to Glenda Eddy and Trustee Pauline Hunter for leading this work. We also published five member newsletters, keeping our members informed of happenings around the Museum.

Collections

In 2021, the Museum moved forward with Collections and Archival Management projects that will ensure the sustainability of the Museum’s collections.

- We re-signed a three-year lease on our storage rooms at the CPR Station, which gives the collection a safe home and provides space for the collection to grow.

- With the help of interns and summer students, we accessioned 20 new donations, totalling approximately 1,750 new artifacts. This included:
 - 950 rolled documents from the late Jim Ferrier's personal collection of railway drawing and blueprints;
 - A collection of over thirty artifacts from CPR stations;
 - A large volume of labour union material;
 - Several cubic feet of books and documents transferred from other museums and donated by individuals.
- In 2021, the archival collection grew by approximately 1,500 objects, and we are grateful to all of the donors who entrusted us with the care of their important objects.
- Digitization and digital cataloguing was a major focus for Collections in 2021 as archival material was added to our PastPerfect database. This included paper material and the photographic collection. We want to express our sincere thanks to our students and interns for all of their hard work in getting over 2,000 records added to the digital database, and to Volunteer Miriam Williams for her tireless work accessioning the photographic collection.
- We began rehabilitation and stabilization of No. 5500, the first high-horsepower locomotive in Canada. This included an over-all inspection of the artifact, acquiring numerous parts which had gone missing, installing a de-humidifier in the cab, installing covers on all rooftop openings, and water-proofing various seams.
- Volunteer Ed Palasz began restoration of the Albert Canyon handcar. The handcar is being meticulously restored to original condition, with the long-term goal of it being used as an operating piece in Museum programming.

Retail Operations

In late 2020 the Museum implemented its on-line store, a precursor to implementation of its new point-of-sale system. This new online capability helped the Museum sustain sales throughout 2021, offsetting reduced visitation. Orders on our on-line store have been shipped as far as Australia.

After implementing the new Shopify system at the Museum in 2020, we implemented the same system at Craigellachie in time for our spring 2021 opening. The planning and implementation of Shopify was led by Curator Laura VanZant, whose retail background and expertise in the Shopify system served us very well. We are grateful to Laura for her hard work on this project and to our Revelstoke Railway Museum and Craigellachie Last Spike Gift Shop team for learning new procedures and routines and using the system with such enthusiasm.

Marketing and Promotions

Billboard Marketing – The Museum is promoted by two billboards, located at the east and west City Limits. Both depicting the Royal Train of 1939 crossing the Stoney Creek Bridge, one billboard has become badly faded and both require structural work. To refresh the

billboard images with branding which will appeal to families, the Society was fortunate to have Revelstoke's Hawkrigg family volunteer to be photographed in the Museum by a local professional photographer Zoya Lynch. Board and staff members were involved in selecting the final images for the billboard and a designer is working on a final design. This work is funded in part by Tourism Revelstoke and in part by a Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program ("CERIP") grant through Kootenay Rockies Tourism. We hope to have the billboards structurally rehabilitated and the new images installed in 2022.

Social Media Marketing – Curator Laura VanZant spearheaded the Museum's social media presence in 2021, posting a variety of photos and messages on Facebook and Instagram related to happenings at the Museum, anniversaries or other historical milestones, and some of the interesting things that are part of museum work. These have been very well-received.

Banner Marketing – Revelstoke has a tradition of decorating its street poles with community-produced banners, based on certain themes. This year, the banner program was based on bears and the Museum's banner was painted by young Revelstoke student Mya Manson who produced a beautiful image of bears playing with toy trains.

Fundraising and Grants

The Museum applied for several grants to fund numerous capital projects and certain operating expenses. We very grateful to our grantors for their generosity and support. Grants received in 2021 included:

- Province of British Columbia's Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program ("CERIP") – The Museum received a grant for \$224,750 under the Province's CERIP Program. This grant is for two accessibility and COVID safety improvements to the Museum, the renovation of its 30 year-old restrooms, and installation of automatic door openers on four of the Museum's entry and exit doors. These renovations will help make the Museum more accessible to everyone. This major project was tendered in 2021 and work began in March 2022. One of the washrooms is expected to be available to the public throughout the project.
- Kootenay Rockies Tourism – The Museum also received a \$44,000 grant from Kootenay Rockies Tourism funded by the CERIP Program for foundation repairs and re-roofing of its facility at Craigellachie, home of the CPR's Last Spike in 1885, and for renovations to its billboards on either side of Revelstoke. It also paid for materials for rehabilitation of the demonstration railway track in front of the Last Spike Gift Shop. Tendering for these projects will occur in 2022.
- Revelstoke Credit Union – Revelstoke Credit Union provided two grants to RHRS through their Community Giving Program. A major grant of \$10,000 partially funded the Museum's new exhibit "Revelstoke is a Railway Town". Another grant of \$2,000 provided for the upgrading of our computer equipment, enabling us to purchase two laptops, video conferencing hardware, and updated Windows software.

- Revelstoke Community Foundation – The Revelstoke Community Foundation provided \$3,000 in funding for initial planning and consultation work on the de-colonization and renewal of its 30 year-old permanent gallery on construction of the transcontinental railway.
- City of Revelstoke – The City of Revelstoke awarded two grants funded by the Province’s Resort Municipality Initiative program. We received a grant of \$10,000 for the “Revelstoke is a Railway Town” exhibit and a grant of \$4,980 for the preservation and re-installation of the historic Revelstoke station sign.
- Columbia Basin Trust Community Impact Program – The Museum received two grants under this program. One grant, for \$5,870, funded bear-proof garbage and recycling bins at the Museum which will help us greatly improve bear and visitor safety. The Trust also funded a grant of \$5,000 for the “Revelstoke is a Railway Town” exhibit.
- Government of Canada - Museum Assistance Program - The Department of Canadian Heritage provided two major grants in 2021. One grant under the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations program provided \$41,691 towards the Museum’s operating expenses. The other grant of \$10,000 enabled the Museum to borrow the travelling exhibit “Macredie Works of Art: Cherished Memories of a Father’s Career” from ExpoRail in Montreal. The MAP Grant provided funding for shipping and rental fees, without which this exhibit would not have been possible.
- Province of British Columbia’s Major Anchor Attractions Program – We received a grant of \$67,217 under this program, which helped fund the Museum’s operating expenses and enabled us to maintain regular operating hours and deliver value to our communities in spite of poor operating revenues.
- Government of Canada - Young Canada Works - Through the Government of Canada’s Young Canada Works program, the Museum received funding which enabled us to hire full and part-time students and a full-time intern. These positions allowed the Museum to move forward with collections and archival management projects, and provided valuable experience to young people looking to enter the heritage field.
- Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs – The Museum received grants to employ two summer students under the Canada Summer Jobs program. These students were key to our visitor services throughout the summer season and they completed several special projects.
- Government of Canada – Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (“CEWS”) – The Museum received CEWS grants which greatly helped in maintaining staffing levels and core operations at both Craigellachie and the Revelstoke Railway Museum
- British Columbia Museums Association (“BCMA”) – The Museum received a grant in support of its COVID-safe Family Day activities, funded by the Province of British Columbia, .

The Museum benefitted greatly from the generosity of four individual donors, who collectively donated over \$8,000 in 2021. Some of these donations were restricted to certain projects, while others were unrestricted and could be used for operations and priority projects. We also received grants *in memoriam* after the death of a former

Revelstoke resident Sheila Sedawie, who was from one of our community's railway families.

We also received in-kind donations worth over \$5,000 from philanthropic-minded businesses in Revelstoke and Alberta, not to mention numerous smaller donations of time and equipment from numerous Revelstoke businesses. We particularly want to thank several Revelstoke firms which support the Society with their time and talents: BDO Canada, Mackenzie Peak Law Corporation, Jones Contracting, Apex Janitorial, Revy Repair and Rentals, Warner Rentals, Save-On-Foods, Swiss Chalet Motel, and Starbucks Revelstoke, to name just a few.

In 2021 the Museum implemented a new donation box, located at the exit. This was mounted on a former railway speeder wheel by Ed Palasz, Ed Koski and other volunteers. The box has garnered significantly more donations than our previous approach.

The Museum also partnered with the Revelstoke Grizzlies Hockey Team in holding 50/50 draws at three games. We retained just over \$1,200 in revenue from this activity. We appreciate the work of Trustees Don Hawker, Kevin Dorrius, Wendy Harper, and volunteers Ed and Shell Koski, Jacob Geyer, Jim Cullen and Hayley Johnson.

Facilities

In spite of challenging conditions, the Society made significant progress on several important initiatives. These include:



Museum Re-Roofing - Rehabilitation of the Museum's roof was started in 2020 on the South roof, thanks to a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust. Work continued in 2021 on the North roof. This involved removing the large corrugated metal panels, inspecting the plywood sub-roof, replacing any deteriorated materials, applying a new rubber membrane and reinstalling the metal panels. The work required the use of rappelling harnesses by the team from R. Jones Contracting Ltd., with support on the ground by several Museum volunteers. Volunteerism helped keep the project on time and on budget at a time of rapidly-escalating lumber prices. Our sincere thanks to R. Jones Contracting and our volunteers for their excellent work during the unseasonably hot weather.

Mezzanine Renewal - In preparation for enhanced use of the Mezzanine level for exhibits, the Museum spent part of its RMI grant to patch, fill and repaint the walls, and install a museum-grade art hanging system which makes for easier exhibit installation and helps prevent wall damage. This work was accomplished entirely by our volunteers with additional assistance from Revelstoke Rotarians. This involved moving and re-mounting the station signs, which had previously hung below the lighting, to spots above the lighting to give better access for hanging art.

Electrify Canada Charging Station – In 2021, much progress was made on the Electrify Canada Electric Vehicle charging station. Site alternatives were reviewed in-depth and ultimately a site was chosen which would meet both Electrify's and the Museum's needs. After extensive negotiations with the City of Revelstoke regarding land-use issues, and completion of detailed engineering, ground was broken in the early fall of 2021. Supply chain issues prolonged the time required to complete construction, installation and commissioning. Ultimately the site was commissioned in March 2022.

Workshop Structural Repairs – The Museum's workshop, a 1960s era former portable classroom, has developed issues in one wall and the roof due to water incursion. Volunteers undertook repairs this summer to improve the stability of the building and will be doing further inspection of the structure to determine a course of action. The Workshop is an important workspace for the Museum and there are no alternative spaces on our current campus.

Accessible Restrooms and Doors – In order to move forward with the Museum's CERIP-funded restroom and door rebuild, much planning was necessary. After 30 years and over a half-million visitors, it was certainly time to renew the restrooms and make them more accessible, more COVID-safe, and to generally renew the fixtures and finishes. The Museum reviewed the project with Revelstoke's Building Inspector and engaged an architect specializing in accessibility to specify layout, fixture and finish changes and ran a tendering process for this work. Demolition started in March 2022 and we are excited about this upgrade which will make the restrooms safer, more accessible and appealing to everyone.

Revelstoke Model Railway Club - The Museum renewed its agreement with the Revelstoke Model Railway Club for its wonderful exhibit on the Mezzanine floor. Very popular with our visitors, the Model Railway depicts scenes in the Revelstoke region and provides an important animating element to the Museum. The model railroaders are busy developing a larger representation of the Revelstoke Shops and Roundhouse, which will give our visitors further insights into the CPR's presence in Revelstoke.

Our People

Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any Museum, especially one like the Railway Museum which has always been such a grass-roots effort. Without our volunteers, the Museum would quickly cease operation. In spite of the pandemic and climate emergencies, volunteerism at the Museum remained strong in 2021. It is impossible to identify all of the work that our volunteers did for the Museum, but some of the activities are listed below and they represent thousands of volunteer hours. We look forward to seeing more of our volunteers in 2022 and re-implementing some of our volunteer-led programs as pandemic impacts and restrictions are lessened.

Volunteer projects and activities in 2021 included:

- Groundskeeping and Facilities – Don Hawker (Trustee), Rod Battersby (Trustee), Pam Doyle (Trustee), Troy Ferguson, Jacob Geyer, Jo Hawker, Ed Koski, Carol Meyer, Rob Mellish, Fred Olsson, Barry Ozero, Ed Palasz, Jason Zimmer, Rotary Revelstoke
 - Installing the bear-proof waste and recycling bins
 - Working with our contractor in re-roofing the Museum
 - Repairing, filling and repainting our mezzanine level, installing an art-hanging system and moving the station signs above the perimeter lighting
 - Installing a new water heater in the Museum's office space
 - Mowing the Museum's extensive green spaces, renovating our flower bed and planting our planter barrels with perennials and Christmas boughs
 - Improving security of the Museum's outbuildings
 - Repairing the miniature railway signals which provided directional guidance around the Museum during the COVID Pandemic
 - Sorting recyclables left by visitors and returning them for refund
 - Maintaining and repairing our groundskeeping and snow removal equipment
 - Replacing countless light bulbs throughout the Museum
 - Cleaning of all the Museum's windows

- Fund Development and Marketing – Kevin Dorrius (Trustee), Don Hawker (Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), Jim Cullen, Ed Palasz, Ed and Shell Koski
 - Building a mount out of a speeder wheel, powder-coating it and installing a new donation box at the Museum's exit
 - Verifying our donor board entries against our donor records
 - Selling 50/50 raffle tickets at Revelstoke Grizzlies hockey games

- Museum Operations, Administration and Commerce – Don Hawker (Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), Pauline Hunter (Trustee), Jacob Geyer, MJ LeBuke, Glenda Eddy
 - Opening, closing and winterizing the Craigellachie Last Spike Gift Shop
 - Administering the membership program, ensuring that renewal reminders are sent out in a timely way, the database is accurate, and new members are thanked
 - Providing coverage for the Museum Store and front desk
 - Providing security and coverage during special events and facility rentals

- Collections and Rolling Stock – Don Hawker (Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), George Hopkins (Trustee), Pauline Hunter (Trustee), Doug Mayer (Trustee), Blair Becker, Braeden Cherrington, Jacob Geyer, Jordy Hunter, Ed Koski, Rob Mellish, Ed Palasz, Josh Palasz, Miriam Williams and Thanksgiving Back volunteers Patricia and Darcy Simpson, Mandi and Chris Wattie, and Brandy, Andy and Amber Hooker
 - Surveying No. 5500 for mechanical and cosmetic condition and missing parts, removing and replacing damaged parts

- Fabricating a special mount for the historic Revelstoke station sign, moving the sign into the Museum, raising it to the Mezzanine floor, installing it at the end of the great hall, and installing new spotlighting for the sign
 - Installing new wheels on the Trackmobile and rehabilitating the Trackmobile's engine so that it is operational and reliable
 - Preliminary review and inventorying of collections
 - Accessioning and physical cataloguing of donated photographs
 - Moving hundreds of artifacts and artwork from temporary storage in the Museum to the Museum's off-site artifact storage facility, organized as part of the Thanksgiving Back event
 - Restoring the Albert Canyon handcar including fabricating and powder-coating many metal parts, renewing badly-worn bearings, sourcing, milling and installing historically-accurate wood
 - Repairing and maintaining the locomotive simulator
 - Repairing and restoring the historic cast-iron Yard Limit sign and installing it in the David Johnson Yard
 - Installing tarps and preparing rolling stock for winter and removing accumulated snow from the tops of our rolling stock throughout the winter
 - Describing and cataloguing archival photographs
 - Constructing the wooden bases for the new display cases to be used in the Revelstoke is a Railway Town exhibit
- Exhibits and Programming – Doug Mayer (Trustee), George Hopkins (Trustee), Walter Cyronek, Matt Wojak, (Revelstoke Model Railway Club), Ed Koski, Ed Palasz, Jimi Rienks
 - Building the model railway's Revelstoke roundhouse, turntable and yards exhibits to depict Revelstoke's facilities
 - Operating the model railway and performing general maintenance to ensure its continued smooth operation to the delight of thousands of visitors
 - Modifying and installing the pedestals and installing the new railcar interpretive signage
 - Completely re-building Craigellachie's 1885-era demonstration track, including removal and replacement of 16 railway ties
 - Authoring Volume V of Doug Mayer's series Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division
 - Representing the Museum during group visits

While we have added new volunteers to our ranks, we are always in need of volunteer help. A love of trains isn't necessary to volunteer at the Revelstoke Railway Museum, just an interest in your community. Please contact Executive Director Jim Cullen if you can help out.

Our Trustees

We wish to recognize our 2021 Board of Trustees, a group of very dedicated volunteers who govern the Society and are entrusted with the Society's long-term sustainability:



Roger Eddy
President
(ex-officio member of all committees)



George Hopkins
Vice-President and
Lifetime Member
(Collections and Finance Committees)



Pauline Hunter
Secretary
(Exhibits and Programs Committee)



Kevin Dorrius
Treasurer
(Finance and Governance Committees)



Don Hawker
Lifetime Member
(Buildings and Grounds Committee)



Pam Doyle
(Collections and Governance Committees)



Wendy Harper
(Fundraising and Marketing Committee)



Dave Love
(Governance Committee)



Doug Mayer
(Revelstoke Model Railway Club, Collections Committee)



Rod Battersby
(Buildings and Grounds Committee)

Trustees participate in at least one Board committee and many put in volunteer hours in everything from 50/50 draws to building and grounds maintenance or special events. In particular, Trustee Don Hawker donates an awesome number of hours of his time.

Our Employees

Our employees in 2021 really came through for us in difficult circumstances. Our book-keeper, Megan Lund, kept our finances in order. Our Curator Laura VanZant worked tirelessly on numerous initiatives to improve our exhibits and led the “Revelstoke is a Railway Town” exhibit development. Our Museum Store team of Jess Byman, Tamara McPherson, Kate Baron, MJ LeBuke, Kim Allin, Andie Reynolds, and Kae Husseyn made our visitors feel welcome, with Canada Summer Jobs students Lizzie McDowell-Stupnikoff and Alexander Parsons working hard during our busy summer months. At the Last Spike, Judy Tomey, Jennifer Lobb, Kip Hutchison and Karen Goodridge worked hard to make our visitors feel welcome.

Our Young Canada Works Summer Students and Interns Astrid Chandler, Bailey LeBuke and Alexander Parsons helped us make significant progress with our collections.

In 2021 we said a fond farewell to long-term employees Jessica Byman and Kate Baron from our Museum store team and thank them for their many years of service.

Looking Ahead

Thirty years ago, the Revelstoke Heritage Railway Society broke ground on the Revelstoke Railway Museum, a bold, visionary and ambitious project for Revelstoke. The Museum opened on June 16, 1993.



Ruby Nobbs and Ernie Ottewell launch the Revelstoke Railway Museum's construction in 1992 with a sod-turning ceremony as Ann Merritt smiles in the background.

The Society has many opportunities in the years ahead. On the eve of our 30th anniversary, several landmark activities are in early planning stages to commemorate this achievement. We look forward to the opening of “Revelstoke is a Railway Town”, one of the largest exhibits ever developed by or hosted at the Museum, which will commemorate Revelstoke’s rich and colourful railway history.

Other opportunities include:

- launching restoration programs on some of our significant equipment which is displayed outside;
- implementing the Railway Museum’s renovated washrooms and accessible doors;
- installing fresh new billboards which portray the Museum as a place for families;
- developing and presenting more educational programs;
- expanding our array of on-line offerings, particularly our website and video tours;
- moving forward on our engagement with First Nations with the goal of decolonizing the Museum;
- continuing to expand and deepen our use of the PastPerfect collections management system;
- improving our interpretation, using a variety of new entry points into the mountain railway story to engage a much broader audience.

All of these opportunities will require the support of our members and stakeholders, and much work by the Society to advance our business model into new areas of earned income and expanded fundraising activities.

In Closing

We are very fond of saying that Museums are in the “forever” business. Working to ensure the things we have preserved will be around forever -- artifacts, archival documents and photographs, stories, and our communities’ culture -- is a never-ending marathon, though we must manage and course-correct to weather the shorter-term conditions. In 2021 those conditions were extremely difficult and in some cases, record-breaking. Our long-term vision extends beyond our walls as we look for ways to build our value for our communities and strengthen their support.

It is hard to imagine a better place for a railway museum than Revelstoke. Revelstoke is one of Canada’s original stations on the transcontinental railway, equidistant from the iconic Rogers Pass, Craigellachie – site of the Last Spike, and Arrowhead, the northern terminus of the CPR’s steamboat and barge service. Revelstoke was made a divisional point in the early 1890s and also became the site of a major workshops complex, the CPR’s largest shops between Winnipeg and Vancouver until construction of Calgary’s Ogden Shops in 1911.

All of these things make Revelstoke a true railway town and we are privileged to steward its remarkable railway heritage. The Museum is both an important cultural cornerstone for Revelstoke, and an important tourist attraction.

We are excited to be part of what makes Revelstoke a great place to live and visit. We are grateful to our volunteers, our members, our communities, our staff, our donors and our stakeholders for their support of our work.

