

## Revelstoke Heritage Railway Society

### 2023 Annual Report to Stakeholders

2023 was a challenging but exceptionally successful year for the Society.

The year felt like a continued return to normal following the pandemic. Our visitation in 2023 reached a new record of 30,363, in spite of very hot and dry conditions, several weeks of intense wildfire smoke, and periodic closures of Highway One due to the Kicking Horse project. At Craigellachie, we enjoyed our strongest year since 2019 with an increase in tour bus traffic. We want to thank our incredible team of volunteers and employees for their hard work and resilience over the course of the year.

Our financial picture is captured in the Year-End Financial Report supplied by BDO Canada. In 2023, we had the strong year we needed to recoup from our 2020 and 2021 operating losses and to pay off the debt we took on to maintain our operations during the pandemic. We are proud to have liquidated the last of our Canada Emergency Business Account (“CEBA”) COVID debt and recouped the portion of the loan forgiven for on-time payment.

This Annual Report summarizes the Society’s activities and accomplishments over the 2023 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.*

## Programs

Revy Tracks Concert – The Museum’s new partnership with Arts Revelstoke led us to explore possibilities of holding musical programs in the Museum, curated by Arts Revelstoke. A review of our facility by Arts Revelstoke’s then-Executive Director Daniel Bhattacharya revealed that our Museum’s acoustics are outstanding. Considerable planning was required to ensure our capacity met engineering and Fire Marshal requirements.



Juno Award-Winning Musician Jim Byrnes provided superb musical entertainment at the Museum’s inaugural REYV.Tracks concert (*photos by Alexi Mostert*)

The series, dubbed REYV.Tracks, held its inaugural concert on April 26th, featuring Juno Award-winning blues guitarist Jim Byrne. Feedback from concert-goers was very positive. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work of Arts Revelstoke’s people in setting up the extensive sound and lighting required for the performance, promoting the event and selling tickets. We also thank the Coast Hillcrest Hotel for operating the bar service on the main floor.

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – The Museum hosted a celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 16<sup>th</sup> with a special gathering, sponsored by Community Futures Revelstoke. We opened with a blessing by Secwepemc Knowledge-Sharer Louis Thomas and speeches by President George Hopkins, Executive Director Jim Cullen, Mayor Gary Sulz, Chelsea Meulendyk on behalf of MLA Doug Clovechok. Greetings were also presented on behalf of Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. Revelstoke RCMP members resplendent in red serge added gravitas to the event, as they had done when the Museum was commemorated in 1993. Friends of the Museum enjoyed cupcakes and toasted the Museum’s founders and its bright future. We also announced the 5500 Pavilion and Restoration program (see below). We want to thank Community Futures Revelstoke for its sponsorship of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, and Board members Rowan Hargreaves, Kevin Dorrius and Dave Love for their work as special board committee members for this event



Museum founders Dean Handley, Fred Olsson, Don Hawker, and former Mayor Geoff Battersby smile for the camera after cutting the ribbon officially opening the Museum's Accessibility projects.



A happy crowd gathers for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations.

Luna Rail – On September 24<sup>th</sup> we held our hallmark Railway Day event, re-branded as “Luna Rail” because it was included in Revelstoke’s largest annual festival, LUNA Fest which is organized by Arts Revelstoke. Admission was by donation, ensuring that everyone could afford to attend, and we hosted over 900 visitors. While the weather started out damp and cold and caused us to move certain activities inside, sunny skies returned and allowed us to enjoy many of the activities outside.

Our partnership with Arts Revelstoke brought great musical entertainment by Nik Winnitowy and Stubbs and The, and entertainment by Spandy Andy, Demmi Dupree, and stilt walkers. The event opened with a welcome and land acknowledgement by Indigenous Educator Marlene Krug, followed by a rousing performance by Revelstoke’s Pipe Band and their BC Interior piping and drumming colleagues. Mayor Gary Sulz and Operation Lifesaver representative Phil Breden unveiled permanent Operation Lifesaver symbols embedded in the pavement at our railway crossing, which will help our visitors be mindful of rail safety.

Luna Rail visitors also enjoyed special operations of the model railway, games for the kids and face painting (both hosted by the Revelstoke Grizzlies Hockey Club), and the new Albert Canyon handcar and our speeder collection. Also featured were displays and conversations with some of Revelstoke’s community agencies and first responders: Indigenous Friendship Society Revelstoke, StokeFM, Revelstoke Visitor Centre, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, Revelstoke Credit Union, CP Police & Operation Lifesaver, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Revelstoke Bear Aware Society. The huge bouncy castle was popular and visitors also could make behind-the-scenes visits to some of our equipment. We were honoured by the strong showing of Revelstoke Grizzlies’ players who helped throughout the event, from dawn till dusk.

Our Master of Ceremonies Lerritt Robinson from StokeFM drew for numerous door prizes donated by Revelstoke businesses and private donors. A silent auction also helped raise money for the Museum. Our volunteers and employees worked very hard to ensure everything ran smoothly and our visitors had a great time. We gratefully acknowledge funding for LUNA Rail by BC Gaming.

Trackside Holiday Party – Our popular Trackside Holiday Party was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, attended by over 366 people. Attendance was down slightly, as our party ended up coinciding with Revelstoke Mountain Resort’s postponed opening day, along with several other children’s activities in town. Visitors enjoyed operating the Polar Express train set, hot chocolate and snacks in Business Car No. 4, arts and crafts for the kids, the Thomas the Tank Engine tables, special model railway operations, and a huge door prize program supported by local Revelstoke merchants and donors. Santa’s arrival caused much excitement and he and his helper Annette Harris met hundreds of children. At the end of the event, we drew for the prizes in the Museum’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary raffle, which raised money for the Museum and the 5500 restoration project, an exceptional result.

The Trackside Holiday Party would not have been possible without the hard work of our staff and volunteers, who did everything from supervising arts and crafts to pouring hundreds of hot chocolate and coffee drinks. We gratefully acknowledge sponsorships of the event by Straight Up Construction, Columbia Basin Trust, and BC Gaming.



Santa Claus and his helper Annette Harris (from the Last Spike Gift Shop) made magic for countless children at the Trackside Holiday Party.



“Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division Volume VII” – Just in time for Christmas, we launched the seventh volume in Doug Mayer’s popular series “Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division”. Like most of the books in this series, Volume VII featured photos from several different collections and archives of railway and historic scenes around the Revelstoke Division. Author Doug Mayer donates his research and writing time, and out-of-pocket costs to the Museum. The Museum pays for printing and retains all profits from sales of these books.

Stoke FM Morning Show Episodes – Once again, the Museum was invited to make regular appearances on Stoke FM’s morning show. Executive Director Jim Cullen made several appearances on the show on a variety of topics, such as the Connaught Tunnel, with author Doug Mayer,

REDress Exhibit – In early May, the Museum again hosted the Revelstoke School District Indigenous Education Department’s REDress display of red dresses hung from tree branches in a wooded area along the pathway to Mount Revelstoke National Park. The display commemorates and raises awareness for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and was created by Ella Hardy, Mya Manson, and Suri Stewardson, students at Revelstoke Secondary, assisted by local artist Rob Buchanan and Indigenous Student Advocate Jessica Stewardson.

Education Programs – In 2023, we were fortunate to have School District 19 educator Michelle Gadbois continue her work on developing curriculum-based educational programs. A major milestone was development of a miniature paper version of our steam locomotive No. 5468, which enabled students to build their own model in class following a museum visit. We want to thank local architect Mark Lesack for his brilliant rendition of the Museum’s centrepiece into a buildable paper model.

No-Ski Saturday – Delays in opening Revelstoke Mountain Resort on December 2<sup>nd</sup> meant that Revelstoke had an influx of would-be skiers and boarders who were unable to ski that day. The Museum’s leadership team pivoted and developed a special program called “No Ski Saturday” which provided reduced admission fees. We are grateful for financial support for this program by Tourism Revelstoke.

Throwback Thursday Evening Openings - The Museum’s staff and board have long noted the opportunity for the Museum to be open at night, in order to give visitors to Revelstoke additional activities during the fall, winter and spring seasons. Tourism Revelstoke advised that Thursday evenings would be particularly ideal. Our leadership team, led by Rachael Lewis, developed a concept which would open the Museum on Thursday nights, featuring an array of board games and a “Throwback Thursday” \$5 admission fee. The evenings have developed a loyal following by “twenty-something” Revelstokians, and many visitors from out-of-town enjoyed visiting the Museum at night.

Supertrain and Vancouver Train Expo Events – Executive Director Jim Cullen and Vice President Doug Mayer represented the Museum at the Supertrain show in Calgary on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Vancouver Train Expo on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Both events had

very strong visitation, enabling us to promote the Museum and Revelstoke's tourist attractions to over 15,000 people. We appreciate the support of Tourism Revelstoke, which supplied a photo backdrop for our booth and tourism collateral for handout.

## **Exhibits**

"30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Exhibit" – To commemorate the Museum's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we mounted an exhibit of photographs from our archival photo collection. These were selected by trustees and staff from a set recommended by Curator Laura VanZant.

"Revelstoke is a Railway Town" Exhibit – Our popular "Revelstoke is a Railway Town" exhibit remained open throughout 2023.

## **Collections**

Collections Management - In 2023 the Railway Museum continued its momentum with managing the Collection. The Station storage facility was completely reorganized and new shelves were purchased that better adhere to Collections Management Standards and fire code. This effort could not have been accomplished without the help of volunteers, including the Grizzlies hockey team who dedicated their morning to heavy lifting, and the Rotary Club of Revelstoke who dedicated their afternoon to shelving construction! The objects are now safely stored in their new homes.

Our Young Canada Works Summer Students, Jaimie and Amanda, and Intern, Ashlee, dedicated their contracts to accessioning new donations, updating existing records, and re-accessioning the archival collection in our PastPerfect database. Volunteers Miriam and Alexis also gave their time to accessioning new donations, and front desk staff member Esteban was an integral part of scanning and creating digital catalogue records for the photo collection. Their dedication and hard work has created a stronger collections database and we are extremely grateful to have them!

In 2023 the Railway Museum also opened a new exhibit in Gallery 3. "Fascinated by Film" showcases a selection of photos from the Museum's collection, and encourages visitors to visit the Museum's page on the BC Regional Digitized History portal to view more. This has been a great way to share our collection more widely, and has encouraged visitors and researchers to dive deeper into the photos held in the Museum's collection. While there is always work to be done, the Railway Museum made great progress in 2023 to ensuring the sustainability of its collection and Collections Management operations. As we move into 2024, this work will continue.

5500 Pavilion and Restoration Project – In the early months of 2023, President George Hopkins was contacted by a Revelstokian who offered to fully fund construction of a roof over our SD40 locomotive No. 5500. This donation was to be made anonymously. No. 5500 is Canadian Cultural Property, meaning it is of outstanding significance and national importance, therefore arguably one of the most significant diesel-electric locomotives in

Canada. As progenitor of the huge modern locomotives which power freight trains past the Museum daily, it was very much in need of better care.

The 5500 Pavilion project marks the single largest private donation in the Museum's history and the single largest capital project taken on by the Museum since its construction. Over the course of the year, we signed a donation agreement with the donor, selected a contractor and started discussions about general design matters. Test holes were drilled in the area where the pavilion will be constructed to understand subsurface conditions and inform engineering.

The Pavilion is a key enabler of our doing a high-quality restoration of No. 5500. It will provide shelter for the restoration process, and ultimately will provide a high-quality shelter for this important artifact.

## **Marketing and Promotions**

Marketing Strategy – In 2023 the Museum received a grant from the Community Services Recovery Fund program which funded two major projects, one of them development of a marketing strategy and re-branding of the Museum. Led by Marketing Committee Chair Rowan Hargreaves, the strategy work was conducted by marketing consultant Maggie Spizzirri of Moxie Marketing. We are excited about having a professional-grade marketing strategy for the Museum, with recommendations on the various ways the Museum markets, brands and promotes itself.

Social Media Marketing – Curator Laura VanZant continued to spearhead the Museum's social media presence in 2023, posting a variety of interesting and topical photos and messages on Facebook and Instagram related to happenings at the Museum, historical milestones, and some of the interesting things that are part of museum work. These have been very well-received, and have had the added benefit of providing extra context, identification, and other information to our photo records through crowd-sourced information.

Stakeholder Engagement - In June, Executive Director Jim Cullen spoke in front of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services of the Legislature of British Columbia. This multi-party committee sought public input on the budget for the 2024 year. Cullen asserted the critical role of museums in British Columbia and requested budgetary emphasis on affordable housing supply (to enable cultural organizations to attract and retain employees) and invest in heritage-specific operating funding. He raised the example of the City of Denver, which earmarks a minute portion of its sales tax for heritage, arts and culture funding.

## **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 2023 included:

- Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Program – The Museum received a grant of \$6,300 under this program for the purchase of archival supplies which are required for the ongoing cataloguing and storage of the Museum’s archival and photographic collections.
- Resort Municipality Funding Initiatives (“RMI”) Program – This program granted a total of \$18,500 for two projects: construction of a replica CPR standard Tool House to serve as exhibit space for the Museum’s handcar and maintenance-of-way tools, and fabrication and installation of two large signs promoting Revelstoke and the Museum to viewers of the Virtual Railfan Railcam.
- Community Services Recovery Fund Grant – The Museum received a \$74,715 grant from this program, administered locally by the Revelstoke Community Foundation. It will fund both a fundraising strategy and program design, and a marketing strategy and re-branding project. These are major steps forward for the Museum.
- Columbia Basin Trust Technology Grant – The Museum received a grant of \$10,000 for the upgrading of our 30 year-old security system.
- 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 two full-time students and two full-time interns for work terms. 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.
- Community Futures Revelstoke – We received a grant of \$5,000 for programming and expenses related to the Museum’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Government of Canada – Canada Summer Jobs – We received a subsidy for the hiring of a summer student for eight weeks. This helped the Museum provide a quality summer job while addressing our staffing needs during the busy summer months.

Individual Donors - The Museum benefitted greatly from the generosity of numerous individual donors. Four donors, in particular, collectively donated over \$168,000 in 2023. This included \$150,000 from a single donor as partial payment for the 5500 Pavilion project, and \$1,000 as an individual donation to the 5500 Restoration Project. Apex Janitorial and the Revelstoke Model Railway Club donated prizes for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle worth \$2,489. The other individual donations totalling \$17,000 were unrestricted and allow the Museum to fund projects where the need is greatest. We are deeply honoured by and thankful for the generosity of all of our donors.

Luna Rail and Trackside Holiday Party donors – We received significant support from Revelstoke-based individuals and businesses in support for our major Luna Rail and Trackside Holiday Party events. These came in the form of cash contributions, door prizes, silent auction merchandise and raffle prizes, and food and refreshments for volunteers. We were also very fortunate to have the support of dozens of volunteers at both events. Supporting organizations, businesses and individuals included:



- Arts Revelstoke
- BC Gaming
- Straight Up Construction
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Revy Outdoors
- Coast Hillcrest Hotel
- Tourism Revelstoke
- Grizzlies Hockey Club;
- Apex Janitorial
- Revelstoke Credit Union
- Birch and Lace Hair
- Tim Horton's
- Society Snow and Skate
- Community Futures Revelstoke
- Jacobson Ford
- The Annex Revelstoke
- A & W
- Tantrum Ride Co
- Operation Lifesaver
- Revelstoke Model Railway Club
- Silverwinds
- CIBC
- Legends and Heroes Toys and Apparel
- Save-on-Foods
- Mt. Begbie Brewery
- Matthew Timmins Photography
- Style Trend Clothiers
- MacDonald's
- Cooper Rentals
- Stoke the Fire Hot Sauce
- Home Hardware
- Fable Book Parlour
- Valhalla Pure Outfitters
- Big Bend Café
- Workwest Workwear
- Revelstoke Trading Post
- Forge and Fill
- Paramjit's Kitchen
- Nico's Pizzeria
- Begbie Kids
- Left Field Floral
- Mica Heli Ski
- Royal Bank
- Revelstoke Mountain Resort
- Southside Market
- Home Hardware
- Mountain Made Studio

In-Kind Donations and Support - We also received in-kind donations worth over \$5,000 from philanthropic-minded businesses in both 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: Apex Janitorial, BDO Canada, R. Jones Contracting, Mackenzie Peak Law Corporation, Revy Repair and Rentals, Save-On-Foods, Swiss Chalet Motel, and Warner Rentals, to name just a few.

Gaming Proceeds – In 2023 we held four 50/50 draws at Grizzlies games and a 50/50 draw at the Revelstoke Car Show. Volunteers drove the majority of these ticket sales and we thank them for their hard work. We appreciate the support of BC Gaming in allowing us to engage in 50/50 draws.

In the late summer we launched a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle, spearheaded by Carol Mayer. Raffle prizes were donated by Apex Janitorial and the Revelstoke Model Railway Club. The raffle generated over \$7,000 in revenue. We thank Trustees George Hopkins, Kevin Dorrius and Pam Doyle for their support in selling tickets, and especially Carol Mayer, who was an absolute powerhouse in selling tickets.

## **Facilities**

The Society made significant progress on several important initiatives:

Security Alarm – We replaced the Museum’s obsolete and frequently-malfunctioning security system with a modern and robust system with increased motion sensors and other features. This was a major step forward for the Museum’s security and safety of our people. This project was funded by Columbia Basin Trust through a Tech Grant.

Front Concrete Apron – We replaced the crumbling and unsightly concrete apron in front of the Museum. Years of snow removal and Revelstoke weather meant that the old surface was beyond repair and posed a tripping hazard to visitors. The new concrete apron was replaced by Jones Contracting in November 2023. This project was funded by the Province of British Columbia’s Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP).

Completion of Restrooms and Door Renovations – We completed major projects to remodel the Museum’s 30 year-old restrooms and install automatic door openers on the Museum’s exterior doors and widening one door. This represents a major improvement to the Museum’s accessibility to all persons and it also improved the COVID-proofness of the Museum. We gratefully acknowledge the Province of British Columbia’s Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) for this major project.

Fire panel – We replaced the Museum’s obsolete fire alarm panel and detectors throughout the Museum grounds. The panel was no longer compliant with prevailing standards and many of the detectors were no longer functioning. This project was funded by Revelstoke Credit Union’s Community Giving Program, Columbia Basin Trust, and by private donations.

Last Spike Caboose – We repainted the steel caboose displayed at the Last Spike. After many years in the elements and more than a little attention by vandals, the caboose was badly in need of repainting and renewal. The work was completed in the fall of 2023 by Siark Painting of Salmon Arm. We want to thank Trustees Doug Mayer and Dave Love for their work to research the correct graphics and paint colours for this highly-visible artifact. This project was funded by the Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative (TRTDI) through Kootenay Rockies Tourism.

Last Spike Gift Shop Floor – We replaced the subfloor and tile floor of the Last Spike Gift Shop building, as part of a larger program of interventions on the building in 2022 including replacement of the roof and major repairs to the foundations which were necessary for its continued operation. This project was funded by the Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative (TRTDI) through Kootenay Rockies Tourism.

Revelstoke Model Railway Club - The Revelstoke Model Railway Club continued to make progress on its expanded depiction of the Revelstoke roundhouse and yards complex, giving our visitors further insights into the CPR’s presence in Revelstoke. The model railway provides an important and popular animating element to the Museum.

Flower Power – Revelstoke’s Rotarians once again beautified the Museum with a “Rotary at Work” project, planting a variety of new flowers and plants to give a colourful welcome to our visitors in spring, and filling our planter barrels with boughs for the holiday season.

Rotary Club of Revelstoke's support for the Museum is a long tradition! Rotary's work with the Railway Museum was done in memory of Rotarian Shirley Frank.

## **Our People**

Lifetime Memberships Awarded - At the Annual General Meeting on April 25th 2023, we elected three persons to the position of Lifetime Member, the Society's highest honour. Elected were Trustees Pam Doyle and Kevin Dorrius, and long-time Last Spike Gift Shop Supervisor Judy Tomey. These individuals have consistently supported the Society for many years with their exceptional volunteerism and efforts.

Our Employees - In 2023 we welcomed Rachael Lewis as Assistant Manager of Retail and Visitor Services. In June 2023 we promoted Rachael to the role of Manager after resignation of her predecessor, Melissa Thornton.

In November of 2023, Executive Director Jim Cullen advised the board of his intention to retire from the Museum in early 2024. A hiring committee was struck and recruitment for Cullen's successor began in early 2024.

In the fall of 2023, long-time employee Judy Tomey retired from her role as Last Spike Gift Shop Manager. Judy was almost synonymous with Craigellachie, given her many years of service, ensuring visitors to this important historic site enjoyed a warm welcome. We welcome her Assistant Manager Jennifer Lobb to the Shop Manager role.

In 2023 we bade a very fond farewell to our long-time book keeper Megan Lund, who provided years of service to the Museum. We welcomed her successor, Maria Robinson from Sugi Assistant. We also used this opportunity to convert our accounting software to Quickbooks and implement other procedural improvements such as direct deposit of many payables and payroll.

Our employees worked very hard in spite of often challenging conditions. Our Manager of Visitor Services and Retail, Rachael Lewis, took on her management role in the maelstrom of a busy summer season. Karen Matthews, our Manager of Administration led the Society through the implementation of new accounting software, led development of our facility rental program, and worked relentlessly at our special events. Our Curator Laura VanZant worked on numerous initiatives including our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photo exhibit and the Museum's social media presence. Our old and new book-keepers, Megan Lund and Maria Robinson, kept our finances in order. Our Museum Store team of Rachael Lewis, Hunter Stewardson, Melissa Thornton, Lada Gladchenko, Suri Stewardson, Shelley Koski, Tracy Martens-Miola, and Grant Sutherland made our visitors feel welcome. At the Last Spike, Judy Tomey, Jennifer Lobb, Kip Blomquist, and Annette Harris gave our visitors a warm Craigellachie welcome. Ed Koski worked hard to keep our visitors safe during the snowy seasons, as did Thalie Vachon-Sincennes.

Our Young Canada Works Summer Students Amanda Gast and Jaimie Reynolds, and Interns Leslie Hutchinson and Ashlee Greggor helped us make progress on cataloguing and

describing our archival and photographic collections. Significant progress was made on scanning a substantial portion of our photographic collection for on-line accessibility.

Our Volunteers - Our museum has always been a grass-roots effort, and we depend heavily on our volunteers in many aspects of our operations. Nearly every program, exhibit, project or activity in all of our areas involved the hard work of our volunteers; without them, the Museum would quickly cease operation. While it is impossible to identify all of the work that our volunteers did for the Museum, some of the activities are listed below and they represent thousands of volunteer hours. We look forward to seeing more of our volunteers in 2024 and re-implementing even more of our volunteer-led programs.

- Groundskeeping and Facilities – Don Hawker (Lifetime Member and former Trustee), Pam Doyle (Trustee), Rod Battersby (former Trustee), Jacob Geyer, Jo Hawker, Ed Koski, Carol Mayer, Rob Mellish, Ed Palasz, Chuck Blackie, Rotary Club of Revelstoke
  - Working with our contractor on the Museum’s restroom and door projects
  - Mowing the Museum’s extensive green spaces and planting our planter barrels with perennials and Christmas boughs
  - Deep cleaning of museum spaces
  - Snow and refuse removal
  - Light carpentry and repairs as needed
  - 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
  - Opening, closing and winterizing the Craigellachie Last Spike Gift Shop
- Fund Development and Marketing – Kevin Dorrius (Trustee), Don Hawker (Lifetime Member and former Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), Carol Mayer, Jim Cullen, Karen Matthews, Zach Veninsky, Jacob Geyer, Stephen Jenkins, Dave Russel
  - Selling 50/50 raffle tickets at Revelstoke Grizzlies hockey games and the Car Show
  - Selling raffle tickets at the Luna Rail event
- Museum Operations, Administration and Commerce – Pauline Hunter (Trustee), Glenda Eddy
  - Administering the membership program, ensuring that renewal reminders are sent out in a timely way, the database is accurate, and new members are thanked
- Collections and Rolling Stock – Don Hawker (Lifetime Member and former Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), George Hopkins (President and Lifetime Member), Miriam Williams (Lifetime Member), Doug Mayer (Trustee and Lifetime Member), Ed Koski (Lifetime Member), Rob Mellish, Ed Palasz (Lifetime Member), Josh Palasz, Ben Palasz
  - Ongoing maintenance of the Trackmobile and speeders so they are operational and reliable

- Restoring the Albert Canyon handcar
- 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
- Exhibits and Programming – Doug Mayer (Trustee), George Hopkins (President and Lifetime Member), Kevin Dorrius (Trustee), Rowan Hargreaves (Trustee), Ed Koski (Lifetime Member), Ed Palasz (Lifetime Member), Don Hawker (Lifetime Member and former Trustee), Wendy Harper (Trustee), Rod Battersby (former Trustee), Rod Battersby (former Trustee), Shelley Koski, Walter Cyronek, Matt Wojak, Michael Haworth, Max Parent, Tom Jolly, Michelle Gadbois, Mark Lesack, Jimi Rienks, Annette Harris, Gerda Diederichs, Braeden Cherrington, Maria-Lynn Johnson, Jacob Geyer, Jordy Hunter, Jo Hawker, Alexander Parsons, Josie McQuarrie, Charlie Hill, Freya Nelson, Helen Sheppard, Ann Tegart, Lerritt Robinson, Michael Harle, Crystal Bessem, Ollie Harper, Chuck Blackie, Lucie Bergeron, Samantha Veninsky, Zach Veninsky, Ryan Huntla, Maria Morgenthaler, Lyle Morgenthaler, Bryce Millman, Julie Wise, Ralph Morgan, Andreas Schwartz, Amiel Pua, Jim Gilchrist, Shannon Gilchrist, Helen Kondos, Tina Whitman, Chris Miller, Revelstoke Grizzlies Hockey Team members, Revelstoke Credit Union staff
  - Volunteering at Luna Rail and the Trackside Holiday Party
  - Continuously improving 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
  - Installing the new railcar interpretive signage in Spring and removing it for the Winter season
  - Authoring Volume VII of Doug Mayer’s series “Canadian Pacific on the Revelstoke Division”
  - Leading tours and representing the Museum during group visits
  - Providing security and coverage during special events and facility rentals
  - Repairing and maintaining the locomotive simulator

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.

### Our Trustees

Our Board of Trustees is a group of very dedicated volunteers who govern the Society and are entrusted with its long-term sustainability and stewardship.

In 2023 we welcomed two long-time Revelstokians as new members to our Board of Trustees: Jim Maitre, a retired locomotive engineer and long-time board member of several organizations including Revelstoke Community Futures, and Rick Reynolds, retired Visitor Experience Manager for Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks. We thanked our outgoing Trustees Pauline Hunter and Roger Eddy for their lengthy service to the Society.



**George Hopkins**  
President and  
Lifetime Member  
*(All Committees)*



**Doug Mayer**  
Vice-President and  
Lifetime Member  
*(Revelstoke Model  
Railway Club, Executive  
and Collections &  
Exhibits Committees)*



**Kevin Dorrius**  
Treasurer  
Lifetime Member  
*(Executive, Finance,  
Governance, Marketing  
and Fundraising  
Committees)*



**Rick Reynolds**  
*(Events & Programs  
Committee)*



**Rowan Hargreaves**  
*(Marketing and 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Committees)*



**Pam Doyle**  
Lifetime Member  
*(Collections & Exhibits  
and Governance  
Committees)*



**Wendy Harper**  
*(Marketing Committee)*



**Dave Love**  
*(Governance and 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Committees)*



**Jim Maitre**  
*(Collections & Exhibits Committee  
and Events & Programs  
Committee)*



In late 2023 we regretfully accepted Jim Maitre's resignation from the Board, as he realized he couldn't find the balance between our Board and his other responsibilities. We are grateful for his service.

## **In Closing**

Great museums do not happen by accident. They are an amalgam of great collections, a great location and community, and great people. The Society is fortunate to have all three of these. Anniversaries are a time to stop and reflect on where we have been and where we are going; at our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, and over the past 30 years, we have certainly seen ample evidence of all three ingredients. We hope our founders would be proud of our accomplishments on behalf of the Museum, Revelstoke and Revelstokians, and our remarkable heritage. Once again, we are grateful to our volunteers, our members, our communities, our staff, our donors and our stakeholders for their support of our work.

