



POWELL RIVER * FORESTRY HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Information Summary – Updated April 2024

Mission The *Powell River** Forestry Heritage Society (PRFHS) is a non-profit, volunteer-based BC Society and registered charity dedicated to the education, preservation and public awareness of the colourful forest history of the qathet region, including Powell River.

Activities The Forestry Heritage Society has evolved from its origins which were operating the Forestry Museum and maintaining the Willingdon Beach Trail from 1985 until 2014. We now operate the railroad next to the Farmers Market at the Exhibition Park, provide support to the qathet Museum, and do other projects involving Forestry Heritage education in the qathet Region.

Paradise Valley Railroad (PVR) The miniature, rideable railroad adjacent to the Farmers Market at Paradise Exhibition Park includes historical railroad and steam donkey heritage displays, and a horse trail. The PVR provides train and hand car rides to the general public whenever the Farmers Market is open outdoors. (currently 12:30 to 2:30 pm every Sunday from May through September). It also opens for special events (e.g. Ghost Train in late October and Santa Train in early December). Our latest plan is to provide a Garden Scale Railroad near our rideable track for viewing by the public.

Anderson Sawmill Displays Project The Forestry Heritage Society, qMAS and City Parks with funding support of the PR Community Forest are preparing displays from material repatriated from Burnaby Heritage Park. The first phase was a steam donkey installed at Lindsay Park

Forestry Museum Support The Forestry Heritage Society supports the qMAS in its operation of the Forestry Museum, and cooperates with other local museums and heritage societies with Forestry interests. (The PRFHS previously operated the Forestry Museum from 1985 to 2014)

Historic Willingdon Beach Trail Support The trail with its forestry and logging equipment displays is now now fully managed by City Parks. PRFHS provides occasional support.

Grizzly Bear Sculpture The Forestry Heritage Society commissioned and installed the Grizzly Bear chainsaw sculpture located at the ferry terminal.

Website We maintain and update <http://qathet.prfhs.org> , which provides an on-line history of the PRFHS since 2001 and an archive of the forestry –related history of Powell River.

Facilities The PVR at Paradise Exhibition Park with 2200' of 7.5" gauge track, two 10'x20' sheds, and rolling stock at approximately 1/5 scale (a gas locomotive, an electric locomotive, caboose, several ride cars, a wheelchair car plus four hand cars), plus material for making more track and rolling stock. We have a filing cabinet in the Admin building of the qMAS.

Administration

Organization and Governance The Society is BC # S-20958, Feb 5, 1986; Charity #127527075RR0001. The board has eight Directors: President, Dave Florence; Vice President Administration and Secretary/Treasurer, vacant; Vice President Railroad, Dan Parsons; , and several Directors at Large: Bob Johnson, Rob Clark, and Stephen James.

Society membership, which is open to everyone, currently is 15. The Society holds meetings each six months and calls work parties as needed.

* **Name Change** Most of the forestry heritage we celebrate is in qathet Regional District, so we are considering changing our name to “qathet Forestry Heritage Society”.

Our Impact in the Community Based on feedback we receive from qathet region residents, we are confident that the Society and its members make a significant contribution to the quality of life for local families. Similarly, based on feedback we receive from the Visitors’ Centre, the riding-railroad with its forestry heritage displays make a significant contribution to local tourism. Our popular wheelchair car supports inclusion. Our membership includes indigenous volunteers. Our heritage displays acknowledge and reflect indigenous forestry heritage.

Finances The annual budget is about \$8,000. Recent revenue sources include ride revenues from the miniature Railroad; donations of cash or in-kind material from industry, donations from individuals, and one annual raffle. Main expenses are for insurance (over \$1,500); maintenance or project material; and supplies.

Financial Sustainability Main revenues are now about \$5000 per year from railroad ride tickets, \$2000 from a raffle, and periodic donations for projects in the past from Westview Kiwanis, local firms, and individuals. Our main expenses are now insurance, railroad maintenance, some financial support to the Forestry Museum, and some forestry heritage educational displays. Our forecast essential expenses are exceeding our predicted revenues.

Labour for past projects has all been volunteer, but a decreasing supply of volunteers now requires us to pay for service for some projects. Railway operation and most rolling stock maintenance tasks are unique, which requires us to use our available volunteer resources for those tasks.

Our infrastructure and rolling stock are incomplete, and much of what we have is aging and requires replacement. In addition, we have been relying on borrowed rolling stock to meet demand for train rides and to be self-sufficient we are working towards obtaining those items.

Core Values To protect and foster positive experiences for our train riders and our crews, members of the PRFHS and Paradise Valley Railroad are expected to:

- Use good safety practices in our workplaces
- Respect everyone’s basic rights and freedoms
- Operate and maintain our equipment in accordance with established procedures.