



# POWELL RIVER FORESTRY HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Feb 5, 2023

To: President, PR Farmers Agricultural Institute

## **Proposed Project Local Agricultural History Display at the Farmers Market**

As discussed today, I suggest that the Institute and the Railroad build a joint pictorial display of our histories and place it on the east and south walls of this shed.



The suggested theme is for you: the history of farming in the qathet Region, plus the Institute timeline from your website. (attached as page 2). For us: the Railroad history of the qathet Region.

I suggest 1/2 of the east wall for each of us, with the north wall (the walk to the washrooms) as a continuation of the Agriculture display; so overall 2/3 Agriculture and 1/3 Railroad.

The Railroad has portable railroad-history displays, but it is a nuisance to deploy them on operating days, so a permanent display would be welcome.

I suggest we each choose a small number of photos from the qathet Museum and Archives and have them printed professionally, suitably protected for outdoor display, in large size (e.g., 18"x24"), with suitable supporting text.

You may wish to add a second picnic table in front of the shed to make it a friendly rest spot and avoid looking at the display over parked cars; there is adequate nearby parking.

Labour for the project would be donated; the only expense would be for the photos/graphics. A budget of \$500 from Agriculture would be suitable; PRFHS will pay for the Railroad photos/graphics.

Timings: I suggest we get this done by May 1, 2023; in time to be recognized as part of the "May is Museum Month" initiative of the qathet Museum and Archives. They are creating a passport-stamp program for the various museums/heritage institutions in the Region and our display could be part of that. It would likely attract additional visitors and locals to visit the Farmers Market this upcoming May.

Dave Florence  
President, Forestry Heritage Society

## A Timeline History of the Powell River Farmers' Agricultural Institute

<b>POWELL RIVER FARMERS INSTITUTE</b>			
<b>1915</b> <b>Beginning with a Bang</b> <p>At the turn of the century it is impossible for individuals to purchase dynamite so the farmers of Powell River come together to form the Farmers' Institute and are able to purchase dynamite to assist in the clearing of their lands to support livestock and agriculture. The Powell River Farmers' Institute (PRFI) is founded to "improve conditions of rural life so that settlement may be permanent and prosperous."</p>	<b>POWELL RIVER FALL FAIR</b> <b>1932</b> Cranberry Ratepayers hold their first Fall Fair. <b>1933</b> The Powell River & District Horticultural Society is founded as a result of the previous years' successful Fall Fair, and continues to put on the fairs each fall. <b>1939</b> After 7 years of successful Fall Fairs, the event goes into hiatus as WWII starts. <b>1954</b> Fall Fairs resume at the Willingdon Beach Arena <b>1970's</b> When the Arena closes in the 70's the Fair moves to the Recreation Complex's two skating rinks <b>1982</b> Last Fall Fair at the Recreation Complex <b>1987</b> Fall Fair re-opens at the Paradise Valley Exhibition Grounds. Successful Fall Fairs continue with an outdoor focus and plenty of space to grow. <b>2015</b> Without a coordinator, a scaled- down version of a Fall Fair ( <i>A Fall Affair</i> ) is held.	<b>POWELL RIVER &amp; DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY</b> <b>1936</b> The Powell River & District Horticultural Society changes its name to The Powell River & District Agricultural Society (PRDAS) and Fall Fair continues. PRDAS promotes the local cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers. <b>1939</b> PRDAS takes a hiatus as WWII starts. <b>1954</b> PRDAS resumes and provides the community with unforgettable Fall Fairs at the Willingdon Beach Arena. <b>1970's</b> PRDAS moves the Fair to the new Recreation Complex <b>1982</b> PRDAS holds its last Fall Fair at the Rec Complex. <b>1987</b> PRDAS re-launches Fall Fair at the Paradise Valley Exhibition Grounds also opens the Farmers' Market. The society expands to include the local 4H club and participates in the administration of the Paradise Exhibition Park. <b>2015</b> After decades of success PRDAS faces a year without a Fall Fair Coordinator.	<b>POWELL RIVER FARMERS' MARKET</b>  <b>1987</b> First Farmers' Market opens at Paradise Exhibition Park  <b>2015</b> Farmers' Market enjoys its 28 <sup>th</sup> birthday
<b>2015</b> PRFI celebrates 100 years in Powell River.			
<b>2016</b>	Discussions begin regarding the consolidation of the efforts of PRDAS and the PRFI in order to better support local farmers and agriculture.		
<b>2017</b>	The Powell River & District Agricultural Society and the Powell River Farmers' Institute amalgamate their activities and resources.		
<b>2017</b>	The Powell River Farmers' Agricultural Institute is created		