This issue is our fifth newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association (Issue 3 had two releases). There has been a gap of a few months since the last issue; so there will be a bit to cover in this release since late Spring / early Summer within our group. Topics including the Port Alberni Subdivision Project, past events attended, and our current equipment roster. I would also like to take this time to welcome our new members to the division! Our division is always seeking new volunteers to help maintain and enhance our heritage equipment and operations as well as just the support of being a member of our group, we truly appreciate your membership and interest in us! Also a message out to wish members and their families the very best for the holiday season, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I look forward to what the new year will bring our way.

All the best for 2013!

James Woodyatt

Newsletters / Site Administrator - Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division, CRHA
Since our last issue in May / June of this year, the E&N Division’s East End Track Gang have been kept very busy with the ongoing brush and track maintenance and upkeep. The efforts of our volunteers continue to make a difference across the 33 mile stretch of iron road. Hard work pays off and is obvious when traveling the line from Parksville to Port Alberni and return; 66 miles in total! With over 1000 volunteer hours this year, we were able to keep the ROW open allowing the NARCOA speeder event in July to once again be a success as well! This year in recent months, the East End Track Gang has had a few important guests join us for track inspections. In August, Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan joined us for a full track inspection from Parksville right to Smith Road in Port Alberni at Mile Post 33 of the Port Sub. In October, Nanaimo MLA Leonard Krog and Recreation Commissioner for District 69, Area F - Reg Nosworthy joined the EETG from Parksville to Loon Lake at the top of the Hump (MP 22.2). Our new addition to the equipment fleet, HiRail 301, was a great help this year for crew and tool transport as well as the much needed horsepower! The E&N Division CRHA’s East End Track Gang (EETG) continue to keep the Port Alberni Subdivision open with regular track and Right of Way maintenance and care. Visit the website: www.portsubinfo.com for more information and numerous photos of our work.
Most Used and New Equipment this Year

Our newest edition to the equipment fleet is Hi-Rail 301 which is a 1995 Ford F-250 4x4 pickup truck equipped with Fairmont Hi-Rail gear. This road-rail vehicle is great for crew and tool transport, as well as the much needed horsepower for pulling rail trailers etc. The Hi-Rail wheels on this truck are rubber insulated for a quiet and shock-free ride.

Built in 1990 in Canada. The Railcar started its service with the CPR in the Golden and Kootenay Regions. The unit has two seats but can carry four workers. It has an 18 horse power gas engine, with snowmobile type drive to the transmission and drive shaft. It weights about 1800 pounds and is numbered 16-003. The unit was restored in 2010.

This is a CR7 series A RO-C 9HP CPR railcar numbered 4706-44. These speeders were built by Fairmont Railway Motors Canada in 1958 and weigh in at about 871 pounds. This unit was fully restored in 1997.

Built by Fairmont in the 1950's. It has a Wisconsin 4 cylinder Air cooled Gas Engine and the drive works on hydraulics. This unit spent its life on the island and was Donated to the E&N Division from CPR in the 1990's. The E&N Division's East End Track Gang has taken on the restoration of our Ex CPR unit 4305.02 (E&N) Fairmont Brush Cutter. In the 1990's it was restored back to working condition and used on the CN line at Tide Water in Cowichan Bay. It then spent a number of years clearing brush for the Alberni Pacific Railway. Time has taken its toll on the unit and it is now currently in Parksville under restoration. The unit has been stripped down to it's frame. New metal and much work is going into the structure at this time. Project completion is expected by late spring of 2013. Visit our website: [www.encrha.com](http://www.encrha.com) for...
On July 23rd & 24th, 2012, the Port Alberni Subdivision hosted once again another North American Rail Car Operators Association (NARCOA) speeder tour from Port Alberni to Parksville, and back. This group of speeder enthusiasts that travel around the continent touring railways, chose the Parksville - Port Alberni Rail Corridor to tour for the third time. The event was a success and good time had by all. Ken Fyfe and his team put on a great Steam Show for our visitors as well! Lots of brushing preparation for the event which helped the East End Track Gang achieve their 1000 volunteer work hour achievement! Flagging crossings was a big job in itself performed by more EETG volunteers. Thanks to all who helped out in any way with this event!

Nanaimo Train Station Grand Re-opening - Wednesday July 25th, 2012. The E&N Division was in Attendance with info on the Port Alberni Subdivision project and other various displays of heritage value and island railway importance.

Following a devastating fire in 2006 and immense restoration over the last couple of years, the Nanaimo Train Station was finally restored to its former glory in the summer of 2012. Apart from still being a Train Station for the City of Nanaimo and the E&N Railway, it now houses the City’s only Irish Pub-Style Restaurant, the Fibber Magees Station.
Closing Message

This issue is our fifth newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. It has briefly covered the many projects and events our division was involved in and accomplished in just one year. From the ongoing Port Alberni Subdivision Project, to events we as a club attend, to our smaller restoration projects and new equipment acquired in 2012; the members of the E&N Division CRHA work hard and as a team to get these goals and projects accomplished. New members, welcome to a division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association that has shown many that we are dedicated and passionate people towards our island railway and its heritage; we are proud of it and what we do!

We thank all our members for their hard work and dedication through 2012 and wish you and your families the very best this Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you all and lets hope 2013 brings us even more success!