This issue is our third newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. It has been a while since the last issue so there will be a lot to cover in this release since Christmas within our group. Topics including the Port Alberni Subdivision Project, recent events attended, the upcoming 3rd annual Railway Days at the Parksville Station, our smaller restoration projects, and new equipment acquired this year. 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! Enjoy the third issue with all its new updates and content, I look forward to hearing positive feedback and comments from our members!

All the best,

James Woodyatt

Newsletters / Site Administrator - Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division, CRHA
Recent activity and Projects on the Port Alberni Subdivision

Since Christmas of 2011, the E&N Division, East End Track Gang, and Alberni Pacific Railway have been busy on the Port Alberni Subdivision with a number of major and ongoing projects. The most major being a large rock slide at MP 27.5 which had destroyed the track underneath and covered the entire Right of Way with rock debris. The project was tackled over five work parties consisting of clearing debris, removing damaged track, and relaying new ties and rail joints. On top of this huge project there is also the ongoing work of brush removal, culvert inspections and repairs, rail and tie maintenance, and debris removal (rock, trees, brush, etc.). May 5th was the East End Track Gang’s latest Port Sub run and track inspection up to Loon Lake (MP 22.2) at the top of the hump. The inspection included track conditions in rock slide areas and minor brushing around mile posts above Cameron Lake. In addition, we also inspected trestle conditions from Cameron Lake Siding (MP 12.7) to Loon Lake at MP 22.2. It was a successful day, the weather co-operated and scenery always spectacular! The E&N Division CRHA’s East End Track Gang (EETG) continue to keep the Port Alberni Sub open with regular track and Right of Way maintenance and care. Visit the website: www.portsubinfo.com for more information.
Equipment Acquisitions & Donations

The E&N Division CRHA has applied under CN Community Funding to have CN consider donating a CN GP9RM locomotive. The application is currently under review for the donation and CN will advise if it qualifies for the next stage of review.

The Alberta Railway Museum (ARM), currently has former CP GP30 #5000, that can be made operable with some work. The ARM has indicated it would like the locomotive to come to our division, since it operated on the E&N for a number of years and it does not fit in with their CN collection. ARM would like a cash value for the locomotive of $5000.00, and that would be paid out of any money raised for its restoration. This GP30 is one of only two that CP had on their roster, it was originally numbered 8200 when built and should be restored back into operation. Some pictures of the #5000 can be viewed to the right. Our plan is to paint the unit as CP 5000 in Maroon and Grey, script lettering.

Our division is also waiting on A&B Rail to donate one or two Hi-Rail trucks to our division. They are currently using all of their trucks for their summer projects but have indicated that this opportunity will open up again after their busy summer work season. Until then, we will wait patiently for their reply.

If you would like to support us in getting funding towards these great pieces equipment and their future restoration projects, please visit the link below to support us in online donations. We truly appreciate your help in preserving our railway heritage! Thank you! We would also like to thank ARM, CN, CP, and A&B Rail for their generous donations over the years! Thanks again!

http://www.gofundme.com/okui8
http://www.encrha.com/donations.php
Upcoming Events

During the weekend of July 7 & 8th, 2012, it will be the third annual “Island Railway Days” at the train station in Parksville, BC. Events include: railway related games and rides for kids, island railway history, artifacts, mini-train rides, models, and pottery related events and activities put on by the Arrowsmith Potters Guild (owners of the station). Both the guild and the E&N Division CRHA are highly involved in the organization and work associated with putting on a community event as such. In previous years, we have had a great turn out and expect the same this year. Railway fun for all ages!

In July, 2012, the Port Alberni Subdivision will host yet 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, have chosen the Parksville - Port Alberni Rail Corridor to tour for the third time. Scenery is spectacular from Parksville to Port Alberni and this MUST be what is bringing them back again for their third trip over the subdivision!
In Closing...

This issue is our third newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. It has briefly covered the many projects and events our division is involved in and has accomplished in such a short while since Christmas. From the Port Alberni Subdivision Project, to the upcoming 3rd annual Railway Days at the Parksville Station, to our smaller restoration projects and new equipment acquired or working on acquiring; the members of the E&N Division CRHA work hard and as a team to get these goals and projects accomplished. The pride in our work shows! 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 AND we are proud of it, and all of our accomplishments!