This issue is our sixth newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. There has been a gap of numerous months since the last issue. There will be a number of things to cover in this release as a recap of 2013 within the E&N Division and our work on the Port Alberni Subdivision with the East End Track Gang (EETG). Topics discussed in this issue: the EETG, events attended since 2012 and a look at the restoration of the Division’s Fairmont Brush Cutter. I would also like to take this time to welcome any of our new members to the group! Our division is always seeking new volunteers to help maintain and enhance our heritage railway equipment and operations. Even the support of being a member of our group, we truly appreciate your membership and interest in us! Enjoy this newsletter release as we take a look at the many things we’ve been up to together this year both on and off the rails! Thanks for taking the time to read ~

James Woodyatt

Newsletters / Site Administrator - Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division, CRHA
Throughout 2013, the E&N Division’s East End Track Gang have kept busy as usual with the ongoing brush control and track maintenance of the Port Alberni Sub. The endless efforts of our volunteers continue to make a difference across our section of the 38 mile stretch of rail bed from Parksville to Port Alberni. Hard work does pay off and is obvious when traveling the line! With over 5 years and 5500 volunteer hours in total (and counting), we are able to keep the Right of Way open and passable for our crews and future operations! EETG Hi-Rail 301 continues to be a great help for crew and tool transport on the Port Sub and this year was mounted with our new center cutter “BlastBoy” for vegetation control in the Coombs area of the subdivision. The name was decided because it “Blasts” the brush and “Boy” does it do a good job exposing the ties! We also hope to have our E&N Fairmont Brush Cutter operational very soon after undergoing a major restoration this year but currently experiencing engine problems. The East End Track Gang (EETG) continues to keep the Port Alberni Subdivision open with regular track inspections following Right of Way maintenance and care. Visit the EETG’s website: www.portsubinfo.com for more information and numerous photos and videos of our work. Also be sure to “Like” us on Facebook for photo updates of our work: www.facebook.com/portsubinfo
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 and has received a safety yellow paint job. Hydraulic lines have been repositioned and electrical redone. Both the gearbox and vacuum brake have been restored and repaired. The unit is in the processes of being put back together and put through operational tests. New and old decals and markings have also been added. Unfortunately we have now encountered engine problems but repairs are underway. We hope to have the unit in operation on the Port Alberni Sub with the EETG in the new year. Please visit our website: www.encrha.com/projects for more photos, information and updates.
Past Events for 2013

Coombs Family Day - Monday February 11th, 2013 ~ Our first Family Day at the Coombs Fair Grounds was a great success. The Coombs Community put on a first class event. We provided our speeders and hi-rail for display. A 1:00 Horn Blast to start the event. We also had a static heritage display and a focus on Operation LifeSaver. We had over a thousand visitors and handed out much information on Track Safety and the work the volunteers have done over the past four and a half years on the Port Sub. Thanks again to the volunteers who came out to help.

Victoria Train Show - Sunday September 8th, 2013 ~ The E&N Division was present with a static heritage display. We also displayed photos and handed out much information on the work our volunteers have done over the past five years on the Port Alberni Subdivision. Covered was information on the E&N Division's East End Track Gang (EETG) and what they do including their accomplishments, goals and continued efforts on the Port Sub.

Qualicum Beach Family Days - On Sunday May 26th, we attended the Qualicum Beach Family Days. We were in the parade with EETG Hi-Rail 301 and Speeder 16-003. We also had our E&N Division CRHA table set up with a static heritage display and information and photos on the EETG. Operation Lifesaver info and handouts were also present under the tent.

Roundhouse Centennial - Bayview Place presented the Victoria Roundhouse Centennial Celebration October 19 & 20th, 2013 - The E&N Division, CRHA and EETG was in attendance with our equipment and photos, information and handouts at our table as well as speeder rides, which were very popular. CN Police were also present with Operation Lifesaver. For more information visit Bayview Place online: www.bayviewplace.com
Closing Message

This issue is our sixth newsletter release for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. This release has covered the number of projects and events we as a division are involved in within a year. From the ongoing Port Alberni Subdivision Project, to events we attend as a group, to our smaller but still major restoration projects such as the Fairmont Brush Cutter; the members of the E&N Division CRHA continue to work hard and impress and surprise those who follow us. Our new members, we welcome you to a division of the CRHA that has shown many how dedicated and passionate we really are towards our island railway and its heritage; we are proud of it and what we do and take pride in all our work!

One again, we thank all our members for their hard work and dedication throughout 2013 and wish you and your families along with our Division and the EETG the very best for next year!

Our hard work & dedication within our club has been noticed & recognized around the world!