



For Immediate Release: May 10, 2010

Nanaimo Train Station totals creep upward, rehabilitation effort to start immediately

The first phase of the Nanaimo Train Station rehabilitation project has been given a go-ahead from the Island Corridor Foundation on the strength of recent donations and upcoming fundraising projects.

Construction will begin on May 11th on the first phase of the restoration project. Funds are in place to support the Phase 1 of the project, however a shortfall of \$119,000 remains before Phase 2 can proceed. Darren Moss of Tectonica Management is confident in the decision to proceed based on the support of the local community to date.

“The rehabilitated Train Station will promote a revival of rail traffic and this key portion of downtown.” said Moss. “Tectonica is excited to do our part in preserving this piece of our city’s history.”

A number of recent donations helped push the project to this point. Coast Realty, Manning & Kirkhope and DTZ Barnicke each contributed \$5,000 to the project, with Windsor Plywood contributing \$10,000.

“The donations from Windsor Plywood, Coast Realty, Manning & Kirkhope and DTZ were huge for us,” said Sullivan. “They came at the right time and have helped to decrease the shortfall to a point where we can comfortably start construction.”

John Manning, Partner at Manning and Kirkhope was happy to contribute to the project.

“Both Brian and I are relatively recent transplants to Nanaimo and opened up an office in the Old City Quarter,” said Manning. “We fell in love with the area and the Train Station is an integral part of the neighborhood. When we heard about the Young Professionals campaign to restore the station we were more than happy to do our part and make a contribution”.

Manning’s sentiment was echoed by Ron Williams, Managing Broker at Coast Realty.

“Coast Realty Group is pleased to support the Restoration of the Nanaimo Train Station,” said Williams. “We know that preserving our heritage is part of keeping our community vibrant, livable, and an exciting place to live.”

Despite the announcement that the first phase of the project is now underway, the YPN are keeping their eyes on the target and have not slowed down their efforts to raise the remaining \$119,000.

The YPN team is currently working with Roger McKinnon, Jake Cody and the rest of the McKinnon family to organize the Blair McKinnon Celebrity Football Game. The proceeds from the game, projected at over \$85,000 will be donated to the train station project recognizing Blair as an integral supporter before his tragic passing on April 11th. For more information about the game, which will be held from 1-4 PM at Caledonia Park on May 29th, please contact sarah@selconferenceservices.com.

Support and online donations continue to be accepted at www.nanaimotrainstation.org. Over the last 3 weeks over \$15,000 has been donated in memory of Blair McKinnon.

“We continue to accept online donations and support at www.nanaimotrainstation.org,” says YPN President Andre Sullivan. “Other upcoming fundraising events include a Beer & Pizza fundraiser at Boston Pizza on May 18th from 5-8 PM and we are inviting everyone to join us and help us make this full restoration possible.”



For more information on how to donate to the cause or be part of the celebrity football game please visit www.nanaimotrainingstation.org.

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