



WEST COAST RAILWAY ASSOCIATION



A CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT SOCIETY
Incorporated 1961

Honorary Patron: His Honour, The Honorable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

WEST COAST RAILWAY HERITAGE PARK ECONOMIC IMPACT

For Immediate Release:

Squamish, BC. May 14, 2008 - The West Coast Railway Heritage Park continues to positively benefit the community of Squamish, with a new record economic impact of \$1,765,000 calculated for the year 2007. The Heritage Park has hosted 356,000 visitors since first opening in 1994, with benefits to all in the community. Since 1994, the Heritage Park has pumped just over \$13 million into the local economy, and shown continuing growth each year.

The year 2007 was a busy one as the Heritage Park once again brought Thomas to town, and worked on major construction of the new Turntable and Roundhouse in a big way. Among the 2007 statistics are a total of 40,000 visitors, 8 person years of employment for operations, and over \$500,000 in construction materials purchased locally, all of which contribute to this new record for one year.

In addition, a total of 23,950 volunteer hours were logged making the Heritage Park an active community site all year. A total of 28 community event days were also held in 2007, as the Heritage Park continues to expand its role as a great community facility.

The West Coast Railway Heritage Park is home to Western Canada's largest heritage railway collection, including the world famous Royal Hudson steam locomotive. The 12-acre destination attraction is open year round, and hosts 40,000 guest visits annually. The new Roundhouse and Conference Centre is currently under construction as the third phase of development at the Squamish site, scheduled to open in 2009.

More information at www.wcra.org or call:

Don Evans
President & CEO
604-681-4403, 604-988-3435 direct
president@wcra.org

Susan Steen
Vice President - Squamish
604-898-9336
vpsquamish@wcra.org