

**TO: THE BURNABY HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**FROM: MARGARET BELL,  
COMMISSIONER**

Thank you for allowing me to attend the 2015 Annual Heritage Conference; “The Main Thing” which was held in the beautiful town of Rossland, BC.

The Conference Opener was a reception in the Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre with an interesting talk by Mark Forsythe who retired from the CBC program BC Almanac in December 2014. They had even created a special cocktail for the evening that was topped with Goldschlagger and its flakes of gold!

The Keynote speaker on Friday was Jim Mountain a man who would seem to inspire Heritage in everyone he encounters.

Following the reports from various members the Conference delegates separated for their various workshops which were held in the historic buildings of Rossland, such as the Fire Hall where I listened to a few presentations from people talking about Ethnic and Cultural Communities in BC. One of the presenters was Vera Woykin, President of the Kootenay Doukhofer Historical Society. It was quite interesting to hear about the activities of that particular community which has moved on from the activities I watched on the TV news and read in newspapers when I first arrived to live in Canada.

Saturday proved to be a day of surprises at the conference with two Heritage Carpenters – Ben Gourlay and Gord MacDonald, showing traditional carpentry methods and also Joern Wingender who operates the Traditional Timber Framing Co. demonstrating how to make bricks from wood chips and clay which apparently improves energy performance of the building envelope.

Following those enlightening demonstrations I departed on a tour of Nelson that ended up at the old CPR Railway Station building that is being restored by Joern Wingender’s company. Mr Wingender led us through the building explaining the condition when the job began and explained how he was using his brick making methods as well as flooring from re-cycled wood obtained from local mills that would normally be discarded or mulched.

This was the most interesting Heritage Conference I have ever had the pleasure to attend. There were even a number of sponsors who provided considerable funding and merchandise, including the little Mountain Nugget Chocolate Company who offered a selection of goodies.