

**BC Society of Model Engineers Delegation
To
Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
November 16, 2016 (15 Minutes)**

1. BC Society of Model Engineers

Our History

- Steam engine enthusiasts started a "shop club" in 1929.
- BCSME became a registered Society in 1954.
- BCSME became a registered charity in 2006.

2. BCSME & Burnaby Parks

A relationship since 1975

- Built a miniature railway in Burnaby Village and started operation as "Burnaby Central Railway" on July 1, 1975
- Continued to operate at Burnaby Village until Thanksgiving, 1991.

3. Burnaby Central Railway

Confederation Park

- On November 15, 1991 we signed a Licence Agreement to build and operate a miniature railroad at Confederation Park.
- Today, we have 4.1km of track (3 km mainline) providing 6 different routes for a 10-12 minute train ride.
- The track plan incorporates six bridges, two tunnels, and a ride through a natural park setting.

4. Burnaby Central Railway

Operating Season

- We are open to the public 11am to 5pm every Saturday, Sunday, and statutory holidays annually between Easter and Thanksgiving.
- A ride is \$3.50 (children under 3 ride free) or \$30 for 10 ride tokens.
- At Halloween, we spend a couple of weeks decorating the park and open for 3 hours (6pm to 9pm) on Halloween night. For the same ride price of \$3.50, we offer a miniature train ride, followed by a cup of hot chocolate and a Halloween cookie. We do this largely for the neighbourhood and we often hear, "This is the safest place to bring our children on Halloween night".

5. Burnaby Central Railway

Ridership

- We opened on Canada Day, 1993.
- 1994 – 14,527 riders
- Every 5 years ridership has increased on average 45%
- We now have a 500% ridership increase.
- 2016 – 73,283 riders
- We are at 900,000 riders.
- 2020 – project 97,000 riders annually
- 2025 – project 125,000+ riders annually

6. Burnaby Central Railway

A Museum

- We display "live" steam and railway artifacts
- Our members/volunteers offer insight into an almost forgotten technology
- We provide Burnaby-area primary school students an "All Aboard Safety Program" following by a miniature train ride.

7. Our Volunteers

- Our members collectively volunteer 10,000 – 20,000 hours annually.
- All train operations are by our volunteers.
- Course training and certification is required to be a Conductor, Diesel Electric Engineer, Live Steam Engineer, and Track Manager, who oversees all train operations.
- Much of the equipment required is built and maintained by volunteers.

8. BCSME/Burnaby Central Railway

An "International" Institution

- We are the largest miniature railroad in Canada
- In 2000 we hosted the convention of the International Brotherhood of Live Steamers.
- We now rank Number 3 in the world in miniature railroads open to the public.
- Our community riders are now multi-generational.

9. BCSME and BURNABY PARKS

A "WIN-WIN"

- Our members have a landlord that allows us to "play with trains"
- We have a growing generational community of riders that "loves us"
- We DO NOT spend money on promotional advertising
- A Burnaby Parks "jewel" for the community to enjoy
- WE DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE!

10. BCSME and BURNABY PARKS

- **A Long Term Licence Agreement**
- **Site accommodation/expansion**

- We seek a long-term renewal of our Licence Agreement as we expect to invest \$1 million plus in infrastructure upgrades over the next 10 years.
- We have operational issues that beg an increase in the size of our site.