

## New Home for Parksville Water Tower

In November 2020, Parksville Council approved donation of the water tower to "The East End Track Gang" of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association and approved \$35,000 to assist with the removal, relocation and restoration of the tower. Over the summer, the water tower will be moved a short distance from its current location on the Alberni Highway near the entrance to Parksville from Highway 19 to the east side of the train station.

The water tower is a timber structure which serviced the E & N Railway until it was decommissioned in the early 1950's. In 1996, the tower was slated for removal; however, it was saved from demolition by the Vancouver Island Water Tower Preservation Society and moved about 100 metres along the track to its current location with some restoration/rebuild completed at that time by community volunteers.

The City was concerned with the structural stability of the tower along with the extensive remedial effort needed to restore the water tank and the overall extent of the degradation that was observed, it became apparent the water tower would need to be removed. In 2019, the City investigated the condition of the water tower and as part of this process, an engineering firm was hired to assess the structure. Unfortunately, the water tank tower is in poor condition and intervention is required to reinstate structural stability and slow ongoing deterioration. Nearly all the timbers are suffering from deterioration, fungal, insect or mechanical deterioration.

The cost to demolish the tower was estimated to be \$35,600; the cost to remediate in place was \$273,000 and to deconstruct, move and rehabilitate the tower was estimated to be \$321,000. Based on the condition and the cost to remediate the tower and tank, a decision was made at that time to demolish the water tower.

We recognize the water tower has been a landmark on Alberni Highway for years and are pleased "The East End Track Gang," as the new caretakers, will restore the water tower.

**For more information:**

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