

Ferrier Collection Progress Report

September 28th, 2022

This summer, we made huge progress on the Ferrier Collection. Our summer student, Bradley, created 194 catalogue records, which brings the total catalogue records for the Ferrier Collection to 772. For storage purposes, this amounts to 120 tubes of material. The work completed includes all of the identified and labelled material. For

Working from the Ferrier Collection Excel spreadsheet that was provided at the beginning of the project, we have matched the majority of the existing material to the material documented on the spreadsheet. What remains are approximately 150 unlabelled documents (they have no written Ferrier number). Our next task is to reconcile as many of these unlabelled documents as possible to documents that are unaccounted for on the spreadsheet. Once we have done that, we can complete cataloguing for the reconciled documents, and assess a plan for any leftover material. I will personally complete the reconciliation of material, and an intern or summer student will complete cataloguing. At the time of writing this report, the museum is hiring an intern to start in November 2022, who will hopefully complete some of the remaining work on the Ferrier Collection.

After launching our new exhibit, “Revelstoke Is A Railway Town”, in the spring of 2022, my focus is on Collections & Archival Management for the remainder of 2022 until the end of 2023. The first priority on my list is completing the work on this collection. With the current project status, I would estimate that we will be ready to send the material for scanning in September 2023.

Laura VanZant
Curator
Revelstoke Railway Museum

Footnote:

This extensive and valuable collection was originally gifted to the 7th Division by Mr. Jim Ferrier some 20-30 years ago. A number of people have spent many hours working to preserve and catalogue it, most notably Dick Sutcliffe, Doug Mayer, and Mike Barone.

When the cataloguing described in Laura VanZant’s report is complete, the entire collection will be transported to the Canadian Pacific Historical Association (CPHA) facility in Cambridge, Ontario, where it will be electronically scanned. We are very grateful to the CPHA for their generous involvement. The shipping and storage costs will be paid by the 7th Division, up to an agreed maximum. The documents will then be returned to the Revelstoke Railway Museum

(RRM) for permanent storage. They will be available both online and in Revelstoke to NMRA members, CPHA members, and those with access through the RRM.

Ownership of the collection has been permanently transferred to the RRM. We believe that is the best way to ensure the collection is preserved for the future and administered by professional archivists. If, at some time in the future the RRM decides they no longer wish to retain it, the collection will revert to the 7th Division.

John Martin
Coordinator