



## Young Professionals exceed fundraising targets

<In attached Image: The YPN *Wild West Express* Team>

The Young Professionals of Nanaimo are incredibly excited to announce that they have now surpassed their fundraising goal for the restoration of the Nanaimo Train Station.

The YPN had their sights set on \$391,000 to cover the shortfall for the \$1.3 million first phase of the train station restoration. The campaign lasted just 6 months and in that time over \$410,000 has been raised through a series of campaigns, events, grant requests and an extensive amount on community support.

“We could not be more pleased to make this announcement,” said YPN President Andre Sullivan. “It has been a long push and a lot of hard work by many people to get here and we could not have done it without the support of our community.”

Work on the station began in May with the assumption that the Young Professionals would reach their target and will now go full steam ahead with an estimated date of completion for both phases of Spring 2011.

“Work so far is going well,” says Darren Moss of Tectonica Management Inc. “The lift went smoothly and we are nearing the completion of the excavation required to accommodate the new foundation.”

“We look forward to placing concrete early next week and lowering the station by the end of July,” Moss continued. “We will then roll right into the structural repairs to the station’s framing and building exterior.”

The restoration of the Nanaimo Train Station will be completed in two phases. The first phase focuses on the foundation, structure and the building’s exterior. Phase two, which focuses on the building’s interior, is estimated to cost \$1.1 million and will be funded by a commercial mortgage.

The Island Corridor Foundation has been looking for potential tenants to occupy the portion of the train station not needed for rail operations. The goal was to find tenants that would ensure excellent rail passenger services, support the commercial financing and create a draw to the building in keeping with the historical feel of the building.

The Island Corridor Foundation recently announced that two tenants are in the final stages of their negotiations. VIA Rail will occupy a portion of the station for passenger services and Trevor & Jane Ivens from The Fox & Hounds will open an Irish restaurant in the remaining portion of the station.

It is the Ivens’ plan to restore the inside of the train station and convert it into a traditional southern Irish pub-style restaurant which will be in addition to their English Pub, Fox & Hounds. Station memorabilia and original Irish artefacts will be used to ensure the design has the look and feel of years gone by and the Ivens’ vision focuses on traditional food, decor and music.

The YPN are still accepting contributions which are now being put toward the second phase of the build, lowering the cost of the mortgage and keeping more dollars available for future building maintenance and future upgrades of the rail corridor. Next for the YPN are a series of smaller community initiatives including the upcoming Silly Boat Regatta for the Child Development Centre and the annual construction competition for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. The find out more about the Young Professionals of Nanaimo please visit [www.ypanaimo.com](http://www.ypanaimo.com).