

## Removal and Disposal of the CP Rail Caboose on the Grounds of Jim Hadgkiss Park

### Recommendation:

**THAT Council approve one-time funding from Accumulated Surplus for the removal and disposal of the CP Rail Caboose 437115 located at Jim Hadgkiss Park.**

### Report Purpose and Summary Statement:

The Dewdney Alouette Railway Society and Maple Ridge Historical Society as owners of the CP Rail Caboose 437115 ("The Caboose") located on the grounds of Jim Hadgkiss Park request the support of the City of Maple Ridge for its removal and disposal.

### Financial Impact:

Costs to remove and dispose of the caboose are anticipated to range from \$40,000 to \$70,000.

### Funding Source:

Accumulated surplus

### Strategic Alignment:

Liveable Community; Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship; Engaged, Healthy Community;

## **Removal and Disposal of the CP Rail Caboose on the Grounds of Jim Hadgkiss Park**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The CP Rail Caboose 437115 (“The Caboose”) was placed at Jim Hadgkiss Park in 1991 as part of an educational initiative, under a joint ownership agreement between the Dewdney Alouette Railway Society (DARS) and the Maple Ridge Historical Society (MRHS), with maintenance and care responsibilities agreed upon by DARS (Attachment A – Appendix A). The caboose was open for tours and events for many years, enhancing the model railway experience visitors received at the Maple Ridge Museum.

Since 2020, the caboose has not been open to the public due to its deteriorated condition and has also been susceptible to vandalism and theft. In 2021, the caboose roof was found to be leaking causing significant interior damage and a call was made by the MRHS for volunteer restoration/repair interest. In 2022, a local contractor came forward to repair the roof. More recently, DARS and MRHS have shared that the caboose has deteriorated substantially with age and exposure to the elements and is beyond repair. They have also shared that the caboose is in an unsafe condition and as a temporary safety measure, MRHS has installed a temporary construction fence surrounding it at their expense. DARS and MRHS have sent a letter (Attachment A) to the City requesting both financial and administrative assistance to remove and dispose of the caboose.

The CP Rail Caboose 437115 is identified within the Heritage Resources of Maple Ridge. Listing on the City’s Heritage Inventory does not provide any legal protection for the heritage resource and owners are able to make alterations or demolish without a Heritage Alteration Permit. The MRHS has also confirmed that the caboose is not on any other heritage registries.

### **ANALYSIS:**

#### **Discussion:**

DARS and MRHS, as co-owners, have determined that the condition is beyond their capabilities to repair and collectively agree that the caboose is end of life. DARS and MRHS are requesting the City’s assistance to both take on the cost and oversee the work to remove and dispose of the caboose as the cost of this removal is anticipated to be unaffordable or feasible for either society to obtain grant funding or to fund raise.

MRHS has also noted that with the Japanese Canadian Legacy Garden planned at Jim Hadkiss Park it may be beneficial to remove the caboose in advance of the garden’s construction so as to not hinder construction or avoid damage to the new garden. The City will manage the entire process to remove the caboose if the recommendation is approved.

**Financial Impact:**

Costs associated with the removal of the caboose will vary depending on the levels, types and amount of hazardous materials and associated disposal requirements and are anticipated to range from \$40,000 to \$70,000. This funding is proposed to come from the City's accumulated surplus, which has an available balance of \$3.4 million.

**CONCLUSION:**

DARS and MRHS have requested the City's support to remove the caboose from Jim Hadgkiss Park due to its deteriorated condition. The recommendation is to support the Maple Ridge Museum Society's request for the City to take on this removal.

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Prepared by: Russ Brummer, Manager of Arts, Culture & Events

**Attachments:**

(A) Letter from Dewdney Alouette Railway Society and Maple Ridge Historical Society – Removal and disposal of Caboose on the Grounds of Jim Hadgkiss Park

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Removal and Disposal of Caboose on the Ground of Jim Hadgkiss Park.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A - Letter from DARS-MRHS re removal and disposal of Caboose on the Grounds of Jim Hadgkiss Park.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 22, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Valoree Richmond, Director of Facilities, Parks and Properties

Corinn Howes, Deputy Corporate Officer

Scott Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer