South Fraser Community Rail 

***“Hydrogen iLink Passenger* *Rail, Scott Rd. SkyTrain to Chilliwack” #connect the valley***

**Introduction of the yearlong UBC Professor Patrick Condon**

**Research Project!**

**In 2010 after renewing the passenger rights of the Interurban Corridor we solicited his support and interest to play a part in the roughly half hour Shaw Cable Video Documentary that ran from time to time for a year and a half. Along with Patrick’s participation were that of Roy Mufford, a Township advocate for this initiative, Dianne Watts a strong supporter of this initiative and Terry Lister a community Planner. That Shaw Video is featured on our South Fraser Community Rail web site** [**www.southfrasercommunityrail.ca**](http://www.southfrasercommunityrail.ca) **.**

**In preparation for our current campaign we approached Professor Condon as to whether he might be interested in using this initiative for a Masters Student Project, he investigated it thoroughly, embraced the idea and started the project, ending it at the end of the year. The purpose of this exercise is to receive independent research on the value of what we are proposing. To-date the Surrey to Abbotsford book is complete and it will all culminate with the Chilliwack section which will be added to the book for a full picture. This book that will be produced will be about 200 + pages. We are being kept abreast of its conclusions and are thrilled with the results to-date. *The Title of his presentation:***

***Fraser Valley rail-based communities, design for the next million residents!***

***Given current trends, by 2060, there will be more than 1 million new residents and a need for over 500,000 new homes between Surrey and Chilliwack. How will these new South of Fraser citizens get around, where will they live and how will they afford homes for their families?***

***These communities are already choked by congestion and under a cloud of polluted air from car exhausts, and tightly confined by the Agricultural Land Reserve. All South of Fraser communities urgently need to use their land with much greater efficiency, to meet the needs of the future, without adding to the burdens of the present. A new and innovative growth strategy is needed - and soon.***

***Fortunately, the very same rail line that gave birth to this region is still available today. This line seamlessly connects all South of Fraser Communities from Surrey to Chilliwack, is presently well maintained, and available at no cost for community rail. A low-cost solution that avoids the cost and further sacrifice of this region to the ever-greater appetites of the automobile.***

***By designing a sustainable region for hundreds of thousands of new families around a South of Fraser Community Rail Line, can the Lower Mainland find an affordable and enjoyable way out of its transportation and affordability dead end? Professor Patrick Condon of UBC and his 17 Masters Students of their Urban Design Program, working with Valley citizens and stakeholders, will try to illuminate a path forward through this project.***