

Heritage News



The Official Newsletter of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society



CENTRAL OKANAGAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Presents

“A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT”

Bluegrass Concert & Fundraiser



When: Sunday May 1st, 2011

Where: Benvoulin Heritage Church

Tickets are \$16.00

&

available through the COHS office (250-861-7188)

(see article on page 3)

SPRING 2011

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“What is Heritage?”

The field of heritage conservation continues to expand, as does the definition of “what is heritage”. During the last four months of 2010, I had the privilege to enrol in a course through the University of Victoria Heritage Resource Management program entitled *Caring for Historic Places*. Under the direction of Victoria Angle, who works in the Heritage Conservation field with Parks Canada, students from across Canada as well as several international students, embarked on a journey to look at heritage through many different lenses. The following are excerpts from course material.

(Note: All credits go to Victoria Angle)

“The concept of heritage is not usually thought of as something contentious. Rather, it is typically seen as something to celebrate that which brings people and societies together. Heritage in this view may be an iconic building, the site of an important historical event, a picturesque landscape, an archaeological site that unlocks mysteries of the past or a place that contributes to the cultural fabric of a community. Attempts to define the concept of heritage, however, reveal its complexities. Does the term apply only to physical places and objects, or should it be applied to other kinds of things such as rituals, folklore, language and song?”

“Two themes tend to characterize most contemporary discussions about heritage. The first is that heritage is no longer restricted to monuments and the sites of important historic events. The term has become increasingly open and flexible. We now consider community places, sites of dissonance, marginal spaces, vernacular buildings and cultural landscapes to constitute legitimate forms of heritage. The other is that heritage value is not intrinsic to, or discovered within places. Heritage value is now understood to be something that is socially-constructed and ascribed to places by individuals, groups communities and nations.”

Throughout the course we were challenged to look at heritage conservation in new ways. To appreciate the complexities and multi-faceted views of heritage. Heritage places are loaded with meaning, which will not be shared by everyone. For example our lovely Benvoulin church means different things to different people.

For family members of early pioneers the place has special meaning. When recently speaking with Allen Reid, he told me about how his grandfather led services in the church when they were without a minister at one point in history. Allen Reid was married in the church, as were a number of his relatives. Reid hall is named after Allen’s family.

For others, who have worked to restore and care for the building over its 119 years, each one would have ascribed meaning to the building. While others who have driven by the church for years, sitting proudly on Benvoulin Road, have grown to appreciate the role it plays in our local landscape. New immigrants in the community may appreciate the simple beauty of the architecture. But not having any real connection to the building may feel very differently about its protection than a member of the Reid family.

With scarce financial resources, and a growing community of newcomers from within and outside of Canada, how do we determine what to preserve? What is historically significant and to whom? Whose concept of beauty applies? These are the questions that will need to be answered by current and future municipal councils, and local citizens. Conservation is much more than a technical exercise aimed at preserving bricks and mortar. It is the art of protecting its meaning and value.

Janice Henry

A DAY LATE & A DOLLAR SHORT

Formed in 2004, this Okanagan based band is known for its Bluegrass and up-tempo traditional musical style. Three and four-part harmonies are combined with red-hot acoustic instrumentals. Winner of BC Bluegrass Association Band of the year award in 2006, they have been playing to sold-out audiences from their inception. With over 200 years of musical experience between them, the boys come from all across Western Canada, including Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Jack Kinakin was born and raised in Kelowna.

As well as their love of playing Blue Grass music the band has helped raise thousands of dollars for local charitable causes. Bob Bissillion one of the group's founders approached COHS, with an offer to play a benefit concert in support of heritage. Bob said "Our band is local and we love to support local initiatives. Having worked with Janice in the past, we learned about the COHS and would like to contribute to their success".

Sunday May 1st at 2 pm. Benvoulin Church will be rocking with this down-home music celebration. Be sure to bring your family and friends and support heritage through this musical event. All proceeds will be used for restoration projects at the Benvoulin site.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the COHS office at 250-861-7188.



*"Sunday May
1st at 2 pm
Benvoulin
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celebration."*



Calendar of Events

History on the March: The Westbank Museum is pleased to announce that they are moving and will be located next to the new Public Safety Building and Chamber of Commerce in Spring 2011. Stay tuned for opening and event dates. Anyone with artefacts to contribute to the new displays or time to volunteer with the move itself, please contact: Tammy at 250-768-0110.

The Memory Project: Art & Stories of the Second World War: Opens April 9th at the Kelowna Museums. For further information contact the Kelowna Museums at 250-763-2417.

Kelowna Garden Club Annual Plant Sale: Will be held on Saturday, April 30th at Guisachan Heritage Park.

Okanagan Regional History Fair Open House: Visit the Displays made by the Grades 4 – 6 students of Okanagan Schools. There will be over 60 displays of historical/heritage importance. April 30th at the Laurel Packinghouse from 10 am – 2 pm.

COHS Fundraising Concert : On May 1st at 2 pm at the Benvoulin Heritage Church. Entertainment by "A Day Late & A Dollar Short" (see ad)

Fintry Spring Plant Festival: May 14th 10 am–4 pm on the Fintry Manor House Grounds.

Rutland May Days Family Festival: Is on May 18-22 at Rutland Centennial Park and Hall. This is Kelowna's longest running festival and parade and has a variety of activities for the whole family, including an Open Air concert by Chilliwack on Wednesday and a Parade on Saturday. This festival is put on by the Rutland Parks Society and the Rutland Residents Association. For further information: contact Chris Brown at rutlandpark@live.ca or 250-826-7510.

Okanagan Antique Power Club Show: On June 4th & 5th at Father Pandosy Mission. The "boys with their toys" will be on hand to demonstrate and show off their refurbished and soon to be refurbished tractors, steam tractors, cars or trucks. Anyone interested in participating can call Al Pearson at 250-861-3688 or Lorne Pearson at 250-762-0291.

The Kelowna Garden Club: Is having their Annual Flower Show at Guisachan Heritage Park on Saturday, July 9th from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. This is an annual event and draws many entries in a number of categories of flowers and arrangements. As flowers begin to bloom in your garden, consider making an entry. The schedule will be available on the Kelowna Garden Club website: www.kelownagardenclub.ca. Events will include: Art and craft show; Flower arranging demos; Bonsai and orchid display as well as a special floral art display. For more information call Wilma 250-764-5378 or Judy 250-861-5010.

Fintry Edwardian Fair: Celebrating BC Parks 100th Birthday: Will be held on Saturday, July 16th from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, on the grounds of the Fintry Manor House in Fintry Provincial Park. There will be music, entertainment, arts & crafts, actors and food vendors. For more information: www.fintry.ca.

COHS Heritage Awards 2010

The 27th annual COHS heritage awards were given out on February 23rd 2011, at Benvoulin Heritage Church. The awards were given out as part of Heritage Week.

For the past 27 years, COHS has presented a number of awards to area building owners for their efforts in preserving heritage homes, buildings and neighborhoods. In addition to acknowledging the work of property owners, COHS gives an award each year to someone who has shown dedication and outstanding support to the field of heritage conservation.



Distinguished Service Award

Lorraine McLarty

Has there ever been a name as synonymous with Heritage in the Central Okanagan as Lorraine McLarty. Lorraine was born in Kelowna and completed her school years here. After leaving the community for 27 years for work, the family returned to the Okanagan in 1979.

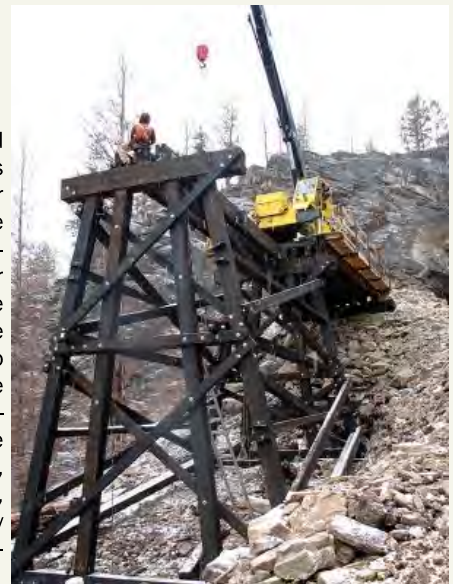
Lorraine and her late husband Hugh have had a direct relationship with COHS for the past 23 years. Hugh came on the COHS board in 1988 and Lorraine officially joined the board in 1998. She is now serving in her 13th year, and has held all of the executive positions at one time or another. Lorraine is sometimes referred to as another staff member of COHS, as she has taken on many of the tasks that staff would typically do. And the price is right-she works for free! Lorraine donates not only time and talent but has been a regular contributor with all her resources. Lorraine has helped COHS in a thousand ways.

In addition to her involvement with COHS, Lorraine has been an active member of First United Church – (a heritage designated building). She has volunteered with the Orchard Museum and been an active member with the Kelowna and District Genealogy Society. Lorraine has regularly represented COHS at Provincial Heritage conferences. She played a key role in getting Brent's Grist Mill saved and was part of the City's committee that worked on the first feasibility study for the Brent's project in 2001. Lorraine has served on the Community Heritage Commission, been a judge for the Okanagan Regional History Fair, and been the driving force behind local Heritage Week activities.

Preservation of a Neighbourhood or Area

Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society

In 1993 members of the community recognized that the Myra Canyon trestles and trail had become unsafe due to acts of destruction and vandalism. Ties and timbers from the trestles had been removed and had been either tossed over the edge or pilfered. This left large gaps on the decks, making passage over the trestles quite perilous. Consequently, a small group decided to save the trestles from further destruction and the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society was born. Much of their work was destroyed by the disastrous 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire. 12 of the 16 wooden structures were destroyed and the two steel bridges damaged. In the aftermath of the fire, a steering committee was formed of various stakeholders to assess the damage and estimate the costs of replacement. The intention of the society was, with help from senior levels of government, private sector and individuals, to rebuild all the trestles and other damaged infrastructure. The heritage value of the trestles is recognized by the Historic sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and was key to the decision to rebuild the trestles. In addition to the heritage value, there were the recreation and tourism values to consider. The entire community thanks the members of the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society for their outstanding contribution.



Conservation Project on a Building Currently in Non-Residential Use



Accepting the award are: Patti Killback, Kelowna Museums; Mayor Shepherd on behalf of the City of Kelowna. Presentation by Don Knox COHS President.

Laurel Packinghouse ; owned by City of Kelowna and operated by Kelowna Museums Society

Built in 1918 by Ward, Baldock and Harris for the BC Growers Limited, the Laurel is one of the oldest and largest original fruit packing houses remaining in BC today. In 1983 the Laurel became the first building to be protected by a Heritage Designation by-law in Kelowna.

Structural investigations in 2006 and 2008 revealed significant issues as a result of a 1983 renovation. It was recommended that all tenants be removed from a 2nd floor addition and major structural work be undertaken. The work was completed in the fall of 2010 for a total cost of 2.5 million. A grand re-opening was held on November 5th. The Laurel is a major landmark in the Okanagan Cultural Corridor, promoting local heritage and history.

Conservation Project on a Building Currently in Residential Use

H. D. Riggs House; 911 Borden Avenue; owned by Davara Holdings Ltd.

The Herman D. Riggs house was built in 1915. This large and interesting house has heritage value that goes beyond its architectural quality. Riggs had a close connection with Kelowna Brick Works, the brick yard that supplied much of the building brick for Kelowna's early buildings.

Three storeys high, the house has numerous gables and dormers. Features of the Romanesque style are seen with the round arches at the entry and the windows above. The building's exterior has been sensitively restored by its current owners.



Continued Conservation of a Heritage Building



Raymer House; 730 Lawson Avenue; owned by Jesai Chantler

The Raymer house was built in 1905 by Harry Raymer a prominent local contractor. Raymer worked on many of the town's houses, banks and churches. This one and one-half storey wood structure is a significant example of Edwardian era vernacular architecture. The Queen Anne Revival style is seen in the wrap-around veranda and its decoratively shingled upper gable.

The house is lovingly cared for. The Raymer house received a grant through the city of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program in 2010 to help with the costs of replacing the roofing material.

PROVINCIAL UPDATE



With the recent election of Christy Clark as leader of the Liberal party, and now serving as our new premier the fate of gaming funds will be determined with new faces at the helm. Rich Coleman who served as the minister of public safety and solicitor general alienated many in the arts community by his handling of gaming grants. He has now been replaced by the newly appointed Shirley Bond.

While running for the Liberal nomination Christy Clark indicated that her plan was to reinstate \$15 million in gaming grants available to British Columbia charities. That would go some of the way to restoring the funding levels to the \$156 million they were when the drastic cuts were made in 2009. Those cuts reduced the total available to \$112.6 million. Current funding level is \$120 million. Even with the \$15 million added to the gaming grants pot.....it remains to be seen which charities would qualify to apply for funding, and it still leaves a gap in funding of \$21 million. Short of the 2009 funding levels.

New Minister for Heritage

The new premier has installed her new provincial cabinet which puts Kelowna's Steve Thomson responsible for heritage. The announcement has made Steve Thomson the fourth minister responsible for heritage in less than two years.

Minister Thomson is the MLA for Kelowna-Mission. First elected in May, 2009, Mr. Thomson is the Minister of Natural Resource Operations and heritage is now within the Natural Resource Operations ministry, having moved from the Tourism portfolio.

Minister Thomson (or Steve to many of us) is well known and respected in the community. He has deep roots having grown up in Kelowna, and actually grew up in a heritage home. His family's farm house is on the Kelowna Heritage Register. We look forward to working with Minister Thomson and moving the heritage agenda forward in the province.



THE COHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND RECEPTION



The COHS Annual General Meeting and reception had a cultural feel this year, due to a generous grant through Kelowna Community Resources. Highlights of the evening included displays of local and area parks. Ben Lee brought a cultural display of items from China, and talked about the creation of the Kelowna Park that bears his name. Desserts were offered up from all corners of the globe. Thank you to Catherine Hardy and several members of the East Kelowna Path Finders who were a tremendous help with serving refreshments and clean up.

“Ben Lee brought a cultural display of items from China, and talked about the creation of the Kelowna Park that bears his name.”



Volunteer in Action

COHS board member, master gardener and wonderful community volunteer Wilma Schellenberger (seated) does double-duty at the Seedy Saturday event held at Okanagan College on March 12th. Wilma looks for opportunities to increase public awareness of the Heritage Society, and took COHS displays and materials to share with those coming through the display area. Thanks for all you do Wilma. We appreciate you!

Report from the President



While my first year in the President's chair has presented many challenges, they have been effectively dealt with by our talented board members and our dedicated and energetic staff. The Heritage Society works well because we are a team.

We were able to accomplish a great deal in 2010 with a budget that once again was limited by financial constraints. It was the second year without Gaming Grant funding. This was funding that the society had received annually over the previous two decades. I had two meetings with one of our local MLAs to discuss the problem and we are hopeful that funding will be reinstated this year. On the plus side, we received an operational grant from the City of Kelowna which helped us through this difficult period. In addition we continue to manage the City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program. While not a money - maker for the society, it does provide additional employment for one of our key staff members. We are an organization that works close to the bottom line and any assistance we receive allows us to better serve the needs of the Central Okanagan heritage community.

The COHS owns and manages three of Kelowna's important heritage buildings. This is a privilege, but being a custodian has its challenges as well. Old buildings need attention. Many expenditures were incurred in 2010 that were unanticipated which makes for some real challenges with the budget. We live under the naive belief that if we keep working away at these improvements we will reach a state where everything will finally be done! We are happy to report that the end of 2010 saw the Society back in the black.

The COHS is already well into its projects and activities for 2011. We welcome new members and volunteers to join us. Our society succeeds as a result of the energies of our members, directors and staff.

Donald Knox, President

A Note from the Executive Director



We are barely in to the New Year, and the calendar is filling up all ready. There are several new developments to report on. We have recently hired a new care-taker for our Benvoulin site. Percy Lujan took over responsibilities on March 1st. Percy was born in Peru, and brings a wonderful work ethic and warm personality to his duties. He is very proud to be a Canadian. The first thing he wanted to do was install a new Canadian flag on our flagpole at Benvoulin! Percy has graciously offered to show those who are interested, the inside of McIver house (the care-taker residence at Benvoulin), and looks forward to filling the house with period appropriate furnishings.

We have applied for a second time to the *Canadian Heritage Information Network* (CHIN) for a *Community Memories* grant. Our first project on Brent's Grist Mill was wrapped up in 2007 and put on the Virtual Museums of Canada's website. If we are successful this second grant would allow us to compile research, oral histories, and photographs etc on the Benvoulin Church and Reid Hall. Entitled *Benvoulin Church - A Building that Reflects its Community*, the project will look at the high and low points in the building's history from its construction in 1892, through today.

This is just a sampling of the things happening around your Heritage Society. We thank you for your continued support.

Janice Henry, Executive Director

City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program

The City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP) is now in its fourth year of awarding grants to Kelowna Heritage Register building owners for the maintenance, rehabilitation and/or restoration of their heritage buildings. COHS has just completed three years of administering the program for the City of Kelowna. Kelowna City Council increased the annual grant allotment from \$20,000 to \$30,000 in 2010. This was the first increase since the program began in 1991 as the Kelowna Heritage Foundation. This is very good news for owners of registered heritage buildings in Kelowna!

An annual letter to the owners of buildings on the Kelowna Heritage Register has helped get the word out to building owners. This is seen through a significant increase in inquires about the program. The grant guidelines and application form is available on the City of Kelowna website ([http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/ Page85.aspx](http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page85.aspx)) or through the grant program manager. This is the second year of the implementation of a 5 year-time period with a maximum grant amount available of \$5,000 for buildings on the register. A maximum grant of \$10,000 can be applied for, for buildings that are municipally designated.

In 2010 there were 12 approved heritage grants, totalling over \$38,000. Already there have been many inquiries and a record number of applications received for the April meeting. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise. Application deadlines for 2011 are: March 22; June 7; August 30; November 1.

Program

Lorri Dauncey, Manager, City of Kelowna Heritage Grants

ldauncey.cohs@telus.net

250 Leathead Road
\$5,000 (new roof, paint and gutters)

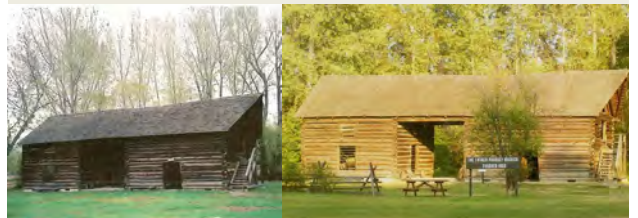


“In 2010 there were 12 heritage grants approved, totalling over \$38,000.”

4193 Gordon Drive
\$4,682.50 (three sets of new storm windows)



3685 Benvoulin Road
Father Pandosy Mission Barn
\$6,187 (new roof)



HERITAGE NEWS

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Vice President
Cheryl Spelliscy

Secretary-Treasurer
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Lorraine McLarty

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Cynthia Hunter
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S T A F F

Executive Director
Janice Henry

City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program
Lorri Dauncey

Head Gardener
Carla Harrison

Assistant Gardener
Kevin O'Neil

Site Manager at Benvoulin Park
Percy Lujan



Heritage News

This year's Heritage Week theme celebrated the centennial of BC Parks and Parks Canada. COHS, along with Kelowna Museums, CORD Parks Dpt, and others had many activities during the February week. A group of 60 people enjoyed breakfast at the EECO Centre to kick off the week long celebration that also featured walks in local parks, a snowshoe hike and a winter picnic.

The Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment has confirmed Heritage Branch staff Jennifer Iredale as Director and Richard Linzey as Manager of Heritage Programs and Services. Both have been in an "acting" capacity prior to the permanent appointments, and are well known and respected by the heritage community.

Did you know that this is the Bicentennial of the first recorded European people to travel through the Okanagan? During the month of August 1811 David Stuart of the Pacific Fur Co. accompanied by several others, set out from the trading post known as Fort Okanogon travelling north along the Okanagan River until reaching its source, then crossing a height of land to the Thompson River where Kamloops is today. Because of bad weather and early snow, the party remained at Fort Kamloops until March of 1812 before returning to Fort Okanogon.

HERITAGE BC ANNUAL CONFERENCE Scheduled for Fall 2011. The Heritage BC annual conference dates have been shifted from the usual first week of June to Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1. The date change allows use of the wonderful Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby as the conference venue.

The Rutland Residents Association has given \$3500 to the Central Okanagan Heritage Society which is to be used for the rebuilding of the Cairn at the Brent Mill Heritage Park. This cairn, originally erected in 1958 had a large brass plaque on it recognizing the establishment of the first industrial grist mill in the area in 1872. The cairn was vandalized several years ago. Restoration of the mill and other buildings is dependent on funding.

Membership & Donation Form

Want to Join or Renew Your Membership? Or Make a Donation?
(Single \$20. Family \$30. Non-Profit \$35. Corporate \$100)

Please fill in and send us the following information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Membership &/or Donation: \$ _____

This form and your cheque should be mailed to: COHS, 1060 Cameron Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8V3

To book the Benvoulin Heritage Park, or to send us your news, articles, stories, photos and anecdotes, please contact us at 250-861-7188 or cohs@telus.net.

