

Heritage News



The Official Newsletter of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society

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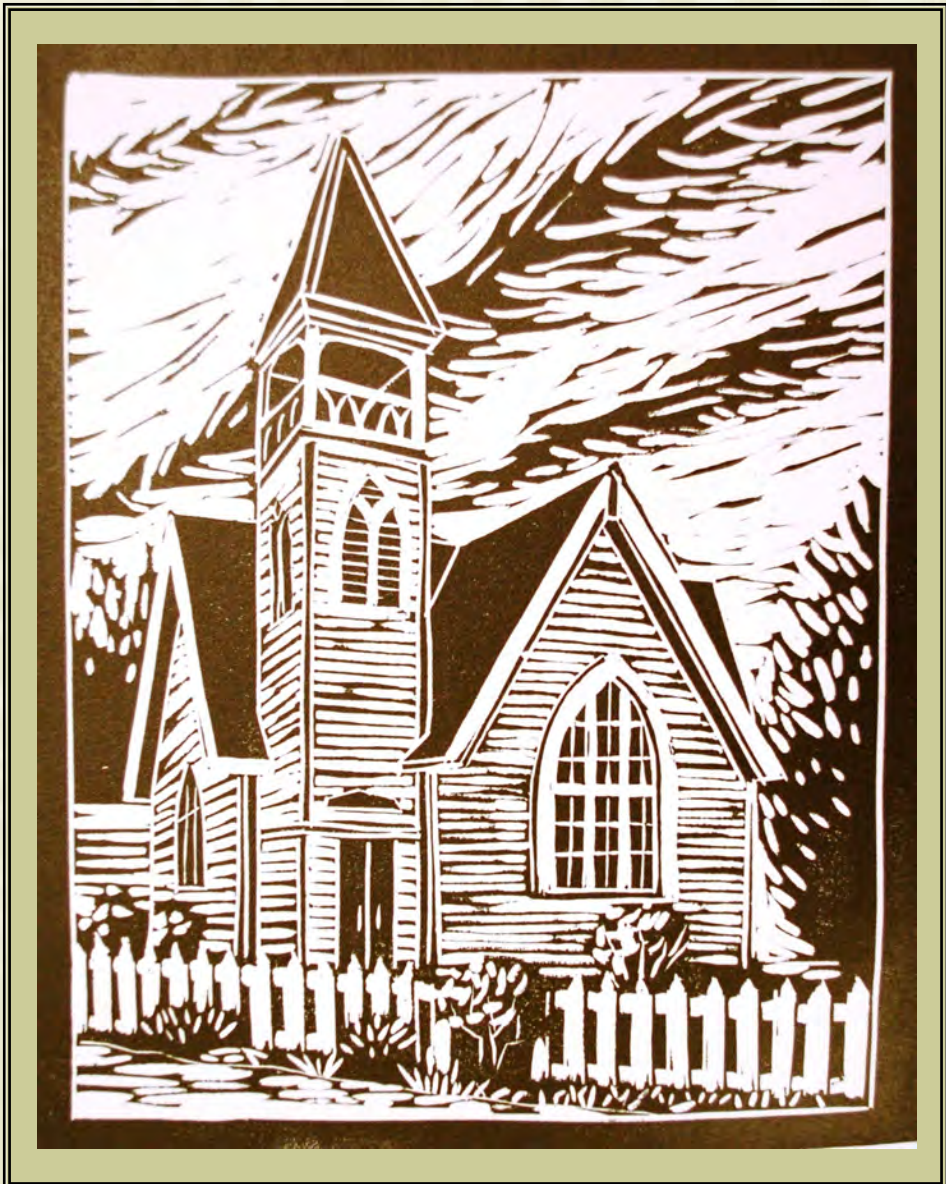
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Block Print by Jim Elwood (available through COHS)

Benvoulin Heritage Church Fundraiser



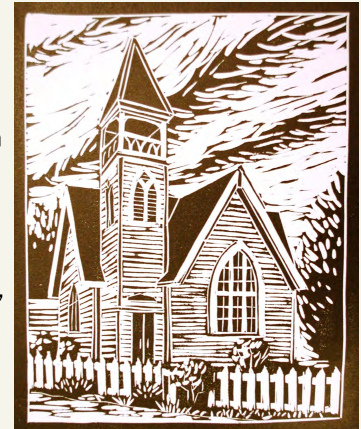
While finishing my visual arts degree at the University of Victoria I was fortunate enough to squeeze in a course on Heritage Conservation. It was the perfect way to combine my interests in both Western Canadian history and Architecture. Sitting a few seats away from me in that fateful course was my future wife. She is now a Heritage Planner here in the Okanagan and has worked on a great number of significant historic sites here in B.C. and Alberta. Through her work I have had the opportunity to volunteer and be involved in some meaningful and interesting Heritage Conservation projects. Often my roles were enjoyable but not very glamorous: holding the end of the tape measure, climbing ladders to measure architectural details, sanding various awkward exterior loca-

tions to reveal the "colourful history" of a building and countless hours of photographing architectural elevations and details.

To get away from the non-glamorous grunt work I decided to add my professional visual art skills to my two interests. Making art about the architectural history of our area seemed like an honourable thing to do and a great way to get out of measuring and sanding! The Benvoulin Church is an icon in Kelowna and with its 120th anniversary on the way, it seemed like a great place to start. The church is likely the most drawn and painted historic building in the area so I wanted to create a piece of art that would stand out from other works of art, just like the Church stands out in its community. As far as I can tell no one has created a block print of the church. The advantage to creating a block print, other than how striking it is, is that you create multiple original images. Multiple original images means that more images can be sold; creating much needed funds for repairs as well as allowing more people to share this beautiful image.

What makes the prints original is that with block printing every stage of "artistic production" is done by hand by me, the artist. I design the composition and then carve, in reverse, the design into the block. Then the block is inked and the prints are hand pulled, numbered and signed. Even though I have created and shared this limited edition block print with my friends at the Central Okanagan Heritage Society to help with the upkeep of this beautiful country church it seems that one problem still exists: I'm still holding the end of the tape measure, climbing ladders, weeding, folding tables but happy to be a small part of the history of an elder structure that holds such a place in the heart of a great community.

Jim Elwood



In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs', therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.'

(Artists know that hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

Ray Helgeson Remembered



Ray and Fran Helgeson became the Benvoulin site caretakers in June 1987. They lived in the small 1957 Reid Hall which had originally been a Sunday School area. The COHS Board gave them \$500 to partition off enough space from the large open area to create two small bedrooms. The front lawn was planted, but none of the bushes had been trimmed for years. There were years of accumulation of rocks and weeds over the rest of the two-acre property. Most of 1987 was spent tidying up, trimming, pulling weeds and moving rocks to make it possible to develop a back yard that could be cut with a lawn mower.

“... all went to make up the beautiful English country garden that exists today”

In 1988 Ray and Fran began in earnest to landscape the grounds. A large pile of dirt that had been hauled out from under the church became the base for the gardens. Flower beds were developed down both sides of the property. A number of volunteers came to assist in bringing the gardens to life. A cedar rail fence was built along the north side of the property and many donations of shrubs and perennials all went to make up the beautiful English country garden that exists today.

Ray and Fran retired from COHS in April of 2009 and spent the next few years travelling and visiting family and friends. Ray passed away in October 2011. A memorial service was held at the Benvoulin Heritage Church, where Ray and Fran had put in many hours of tender loving care over their 20 years as our Benvoulin caretakers.

Calendar of Events

Fintry Spring Plant Festival on May 12: The Friends of Fintry are holding the 2nd Fintry Plant Festival on the grounds of the Manor House from 10am to 4pm. Plants, seeds and produce will be on sale, together with arts and crafts by the residents of the Westside, and exhibits by societies and others. Local musicians will play from the Veranda, and children of all ages will be invited to play games on the Front Lawn. The North Westside Fire Fighters will be there with a display of vintage cars, their own heavy equipment and their brand new fire boat. For more information please contact: info@fintry.ca

Ellison School's 100th Birthday Party on June 2: The event will run from 8am to 5pm at the former Ellison School now Ellison Community Centre) on Old Vernon Road. The event will include historic and student art displays, entertainment, artisans and vintage cars, children's games and other activities. For more information please contact: Bob Hayes at 250-763-8859.

Okanagan Antique Tractor Show on June 2-3: The event includes live entertainment, parade of the equipment and lots of displays at the Father Pandosy Mission site.

15th Annual Kelowna Garden Tour (Cool Digs & Groovy Gardens) on June 16: For more information check out balletkelowna.ca/index.php/special-events/flower-power/

Mary's Wedding Presented by Kelowna Museums and Shoreline Theatre on June 20 – July 1: Mary's Wedding is a love letter to the power of memory and innocence and to a generation of Canadians who were caught in the crucible of the First World War. Tickets are available May 1st at the Okanagan Heritage Museum.

Kelowna Flower Show on July 7: The Kelowna Garden Club's flower show will once again be held at Guisachan Heritage Park. For more information, please contact: Judy @ 861-5010 or Linda @ 769-6893.

Fintry Fair on July 15: The second annual Fintry Fair will be held on the lawns of the Manor house from 8:30-4pm. The day will open with the Kalamalka Pipe Band, followed by artists and artisans exhibiting their work and antiques & collectibles for sale. There will be musical entertainment provided during the day. For more information please contact: info@fintry.ca

Kelowna Branch OHS Annual Pioneer Picnic on July 15: The picnic takes place at the Parkinson Recreation Centre Park at 11:30am. Bring your picnic lunch and chair. Cake and beverages will be supplied.

Benvoulin Heritage Church 120th Anniversary Celebration on August 25 and 26th: Celebration dinner on September 11, 2012. (see page 5 for more details)

2012 COHS Heritage Awards

This year's award recipients include:

Conservation project on a building currently in non-residential use. Given to a non-residential building that has recently undergone an exterior restoration and/or rehabilitation.

H.C. Cooper House
862 Bernard Avenue, Kelowna



Continued preservation of a building. Given to a building to recognize the high quality of its exterior preservation and maintenance over the years, in keeping with its original design and structure.

E.D. Alexander House
768 DeHart Avenue, Kelowna

Special Heritage Project. Given to a person or group in recognition of a significant contribution to local heritage.

Bernard Avenue and Lawrence Street Heritage Signage Project
KSAN, Kelowna

Distinguished Community Service. Given to a person or persons in recognition of their service to the community in the heritage field.

****Margaret Jackson***
****Members of the Westbank Museum Art & Crafts Society***



L-R: Poppy Angus, Margaret Jackson, Katherine Welsh
(COHS Fonds)

COHS's Invaluable Octogenarian Volunteers!



L-R: Cynthia Ellis, Shirley Clarke, Joy Lambrick painting Guisichan House during the building's late 1980s restoration (COHS Fonds)



L-R: Shirley Clarke, Cynthia (Ellis) Hunter, Joy Lambrick cleaning the windows in Benvoulin Heritage Church in March 2012 (COHS Fonds)

Benvoulin Church's 120th & COHS's 30th Anniversary Celebrations

COHS is planning for two significant events this year. This Sept 11th marks the 120th anniversary of the opening of Bethel Presbyterian Church, which is now known as Benvoulin Heritage Church. The other event worth celebrating is the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. A committee of COHS members is working to create two events you will want to mark on your calendars. The August 25th and 26th weekend, will be full of activities including special music, art show and guided tours of the Benvoulin site. Bring your own picnic lunch and be part of the unveiling of the recently completed Community Memories Project on the history of Benvoulin church. With some financial support from the federal government, Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) department, we have done a complete 120 year history of the building. Lorri Dauncey – COHS staff - and a small group of volunteers have pulled together a very comprehensive look at the building and the people behind it.

For September 11th we are planning a fund-raising dinner with entertainment and a talk by Carolyn MacHardy on Lady Aberdeen, who along with her husband Lord Aberdeen gave significant financial support to get Benvoulin church built. We will be in touch with our members as details firm up. The dinner will be at Reid Hall, with limited tickets available.



Congregation Leaving Bethel Presbyterian Church (later renamed Benvoulin United Church), c. 1915 (COHS Fonds)

Community Heritage Committee (formerly Community Heritage Commission)

The Community Heritage Committee (CHC) remains an advisory committee of Kelowna City Council. As you may have read in the newspapers, in January the new council evaluated all the City's advisory committees and the CHC was on the list to keep.

The Committee's role in general is to advise Council on all matters related to heritage protection and conservation. The seven member CHC is made up of representatives of the Okanagan Historical Society, the Central Okanagan Heritage Society, and the Kelowna Museums Society, as well as four appointed at-large members who have an interest in heritage issues.

An ongoing part of the Committee's role is approving on behalf of Council the Heritage Alteration Permits that are required for external modifications to all properties in the Abbott and Marshall Heritage Conservation Areas. A City Heritage Proposal sign in front of a property should briefly tell what the proposal is for the property and when it will be considered by the CHC. If you need more information about the proposed HAP, contact the City. Any member of the public may attend a CHC meeting and those with an opinion about any proposed HAP are generally invited to speak. CHC meetings are usually the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon in the 4A Knox Room of City Hall.

The Committee also advises on Heritage Revitalization Agreements that are designed to conserve specific buildings on the Kelowna Heritage Registry. HRA's usually give a property owner some concessions in exchange for conserving a building. The Committee is generally asked to comment on modifications to any building on the Registry, although, without an HRA, the final say on Heritage Registry buildings outside the Conservation Area is left to the property owner.

In the past year, the Committee also advised Council on updates to the Heritage Registry list itself and worked with students from the University of British Columbia – Okanagan on ways to promote the heritage of Kelowna's Chinatown and north end wartime housing area. It also developed criteria for evaluating city owned heritage assets.

Alec Warrender and Lauren Sanbrooks are currently the city staff liaisons for CHC. Questions about HAP's or the role of the CHC may be addressed to Alec – his email address is awarrender@kelowna.ca. Questions about HRA's and the Kelowna Heritage Register can be addressed to Lauren - her email address is lsanbrooks@kelowna.ca.

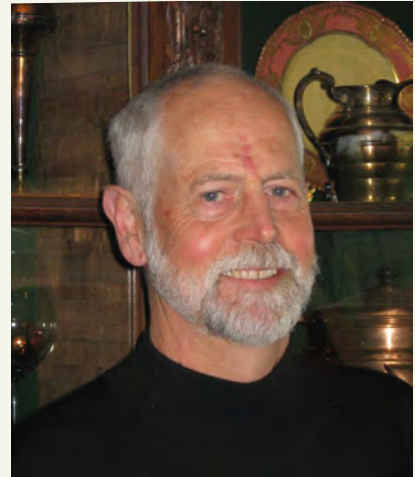
Links to information about the Community Heritage Commission, the Heritage Registry and all other City of Kelowna heritage initiatives can be found at <http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page85.aspx>

John Pendray, COHS rep on the CHC

A Joint Note from the President and the Executive Director

As the weather in Kelowna continues to improve, so does the financial outlook for the COHS. With the grant money we received from the City of Kelowna Art, Culture and Heritage program and some good news from *Gaming* we are able to take a small breath and look to the future.

As was reported in our fall 2011 newsletter, we at COHS were active in letting the Province know about our desire to see heritage organizations reinstated as a group that could apply for Gaming Grants. We were absolutely delighted to see that heritage was indeed reinstated and a *Special Intake* granting cycle was created for groups like COHS to apply for a grant for 2012. With a four-week window in which to apply, COHS scrambled and got together the relevant information to meet the February 13th deadline. We are happy to report that after doing without *Gaming funds* since our last grant in August of 2008, we did receive a grant of \$18,000 at the end of March.



The focus of our attention this year will be the Benvoulin site. The roof will be replaced this fall when we are finished with the “wedding season”. The grounds will receive extra attention through the spring and summer with help from the Kelowna Master Gardener volunteers working with our COHS staff. We have a long list of small repair projects at the church and grounds over the spring and summer. If you have a few hours to contribute, please contact the office and we will work with you to find a suitable project. It is an on-going labour of love to maintain one of Kelowna’s oldest and most iconic buildings.

In 2009 the City of Kelowna through its’ work with the Community Heritage Commission, identified three of its heritage assets as top priorities for conservation. The three properties include the Brent’s Grist Mill, St. Aidan’s Church in Rutland and the Surtees house and barn in the lower Mission. The next step in the protection of these buildings is set to take place on April 17th, with a meeting of key community members and the City of Kelowna. We are anxious to see some action on these buildings and will be active participants in the process. Watch for updates on the process, as things begin to unfold.

This February’s AGM saw significant changes to the COHS board. Long-time director Lorainne McLarty stepped off the board after 14 years of service. Lorainne will remain involved with the society as a volunteer and is currently working with the Benvoulin Anniversary committee. Also stepping back from board duties were Kathinka Makela, Risti Lesperance Don Pettman, and John Vielvoye. We appreciated their skill sets and look forward to having them volunteer with events and projects as time allows. Re-joining the board after a hiatus while serving on Kelowna City Council is Michele Rule. She brings new energy and ideas and we are delighted to have her back working with us. Also joining the board for 2012 are local realtor Dave Elliot, UBCO professor Shona Harrison, BC Coroner Chico Newell and Judy Fennell a CGA with adams/heyman/owen Chartered Accountants. We look forward to working with each of you and thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.



As always we thank you our members for your continued support. Your dedication and participation makes the work of the board and staff easier to shoulder.

Donald Knox, President

Janice Henry, Executive Director

Kelowna Heritage Grants Program



The City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP) is having another busy year, approving and distributing heritage grants for buildings on Kelowna's Heritage Register. The seven applications re-

“The Cupola ventilators on the roofs and hinged slats in the walls could be opened or closed for air circulation”

ceived at the first meeting of the year has resulted in the approval of almost \$29,000 in heritage grants. Grants have been approved for projects including: the repair, prep and painting of the exterior of heritage register buildings; new roofs; and window repairs.

The **Thomson Tobacco Barn** has been recently approved to receive a heritage grant for a new roof. New cupola ventilators on the roof will be recreated, similar to the ones that were on the building originally when the barn was used for drying tobacco during the third phase of the tobacco industry in the mid-1920s. “The Cupola ventilators on the roofs and hinged slats in the walls could be opened or closed for air circulation. The harvested tobacco plants were speared through the thick bases of their stalks onto four-foot laths, and then hung in the barns in layers, with an air space between. Ventilation in the barn was controlled to allow fermentation, or 'curing', of the leaf as it slowly dried.” (Thomson Tobacco Barn Statement of Significance)



The grant guidelines and application form is available on COHS's website (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs//Heritage/HeritageGrantsProgramPackage.pdf>), on the City of Kelowna website (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page85.aspx>) or through the heritage grant program manager, Lorri Dauncey. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise.

Application deadlines for 2012 are: March 20; June 5; September 4; October 30.



Roof Inspections needed on Heritage Buildings

The COHS is in the process of raising the funds required to replace the cedar shingle roof on the Benvoulin Church. With a cost of over \$36,000, this is a major investment. In order to secure the best result possible, we have hired a roofing consultant to help us through the process. The following piece was submitted by Peter Chataway, Kelowna building designer and past President of COHS.

- Whereas a secure roof is the most important way to protect a heritage building from nature's elements,
- Whereas the vast majority of re-roofing projects are never inspected by anybody after installation,
- Whereas the majority of roofing jobs are NOT completed to code nor to the roof manufacturer's specifications,

Therefore be it resolved that all heritage building re-roof projects MUST be inspected upon completion and before the contractor is paid, in order to extend the life of our heritage buildings.

Even though qualified and independent roof inspectors are not numerous in the construction industry, a few are available in the yellow pages or by searching on-line.

**“My best advice is to use local building inspectors for every roofing job –
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”**

HERITAGE NEWS

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Site Manager at Benvoulin Park

Percy Lujan

HERITAGE NEWS

Heritage BC Strategic Plan 2012-2015

A couple of weeks ago Heritage BC put the finishing touches on a new strategic plan to guide the organization through the next three years. Completed with funding support from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the plan spells out a new relationship with the provincial government. Moving forward, Heritage BC will be a more mature and independent organization, with a strong emphasis on self-sufficiency, more a partner with than a client of the provincial government. Heritage BC, however, still needs up-front support from the province to establish a new, permanent basis of operations, and has requested a meeting with heritage minister, Steve Thomson, to discuss the options.

BC Lighthouses Nominated for Heritage Status

Several lighthouses in BC have been nominated for designation under the federal Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act. Ninety-six lighthouses across the country had been nominated as of the beginning of the month, 21 of them in BC. There are still several others that could be candidates, that have not yet been nominated. The closing date, as set by the Act, is May 29, 2012.

Budget Includes \$21 Million for Heritage Properties

The budget brought down on February 21 by finance minister Kevin Falcon included \$21 million for the provincial Heritage Properties. This collection of 10 provincially-owned historic sites, including Barkerville and Fort Steele historic towns, was devolved to private operators a decade ago. The new funding will be distributed over three years for "maintenance and operations".

For years, Heritage BC has been urging the provincial government to come to a sustainable resolution of the Heritage Properties funding question which has overshadowed all other heritage issues and priorities. With this latest funding, the provincial government has now committed over \$50 million to the Properties since devolution began in 2002, while all other heritage spending has dwindled to almost nothing. It is to be hoped that this is not just another stop-gap investment but the beginning of a long-term plan for the Properties.

Heritage Groups Can Apply for Gaming Millions

The provincial government has reinstated gaming funding for adult arts and culture organizations. These categories, including many community-based heritage organizations, have been shut out for the past couple of years. The government also announced an immediate increase of \$15 million in this fiscal year's grants budget, with \$6 million earmarked for adult arts, culture and sports organizations. Heritage societies were specifically mentioned as beneficiaries of the new money in the government's January 11 media release.

Local News in Brief:

COHS is happy to report that the cedar roofs on the Garden shed, Milkshed and gazebos at Guisachan Park were replaced this winter. This will spruce up this important heritage site.



COHS thanks the City of Kelowna for their support through an Arts, Culture and Heritage Operating Grant for 2012

Newsletter: Lorri Dauncey & Janice Henry (editor)

Want to Join or Renew Your Membership ~ Or Make a Donation?

Please fill in the enclosed Membership & Donation Form and mail to:

COHS, 1060 Cameron Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8V3