

MUSEUM NEWS



Spring 2024

Princeton & District Museum and Archives Society
Edited by Todd Davidson

We acknowledge the Similkameen Valley on which we learn, work, and organize is the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Similqmix People, and is home to the Upper Similkameen Indian Band



“Our 1944 Garden”

A photograph by Al Eastcott from our Museum Collection



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Report to the Annual General meeting, 20th March 2024

Thank you all for coming to our annual meeting. I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed another exciting year. Much of our news is already shared through our newsletter, particularly the December edition which listed activities through the last year. You can see a copy at the back of the room here, or check in Blog on our new website.

The major work over the last year has been to develop the new website for the museum which provides comprehensive lists of the entire contents within these walls. Todd Davidson and Neal Dangerfield, with generous input from Allan Parsons, have designed our own in-house computer, and operating system, for the website, providing connections to our records and to other resources of value to interested researchers. By doing this “ourselves”, we have total control over the site and can manipulate it as we need without having to return to outside resources, which has proven to be a problem in previous iterations. The website, called our Collection Access Site, princetonbcmuseum.com, went live online in January this year and immediately attracted interest from around the world.

The result has been for many viewers to identify the shortfalls in our knowledge of our collection, which is a good thing because we are learning fast and responding by correcting and updating our records every day. Every page of the website has an invitation for comments, where corrections and additions can be posted for museum volunteers to use in updating our records. You are invited to take a dive into the site, or to help in the updating process, taking as many or as few hours as you wish to assist in this important work. Please contact us at the museum to help to update.

The second response has been that many long-time residents have come to recognise that the Museum is the safest place for their collections to be housed. So now we have received a large volume of new donations – photographs, diaries and artifacts closely linked to major citizens of this community. Of course we are extremely grateful for these additions, particularly as we have the proper provenance with them, but, again, there is a lot of work to do recording, digitizing and storing the new material. We are particularly grateful for the large amount of material received from the estate of Eric Goodfellow whose family kept detailed records and wrote several books on local history....cont'd

There is plenty to do around here. But plenty has been done. The board of directors have kept us on the straight and narrow, particularly our secretary, Jon Bartlett, and Treasurer, Henk Pickett. Other board members have assisted with collection management and display. Thank you, Kim Davidson, and Stella Holliday, who have helped out with hosting duties when needed. Dawn Johnson helps there too, and she provides guidance on First Nations questions. Terry-Dayne Beasley, Rika Ruebsaat and Maureen Parsley have been active in committees and Vice President Bob Long has been all over the place, both in here and across the province. We are also honoured to have Chief Bonnie Jacobsen of the Upper Similkameen Indian Band sit in on our board meetings.

There are some special volunteers to thank. Dave Woycheschen and Ross Hodge have both brought their handyman skills to the aid of the museum. Johanna Nott has helped out with hosting as needed. Solitaire Steele, Deb Ireland, Laurel Weissbach, Eileen Brade and Diane Sterne are all helping to update the collection management system and last summer we also enjoyed the help of Jessica Herczku and Chyanne Honeyman. Kathy Simpkins deserves a special mention as she continues to record our rocks and fossils following many hours refreshing the Pollard Wing displays.

None of this would be possible without funds. The Town of Princeton is hugely supportive of the Museum, providing the building and its maintenance, plus our full-time Manager, Todd Davidson, at no cost to the Society. Without this help, we would not have a museum. This year, we were successful in winning a large grant from the Federal government, through the Community Services Recovery Fund to be used to digitize the Similkameen Newsleader, with kind permission from George Elliott, and build the new webpage where the full run of papers can now be seen. We are also grateful to the BC Lotteries Corporation for Gaming funds which assist in covering salaries for paid staff and other operating costs.

The Museum is open daily for free, although we strongly encourage donations to assist in overhead costs. Last year we received some 3300 visitors, a 38% increase over 2022. This summer we shall have a traveling exhibit curated by the Kelowna Museum, called Waterways – Past, Present and Future which features immersive media reflecting the insights of scientists, conservationists and the Elders and Knowledge Keepers of the Okanagan basin, which we hope will attract a yet larger number of visitors.

...cont'd

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thus we continue to work hard to keep the history of the area accurately and honestly relevant for future generations to understand and learn from. The Museum is the property of the people of the area and it will only survive with their ongoing support and active participation in its care. Please do consider helping out in any way that you can, and remind your friends and neighbours that there is always lots to do here.

Thank you.

Contributed by Marjorie Holland





EVENTS



Since the beginning of the year we have had a guest speaker on the first Sunday of the month. John Henry introduced us to his extensive collection of knives from around the world each complete with a special story. Bruce Archibald once again gave us a fresh insight into the world of Paleontomology featuring our local fossils and the details of the insects survival techniques. Randy Manuel travelled down from Penticton to discuss the Hudsons Bay Trails and Kelley Cook gave a wonderful talk on the Olivine Mountain district trails, both of which drew capacity crowds. We are striving to find a speaker for the May timeslot but do not have a commitment as of yet.



As of the first week in June, the main gallery will be filled with the WaterWays travelling exhibit which will continue on until mid September. We will try to find willing speakers to continue the series in the Fall.



EVENTS



Family Day, Feb. 19th saw the Museum gallery converted into a movie theater for two showings of Disney's Encanto. Over 40 parents and children enjoyed the movie, popcorn, treats and drinks. Thanks to the Province of BC and the BC Museums Association for sponsoring this event.



→ **Is your membership up to date?** ←



Amazing things can be done when we work together!

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. We can work around whatever time you can give, with no pressure to commit to set days or times. Many projects, and various tasks are up for grabs. Come and be part of our Museum family.



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Deb Ireland has been putting some hours in on the new website almost everyday since January. She is doing an amazing job of investigating the life stories of the members of of People Collection, adding in entries for missing spouses (along with Stella Holliday) and consulting numerous genealogical resources to flesh out the stories. Additionally, she has consented to start quantifying the Goodfellow Collection and puts in hands-on hours weekly in the Museum basement.

Eileen Brade comes in to the Museum twice weekly to work on scrutinizing the new website. With her assistance, the Photos section is complete and she is working through the Artifacts now. Eileen also has the ability to work from home if she wishes.

Neal Dangerfield is working from home scanning the photographic negatives taken by Eric Goodfellow for addition to the Collection. There may be as many as 2.000 of these. The photos that make it to the Museum Collection and website will be selected from these once vacation shots, personal items and poor quality pictures are culled. There are also more photo albums to be scanned at a later date.



Part of the Goodfellow Collection



Contributed by Todd Davidson

PW Gregory Donation

Back in the Fall of 2023, we were contacted by the family of PW Gregory with an offer to donate some of his surveying equipment and paperwork. One small hitch, the items were in Port Alberni. Through the power of our network of followers, we were able to locate a person that was coming to Princeton from Port Alberni to visit family for Christmas. The items reached us safely thanks to the efforts of Matt Gregory and Jen Shelest, the tools that helped map out the properties in this area for so many years have returned to stay. These items will likely be put on display this Fall.



Masonic Lodge Donation

The Masonic Lodge, which was formed here in 1922, surrendered its Charter this past Fall due to declining numbers. Graham Gould was selected to deal with the final matters for the group and has donated many significant items to the Museum including the complete set of minutes and the Porch (sign in) Books. Perhaps most valuable of all is the numerous photos of Mason's with their identities. These items will also be put on display this Fall.



Lloyd Stoneberg



summer exhibition

June 15 - Sept 15, 2024

Created through guidance from Syilx Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Waterways explores the nature of our relationship with water – from the impact of development and climate change on the environment to the importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in ensuring all living things have clean water, now and in the future.

The exhibition features immersive media, which includes a video installation featuring the insights of Elders and Knowledge Keepers of the syilx Okanagan community, scientists and conservationists.



Try out our new Collection Access website:
princetonbcmuseum.com



Collection Access Site

Visit us Today

167 Vermilion Ave,
Princeton, BC
250-295-7588

- Open 10am - 4 pm weekdays
- Open 12pm - 4 pm weekends and holidays
- Virtual Tour link on website

www.princetonmuseum.org
princetonmuseum@gmail.com



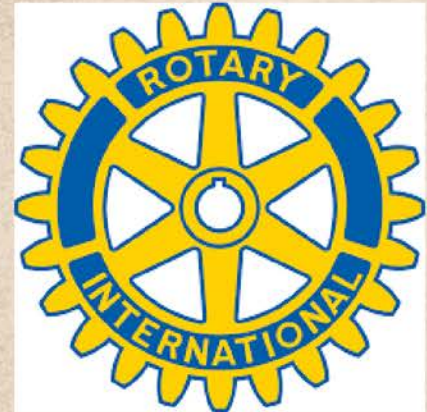
Community Services Recovery Fund



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The Princeton Museum is a partnership between the Princeton & District Museum and Archives Society and the Town of Princeton.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



Community Services Recovery Fund



Canadian Red Cross



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA



United Way Centraide Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Government of Canada

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