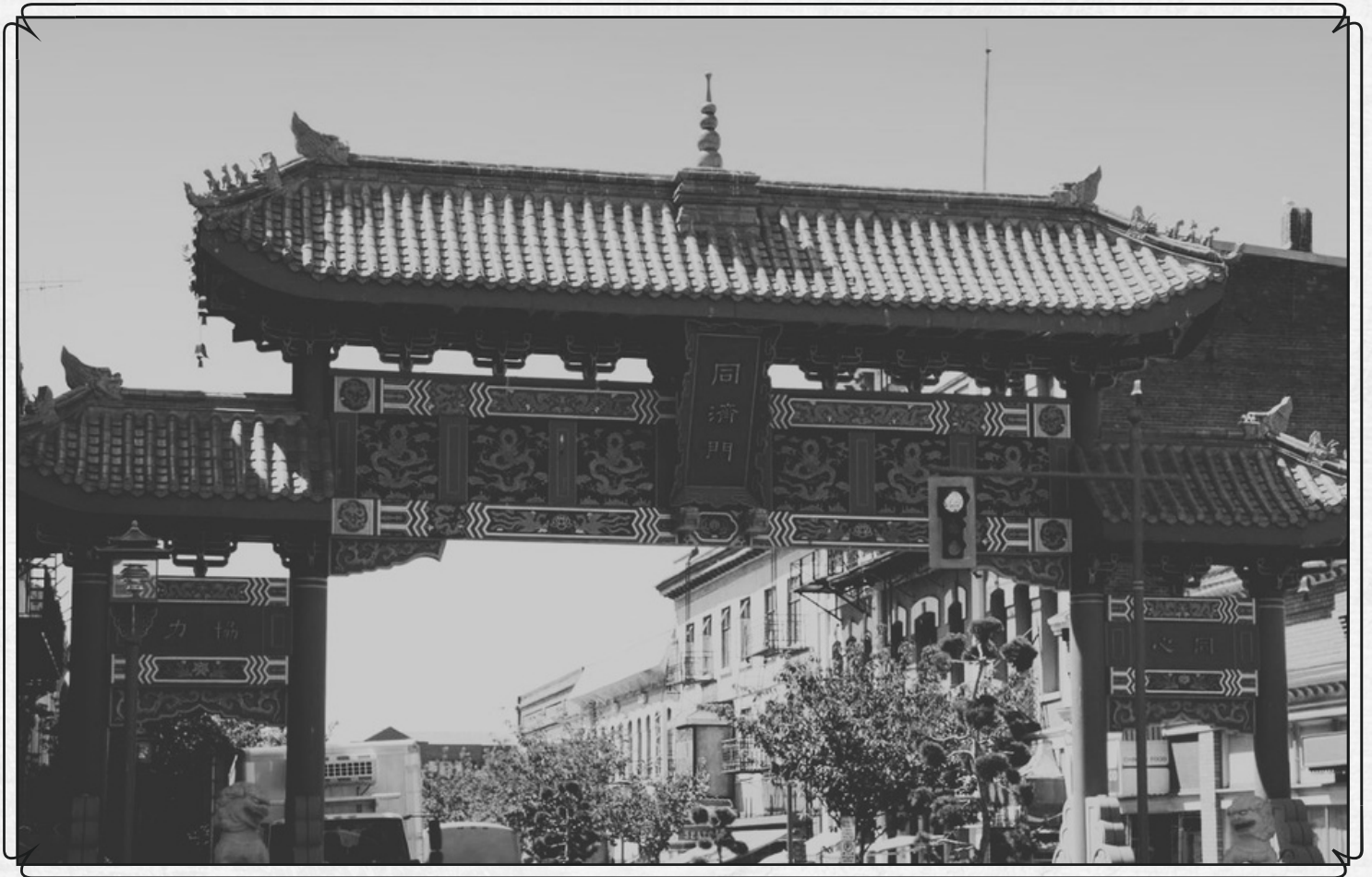


# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Chinatown, Victoria.**

Photo: istock.com

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## *Shannon Bettles*

2021 was another year for the history books as the world's pandemic continued to be a threat. Vaccines and improved public health precautions enabled some sort of normalcy to take place, but even as I write this, the virus continues to circulate and pose an ongoing danger.

Through another difficult year, I commend the efforts of our members—historians, volunteers, museum professionals, archivists, interpreters, and community members—who have carried on working, sharing, and promoting BC history. I acknowledge the efforts of my colleagues around the virtual board table who supported one another, attended virtual meetings with enthusiasm and good spirit, and who worked to lift up one another through each COVID-19 wave.

Here are some highlights from the year:

A governance committee was struck to modernize the bylaws, guidelines, and board handbook of the Federation. This monumental task was chaired by Callie Anderson, and then Kira Westby who walked the committee members through Federation documents with fresh eyes. Out of these exercises, the Board approved a new values statement, and is working towards further recommendations for bylaw changes. A lot has happened in the 100 years since the Federation was formed, and the BCHF of the future needs to reflect modern times.

To mark the Federation's centennial anniversary, we contracted the design and production of a new look, feel, and logo for the Federation, including a centennial logo. This new branding inspired the Board to take a deeper look at the present and future audiences of the organization. The result is clean, modern, fun and forward-thinking. Although the BC Historical Federation tells and shares stories about the past, it was important that our new brand also speak to how historical stories can inform and inspire our actions in the future.

In the area of communications, our videography team was busy creating content for our YouTube and social media channels. The pandemic has inspired us, like many other heritage organizations, to turn to digital means to promote interest in

history and heritage. Mark Forsythe, Doug Brigham, and Elwin Xie identified interesting stories and subjects of interviews. Some of these included connecting with two museums and Lytton First Nation to follow up on how they were faring after the devastating fire that destroyed their town last summer.

The Federation's digital emergence continued in 2021, changing the way the Board had done business in previous years. Membership is fully digital, communications like the *BC Buzz* are online, and video conferencing has helped facilitate interviews and meetings with people around the province.

*British Columbia History* magazine is a point of pride for the Federation. It is available digitally—a feature that also gets it into libraries, schools, and universities around the world—and it has worked hard to be an inclusive, diverse, and important publication that features local history stories from communities across all corners of the province. The team that produces the magazine has grown under the wise guidance of Managing Editor Jane Watt, and we are very excited about where the magazine is heading.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our awards selection committees, readers and volunteers who work to find and highlight excellence in the province. Anna Irwin took a leading role managing the awards subcommittees, and Maurice Guibord continues to oversee the BC Book prize adjudication committee seemingly with ease. Rosa Flinton-Brown's careful accounting and financial advice as we work on various projects has been invaluable.

June will end my three-year term as President and I am very grateful that someone thought to ask me to join the board seven years ago. The people who I've met, the places I've visited through annual conferences, and the local histories I've learned have enriched my life and forged lifelong friendships. I am confident that you will love what the next president and board have in store for you.



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# BOARD MEMBERS



Shannon Bettles  
President



Gary Mitchell  
Honorary President



K. Jane Watt  
Past-President



Rosa Flinton-Brown  
First Vice President & Treasurer



Mark Forsythe  
Second Vice President



Doug Brigham  
Secretary



Maurice Guibord  
Director



Anna Irwin  
Director



Emma Quan  
Director



Elwin Xie  
Director



Callie Anderson  
Director



Greg Nesteroff  
Director



Refano Lumempouw  
Director



Kira Westby  
Director

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# HONORARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

***Gary Mitchell***

Congratulations to ALL of you - our member societies, their governance boards, and our provincial executive - for 100 years of service to British Columbia, and thank you to communities for a century of service to British Columbians.

For one hundred years, this Federation has honoured the commitment of our founders by educating, collecting, preserving, and making accessible our heritage for our contemporaries and the forthcoming generations. The stories we illustrate today are different from the stories of the 1920s, 1930s, etc. we recounted and wrote about, but our society has changed and so has the Federation. With each successive generation, we have continued to reflect the needs of our communities to bring forth the stories and events which illustrate their collective histories. Today, as communities ask more questions about our relations with First Nations and cultural communities and think about how our communities has been shaped, we continue to provide historical information to further our knowledge of our collective history and the ideas that have shaped it. Today our Federation continues to illuminate the darker corners of our heritage so we and the next generation have a more informed understanding of our history and, hopefully, to assist as we build a stronger and more equitable society.

As our society—coming through COVID-19 and awakening to the Residential Schools system and its impacts—struggles to understand the past and seek new stories and new heroes to reflect and honour the values of our 21st-century society, we are here for our communities.

We are the people to provide the linkages between today and our past: we have, for a century, provided the historical content and context of the people and events which have shaped our communities. Our members have the capacity and knowledge to help our communities as they work to enact the recommendations of the TRC, as they seek

to reframe the stories of cultural groups underrepresented by history, and as they look to the past to help find a way forward.

We are, in truth, the bridge builders along British Columbia's heritage highway. We are the people who create the informational bridges between the past and our present time; we continue to educate, inform, and listen to this generation, as we hope to do for the next and the next generations.

In closing, I applaud each of you for your commitment to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of our province. As we take time to celebrate a century of service, I ask each of you to renew your commitment to promoting and educating our communities about our history and heritage and the goals of our Federation.



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# MEMBERSHIP

## *Callie Anderson*

This past year has continued to be a challenge for BCHF members. A few have closed their doors. Others have extended their off-season closures, and still others were damaged or destroyed by the ravaging fires last summer. However, the upside is that through the use of virtual meetings, recorded presentations have been shared among member societies. A very positive happening this year is the increased number of associate (individual) member applications. Evidently, the love of BC history continues to be strong!

Our membership as of April 2022 are as follows:

- 90 Societies
- 330 Associates
- 20 Affiliates
- 6 Honorary

The biggest project of the membership position was to convert the manual process of handling magazine subscriptions for members as well as non-members to an automated process using our membership portal and software. This has allowed



all subscribers to communicate with the correct person at BCHF, which has resulted in better service overall. *British Columbia History* continues to be a popular and sought-after publication not only for BCHF members but also libraires and education institutions throughout the world.



Click here to manage your contact information, renew, and print a membership card, or visit us at: [www.bchistory.ca/members/join-renew-online/](http://www.bchistory.ca/members/join-renew-online/)



Click here to see our Buy Local, Give Local program!

# MAGAZINE

**K. Jane Watt**

We are so proud of *British Columbia History* magazine and of the many writers, editors, volunteers who work together to make it happen. Writing and editing are just the front-facing jobs, but behind the scenes we have our BCHF Comms and Web teams who spread the word of the magazine across our other channels.

Over the last year, we have been moving towards a collective editorial vision, and we have been dividing the work of the magazine up as we invite a guest editor to help us shape each magazine to connect with new readers.

- Summer 2021: *Nautical History* with guest editor John MacFarlane
- Fall 2021: *Song and the Unsung* with guest editors Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat
- Winter 2021: *Local News* with guest editor Greg Nesteroff
- Spring 2022: *BCHF 100 Years*. Our esteemed president, Shannon Bettles, stepped in as guest editor to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Federation. We shaped this issue around Henry Yu's article, "The White Elephant in the Room: Anti-Asian Racism in Canada. The art of Katya Roxas graced its cover.

On the ground, we have a great team: Susan Safyan as copy editor, Carolyn Rapanos as production editor, Greg Nesteroff as Editor-at-Large, Aimee Greenaway as Books Editor and Emily Lonie as Archives and Archivists Editor.

We are lucky to have Jenn Ashton continuing as Writer-In-Residence through 2022 as she evolves her column, *Sharing Space: Reclaiming BC's Indigenous History*. We have been fortunate too, to include Jenn's art on our pages.

Mark Forsythe has virtually travelled the province to bring us features on the work of member societies and museums under his *Time Travels* column, and Bill Glasgow – of William Glasgow Design – continues to put his heart into making the magazine look great.

We are delighted to now be able to pay honoraria to writers and content creators and editors.



Our print run is holding steady around 1,300. Through the hard work of Callie Anderson, we have been able to revise our processes and move away from our former bulk memberships program. Now we connect directly with each subscriber, and we can keep our accounts up to date.

Digital subscriptions are now approximately 10 percent of our subscribers. We received funding this year from the Business Innovation side of the Aid to Publishers program to do some thinking around a digital strategy for the magazine. We hope to extend this work over the coming months.

We are looking forward at long last to convening our inaugural meeting of our new Editorial Advisory Group in mid-June 2022.

Once again, we would like to thank those people who are our stalwart team of proofreaders: Callie Anderson, Ron Greene, Greg Nesteroff, Carolyn Rapanos, and Sue Safyan.

We are always looking for great people to work with, and we can tailor tasks and asks to fit your time, so if you think *British Columbia History* magazine is a place you'd like to serve the historical community, we'd love to have you.



Click here  
to subscribe!

## CONFERENCES THROUGH THE YEARS



**1992 Annual Conference, Burnaby Heritage Village.**  
Photo: Ron Welwood



**1998 Annual Conference, Merrit.**  
Photo: Ron Welwood



**2018 Annual Conference, Courtenay. Outside K'ómoks First Nation Big House before seeing the famous Kumugwe Dancers.**  
Photo: K. Jane Watt

# CONFERENCE

### **Conference Committee**

Heading into the BCHF's 100th anniversary year the conference committee had hoped to be able to host an in-person conference in Victoria with the help of its partner, the Victoria Historical Society. However, securing venues, catering, and planning for transportation requires a good amount of lead up time, and this, teamed with the omnicron COVID-19 variant that caused more shutdowns in January, led the committee to decide to host this year's conference completely online.

Building on the success of last year's virtual conference, the 2022 conference offers an array of speakers presenting aspects of BC history with the overarching theme of "memory." Over ten virtual sessions will be presented in three days, which will be recorded and made available following the conference. The keynote speaker this year is Keith Thor Carlson, Director of the Peace and Reconciliation Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley who is presenting *History as a Tool for Reconciliation*.

Special thanks to the organizing committee who met regularly to discuss and make preparations for the conference: Paul Ferguson, John Lutz, Anna Irwin, Frances Aknai, Ron Greene, Doug Brigham, Emma Quan, Janet Ou, Maurice Guibord, and Shannon Bettles. The conference is being sponsored by Johnson Insurance and the University of Victoria's history department.



**Click here for 2022 Conference Registration!**



British Columbia Historical Federation

# CONFERENCE

# 2022



# MEMORY

ONLINE  
**JUNE**

# 2-5

**BC** HISTORICAL  
FEDERATION

CO-HOSTED BY:

**VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

<http://www.bchistory.ca/conference/>

# CENTENNIAL LEGACY FUND

It was the decision of the judges not to award the CLF in 2022. Here are a few updates from past recipients:

## 2020 SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE “WHERE ARE THE WOMEN: LOVE, SOLACE, AND COURAGE” PROJECT

*Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra*

This research project is based on interviews with four South Asian women from the Fraser Valley who were separated from their partners for a number of years before reuniting with them in Canada. The project includes researching archival images and reimagining old family portraits – to complete the story as we learn it.



To view the stories, click below:

- Kartar Kaur
- Bhagwant Kaur
- Bachan Kaur
- Surjit Kaur

Passport of Bhagwant Kaur Gill.

Photo: South Asian Studies Institute, UFV

## 2021 WARD'S PASS CEMETERY

*Stewart Historical Society*

This project commemorates the loss of two historic cemeteries in Stewart BC, and remembers the lives of the 231 people interned in them. The first cemetery was washed away by the Bear River in 1932, and the second—at Barney's Gulch—was buried by a landslide in 1961.

The project has researched the lives of the lost, and has created new interpretive signage for the Ward's Pass cemetery site. It has been a community effort to complete this important work.

## 2021 DOUKHOBOR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

*Jon Kalmakoff*

Although it was off to a slower start than expected, the research component of my Doukhobor “CCUB Lands Project” is underway, and I can confirm that I have utilized the generous British Columbia Historical Federation Centennial Legacy Fund grant towards accomplishing these goals. The CCUB Lands Project is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-stage, multi-year research project to identify and delineate lands formerly owned by the Doukhobor communal organization, the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood, Ltd. (CCUB) in BC between 1908 and 1938, including particulars relating to their purchase, land settlement and usage, and its eventual sale.



At work in the garden, Brilliant BC, 1955.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada, Rosemary Gilliat Eaton fonds, e010967422

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# CENTENNIAL LEGACY FUND

*continued...*

## 2021 THE PAPER TRAIL TO THE 1923 CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

**Catherine Clement**

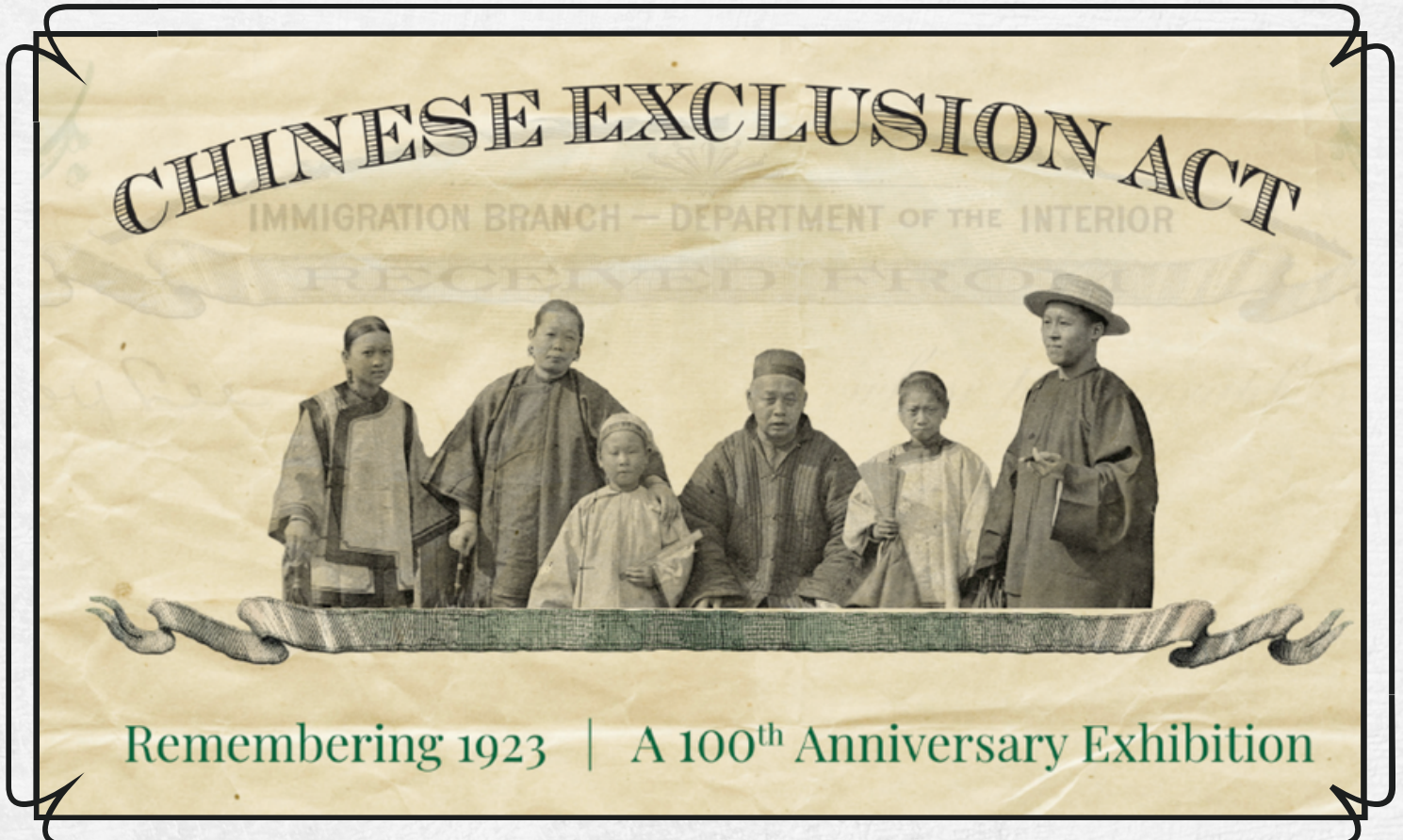
The BC Historical Federation was our project's first institutional funder, and we are enormously grateful for how your support kick-started our "community participatory collection" process. From your seed money flowed several accomplishments and partnerships that will leverage the project even further as we move toward the 100th anniversary events in 2023. On behalf of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and families who participated in our collection, we wish to once again express our deepest gratitude for your support of this important community project.

*"The work you are doing is incredible! It has opened my eyes to my past. I know many of us now wish we had tried to extract more history from our parents before they passed, but so many didn't really want to talk about it."*

- Donna Kay Wong (Coquitlam)

*"Because of you and this project, I have learned so much about my parents and grandfather.... From this research, I will be able to pass the information I have found along to my children and granddaughters."*

- Janet (Gung) Bradley-Worthington (Ontario)



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# AWARDS

In 2021, Anna Irwin stepped up to coordinate and chair the Awards Committee composed of subcommittees made up of board members and volunteers from the BC history community. Holding monthly meetings, the committee had an opportunity to modernize the award categories and develop processes for adjudicating submissions. This year, three new awards were added: the Storytelling Award, the Advocacy Award, and the Cultural Resources Management Award. The Best Website and the Best News and Media Awards were retired. David Matheson, who endowed the Best Website award for many years, has graciously agreed to continue his endowment of the new Storytelling Award.

Committee member Greg Nesteroff led his team of volunteer readers to the selection of the Best Article Award, Doug Brigham had a group of academic historians who selected the Scholarship Award, Maurice Guibord coordinated the book readers for the Historical Writing Competition team, and Rosa Flinton-Brown oversaw the Centennial Legacy Fund subcommittee.

Here are the Award recipients:

## **AWARD OF RECOGNITION: MARLIN (MARL) BROWN (POSTHUMOUS)**

History and Marl Brown go hand in hand. The founder of the Fort Nelson Historical Society in 1977, Marl was a pillar in the the first and only curator of the Fort Nelson Heritage Museum until his passing in 2021. “Marlin [was] the first one at the museum in the morning and the last one to leave at night. The museum, and everything in it is his passion: his life’s work. [...] Because of him, the museum will be enjoyed by future generations for many years to come.”

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT: KEVIN EASTWOOD AND SIREN SCREEN PRODUCTIONS**

### **“BRITISH COLUMBIA: AN UNTOLD STORY”**

This four-part historical documentary that highlights the people, forces and events that shaped British Columbia. The series, which focuses upon under-told and untold histories of marginalized British Columbians, weaves together Indigenous, Asian, Black, and European truths to highlight the past. The series consulted Elders, authors, histories, families and descendants of historical figures to create a pluralistic and wholistic understanding of topics such as labour and persistence, migration and resilience, nature and coexistence and change and resistance.

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT: BILL WILSON**

Bill Wilson is the author of numerous works about soda manufacturers and brewers of British Columbia, including the recent *Soda Kings of BC & the Yukon* volumes. Actively sharing and inspiring others to take up interest in unknown and unearthed bottles, Bill has carried out “tireless continued research that takes numerous small facts from many sources to weave into coherent stories of early British Columbians.” His work, the product of almost four decades of diligent digging, has been instrumental in helping heritage-minded citizens and researchers understand their collections.

## **STORYTELLING AWARD WINNER: NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE**

### **“WRITING WRONGS: JAPANESE CANADIAN PROTEST LETTERS OF THE 1940S” EXHIBITION**

This online exhibition created by the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre brings together and interprets a significant collection of Japanese Canadian letters written in protest of the dispossession and dispersal of the Japanese Canadian community from the West Coast during the Second World War. Interspersed with videos and other digital media, the exhibition takes a unique

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# AWARDS

continued...

perspective by presenting descendants of original protest letter writers reading letters written by their ancestors, many of whom were unaware of the existence of the letters. The exhibition contains a searchable database of primary source documents in addition to containing diverse voices to share personal perspectives throughout the four-part narrative.

## HONOURABLE MENTIONS:

### MAPLE RIDGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP OF MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### ON THE RIVER: THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN MAPLE RIDGE

The Maple Ridge Family History Group of the Maple Ridge Historical Society has worked ceaselessly over the past two years to prepare its new online and travelling community history: "On the River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge." Produced entirely by volunteer senior researchers who mentored new researchers throughout the development of the project, the history merges teamwork and community spirit with a love of genealogical records, census data, and more, to weave together the evolution of the fishing sector in Maple Ridge between the 1890s and the 1920s. "Family history is essential storytelling, and the Maple Ridge Family History Group exemplifies the blending of local and family history practice."

### TARA-LYNN KOZMA-PERRIN

Tara-Lynn Kozma-Perrin is a fierce advocate for fulfillment of the recommendations of the TRC and UNDRIP through her continuous work to bring educational opportunities and opportunities for inclusion and connectedness into the City of Abbotsford. Along with her mother Tery Kozma, Tara-Lynn co-founded the annual Aboriginal Arts and Culture Day, an event which brings Abbotsfordians together to celebrate First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture. A cross-cultural learning

and engagement event, the event allows visitors to learn about the past of local Indigenous Peoples, the present and how we can work towards the future together.

### VANCOUVER ISLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As more and more initiatives were taken online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vancouver Island Local History Society (VILHS) who operate Point Ellice House Museum, did not shy away from the opportunity to try something new to keep their visitors connected with cultural resources. The Society undertook many new projects, including a series of YouTube videos and the transcription of documents related to the O'Reilly family to allow for improved legibility and remote access. Partnering with graduate students from the Public History program at the University of Victoria, museum staff undertook the digitization and online exhibition of Point Ellice's calling card collection, providing new resources and biographies for researchers to delve into the social life of the O'Reilly family.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL DIGITIZED HISTORY (BCRDH), UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OKANAGAN

The British Columbia Regional Digitized History (BCRDH) project supports digital public access to unique and under-utilized holdings found in collections throughout British Columbian communities. Originally started five years ago as the Digitized Okanagan History (DOH), the project helps "tackle the challenges of digitization on a regional basis across many different repositories" and includes over 43,000 photographs, 22,000 newspaper issues and hundreds of oral histories. Today, 44 partnering organizations across the Okanagan and Kootenay-Columbia areas have joined with plans to expand into the Thompson Nicola region.

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# AWARDS

continued...

## **ADVOCACY AWARD WINNER: DR. ALBERT "SONNY" MCHALSIE (NAXAXALHTS'I) AND DR. KEITH THOR CARLSON**

Dr. Albert "Sonny" McHalsie (Naxaxalhts'i) and Dr. Keith Thor Carlson are synonymous with Truth and Reconciliation in the Fraser Valley. Authors of multiple publications over thirty years, Sonny and Keith work in tandem with Stó:lō communities, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to uncover and share the past about the Peoples and lands of S'óhl Téméxw. Their many publications and teaching resources are valued by scholars, teachers, and the public and their work has resulted in the strengthening of settler/Indigenous relations regionally.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCE ACCESSIBILITY AWARD WINNER: LAILA AXÉN**

Laila Axén founded the Swedish Heritage in British Columbia Museum and Archives with "nothing but two empty hands" in 2017. Noticing a lack of archival and museological organizations dedicated specifically to Swedish heritage, Laila took it upon herself to prevent photographs, objects and cultural materials from being tossed into the landfill. She started from scratch, recruiting volunteers and board members while locating space for the new organization and purchasing digital cataloguing software, scanners and more to make the holdings publicly available. Today, Laila, now in her 80s, is returning to school to learn about archival practices to ensure ongoing preservation and improved access to British Columbia's Swedish-related materials into the future.

## **SCHOLARSHIP:**

This year's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship is Lydia Kinasewich for her paper called "From Health Resort to Pleasure Resort: Re-Constructing Harrison Hot Springs as a Tourist Destination, 1920-1930." The judges decided not to award a prize in the 1st and 2nd year category.

## **BEST ARTICLE AWARD:**

The Best Article Prize offers a certificate and cash prize (\$250) to the author of an article published in *British Columbia History* magazine that best enhances knowledge of the history of British Columbia and provides enjoyable reading. The recipient is Kelly Black for his piece called "Explaining Settlers to Ourselves," published in the Spring 2021 (Volume 54.1) issue. Honorable mention to Robert Ratcliffe Taylor for his article "Emily Carr, Cartoonist."



**Fisgard Lighthouse, Esquimalt**

Photo: Shannon Bettles



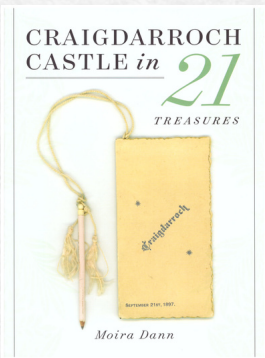
# HISTORICAL WRITING COMPETITION



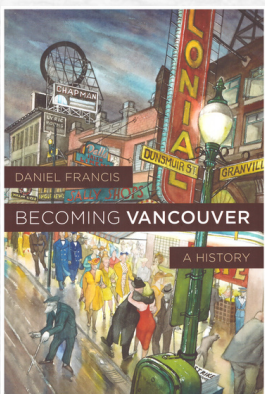
**Maurice Guibord**

A total of 24 publications were submitted as candidates for the 2020 Historical Writing Awards, a drop by half of our regular yearly lot, no doubt due to the pandemic. The winners will be announced at Conference during the Awards Gala.

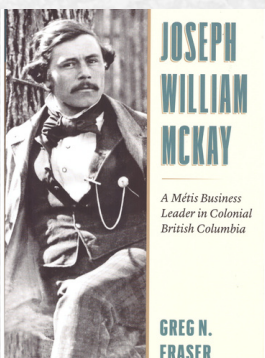
We wish to thank the authors, researchers, and publishers involved in this year's slate of participants for their work in yet expanding our knowledge, enjoyment and admiration of the history of our province. Our heartfelt congratulations also go out to the last year's award recipients. Here is the list of our finalists:



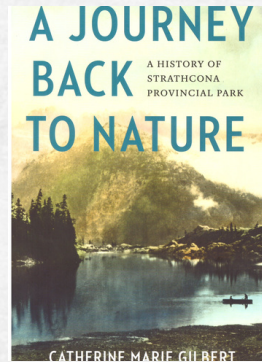
- Moira Dann, *Craigdarroch Castle in 21 Historical Objects*, TouchWood Editions



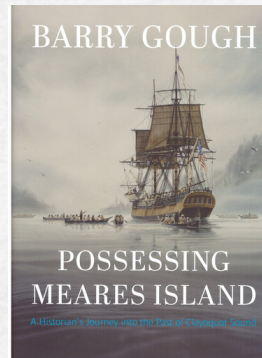
- Daniel Francis, *Becoming Vancouver: A History*, Harbour Publishing



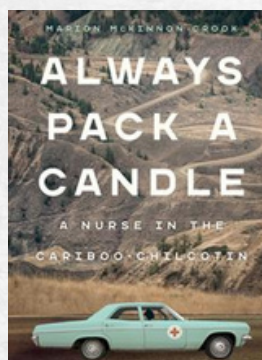
- Greg N. Fraser, *Joseph William McKay: A Métis Business Leader in Colonial British Columbia*, Heritage House Publishing Company



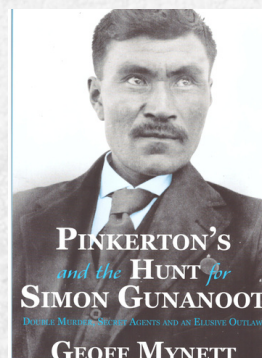
- Catherine Marie Gilbert, *A Journey Back to Nature: A History of Strathcona Provincial Park*, Heritage House Publishing Company



- Barry Gough, *Possessing Meares Island: A Historian's Journey Into the Past of Clayoquot Sound*, Harbour Publishing



- Marion McKinnon Crook, *Always Pack a Candle: A Nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin*, Heritage House Publishing Company



- Geoff Mynett, *Pinkerton's and the Hunt for Simon Gunanoot: Double Murder, Secret Agents and an Elusive Outlaw*, Caitlin Press

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# COMMUNICATIONS

*Shannon Bettles, Mark Forsythe, Emma Quan, Greg Nesteroff, Elwin Xie*

BCHF's communication's team continued to meet monthly to discuss news and stories to cover, share and develop, using one united voice over various digital communications systems. Team members include Mark Forsythe, Elwin Xie, Shannon Bettles, Greg Nesteroff, and Emma Quan, who worked together to produce blogs, content for social media and newsletters, and draft press releases.

To mark its centennial, the BCHF contracted Epic Designs to develop a new visual brand presence, as well as a centennial anniversary logo. The team landed on the modern look of the sans-serif font logo with "BC" prominent and inset "Historical Federation." The team felt that the logo allows for flexibility when designing for a range of print and digital platforms, and combined both a modern, forward-looking font with a slightly retro feel. The colour scheme was chosen to represent the blues and greens of the sky, mountains and waters of the province, with a pop of colour that draws in the viewer's eye.

The rebranding was part of a larger project to renew and refresh the organization heading into its 100th anniversary year. Values and commitment towards reconciliation, diversity, and inclusion, were recommitted and the communications team is committed to working to support members in sharing and promoting interest in all histories of the province.

Finally, the communications team received a student from UBC's community-engaged sociology class. Janet Ou sat in on conference committee meetings and created Instagram posts to promote the work of the BCHF.

# WEBSITE

The BCHF website works in tandem with our membership management portal to provide information, stories, membership services, and news items to members and the public. The WordPress website managed by volunteers is now over five years old—ancient in terms of websites. The membership management system, Wild Apricot, is a useful tool that allows members to manage their accounts, purchase magazines, and look up other historical societies. Both the website and the membership portal were updated with the new branding this year. Looking ahead, the development of a new mobile-friendly website is recommended.



[Click here to visit our website!](#)

Stats over 1 year:

- 22,354 users
- 51,168 page views
- Cities: Vancouver, Surrey
- 90% new visitors, 10% returning visitors




# SOCIAL MEDIA

Leveraging social media is one way for the BC Historical Federation to engage with its public, share member stories, and promote interest in BC history. Reliant on volunteers to find, vet, and share stories online, the BCHF communications team works across a few different social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Flickr.


This year, our communications team undertook more video projects, including interviews with authors, historic places, and museums. Mark Forsythe, Elwin Xie, and Doug Brigham were behind the efforts to share stories and spark interest in BC history.


Instagram remains a new platform for us, and we have engaged the help of Emma Quan and UBC student Janet Ou to point us in the right direction on how to use and connect with new audiences using images and captions.

Here are some statistics over one year:

-  Facebook
  - Facebook page reach: 44,277
  - New Facebook likes: 102
  - Total Facebook likes: 1,219
  - Top city: Vancouver, BC

-  Instagram
  - Instagram page reach: 1,034
  - New Instagram followers: 140
  - Total Instagram followers: 550
  - Top city: Vancouver, BC

-  Twitter
  - 757 followers

-  YouTube
  - 143 subscribers
  - 43 videos posted

To see our social media pages, click the icons below!



@bchistoricalfederation



@BCHistoryFed



@bchistoricalfederation



BC Historical Federation



*The Buzz* is the Federation's monthly e-newsletter, which is now emailed to more than 700 addresses. This number of recipients is a marked increase on last year.

The newsletter highlights projects, organizations, and news affecting the history, culture, and heritage communities in the province, and provides opportunities for paid advertisements from members and from the public.

Trail resident Greg Nesteroff is the senior reporter for the Vista Radio stations in the Kootenays and proprietor of The Kütne Reader blog. He's responsible for *The Buzz*.

Archived issues of *The Buzz* are found online here:

[www.bchistory.ca/community/bchf-newsletter/](http://www.bchistory.ca/community/bchf-newsletter/)



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# TREASURER'S REPORT

*Rosa Flinton-Brown*



Dear Members,

Please refer to the following financial statements for more detailed information. This report will include an overview of the most significant changes and balances.

2021-2022 continued to be a challenging year due to the continuing pandemic for the BCHF and many of our members. However, our financial position remains strong and we are excited to continue using resources to support public history in BC.

The following report provides a summary of our major activities during the fiscal year 2021-2022.

## **MAGAZINE OPERATIONS**

Our magazine subscriptions and sales fell approximately \$4,000, returning to 2020 levels after a large increase in 2021. We expect this is due to two main factors. First, we have cleaned up our member database. Magazine subscriptions will now be renewed directly with the Federation rather than through member societies. This should reduce the administrative burden on our members and make things easier for subscribers. This change has led to a slight decrease in revenue in the short term. Second, in 2021, we had a number of members sign up for two-year memberships that will not renew until 2023. We record our magazine revenue on a cash basis so this income is slightly overstated in the first year and understated in the second year of the subscription.

We received strong continued support from the Canadian Periodical Fund this year. The grant has allowed us to increase the amount of money we pay to our Canadian editors and writers as planned. This was very exciting for all our contributors and hardworking magazine staff. We continue to work toward our goals of paying market rates to our authors and editors.

The BCHF was successful in receiving an \$8,000 federal grant to continue to move our digital magazine forward. We spent this initial money hiring outside consultants to help us develop the

early stages of our digital strategy for the magazine. We plan to apply for Phase 2 funding later this year. As you can see in the magazine expenses section, we have saved significant money on mailing in 2022 due to removing non-paying subscribers from the database and increasing the number of digital subscribers.

Many are discovering the quality of the digital magazine and enjoying the format! We remind you to purchase your digital magazine through us rather than through your Zinio newsstand so we get the full benefit of your subscription. Our advertising revenue has increased substantially as people begin to see our increased digital circulation, including in libraries through EBSCO.

## **MEMBER ACTIVITIES**

We enjoyed excellent support from our members in 2022 with membership revenues returning to 2020 levels after dipping in 2021.

Unfortunately, Johnson was not able to provide the same level of support this year because referral fees were down by almost \$7,000. This was a continuing impact from the pandemic. Johnson expects that we will receive more referral fees next year with a return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024.

Thank you so much for your donations! Donation revenues to our general operations were up slightly over last year and we received \$7,159 in donations for the Centennial Legacy Fund. The second year of our annual "Great Canadian Giving Challenge" in June was very successful and we encourage members to visit the Canada Helps website in June (or anytime!) to donate and support the Centennial Legacy Fund or any other BCHF initiatives.

Our 2021 conference cost \$948 and we had great feedback from members on how much they enjoyed the speakers and the gala night of awards and presentations. Members fully embraced our on-line auction of historical books published in 2019 and 2020. The book auction raised an additional \$2,454 for the Centennial Legacy Fund.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

*continued ...*



## BCHF OPERATIONS

Our financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022 show an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$3,492. As an organization, we remain committed to strong internal controls and we continue to manage our costs, maintaining 2021 spending levels in most areas. We spent \$650 this year on items to support the 100th year anniversary logo and rebranding. We think it looks great and we hope you agree!

BCHF's balance sheet continues to be strong with cash and savings of \$132,708 as at March 31, 2022. We had one GIC come due in 2021 and it was renewed for another year.

Overall, this has been another solid year for BCHF from a financial perspective. Thanks to all of you and your societies for your continued financial support of the Federation.



# Be a history hero.



Donate to the Centennial Legacy fund and make a difference for local history.

**[bchistory.ca/donate](https://bchistory.ca/donate)**

CLICK HERE TO DONATE!



BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION  
Statement of Financial Position  
March 31,2022

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Savings	\$62,997	\$57,038
Marketable securities, at cost		
Coast Capital Savings GIC - October 30, 2022 @ 0.70%	\$69,711	67,000
	132,708	124,038
Accrued interest, prepaids and GST receivable	831	2,691
	\$133,539	\$126,729
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	4,200	2,045
Deferred Conference Income	500	550
	4,700	2,595
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets - page 2</b>	97,932	94,440
<b>Internally Restricted Net Assets - page 2</b>	30,907	29,694
	128,839	124,134
	\$133,539	\$126,729

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
Year ended March 31, 2022

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	2022	2021
<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>				
Balance, beginning of year	\$94,440	\$29,694	\$124,134	\$118,204
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenditures - page 3	3,492	-	3,492	4,295
Donations received	-	7,159	7,159	5,635
Transfer of Conference Book Sale Proceeds	-	2,454	2,454	-
Internally Restricted - Expenses	-	(8,400)	(8,400)	(4,000)
<b>Balance, March 31, 2021</b>	<u>\$97,932</u>	<u>\$30,907</u>	<u>\$128,839</u>	<u>\$124,134</u>

**Internally Restricted Net Assets**

	Centennial Legacy Fund	Contingency Fund	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	\$9,472	\$20,222	\$29,694	\$28,059
Donations received	7,159	-	7,159	5,635
Transfer of Conference Book Sale Proceeds	2,454	-	2,454	-
	<u>19,085</u>	<u>20,222</u>	<u>39,307</u>	<u>33,694</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
South Asian Studies Institute - Early Sikh Settlers	-	-	-	4,000
Catherine Clement - 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act	4,000	-	4,000	-
Jonathan Kalmakoff - CCUB Lands Project	2,200	-	2,200	-
Stewart Historical Society - Wards Pass Cemetary	2,200	-	2,200	-
	<u>8,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<b>Balance, March 31, 2021</b>	<u>\$10,685</u>	<u>\$20,222</u>	<u>\$30,907</u>	<u>\$29,694</u>

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION  
Statement of Operations  
Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Subscriptions and Sales	\$24,731	\$28,803
Canadian Periodical Fund Grant	14,449	15,821
Memberships	6,368	5,595
Advertising	3,745	2,000
Donations	1,795	1,434
Interest Income	1,240	1,056
Digital Magazine Project Grant	8,000	-
Referral Fees - Johnson Inc.	3,334	10,272
	<u>63,712</u>	<u>64,981</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
BC History Magazine:		
Printing	13,653	13,896
Design and Layout	3,236	3,158
Mailing	5,628	7,566
Zinio - Digital Distribution	1,523	1,602
Canadian Editorial and Content	12,814	13,025
	<u>36,854</u>	<u>39,247</u>
Award - Writing Competition	5,000	5,000
Award - W. Kaye Lamb Student Prize	1,750	1,750
Award - Best Article	250	250
Award - Best News and Media	250	250
Administration	689	757
Conference Shortfall	948	-
Bank Fees	864	629
Insurance - Directors & Officers	765	650
Membership Database Software	2,628	3,801
Travel and Meetings	-	208
Readers Panel	-	-
Website and Web Meetings	641	654
Conference AGM	-	1,506
Buy Local Campaign	-	1,500
Rebranding 100 Project and Logo	650	3,997
Digital Magazine Project Costs	8,000	-
GST expense net of recovery	931	487
	<u>60,220</u>	<u>60,686</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures</b>	<u>\$3,492</u>	<u>\$4,295</u>

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# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The British Columbia Historical Federation (the “Society”) is registered under the Society Act (British Columbia) and its principal activities include providing public education about British Columbia and local history. The Society is a registered Canadian charity under the Income Tax Act.

## 1. Basis of Presentation:

The recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure principles in these financial statements may not be in accordance with the requirements of any of the financial reporting frameworks in the CPA Canada Handbook – *Accounting*.

## 2. Significant accounting policies:

### (a) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for grants and contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Contributions received directly as endowments are recognized as direct increases to net assets when received. Donations intended for scholarships that are received in advance of their disbursement to a worthy candidate are recorded as current liabilities.

### (b) Contributed materials and services:

The Society receives a substantial benefit from volunteers. It is not practical for the Society to record the receipt of contributed material and services.

### (c) Marketable securities:

Marketable securities are recorded at cost and market value.

### (d) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires

management to make estimates and assumptions that effect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 3. Internally restricted net assets:

Internally restricted net assets represent resources established by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) for specific purposes and with administrative conditions determined by the Board. These funds are held for endowment purposes by the Society for the benefit of its present and future members.

During the 2018 fiscal year the Board approved the establishment and allocation of Internally Restricted Net Assets into two Funds:

- Contingency Fund
- Centennial Legacy Fund

The Contingency Fund represents resources to be used in the event of unforeseen financial difficulty as determined and approved by the Board.

The Centennial Legacy Fund is to be used for project based extraordinary items as approved by the Board.

## 4. Comparative Figures

Certain prior years comparative figures have been restated to reflect the presentation adopted for the current year.