The British Columbia Historical Federation encourages interest in the history of British Columbia through research, presentation, and support in its role as an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies.
Judge Frederick William Howay (1867–1943) was president of what was then the British Columbia Historical Association from 1922 to 1926. Here he is speaking at the unveiling of the walking beam of the S.S. Beaver at Prospect Point, July 26, 1941.

City of Vancouver Archives, AM54-S4-: Port P569.5

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The British Columbia Historical Federation

The British Columbia Historical Association was established on October 12, 1922 with Judge F. W. Howay named as the first president. The Association was renamed the British Columbia Historical Federation on July 29, 1983 — a name that better reflects its role as an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies.

The British Columbia Historical Federation embraces a variety of membership classes: Member Societies, Affiliated Members, Associate (Individual), and Corporate Members. This mix of institutions, societies, individuals, and corporations creates a unique historical community that represents a broad array of historical and heritage interests.

Members have the ability to contribute to national and regional discussions on historical issues. There are opportunities to be involved with Federation projects at a local or provincial level and opportunities to join committees or become a council member.

Every year the British Columbia Historical Federation co-hosts an annual conference to facilitate the fellowship of its diverse historical community.

At our annual awards banquet, individuals who have made significant contributions in preserving, researching, interpreting or writing about the history of the province are presented prizes for their work at the awards banquet. Member societies can nominate individual members of their society for a Certificate of Recognition and enter the annual best newsletter contest.

They can nominate individuals or community groups for a Certificate of Merit and submit a nomination for the best website about British Columbia history award.

A collective voice that encourages interest in the history of British Columbia through research, presentation, and support.

The Federation promotes the work and events of its member societies through the BCHF events calendar in the BCHF News, and on Facebook. The Federation also publishes British Columbia History magazine four times a year.
As I close out my tenure as President of our Federation, I wish to thank the members of the Executive Council for their dedication, patience and insight during our discussions and meetings. The vitality and energy brought to the Board by my colleagues will stand our Federation and its programs in good stead into the foreseeable future.

I have been fortunate in that my predecessors set a firm foundation upon which the Council has continued to build. I can state, with thanks to the Past President, the online presence of the Federation can now be added to the core activities we provide to our membership; and through the efforts of our Vice Presidents, Jane and Maurice, the Federation has a stronger publishing presence, a solid roster of future conference hosts, and a renewed and streamlined book awards program. These efforts will form the base from which our Federation will continue to support the membership and BC heritage initiatives.

At this year’s conference, the Federation will join the Revelstoke community in celebrating the unveiling of the Moberley monument. This project’s success is due to the dedicated and unflinching efforts of Tom Lymberry and John Whittaker, two of our unsung heroes.
On the larger front, the executive has continued to follow: developments with the new Societies Act, the changeover of leadership at the Land Title Authority and the deplorable state of affairs within the National Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. With the election of the 42nd Parliament of Canada, welcoming letters were sent to the incoming ministers of Canadian Heritage and Environment (The Minister of Environment is responsible for the National Sites and Monuments Board). Within each letter, the Federation expressed its concerns over the state of Canada’s national heritage strategy and pledged our support in rebuilding a vital pan-Canadian heritage strategy. The Sites and Monuments Board was the example we cited for its vacancies in provincial and territorial representatives as the corresponding lack of site designations over the past two years. I must note there appear to be over 1,000 site applications awaiting ministerial approval, of which over 200 are British Columbian sites. We continue to urge prompt action in order for communities across our nation to celebrate the designations during the CANADA 150 commemorations.

The Executive continues to build a relationship the BC Museums Association and its executive in order for both organizations to begin to advance the case of stronger and better government support for BC heritage. We are an active contributor to the BCMA’s recent Canada 150 Provincial Forum, a Victoria-held meeting seeking input across the heritage sector on plans and activities for CANADA 150.

As our Federation approaches our own tri-celebrations — CANADA 150, our 100th anniversary and BC into CANADA 150 (2021), my successor and council will give shape and substance to the ideas and thoughts around our CANADA 150 discussions. The Council will also continue to “codify” our practices and activities so that following councils will find policy guidelines to support their decision making.

As the spotlight goes down and I exit stage left, I extend my thanks to you for continued support of the Federation’s goals and programming.

With respect,
Gary Mitchell
BCHF Council

**Gary Mitchell**, President

**K. Jane Watt**, 1st Vice President, Magazine Liaison

**Maurice Guibord**, 2nd Vice President, Conference Chair, Historical Writing Chair

**Sandra Martins**, Secretary, Advocacy Liaison

**Kerri Gibson**, Treasurer

**Shannon Bettles**, Web Editor, Recognition Chair

**Marie Elliott**, W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarships Chair

**Ron Hyde**, Membership Chair

**Judy Lam Maxwell**, Director

**Barry Gough**, Past President

**Jacqueline Gresko**, Honourary President

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**Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 9:00am (PST)

The Regent Hotel

112 First Street East, Revelstoke, BC
Advocacy Working Group

Current members are: Diane Rogers, Brenda Smith, Sandra Martins. The group has been meeting monthly since October 2015 (Oct. 29, Nov. 24, Dec. 16, Jan. 28). Meeting minutes are recorded.

Terms of Reference

December 16 2015 — first draft review
January 27 2016 — second draft review
February 27 2016 — approved by Council

Mandate

To collaborate and liaise with BCHF Council and BCHF members on advocacy matters.

Adhere to and be guided by BCHF policy.

An active advisor to the BCHF Council, and will be a resource to members seeking support on advocacy matters.

Composition

The advocacy committee will be a standing committee.

The advocacy committee will consist of a minimum of 2 Federation members, and 1 Council member. Council member will be a liaison between committee and Council.

Meetings will be held quarterly. Meetings can be held in person or/and electronically.

Objective

The BCHF advocacy group supports BCHF members and BCHF Council by laterally communicating advocacy matters.
Advocacy committee efforts will:
- monitor heritage environments;
- address arising advocacy matters;
- liaise with BCHF Council;
- collaborate and mediating between Council and members;
- acknowledge, educate and increase awareness of advocacy matters; and
- advocate in a meaningful and high-spirited manner.

Roles and Responsibilities

Advocacy Committee
- Will consist of a minimum of 2 Federation members, and 1 Council member.
- Will ensure members are aware of the Committee.
- Will ensure members are aware of how to communicate with the Committee.
- Will offer process for presenting advocacy matters.
- Will review advocacy matters in a case by case approach.
- Will ollow communication strategy.
- Will provide an event (ie. workshop, session).
- Will be clear on financial standing;
- provide a yearly report for the AGM.
- Will harness resources available through BCHF’s membership base.

Committee Liaison
- Will undertake secretarial duties at meetings: take minutes, provide agenda and coordinate meetings.
- Will link between Council and Committee on all matters advocacy.
- Will manage correspondence pertaining to advocacy is flowing between Council and Committee.
- Will prepare yearly reports.
- Will approach Council with requests.

Communication Strategy
- To prepare timely, accurate information is crucial internally and externally.
- To contribute core information and keep members thinking about advocacy through the BCHF website.
- To provide newsletter editor with thoughtful awareness notices.
- To use AGM as an opportunity for building and maintaining advocacy awareness.
- To provide regular reports to Council.

Information Management

Sandra Martins is forwarding advocacy material to Committee that comes from Council.

Marketing

Diane Rogers penned an introduction article for the February 2016 BCHF News. Andrea Lister has updated the advocacy webpage.

Presence at Conference

The Committee requested an Advocacy Session. An Advocacy Breakfast session has been scheduled. To date, the following issues will be taken up: BC Archives’ image fee guide increase and the current rezoning in areas of Vancouver’s Chinatown.

Budget

Council determined at the February 27th regular Council meeting, that the Committee will have access to funds under general operational expenses. Any additional required funding will be presented to Council and voted upon.

2016 Goals
- Committee will complete a toolkit for individuals or/and groups wanting to present advocacy matters.
- Recruitment of additional advocacy committee members
- Facebook and Twitter – will create a presence before the Fall Council meeting
- Increase awareness of the committee in general
Conferences

Our collective hats go off to the awesome stewardship of the 2016 Conference Committee at Revelstoke, headed by Cathy English, Manager/Curator of the Revelstoke Museum and Archives. She and her resourceful team of volunteers have pulled together an impressive event.

A great thanks also goes to Andrea Lister, whose experience with previous conferences had greatly facilitated all issues related to publicity, as well as a clear memory of recent conference needs.

Thanks to Ron Hyde for helping launch the bus trip to conference. Though registrations did not sustain this planned facet of the conference, the die is cast for future conferences thanks to his vision.

There will be a session at conference on the new Societies Act legislation, and also a breakfast for those interested in discussing Advocacy issues.

The Lieutenant Governor will be in attendance at the Banquet, which this year will be the event at which awards will be presented.

The Chilliwack Museum has asked to host the 2017 conference. The Arrow Lakes Historical Society is applying to host the conference in 2018. Tourism Burnaby has submitted an official statement of interest for the 2019 conference.

Maurice Guibord, Conference Chair
Historical Writing Awards

A total of 22 publications were submitted as candidates for the 2015 Historical Writing Awards. The recipients will be announced at the Revelstoke conference. Our congratulations go out to the authors, researchers and publishers involved in this year’s slate of participants.

Our thanks go to the judges’ panel, composed of Goldie Carr, Alice Marwood, Diane Rogers and Patricia Roy, for their professionalism and diligence in determining the awards recipients, which is never a simple task. A special thanks goes to Alice Marwood, who retires from the panel after numerous years of service. We thus return to the set three judges per year, with one judge now rotating off the panel each year.

If you are interested in serving on future panels, please contact the Committee Chair.

Maurice Guibord, Historical Writing Chair
Trails and Sites

The innovative stainless steel new monument for Walter Moberly, designed by John Malleson, of Victoria has been completed and polished by Strait Metals in Sidney, BC. Rod of Strait Metals is very proud of his work.

John Whittaker and John Malleson are planning on taking the monument to the Revelstoke Rail Museum in late April 2016 and mounting it on the three large boulders that were set up last fall, by the City of Revelstoke. The City allocated $10,000 for this project and they have carried through, assisted by Jenifer Dunkerson of the Rail Museum, and Dean Strachan of the City.

The Columbia Basin Trust supplied the grant that we suggested to the Rail Museum. As well the BC Historical Federation, the Association of BC Land Surveyors, the Land Title and Survey Authority, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, and the Victoria Historical Society have also generously contributed.

It is interesting to note that seven professionals have contributed more than $30,000 of their time to this challenging project.

Daphne Sleigh who wrote the book on Walter Moberly has accepted our invitation to attend the 2016 BCHF Conference in Revelstoke to speak at the dedication ceremony.

Lynda Lafleur of the Columbia Basin Trust has also accepted our invitation to attend, she will be coming from Nakusp which we understand will host the 2018 Conference.

John Malleson is unable to attend the May 27th unveiling but Claude Maurice, Architect, has been involved with the project since its early days can say a few words about how the design evolved.

Cathy, Curator of the Revelstoke Museum has been most helpful and we are sure that this will be a CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER, especially since our Lieutenant Governor, Judith Guichon has agreed to attend.

We have invited the Mayor and Council of the City of Revelstoke to attend the unveiling of the monument at the Rail Museum, 7.30 – to 9:00 pm on Friday May 27, 2016.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Lymbery
John Whittaker
Land Title and Survey Authority of BC

I attended the Land Title and Survey Authority Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting January 13, 2016.

It was interesting to hear of progress on the Parcel Map BC project. Two other areas that affect historians are the changes in fees and the modernization of microfilm readers in LTSA offices.

After the meeting there was a retirement reception for Godfrey Archbold, the CEO of the Land Title and Survey Authority since its inception in 2005.

Connie Fair has become the company’s new President and CEO. Ms. Fair joins the LTSA from BC Assessment where she has been President and CEO since 2008. Including her 23 years at BC Assessment, she has over 30 years working in the real property market in BC. In addition, Connie served with me on the LTSA’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee since 2005.

Connie Fair has asked to meet with me as a representative of the British Columbia Historical Federation regarding the LTSA and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Would you please pass along to me any items of concern.

In October 2015 I reported on changes in fees for LTSA services. That report may be of interest to council given the discussion going on regarding RBCM/Archives fees. I have not heard directly from any BCHF member regarding LTSA fees.

Go to http://www.ltsa.ca/cms/ltsa-update-newsletter to read the LTSA Update Newsletter for October 2015 for explanation of how fees for the LTSA’s land title and survey services would change on November 1, 2015. “The new regulated fee structure, which reflects Provincial legislative action and a determination by an independent Fee Commissioner, reduces the number of LTSA fee categories and better aligns the level of effort with the cost of service.

“The result is a simplified customer fee listing that reflects the current services provided by the LTSA.”

The LTSA Update Newsletter for October 2015 gives links to the new fee listing, an FAQ on the fee changes and the Fee Commissioner’s independent report.

Jacqueline Gresko, BCHF representative on the LTSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Membership

As of April 15, 2016, there are 339 paid up memberships with the British Columbia Historical Federation representing 23,197 individual members. The Federation’s membership is made up of:

- 89 Societies with dues paying members
- 19 Affiliates without dues paying members
- 227 Associates — individual members interested in B.C. history and availability of travel insurance with Johnson Inc.
- 4 Corporate members

All memberships receive four issues of our British Columbia History magazine and copies of the newsletter, BCHF News. A portion of the dues paid is allocated to the magazine and newsletter accounts to pay for these items.

The Federation’s partnership with Johnson Inc. continues to offer all members group rates for travel, home, auto and pet insurance and we have members in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Ron Hyde, Membership Chair

Member societies can receive a free subscription to BC BookWorld newspaper (a $25 dollar value).
We are committed to constant improvement — in terms of its production, content, and customer service. We are proud of this flagship publication of the BCHF and of its trajectory of increasing subscriptions and back issue and single-issue sales.

We have streamlined the collections and oversight process so that everyone on our list — except for those who have written an article or a book review or provided an image and receive a comp for that reason — is a paying subscriber. In past years, we have carried too many non-paying subscribers for various reasons.

Our circulation for 48.4 (Winter 2015) was 1290 and our circulation for 49.1 (Spring 2016) was 1400.

I want to thank all the people who work hard to make *British Columbia History* magazine possible. It takes committed writers, a wise editor, a diligent proofing team, a cheerful and careful subscriptions services team, an inspired designer, and our man in memberships to pull together this magazine every quarter.
We have had great response to our special issue of 2016 on Community Halls, and are at the beginning of planning our special issue of 2017 with the theme “Canadian before Canada.”

The bulk of our work in 2016 — beyond the production of the magazine itself — will involve promotion specifically targeting different groups, including member societies and affiliates who have dropped from our list, bookstores and retail outlets, large member organizations, and reviewers and authors.

We are working with member societies to streamline the bulk subscriptions program. We are holding the rate at $20 for those taking advantage of bulk subs and are offering ads in the magazines to societies who take advantage of this program. We are working hard to make it easy for member societies to continue offering discounted subscriptions to their members.

This bulk subscriptions program is a deeply important gesture of support for the ongoing production of the magazine and ought to be heartily supported by all member societies. It is a win-win situation — for societies who can streamline their membership process and gain visibility for their programs or products at the same time, and for the Federation since it will no longer be required to carry non-paying subscribers over long stretches of time.

Gratitude

Thanks to Don Hermansen who has designed subscription cards, ads, and most recently magazine stand labels. We really appreciate his work.

Thanks also to the Readers Panel: Laura Anderson, Peter Broznitsky, James Linde, Cathy Magee, Sandra Martins, Erica Williams, and Anne Wyness, and to our regular copy editors, Ronald Greene, Cathy Magee, and Erica Williams. Thanks also to Erica Williams for creating the maps featured in the magazine. Thanks to Andrea Lister for her diligence and hard work, and to designer William Glasgow for his combined vision and attention to detail that makes the new look so appealing.

Submitted with respect,
K Jane Watt
Editor’s Report

We launched the full redesign of *British Columbia History* in our Summer 2015 (48.2) issue. We have received a lot of positive feedback on the new look. The credit goes to Bill Glasgow for his patience and vision as we have made the transition.

The Readers Panel has been a great success and a wonderful addition to the production process. We meet three times a year to review submissions. Each member comes with a different background and has wonderful feedback on which articles are a good fit for the magazine.

I have calculated that the volunteer team that supports the publication of *British Columbia History*, including the hours of the magazine liaison, fact-checkers, map makers, editors, and proof readers contributed a total of 435 hours over the last year. This calculation does not include the time contributed by our Readers Panel. Calculated at an average hourly rate of $24.33 that equals a monetary value of $10,595.

It is now easier to buy back issues and to subscribe to the magazine through our new online store on bchistory.ca

In the fall I attended Magazines West, MagsWest Conference, which offered professional development sessions and a variety of great speakers. The key takeaways for me were that within the industry digital magazine sales are only 10-15% of overall sales. Consumers generally feel that digital items should be free. Digital magazines still have to have a magazine feel to them for consumers to feel that they have value. Traditional consignment-based newsstand sales — through grocery stores etc. — are in a nosedive. *Flare* magazine has decided to pull the magazine from the newsstand. Subscriptions-based sales seem to be holding firm as are sales in niche markets.

Using this data we have once again turned our focus to developing retail partnerships with museum gift shops. Our retail partners are listed on the BCHF website and we have a retail partners ad in each issue of the magazine.

Costs for producing the magazine have increased over the years with paper, postage, and staffing. Now the RBCM has changed their prices for images a tiff image is now $40 (previously $20). The biggest change to our budget is the licensing fees. For *British Columbia History* we used to qualify for RBCM’s “non-profit, no fee category” as our print run was under 1,000 copies. However, now that our print run now exceeds this amount we no longer qualify for the use fee waiver and standard publication fees apply. We now fall into the 1000 to 3000 copy price range. For images used on the inside pages this fee was $25.00 per image + taxes so an image would have cost $45. The fee for inside use of a jpeg will be $40 + $20 for a total cost of $60 per image. Their cover (back or front) use fee has also increased. The previous fee was $250 per image — the new fee is $400 per image. The total cost will be $441 including taxes per image. The net result of this change is that we can no longer afford to feature any images from RBCM on our covers and will be limiting the use of RBCM images within our pages.

This price increase will have an impact on all of our history authors and publishers who we support through the magazine and the BCHF member societies.

Thank you to K. Jane Watt for invaluable advice and guidance as the magazine liaison.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Lister, Editor, British Columbia History

**Calculated at a true market value their time equals $17,391. We could not do it without such dedicated volunteer talent.**
The BCHF News is delivered as a four-page bi-monthly with advertising space in the print and online versions to offset production costs.

It is also delivered electronically using a MailChimp email that contains additional information to send. The notification email contains a link to the PDF on bchistory.ca.

The numbers of newsletters delivered via email has increased from 229 in April 2015 to 320 in February 2016, a 40% increase in email distribution this year. 192 newsletters were mailed in February. Print distribution is down by 3.5%. Total subscription has increased by 20% to a total of 516; this number reflects the hard work by the Membership Chair.

The decision was made by council at the February 27, 2016 meeting that the printing and mailing of the newsletter will cease in 2017.

The e-newsletter posted to the website and distributed through MailChimp will continue.

I encourage our member societies and affiliated members to share the BCHF News amongst their members and to use the newsletter to promote their activities and events.

The last printed newsletter will be February 2017.

Respectfully submitted
Andrea Lister, Newsletter editor
Public Relations

Facebook

The BCHF has maintained a Facebook page since 2014. Its followers have been steadily growing. It currently has 346 people and over 60 pages (businesses, museums, historical societies) following the page. The Facebook page is a benefit to member societies as we share their events, activities, and triumphs. We also share BCHF news and general BC history things of interest.

Its reach can go far beyond those 346 people. On March 27, 2016 the Vancouver Sun story by Wayne Norton about the Rossland Ladies’ Hockey Team was posted. It has reached 1,108 people and counting. The cover of our Spring 2016 issue was shared 56 times and reached 157 people. We shared the BC History of Nursing Society’s post about Glynnis Zilm presenting on “Nursing in Surrey” at the Surrey Museum. It reached 150 people.

Press Releases

We sent out press releases for the W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarship winners, the launch of the new BCHF website, the winner of the Anne and Philip Yandle Best Article award, and the shortlist and winners for the Historical Book Prizes.

Advertising

We advertise four times a year in BC BookWorld. We advertise our Historical Book Prizes, the conference, and the magazine.

We have done an ad exchange with the BCMA Museums’ Roundup.

Call for Submissions

British Columbia Historical Federation
33rd Annual Historical Writing Awards and Lieutenant-Governor’s Award

For historical writing of non-fiction books published in 2015 by authors of BC History (reprints not eligible).

Entry deadline: December 31, 2015

1st place winner and recipients of the 2014 the Lieutenant-Governor’s Medal for Historical Writing: From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War by Mark Forsythe and Greg Dickson (Harbour Publishing).

For submission details visit www.bchistory.ca
Recognition

The Recognition Committee has completed its review of award nominations and has identified the below list of individuals for a British Columbia Historical Federation award to be presented at the 2016 Conference.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their careful consideration in reviewing the applicants for the Best Website Award and the Anne and Philip Yandle Award for best article published in British Columbia History magazine. Committee members include:

- Jane Lemke, Curator, Chilliwack Museum and Archives and Editor, BCMA Museums Roundup
- Joan Donaldson, Member, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
- Evelyn Johner, Teacher (retired), Members and Volunteer, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
- Sharon Lawrence, Author, Members and Volunteer, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
- Paul Ferguson, Registrar, Royal BC Museum
- Robin Anderson, History Faculty, University of the Fraser Valley
- Daniel Spenst, IT Technician, Chilliwack Museum and Archives
- Candase Spenst, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, SFU
- Korina Charpentier, Senior Leader, Stewart Heritage Farm, City of Surrey
- Mair Morris, Volunteer, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
- Chad Reimer, PhD, Independent Historian
- Duff Sutherland, History Instructor, Selkirk College

The committee would like to acknowledge the work of all of the nominees whose excellent articles were published in 2015, or who made BC history accessible through their websites. All have contributed to the preservation of BC’s history and heritage for which the Federation is grateful. A thank you is extended also for the individuals who took time to submit nominations to the Federation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AWARD CLASS</strong></th>
<th><strong>NAME</strong></th>
<th><strong>CITATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation</td>
<td>Kerri Gibson</td>
<td>Dedication and time served as an Officer of the BC Historical Federation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation</td>
<td>David Mattison</td>
<td>Annual contribution to the prize fund for the Best Website since 2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Godfrey Archbold</td>
<td>Leadership and efforts in preserving and protecting the land title records over many years of service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>John Azar</td>
<td>Outstanding contributions to heritage and community relations with the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the opening and use of Victoria's Bay Street Armouries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition</td>
<td>Tom Lymbery and John Whittaker</td>
<td>Exemplary leadership and tireless efforts in making the Walter Moberly cairn a reality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne and Philip Yandle Best Article</td>
<td>Rishma Johal</td>
<td>Sikh Roots in the Fraser Valley: 100 Years and Counting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Website</td>
<td>BC Dairy Historical Society</td>
<td>Mike Yusko for his work in developing the website of the BC Dairy Historical Society: <a href="http://www.bcdairyhistory.ca">www.bcdairyhistory.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Newsletter</td>
<td>Not Awarded</td>
<td>The competition was insufficient for a newsletter award to be selected this year.</td>
</tr>
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*Shannon Bettles, Recognition Chair*
W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarship

The winners of the two scholarships are as follows:

1st and 2nd year

The judges decided that there was no submission suitable for the $750 award this year.

3rd and 4th year

$1,000 award to Kathryn Siemens, third year student at University of Victoria, Victoria. Essay title: “Harry Hastings and the Racial Equality Proposal: Voicing Asian Canadian Concerns and Challenging Anglo-American Ideals”

The judges agreed that a second essay in this category also warranted an award.

Approval was given by the BC Historical Federation to grant the $750 prize to

Michelle Murray, third year student at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby. Essay title: “B.C. Container Truckers: Analysing a Contemporary Labour Dispute.”

This year we received only six submissions. We hope to receive more essays from students in the future. All the supervising professors who provided covering letters with the essays were thanked and encouraged to participate again.

Special thanks to members of the essay committee, Pat Roy and Frances Gundry, and to web editor, Ron Welwood. Also, to Niall Christie who broadcasts the contest on his list serve.

Marie Elliott, Chair
W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarship Committee
Website

This was my first term as Web Editor for the British Columbia Historical Federation, and I’d like to thank past Web Editor, Ron Welwood, as well as Andrea Lister for their advice and support as I learn the ropes. My goals are to keep molding the website into a communication and information management tool that is accessible, convenient and easy to use for our members and for the wider public interested in British Columbia’s history. I would like to thank the members for their patience while kinks are worked out and updates are made. I would be happy to hear feedback from the members about the website and hope you consider adding events our shared online calendar. Here is a summary of some of the work undertaken last year:

1. Andrea Lister and Jane Watt completed work on the migration, editing and development of the Federation’s new website, which was completed and launched in the fall of 2015. The website is built on a WordPress content management system, which provides flexible and robust options for managing information. Thank you to Andrea and Jane for their work on building and overseeing development of the website.

2. I was appointed as Web Editor last fall and have been making small edits and changes to the website since that time as I learn more about our content, the Federation, and how the website is being used. Further changes will be forthcoming as we work to make the site as user-friendly and informative as we can. During the transition, Andrea Lister has been helping with updates to the magazine and conference sections of the website.

3. Last winter, I added an e-commerce section to the website, which facilitates the online sale and payment of subscriptions and back-issues of British Columbia History magazine.
4. Other new sections include an In Memoriam section, and a listing of past winners of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Historical Writing award. As well, new contact forms were added to the website, which have improved communications and nominations processes.

5. Early this year, an events calendar was added to the website, which is intended to support and promote the events of members who would like to promote their event with us. Members are able to login and update the calendar, or they may continue to submit events to me at webeditor@bchistory.ca where I will update the calendar.

Shannon Bettles, Web Editor