Barb Hynek

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership of the Federation and thank them for their confidence in electing me as their new President at the conference in Powell River. Fortunately, I know my tasks will be made easier thanks to the support and encouragement of the other Council members who have always been generous with their experience and knowledge.

I am looking forward to working with Campbell River as they plan for next year’s Conference and I hope to see many of you there.

I first became involved with the BCHF in 2006 when I served as a judge on the Historical Writing Competition committee. From 2007 - May 2011, I served as the Chair of this committee. I am a retired librarian working for 28 years with the Fraser Valley Regional Library system. I have a degree in history from the University of Washington in Seattle, where I grew up. My Masters of Library Science is from UBC where I returned in 2004 for an Advanced Certificate of Study concentrating on archival studies.

I live in South Surrey with my husband, Ken, Standard Poodle Teddy and three cats.

Barb Hynek

Heritage Lighthouse Program

The Heritage Lighthouse Program implements the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, and supports the designation and protection of lighthouses will be protected in accordance with national and international standards for the conservation of heritage properties.

Heritage lighthouses will be designated by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada (The Minister of the Environment) in consultation with the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.


For more information or nomination package
www.parkscanada.gc.ca  Heritage Lighthouse Program
email lighthouses@pc.ca  National Historic Sites Directorate
phone 819-934-9096  Parks Canada
fax 819-953-4139  25 Eddy Street (25-5-P)

YOU MAY COPY AND CIRCULATE TO YOUR MEMBERS

Union Bay’s 110 year old Gaol House

Union Bay was established by the Union Coal Co. in 1888, as a port to ship the coal from the Cumberland mines. By the turn of the 19th century, crimes associated with a port began to surface. The town was policed by B.C. policemen from Comox who came by boat, or the officer from Cumberland who came by train or horseback.

In 1901 a gaol house was built at the bay. The building was constructed according to Government plans used throughout the province. Laminated planks 2” x 6” formed the ceiling, walls and floor. With one barred window and door, there was little likelihood of an escape.

In 1993, the Union Bay Historical Society acquired the building. After several years of debating its worth, and considering architect Jonathan Yardley’s feasibility study which stated that because of its unique construction, it was worth saving and it became the Society’s millennium project.

The building was completely gutted and restored to its original 1901 look. The siding was used to make display cabinets for the interior and it has become the town’s Museum. A Victorian garden was created at the front of the building and named The Harry Westaway Garden in honour of the policeman who was killed in a shootout with the Flying Dutchman in 1913.

This year, the Gaol will be 110 years old. To celebrate, the Society is planning a History and Humour Show on Crime to be presented Saturday June 25th at 2:00 pm on the back lawn of the gaol, or if raining, in the Improvement District’s Activity room.

This is an invitation to come and hear stories, songs and skits about bootlegging, robbery, murder, smuggling, jumping ship and much more.

Supplied by the Union Bay Historical Society and sounds like a great afternoon.

Canada, CEF Burial Registers WWI 1914-1919
http://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=9173

These records contain similar information to the previous records but may also contain a detailed description of the cause of death. You can search by the soldier’s full name. However, the database only goes from A to the surname Sims so anything after this is missing.

These records are not included when you order copies of WWI service records. Both sets of records have two pages (back and front) so make sure to download both.
Fairs make history education a cause for celebration.  

Information supplied by Mary Campone

British Columbia’s Heritage Fairs program is creating an appetite for history with the province’s elementary and secondary students. For over a decade, students have been participating in Heritage Fairs in communities from Hudson’s Hope to Victoria. Some participants win the privilege of representing their region at the Provincial Heritage Fair, sponsored by the not-for-profit BC Heritage Fairs Society.

The program encourages students to choose and research a topic of interest, then exhibit their findings in imaginative ways. Their colorful displays are exhibited first at school fairs where representatives are selected for entry in a Regional Fair. Twelve Regional Fairs are held around the province where delegates are chosen for the Provincial Fair.

Students use primary sources for research as well as interviews. One student wanted to know how her home town Vancouver got its name and impressed to find that George Vancouver was only 3 years older than she was when he was serving as midshipman under Capt. James Cook.

The BC Heritage Fairs program advocates literacy skills with emphasis on reading, writing and oral communication. The Ministry of Education sets out cross-cultural learning and promotes active citizenship with the opportunity to celebrate diversity in culture and heritage within one’s community.

The BC Heritage Fairs Society provides long-term support for the heritage fairs program in B.C and aims to sustain and enhance the understanding appreciation of Canadian history among both children and adults. Students’ projects are shown publicly with young people teaching the grownups, often in surprising detail, about stories of national significance.

The BCHFS continually searches for ways to enhance history education and give unique opportunities to foster students’ pride in their communities and province by providing financial support to the twelve Regional Heritage Fairs and organizing the Provincial Heritage Fair.

Past Provincial Fairs and selected students’ projects can be viewed at www.bcheritagefairs.ca. The public exhibition for the 2011 Provincial Heritage Fair will be held at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria July 7th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Ron Welwood’s many years of work recognized

For more than a decade, Ron Welwood, of the Cathedral Parish in Nelson, has been spending one day a week weeding, organizing and preserving the extensive collection of print materials, microfilm, photos and artifacts in the Diocese of Nelson Archives. This work has been greatly facilitated by grants from Knights of Columbus groups throughout the Diocese which have been used to purchase a computer, scanner, laser printer and microfilm reader/printer.

Ron, a member of the Catholic Archivists Group, worked many years as library director at Notre Dame University in Nelson and later at the Selkirk College Library in Castlegar. Ron’s lifelong experience with books and media, his meticulous attention to detail, plus his wide knowledge and avid interest in local history, together made Ron the perfect choice to take over the work of his predecessor Peg Barone.

Until recently, the Archive included a great many materials from Notre Dame University in Nelson and from Mt. St. Francis Hospital. These materials have since been transferred to Nelson’s Touchstones Museum. Nonetheless, many gems of great historical interest remain in the collection. They include the Father Pandosy records, a book of school marks from Slocan Catholic School for the Japanese interned children, and a complete collection of the Prospector, the Diocese’s first newspaper started in 1938 by Fr. Thomas Frenery. There are also chalices and vestments from various churches, extensive documents from Bishop Doyle, and even the rosary beads of Fr. Pandosy. At one time the collection also included a rather valuable Guarnerius violin, but it ended up being sold at auction by Sotheby’s of London.

The Archive presently resides in the basement of the Chancery Office in Nelson, awaiting its move to a spacious, windowless, archive-friendly room in Kelowna sometime later in 2011.

We are grateful for the time and effort Ron and Peg have put into preserving this important part of the Diocese’s heritage, and we pray that the Archives’ new curator will continue in this great tradition.

Edited from the Catholic Mountain Star article by Brian d’Eon and forwarded by Honorary member Naomi Miller.

Ron Welwood’s input and assistance to the BC Historical Federation spans many years. Ron is the BCHF website Editor, proof reads and offers input to the BCHF Newsletter and an active member on the Publications Committee. (Editor comments)
Flathead Mountain named in honour of Legendary Surveyor, Gerald Andrews

To commemorate the legacy of Gerald Smedley Andrews, British Columbia’s longest-serving surveyor general, the Province is naming a mountain in the Flathead region Mount Gerry Andrews.

A true British Columbian, Gerry Andrews contributed to his community as a teacher, an engineer, a forest officer, a land surveyor and a writer. He pioneered the use of aerial photography for mapping and forestry reconnaissance in B.C. and is regarded as a legend among surveyors for both his contributions to the profession and his force of personality.

Gerry Andrews Dec. 12, 1903 - Dec. 5, 2005 began land surveying in 1930. He initiated the use of air photography in 1931 and supervised air surveys for the Province in Nimkish Forest, Kitimat, Okanagan, the Kootenays and the Rocky Mt. Trench.

Andrews also served as a Lieutenant Colonel for the Canadian Army during WW II. He developed improved air cameras and undertook depth soundings of Normandy beaches by wave velocities determined from air photos. For his efforts, Andrews was awarded an M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Returning from duty, he served as chief air survey engineer for B.C. until 1950, and as B.C.’s surveyor general and director of mapping and provincial boundaries commissioner from 1951 to 1968. In addition to being a surveyor, Andrews was a historian and authored more than 50 publications.

Mount Gerry Andrews is located in the Flathead region, just east of Howell Creek in the Kootenay Land District. The mountain is the most prominent peak in the Trachyte Mountain Range and is located at latitude 49° 11.326° N and longitude 114° 33.33.5' W. The elevation of Mount Gerry Andrews is approx 2,205 metres.

To view photos and maps of Mount Gerry Andrews

The B.C. Historical Federation was active in the nomination and input for this designation.

An evening at the Art Deco Marine Building

The Heritage Vancouver Society hosted an evening at the Art Deco Marine Building Penthouse on March 30th. It was a unique opportunity to explore the top two floors of the private penthouse, enjoy the art deco atmosphere, hear about its unique history, stories and photos of the Marine Building.

Heritage Vancouver President, Donald Luxton, led tours of the lobby and Board Member Isaac Vanderhorst told intriguing stories about the remarkable history of the penthouse. The Marine Building opened in 1930, the landmark project of McCarter & Nairne. In 1933, A.J.T. Taylor of British Pacific bought the building and built a lavish Art Deco penthouse on the top floor. A tiny elevator connects the 18th floor and the penthouse.

Native Fishermen that sold fish to J.H. Todd & Sons Beaver Cannery at Rivers Inlet - 1937

Bella Bellas
Charlie Boss
Charlie George
Andrew Harris
Silas Hunt
Moses Knight
George Reid
Johnny Starr
Sam Starr
Peter Starr
Andrew Wallace
Eli Wallace

Kitamaats
Victor Amos
Arthur Grant
Donald Grant
Ernie Grant
Fred Grant
Nelson Grant
Sidney Grant
William Grant
Silas Maitland
Tommy Paul
R. Smith
Chris Walker

West Coast
Linus Ambrose
Ahousat Amos
Benjamin Brown
John Campbell
Fred David
Hyacinth David
Thomas Dick
Francis Frank
Hypolite Ignace
Albert Jackson
Toby Jones
William Jones
Tim Matson
Chief Napoleon
Louis Sabbas
Joseph Tom
Charlie Thomas

Other lists to come, the Japanese, the Finns and Independents.

125 year old Milner Church to get new church bells.

The Milner Methodist Church built in 1886 will soon have two custom built bells in the steeple.

Milner brothers Andrew and Julien Dussault undertook the project which required lots of planning as this was their first attempt to build a bell.

The bells are made from a bronze and tin combination and weigh approximately 90 pounds each.

Andrew and Julien worked with Wesley Mufford and Rolan Iron of the Milner Community Association for the dimensions and installation of the brackets and will be in charge of the installation in the steeple.

Wonderful old building photos

A great site with old buildings from the Greater Vancouver, Okanagan and other areas showing address and thumbnail overview. Click on the picture for enlargement along with a good description and historical overview.

www.flickr.com/photos/bobkh/with/338940887 for your viewing pleasure.
A new honour for an old ship

A century to the day after running aground and sinking just north of Thetis Island, one of B.C.’s most significant shipwrecks received ‘re-plaquing’ on March 4th, 2011.

The Robert Kerr, a 190 foot barque first launched in 1866 by the Hudson’s Bay Co., was now running coal for the Canadian Pacific Railway, who had converted the sailing vessel to a barge in 1888. On March 14, 1911, heavily laden with coal and running behind a towboat, the ship struck a reef and once much of the coal was removed, was abandoned.

The March 4th underwater installation replaced a plaque originally placed in the early 1980’s and was conducted by the Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C.

Among the divers who took part was David Hill-Turner, Nanaimo Museum Curator and President of the UASBC, he said the Robert Kerr would have been a familiar sight in Departure Bay during its coal-hauling days, taking payloads from the Wellington mine and later coal from the Extension mine out of Ladysmith Harbour. “There was a fleet of these ships traveling to and from Vancouver,” said Hill-Turner, and that the hundreds of wrecks in the waters around Vancouver Island, the Robert Kerr is one of just seven recognized under B.C.’s Heritage Conservation Act.

Thetis Island dive-master and guide, Peter Luckham visits the site regularly and says it is one of the most spectacular and most intact sites with the bow, keel, deck timbers, mast and mast hoops - even a rope, now laden with sea urchin - are all well preserved resting in 8 to 15 metres of water.

Prior to becoming a coal barge, the Robert Kerr was owned by the Hastings Sawmill and used as the temporary home of the mill owner. It became “The ship that saved Vancouver” when fire raged through the city on June 13, 1886 and residing fleeing for their lives took refuge aboard the vessel.

Edited from an article in the Ladysmith Chronicle March 7, 2011. Images from the Ladysmith & District Historical Society website No images of the Robert Kerr could be located.

Coming Events around B.C. Cont’d

OLD CEMETRIES SOCIETY offer fascinating tours each Sunday 2 pm starting outside Starbucks at Fairfield Plaza

Gossip in the Graveyard - a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters and eccentrics at Ross Bay Cemetery you won’t find in your history books!
July 3rd - 17th August 7th - 14th

Gold Rush! Is about some of the colorful men and women buried at Ross Bay Cemetery who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes. New stolreis every year.
July 10th - 24th - August 21st - 28th visit the Old Cemeteries Society website for other tours and activities www.oldcem.bc.ca

B.C. Community Achievement Awards

Thirty-six British Columbians were honoured at the eighth annual BC Community Achievement Awards ceremony held at Government House in Victoria April 20, 2011. Lieutenant Governor Steven Point and Deputy Premier Kevin Falcon presented each recipient with a BC Achievement Award medallion and certificate on behalf of the BC Achievement Foundation.

“These thirty-six individuals have helped shape our province into what it is today,” said Falcon. “They have a passion for the people and places where they live and a strong commitment to making a difference. They inspire us all.”

“They are dedicated individuals who share the most valuable of today’s commodities: time and compassion,” said Keith Mitchell, Chair of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation. They do whatever needs to get done - from sitting on boards and committees to far exceeding their job descriptions, to sharing their talents for sports or fundraising, environmental stewardship or protecting the province’s heritage.”

Congratulations to Pamela Mar who received a BC Community Achievement Award for developing and delivering historical walking tours of downtown Nanaimo; heading a team that catalogued and repaired the large collection of Nanaimo Museum textiles.

Pamela is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the region and has also volunteered with the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital Auxiliary for over forty years.

Congratulations Pamela, a very deserving award.

Coming Events around B.C.

Mountainview Cemetery Walking Tours

June 19th and August 21st - 10 a.m.
A look at union organizers, murders & headstone symbolism
Tours led by Lorraine Irvine and John Atkin
September 25th - 1 p.m
Discover Vancouver’s early Jewish residents and explore Jewish burial practices and headstone art.
Presented by the Jewish Museum & Archives of BC

All tours $10.00 CASH - no reservations necessary - rain or shine
5445 Fraser Street at 39th Ave - leave from Celebration Hall

Discover the history of Vancouver’s only cemetery.
http://www.vancouver.ca/cemetery

JUST RELEASED

Women of Pender Harbour
Their Voices, Their History

This Award-winning hard-cover book presents Pender Harbour history through the words of early women settlers. Third place winner in BCHF Historical Writing Competition - 2010.
Available on the BCHF Website Book Store
http://bchistory.ca/publications/store/index.html
The Powell River Conference

2011 - 2010 Council

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Sheila Rankin Kerr and Nan Martin - B.C. History of Nursing Society

The “lunch salad” created by “Chef David”

Nan Martin admiring the Newsletter Award Certificate

Historical Writing Competition

2010 winners

First Place and winner of the 2010 Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for Historical Writing

SILVIA OLSEN  Working with Wool: A Coast Salish Legacy and the Cowichan Sweater.
Sononis Press  $38.95

Second Place
DAN SAVARD  Images from the Likeness House.
Royal BC Museum  $39.95

Third Place
DOROTHY FALUKNER, ELAINE PARK AND CATHY JENKS
Women of Pender Harbour: Their Voices, Their History.
Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society  $45.00

Honorable Mentions
ALAN TWIGG  The Essentials: 150 Great BC Books & Authors
Ronsdale Press  $24.95

ROBERT BUDD Voices of British Columbia: Stories from Our Frontier.
Douglas & McIntyre  $35.00

JANE STEVENSON  The Railroader’s Wife: Letters from the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway
Caitlin Press  $24.95

2010 WEBSITE AWARD

JACK BENNEST - www.radiohistory.com
Recognizing a web site that contributes to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia’s past.

ANNE & PHILIP YANDLE AWARD - for best article in the BC History magazine

FRANCES WELWOOD - Lukin Johnston of The Province:  Rural rambles and a conversation with Hitler

2010 NEWSLETTER AWARD

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY For outstanding dissemination of British Columbia history exhibited by the dedicated and resourceful efforts of professional nurses.

Anne Edwards enjoying the evening’s refreshments

Sandra Parrish of Campbell River accepting the yadstick from Lee Coulter, President of Powell River Museum Society
Recognition Winners - 2010

**BC Retired Teachers Association** Certificate of Merit

Heritage Committee
For outstanding contributions to the history of British Columbia, notably projects in various locales, the promotion of curriculum development and the awarding of prizes to encourage the study of history.

**Chuck Davis** Certificate of Merit
For his outstanding contribution to preserving and promoting Vancouver's colorful history, producing fifteen books, vancouverhistory.ca website and fascinating historical vignettes and lists.

**Chuck Schmidt** Certificates of Recognition
**Gerry Wilkin**
For outstanding dedication and energetic contributions to the Hedley Heritage museum Society

**Ronald Greene** Certificate of Appreciation
For distinguished long standing leadership in all aspects of the work of the British Columbia Historical Federation

**Tony Cox** Certificate of Appreciation
For championing the causes of the British Columbia Historical Federation in its Recognitions Committee work.

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**A Blast from the Past!**

**You're Invited...**

**To the BC Historical Federation 2012 Conference**

**In Campbell River, BC**

- Original film footage of the famous Ripple Rock explosion
- First Nations culture & artifacts
- Campbell River Museum & Archives tour
- Haig-Brown Heritage House tour
- Maritime Heritage Museum & Genealogy Club Archives tour
- Informative lectures by local historians
- Walking tour of historical Campbell River
- Cemetery Tour
- Book Fair

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More Powell River photos

- Jacqueline Gresko accepting the Certificate of Merit for the B.C. Retired Teachers Association - Heritage Committee
- Jane Stevenson, Vicki Johnstone, Caitlin Press Publisher, Frances Welwood and Barry Gough
- Checking out an old mine shaft on Texada Island Tour
- Waiting for lunch before the tour
- Enjoying lunch at the Texada Museum hosted by members of Texada Island Heritage Society
- Imaginary old mine shaft on very interesting Texada Island Tour Hosted by members of Texada Island Heritage Society

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A trip through time at the mine

The recently transformed Britannia Mine Museum offers family-friendly activities like the underground mine train and gold panning area.

The reinvented museum was recently transformed from a mining legacy site into a vibrant destination, thanks to contributions from the mining industry, the provincial and federal governments and private donations.

Visitor attractions include:
- the new Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre housing several theatrical mining and mineral exhibits, new theatre space, gift shop and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame.
- the new Britannia A-Z Exhibit Hall where visitors can step back in time and learn about the more than 560,000 people from over 50 countries who worked in Britannia 1904-1974.
- the awe-inspiring 20 storey mill building, a National Historic Site and one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America.
- the ever-popular underground train ride through the Britannia mine tunnel where visitors can experience first hand what life was like for miners.
- the family favourite gold panning area.

The Britannia Mine Museum is a non-profit organization that promotes mining awareness through fun experimental programs and is governed by the Britannia Beach Historical Society.

Obituaries of the '58ers

The population of Victoria in the 1860's was comprised of some interesting characters. Leona Taylor of the Old Cemeteries Society has compiled many of the obituaries from the Victoria Daily Colonist. Many were disreputable and the journalists of the day didn't pull any punches.

Jan. 19, 1869 - John Livermore, old, odd habitude of police court, and almost the last of the old 1858 gang, was arrested for about the 200th time, on charge of selling whiskey to natives and sent to the chain gang for three months. Justice is satisfied and so is John, for he has comfortable quarters for the remainder of winter.

Jan. 29, 1869 John Livermore, known for many years here as "Whiskey John" died Jan 29 at hospital of dropsical complaint. Livermore was native of U.S. aged about 50. He came to colony in 1858 from California, having been a hotelkeeper at Placerville. During the 10 years that he figured in this locality, he must have served out 50 short terms of imprisonment for selling whiskey to Indians. Contemporaneous with John Butts and "Liverpool Jack", Whiskey John excelled both as salesman among Indians, and has probably poisoned more natives than any other man, living or dead, on this northern coast.

As an instance of retributive justice, we may state that Livermore has fallen a victim to the very vice he encouraged in his fellow men - drunkenness. Death found him in a state of wretchedness. His end was miserable, and his departure here is not regretted.

The History Bulletin Board

OKANAGAN SOCIETY’S ANNUAL REPORTS - Many of the annual reports (from 1925) are still available for sale at $10 ea. Contact the Treasurer at edms@nowcom.ca

ARE YOU FROM SASKATCHEWAN? Do you have a hi-speed internet connection? See your old hometown at Small Town Saskatchewan: Videos from the Heartland at our website www.stsk.ca

1950’s & 1960’s POP AND ROCK LP’S selection of 70+ in excellent condition. E. McAuley, 241 Enemark Rd. S. - Quesnel BC V2J 4G8 - email rbyde@shaw.ca for list.

You can advertise on The History Bulletin Board - 25 words for $5.00 .15 word for extras. Email newsletter@bchistory and we can email you an advertising form.

A Call for action to save Riverview Hospital Site

A mailing was made with the last Newsletter and BC History magazine urging readers to support the campaign to have Coquitlam’s Riverview Hospital Lands considered for designation as a National Historic Site. Many have responded by writing to the Premier but many have not yet done so. We are asking that you take a few minutes and write to:

Premier Christy Clark
PO Box 9041, Stn. Prov. Gov't Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1
email premier@gov.bc.ca

A copy to your MLA and your local newspaper would make our voice even louder.

The City of Coquitlam has applied to the Federal Gov’t to have the lands designated as a National Historic Site, but the process is stalled because it lacks the approval of the landowners - the BC Provincial Government. This is an opportunity where, collectively, we can make a difference and show support to preserve a major piece of British Columbia’s history.

For more information or a sample letter of this appeal, go to www.rhcs.org or call 604-290-9910. You can also see some of the fascinating history and pictures on the website.
The Chinese Bunkhouse

Britannia Heritage Shipyard, NHS in Richmond, has opened a marvelous new exhibit *The Chinese Bunkhouse*. You can explore the incredible stories of the Chinese cannery workers and be inspired by the remarkable courage in the face of hardship and discrimination. Over 17,000 Chinese men, the majority from the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong, came to Canada to find work on the Canadian Pacific Railway from 1881 - 1884. When the railroad was complete, few of the men had made enough money to pay for the return passage to China and had to look for other employment. There was plenty of seasonal work at the 45 canneries in British Columbia where food and lodging was included with the job.

The display is located in the last Chinese bunkhouse, which once housed 75 workers and was relocated from Knight Inlet to Steveston in 1953. The large, two storied, barn-like building often had rows of rooms with very simple three tier bunk beds in each room.

Initially, with a crew of 100 - 150 workers, 700,000 cans could be produced annually. Chinese men were particularly sought after as they were known for their work ethic and impressive skills. Using 16” knives, they could clean and gut 4 - 5 fish a minute while others chopped the fish into small pieces for the cans. Everything was done on site.

When the cans were filled, Chinese “cappers” soldered the lids into place, then the cans were cooked, cooled, lacquered to ensure they didn’t rust, labelled and packed into hand-made wooden crates which were shipped to ports all over the world.

In 1906 the “Iron Chink” was introduced into the canneries where 3 men could operate the gutting and cleaning, which was originally done by a crew of thirty.

The Chinese cannery workers world revolved around their work and their lodgings in the bunkhouse. The men would play mah jong, write letters to home and try to save enough money for passage back home to China.

The Chinese Bunkhouse display uses some innovative ideas of old style furnishings with new era technology. 

**How to clean old photographs**

As you build up a collection of photos and real photo post cards, it’s nice to be able to show them to friends and other collectors. To prevent them getting damaged, they are best kept either in albums or in Ultra-PRO clear polypropylene sleeves. Often some of the old photos have sticky finger-marks, blobs of postal ink, minor chips or other signs of their age. What’s the best way to remove these imperfections?

We wrote to Dudley Booth, who specializes in photo restoration, and this is his reply:

> My advice with regard to the photos would be to only handle with cotton gloves, and do no experimentation with anything. Fingerprints are often impossible to remove because the acid has etched the image of the finger onto the photo. It is usually there forever.

I remove defects from my photo collection digitally using Photoshop. Most damage can be removed so that the digital image looks like new. Most archives don’t want to alter the original images, as it is then no longer the original.

Once you have scanned them in high resolution, would be the only time I would consider any attempt at restoration of the hard copy.

Any attempt would only be done after exchanging ideas with someone who does this for a museum or archive, and even then I would want to see an example of a similar problem being solved by this method.

Water or liquid damage is among the worst to deal with as there is usually nothing that can be done to recover the image, and this applies to clean water as well.

Edited from an article in the ‘Postview’ the Newsletter from the Vancouver Postcard Club. Check out their website for issues of their Newsletter at www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

**Society for the Preservation of Old Mills**

The Canadian Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) was initiated in 1999 to facilitate opportunities for Canadians to meet and share interests in old Canadian mills, their history, function and preservation.

The Chapter has been mainly focused within the Province of Ontario and they would now like to expand services and membership across Canada.

The group is looking for information or a list of mills in British Columbia or a group involved with the history of B.C. mills.

If you have any information to share, contact Ted Ross of the SPOOM Canadian Chapter at 613-692-4436 or email tross@magma.ca

Check out the website at www.hips.com/spoomcanada
Early B.C. telegraph line’s Cariboo connection

In 1865 work began to link North America with Asia and Europe with a cable crossing the Bering Strait. It was a mammoth undertaking to erect poles and wire from San Francisco, through New Westminster, up the wagon road to Quesnel, across the Fraser River, along the Blackwater Road to Vanderhoof and Hazelton, then through the wilderness to follow the Kispiox River and eventually reach Telegraph Creek. From there it followed the Yukon River to the Bering Strait, then to Siberia.

In 1865 - 1867 a trail was built along First Nations trails from Quesnel to Hazelton and wire strung so that instant communication was possible for the hamlets along the way. A rough trail led to the first cabin, then second cabin and third to ninth heading for Telegraph Creek, but in the fall of 1866, the Atlantic cable was completed. In March 1867, the Western Union Telegraph Co., owners of the Collins line, announced it was ended after spending $3 million dollars. Much had been done but miles of work was left undone and equipment abandoned.

In 1899, work began on the Yukon Telegraph to repair the old line to give contact with the Klondike Gold Rush and that work was successful as the Canadian Government financed it. The old line cabins were repaired, heavier wire installed, new poles erected and supply services set up. Many men found employment on the line as freighters, linesmen, operators, bridge builders, boat men, dog sled drivers, trappers and guides. Many cheechakos (greenhorns), headed for Dawson, needed help as they ran into bad weather or out of food.

The Yukon part ran until 1952 when the advent of wireless communication ended the need for the Morse Code and the line. The Telegraph Trail Preservation Society in Quesnel has worked for years to mark, clear and display this trail under the guidance of Dwight Dodge.

Will Bayliss, Kootenay Artist

The Gray Creek Historical Society has begun a digital archive of the works of Will Bayliss with the first display held at the 2010 Museum Days.

Will Bayliss was a prolific painter of local scenes and people which are a fascinating historical record of early day East Shore, Kootenay Lake.

The Society was very grateful for the many people who loaned their Bayliss paintings and carvings for the Museum Days display. They are working on their 2011 Museum Days and would like to add to the display and are asking anyone with any Bayliss works to contact them regarding the display. Contact Janet Schwieger at 250-227-9201 or gchistory@theeastshore.net

Will Bayliss was self-taught and painted the countryside as he saw it in its characteristic moods. He produced omate walking sticks, wall plaques and numerous impressionisms. He died in Nelson in December 1946.
"Best of British Columbia History" CONTEST

PICK YOUR FAVORITE ARTICLES
from past issues of
BC Historical Association Reports 1923 - 1929
BC Historical Historical Quarterly 1937 - 1958
BC Historical News 1968 - 2004
BC History 2005 to present

Any lover of British Columbia’s history is eligible. Winners will be published. Other prizes to be announced. Submissions must include:

- name
- address
- postal code
- phone
- email
- My favorite article is (title, page number, issue) with a 90 word explanation for why you have made your choice.

Send entries to: BCHF Publications Committee
10991 No. 1 Road, Box 36105
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Kootenay Star Museum at Kaslo

Kaslo historian and former miner, Dave May, credits the village’s glory as a mining boomtown for instilling his dedication to chronicling the history of the industry in the Kootenays. Today, decades later, that history lies on display at the Kootenay Mining Museum, crafted into a fascinating display at 402 Front Street in Kaslo.

“I found Kaslo was full of the remnants of its former glory as a mining boomtown", recalls May. “The West Kootenays boasted the greatest concentration of old ghost towns in the entire country, and even at 16, my interest in all this former activity was thoroughly piqued”. Many side roads through the area led to fascinating mining sites and camps, many of which were abandoned as if the miners had simply walked away. May married Teresa MacLanders whose family had migrated to the area as miners around 1910. During later years, a whole generation of collectors rose up and began to slowly carry all the artifacts and pieces of history out of the area, causing May serious concern.

He recalls a family hunting trip in the ‘60s into the Violet Mine at the top end of Woodbury Creek where they found a camp that looked as if the crew had simply walked away. Everything was in place, tables set, calendar still on the wall - only the clock had stopped and it was like turning back time by 50 years. They took nothing and left it as it was found. About 10 years later, May’s family returned to find that virtually everything was gone, “it was then I decided to begin our collection and display parts of our local historical heritage for others to enjoy as I was concerned it would be lost to the Kootenays forever”.

The Kootenay Mining Museum collection started with mining articles and tools, most of which belonged to his family, but it quickly grew with gifts and donations from friends. The displays were completed later with the collection and acquisition of various items.

The museum was originally located at historic Woodbury Creek where it remained for 15 years and for a while it was located in Sandon, where five families of MacLanders worked in the mines. Dave May is an accomplished historian, miner, boat builder and businessman. He is also an author of

- Sandon, The Mining Centre of the Silvery Slocan
- Nelson’s Electric Tramway

The Kootenay Mining Museum is open daily Monday through Saturday during normal business hours and admission is by donation.

Langley Heritage Society receives 125th Anniversary Legacy gift from CPR

The Station site has received a legacy gift from the CPR to mark the 125th anniversary of the last spike. This historic event marked the completion of the cross-Canada railroad linking the East with British Columbia which is truly an important mark in Canada’s history. The artifacts include a silver bread tray and sugar bowl once used on such renowned CPR trains as the Trans Canada Limited and the Dominion and a simple, but elegant serving dish from the Royal Alexandra Hotel, a former Winnipeg landmark.

The special selection of artifacts is a tangible legacy of history and will be displayed in a special cabinet in the Station.
Chinese Legacies: Building the Canadian Pacific Railway

The Revelstoke Railway Museum’s 2008 exhibit explores the fascinating story of the Chinese labourers who contributed to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Port Moody and Craigellachie. The presentation of their travel to British Columbia, their living and working conditions and the contribution they made to the construction of the railway has been visited by thousands over the past two and a half years and is now set to travel to other museum venues in 2011.

Revelstoke Museum and Archives continues to host their exhibit Chinese Legacies: Revelstoke’s Chinese Community at its museum location in downtown Revelstoke. This companion to the Railway Museum exhibit explores the large Chinese community that prospered for many years in Revelstoke and features the Kwong family who played a prominent role in the early history of Revelstoke. Several thousand Chinese men worked on the CPR mainline from Port Moody to Craigellachie, and it is estimated that between 600 and 2,220 of these workers died as a result of accidents, disease and starvation. The Inland Sentinel newspaper, originally published at Yale, has many articles about the Chinese labourers, and while many people believed that their presence was necessary to construct the railway, they were greatly resented by the white population, and suffered a great deal of discrimination. Their wages were half those of white men doing the same jobs, and they were often exploited by their Chinese crew bosses.

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The sky is the limit! With a Johnson scholarship behind you, you have everything in front of you. Since 1998, the Johnson scholarship program has awarded over $1,000,000 in scholarships and academic grants to students across Canada.

We are pleased to offer 100 scholarships annually, valued at $1,500 each. Canadian residents who are completing high school and who are beginning their post-secondary studies in Canada are eligible for the awards.

The deadline for the submission of application forms will be August 31, 2011.

For information and application form go to www.johnson.ca and on the top right corner search window type Scholarships and it will take you to the pages with information and application.

The Final say

The Powell River conference was a very enjoyable weekend with fascinating tours, gourmet food and very friendly hosts from the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives Association and the Texada Island Heritage Society. They shared their history, their enthusiasm and friendliness leaving the attendees with fond memories of a great Conference and new found friends. Dwight Hall, the Conference headquarters, is a real treasure and perfect for the weekend activities. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard to host our annual event.

Thanks to those on the new Council who offered to serve for a year on the Federation’s Board. A commitment to volunteer your time and thoughts for a year is appreciated by our many members and helps make the Federation stronger each year.

Thanks also to the those who received awards and certificates for the many different ways in preserving and promoting British Columbia history. From books published, the newsletter, the website, certificates for recognition for outstanding work done in volunteering in various ways to preserve our local and B.C. history, we are grateful for your spirit and dedication.

This issue highlights some opportunities to participate in several interesting projects:

- The Best of the Best - an opportunity to nominate a story that has appeared in previous issues and publications by the Federation. A chance to be recognized and win a prize
- The Riverview Horticultural Society is looking for support by readers to write a letter to Christy Clark in support of having the Riverview lands and buildings designated as a National Historic Site. Please take a few minutes and write your letter of support.
- Johnson Inc. offers 100 x $1,500 scholarships for students graduating and registered for post secondary education in Canada. Pass the word along to friends with students graduating, to your local high school and consider your local paper. Full information is available as shown above in the Johnson Inc. article.

We are receiving several members’ newsletters as well as information on events or special projects which we often feature in the Newsletter. Thanks to all who have participated.

Have a great summer
Ron Hyde
Editor
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