

BCHF Newsletter

British Columbia Historical Federation

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President's Message

Gary Mitchell



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.

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

Member News



Arrow Lakes

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society has put 1,500 photos onto their website. This project was funded through the *Documentary Heritage Communities Program*, a federal grant under Library and Archives Canada. The grant allowed them to pay for an employee to do the work. They hope to receive another grant to process another 10,000 photos. In the first two weeks they had 350 hits!
www.alhs-archives.com

Langley Heritage Society

In May 2008, the Langley Heritage Society started a program to offer financial help to pay for students and bus transportation attend the school programs at the Langley Centennial Museum. Since then, their student-museum sponsorship program has sponsored 7,200 student trips. This year, together with the school district and the Langley Centennial Museum, they sponsored the first Heritage Fair in Langley.
www.langleyheritage.ca

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.

One Millionth Survey Plan Registered

In mid-March 2016, the one millionth survey plan was registered by the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia's (LTSA) land title office.

The first plan deposited under the Land Registry Act of 1860 was prepared by three land surveyors procured by Governor Douglas, Robert S. Lammat, James Freeman and F.W. Green, and was accepted for deposit by E. Graham Alston, Registrar General for the Colony of Vancouver Island, on October 29, 1861. The second land registry office in history had opened on Vancouver Island earlier that year on April 5, 1861.

The LTSA reached another milestone in February 2016: the five millionth document electronically submitted to the land title office.

These milestones underscore British Columbia's long history recognizing the importance of strong institutions supporting the secure and reliable administration of land ownership, the key objective of BC's land title and survey systems.

Connie Fair

CEO of the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC

Submitted by: Jacqueline Gresko

BCHF Representative on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee to the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC

In Memoriam



Cyril Leonoff, February 22, 1925 - April 7, 2016. He was a sixty year plus member of the Vancouver Historical Society and past president. He also founded the Jewish Historical Society of BC. He published *Pioneers, Pedlars and Prayer Shawls*, a history of the Jewish people in BC, a biography of photographer Leonard Frank and another biography of photographer Otto Landauer. Obituary in April 16, 2016 *Vancouver Sun/The Province*.

Jenny Watson, September 4, 1935 – March 26, 2016. She was very passionate about her volunteer work with London Heritage Farms in Richmond for the past twelve years. Obituary in April 1 & 2, 2016, *Delta Optimist*.

Reclaiming New West Waterfront



Worth a look, the revamped website includes: links to the collection of over 100 oral history recordings; text and images from the *Our Working Waterfront: 1945-2015* exhibit; resources for teachers; memory walks; a bike tour; a timeline of waterfront history; a dynamic map of waterfront land use change; and an image gallery. www.sfu.ca/waterfront.html

Please Share



Please share this newsletter with other history fans.

Upcoming Events

BCHF Member Society Events from around British Columbia

Find more events at: www.bchistory.ca/events-calendar

BC Heritage Fairs

www.bcheritagefairs.ca

Provincial Fair 2016

July 4–8, UBC

The beautiful campus of the University of British Columbia will be the site of the Provincial Fair. Details TBA.

BC Museums Association

<http://museumsassn.bc.ca>

Conference 2016 Begin. Build. Re-invent: all in a day's work!

October 12-14, 2016, Whistler

BC's only provincial conference for museum, gallery and heritage professionals. Details TBA.

Langley Centennial Museum

<http://museum.tol.ca/>

Canada Day Event

July 1: 11am–4pm

Celebrate Canada Day at the Langley Centennial Museum with a free, fun, family event that includes crafts, face painting, and old-fashioned games. Enjoy a piece of Canada's birthday cake, listen to live performances, or participate in different activities at the Museum. It's sure to be a great time for the entire family!

Mission Museum

www.missionmuseum.com

Kids' Club

Fridays July & August: 1pm–3pm

Children ages 6-10. Participants learn a little bit about Mission's exciting history and get to take part in an activity and/or make a craft related to the topic. The cost is \$8 per session, and parents are NOT required to stay!

Nikkei Centre

<http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/>

Hastings Park Walking Tour

Saturday, June 18: 10am

In early 1942, over 8,000 Japanese Canadians were detained in Hastings Park before being sent to internment sites in the BC interior or to work camps across the country. Discover the history of the early days of Japanese Canadian internment and the Hastings Park commemoration project.

Tours are approximately 90 minutes. NNMCC members \$8 + tax | non-members \$10 + tax. Space is limited. Please reserve your spot in advance.

Surrey Museum

www.ladysmithhistoricalsociety.ca

Doors Open

Saturday, June 18: 10am–3pm

Behind the scenes experience with a guided tour of the collections vault, or engage with The Re-Enactors heritage re-enactment troupe, dress in real fire fighter gear and climb aboard a fire truck, and more.

Victoria Historical Society

victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca

Ross Bay Villa: A Heritage Success/Love Story

June 2: 7:00pm at James Bay New Horizons Centre

Simone Vogel-Horridge, an art conservator and president of the Ross Bay Villa Society, will describe how the heritage community saved a little home twice and made it into a thriving Historic House Museum. Using

the diaries of Frank and Letitia Roscoe who lived in the Villa from 1865 to 1879, she will also tell stories of its first residents and their families. Free to members.

Yale Historic Site

<http://historicyale.ca/>

Strawberry Social

June 12: 10am–3pm

Come out to the Yale Historic Site for a fun filled day of family activities! Black Powder demonstrations, live entertainment, games of chance, raffle prizes, and a BBQ! Lots of fun for the whole family with a cupcake walk, face painting, candy floss and more! Adults: \$7.50; Seniors and Youth: \$5.50; Children under 6: \$2.00

Member Societies
and Affiliated
Members can
promote their
events in the **BCHF
News** and on the
BCHF website

August **BCHF News**
*deadline — July 6,
2016*

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The British Columbia Historical Federation encourages interest in the history of British Columbia through research, presentation, and support. The Federation provides a collective voice for its member societies.

British Columbia Historical Federation
Box 448, Fort Langley BC V1M 2R7