



**Member Societies'
Annual Reports
For May 28, 2016
Conference**

ARROW LAKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2016 REPORT

The Society this past year has been very busy getting a book ready for publishing on the SS Minto. Bruce Rohn, who is very knowledgeable about all boats on the Arrow Lakes, is writing the text and we will be using some coloured and black & white photos and scanned newspapers as well as other articles in the book. We hope to have it ready for Christmas.

Milton Parent's large collection of over 10,000 photos, plus about 10,000 photos from other donors, has been scanned, numbered and categorized for easy retrieval through a Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance grant. We also have been successful in obtaining a grant from Library and Archives Canada to post 1500 of them on our website so that people will be able to view and order them. This was just started in February and we are fortunate to have an employee with the knowledge to do this project.

We have done 3 major Slide Shows of some of our photos, which have been well received and through another CKCA grant we have produced the first 2 onto DVDs which we now sell.

Milton Parent's over 500 hours of taped interviews from the 1970s and 1980s are, through the use of an MP3, being put onto our website for all to hear. A CKCA grant paid our employee to do this extra work.

A big project for the town is to bring in a CPR caboose and snow plow and set them up near the park beach site. The Nakusp Rail Committee does not have non-profit status or a charitable number so we have them under our umbrella at this time. Once they register as non-profit, they will be able to access funds themselves.

This year in April, at low water, we went to Edgewood, Fauquier and Burton to draw up maps of the streets as they once were. In September we will be visiting Sandon with Hal Wright as our guide; he has so much knowledge of the town, which he visited and collected artifacts and information as a teen while coming there with his parents every summer to property that they owned. He has bought the Power Station there and has been replacing the old wood pipes with new ones and doing other renovations.

Our treasurer, Ken Williams, a Legion member, is doing a project to put all our fallen soldiers on a memorial website.

We continue to answer many requests for information and are busier every year. We have new members helping with the work as well which we really appreciate.

**British Columbia Historical Federation
2016 Annual General Meeting: Member Society Report
British Columbia History of Nursing Society (BCHNS)
Website www.bcnursinghistory.ca**

2015 was a special year for our society, being 25 years since the inauguration of our group in 1990! I, therefore, focus my report on this highlight of our past year!

On a beautiful sunny afternoon in September 2015, over 40 people - members, student members, friends and family came together to celebrate our Society's 25th Anniversary. Turning out in their finery to the beautiful and appropriately historic Hycroft Manor in Vancouver, celebrants were treated to a lovely Afternoon Tea in honor of retired Helen Randal Librarian Joan Andrews and the induction of Sheila Rankin Zerr as an honorary lifetime member. President Kathy Murphy served as Master of Ceremonies, ensuring that everything ran smoothly. First greetings were given by Nora Whyte, who similarly opened the inaugural group meeting on May 3, 1990! Her address focused on "The History of Provincial Public Health Nursing in BC, 1939 - 1959," and was based on her 1973 Master of Science in Nursing Thesis (available online from the UBC Library). She commented then on the parallel challenges and innovations of past and present nurses.

Her 2015 remarks reflected the ongoing development of the BCHNS as a strong and vibrant group committed to preserving and studying nursing history. The Anniversary celebration ended with a captivating presentation by honorary life member Glennis Zilm on "Nursing on the Battlefields, Canada's Military Nurses: 1885 - 1945." Glennis delivered her presentation in the historical uniform of Mrs. Kate Miller, Canada's first Military Nurse (c.1885). Kathy Murphy introduced Glennis and noted:

As a founding member of the BC History of Nursing Society and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, Glennis has played a major role in bringing history alive for audiences across Canada through her writing, speaking, and acting as an amazing role model.

Our Fall 2015 newsletter was a celebration in itself featuring photographs and write-ups of the events at our celebration Afternoon Tea. It can be viewed on our website: www.bcnursinghistory.ca

We have an excellent archivist, Francis Mansbridge, who keeps our archival artifacts and documents in good order. BCHNS sincerely appreciates all the *behind the scenes work* contributed by our President, executive, committee chairs and others to ensure that nursing history is collected, preserved and displayed through the website, newsletter and physical displays in buildings, public venues and professional meetings.

In Memoriam, we remember three of our members:
June Newton, Hallie Sloan and Joan Doree - all Military Nurses who died in the past year, all in their late nineties!

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Martin, Member-at-Large

April 26, 2016

EAST KOOTENAY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CRANBROOK

REPORT FOR BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE

"REVELSTOKE REVISITED" May 26-28, 2016

The East Kootenay Historical Association continues to be carried along under the active guidance of President Irene Kaun of Cranbrook. Betty Nakahara and Marilynne Ferguson, both of Cranbrook, were elected as Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, respectively, at the Spring meeting held April 17, 2016.

Our group continues to function with Fall and Spring meetings held in conjunction with brunch, at the local Heritage Inn, and prearranged outings to area historical buildings and sites. Our membership continues to sit at around twenty-five people from Cranbrook and surrounding areas. We also usually have three to five guests who attend the open meetings, and sometimes renew old memberships, or become new members.

We are very pleased to have Gerry Warner agree to attend this year's Conference in Revelstoke as our delegate. Mr. Warner is also our planner and arranger for outings, and has set up a trip to the Fernie Museum for later this summer.

Our Fall meeting, held last October was immensely enjoyed by all who attended, as the guest speaker was a true entertainer, as well as having served as a "gold broker" for twenty-five years in the Klondike. Mr. John Dumas who told of his personal experiences accompanied by a slide/movie of the Klondike Gold Rush, and recitations of Robert Service's works as well as songs of the North, which made for a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Our Spring meeting, held this past April, held everyone's interest as guest speaker Blair Farish, who is a retired Chiropractor and now author, talked about his newly revised book, "The Clockwatcher". The book relates his own experience of a plane crash while taking part in a training exercise with Search and Rescue some thirty-three years ago. Revisions include Search & Rescue history and repercussions from that crash and that of the passenger plane crash at the local airport years ago.

In spite of low activity level and aging membership, the East Kootenay Historical Association will continue to support and encourage interest in the past, and move forward with the present, in conjunction with the Cranbrook History Center, previously known as the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel. The new name, of course, projects change and new beginnings.

Community, Past, Present & Future



Maple Ridge Historical Society BCHF AGM Report 2016

This past year has shown the Maple Ridge Historical Society (MRHS) the possibility for great developments in the future as well as areas of potential opportunity.

Developments

The City of Maple Ridge is in the process of developing a proposal for improvements to Arts, Culture and Sports. The City's proposal potentially includes a new museum space and archive facilities in the town centre. There have been initial, very high level meetings with the city on visioning such a proposal. There have been on and off discussions around such a development in Maple Ridge for many years. This time the discussion has progressed further than ever. Add to that the community seems more accepting and supportive of the development and you can imagine there is a growing, if very guarded, sense of optimism within the Maple Ridge heritage community.

The MRHS has been developing a strong partnership with our Community Heritage Commission. Making efforts to communicate in concert with the city and community, as well as developing local events in partnership.

The MRHS has partnered with the local branch of the Fraser Valley Regional Library to create a Local Voices community engagement program. The program consists of three monthly events in the spring and fall, hosting three members selected from the community to share some part of their personal journey into and through our community. Some of the stories are enlightening, some are educational, and some are incredibly moving. All of them help to create a greater connection to the larger community for everyone involved.

Despite low membership numbers in the Maple Ridge Historical Society as a whole compared to the size of the community, the Maple Ridge Family History group is flourishing and continues to grow.

One of the most successful projects this year was pioneered by the Maple Ridge Family History group. They offered their skills to the Museum and Archives to research the roots of some local family history, all out of a somewhat innocent question from the museum director regarding a local family name. The family history group spent months researching and collecting data about the Edge family. The group ultimately presented their findings on six display boards to the community at the Maple Ridge Heritage Awards. The presentation was so well received they have been invited to present at eleven venues in six different communities.

The Maple Ridge Historical Society is also working to improve its public profile through hosting public events such as historical town centre and the popular cemetery tours.

Opportunities

The Maple Ridge Historical Society still needs to develop a more robust community engagement through regular programming. There are plans in the works for a series of historical talks.

We are having challenges with our volunteer base. The heritage volunteer pool, both within the society membership and the larger community has dropped significantly in recent years as people have moved on to different stages in their lives. It is an ongoing challenge to identify what engages the community to volunteer opportunities.

The Maple Ridge Museum and Archives is beginning to encounter space issues. While having a healthy archival collection is a good problem to have, it presents the issue of maintaining quality archival space for the collection, something that is generally at a premium.

Darren Durupt
Maple Ridge Historical Society Member

Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission Member Report

To the British Columbia Historical Federation AGM—28 May 2016

Submitted by Brenda L. Smith, Chair



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The Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission is an advisory body appointed by municipal mayor and council to recommend policy and provide council on heritage matters. We are composed of representative from the community at large, delegates from the Maple Ridge Historical Society, municipal council and planning staff.

A VISION FOR MAPLE RIDGE'S HERITAGE TO 2020 AND BEYOND

Since 2014 we have undertaken to implement the Maple Ridge Heritage Plan, a seven year road map for service to our growing community. We work from a refreshed mandate:

The City of Maple Ridge recognizes and celebrates our rich historic legacy through the conservation and interpretation of significant heritage resources. Our Heritage Program supports the sustainable development of our urban structure and our rural areas, and assist in the development of a complete and healthy community.

As we plan for an exciting, digital future, we respect our past by providing a balance for change and new development that recognizes the importance of our historic communities, our rural lands and our natural landscapes.

Maple Ridge's past, present and future are connected through community and cultural celebrations, partnerships and heritage activities that will preserve our tangible and intangible heritage resources, provide educational opportunities and enrich the lives of our citizens and visitors.

Over the duration of the plan we concentrate efforts on: heritage recognition, management, education and our historic communities.

HERITAGE COMMISSION PROGRAMS

Heritage Funding: Financial support is provided by the City and community donors, as funding from senior levels of government are virtually non-existent.

Community Awareness and Recognition: We build awareness through heritage plaques and information signage, Heritage awards, partnerships with individual and community groups interested in heritage. We promote heritage sustainability. Our City is a leader in implementing Heritage Revitalization Agreements with property owners. In addition to supporting bricks and boards heritage, our Heritage Awards program recognizes the more intangible actions of individuals and organizations such as: stewardship of cultural assets. We have also instituted commendations to acknowledge other organizations' heritage accomplishments.

Access to Records: Support and promote access to heritage places and resources. The Community Heritage Commission works with the City Clerk's Department to accelerate the digitization of municipal records from incorporation in 1874. We have developed an inventory of historic markers that will define ownership, facilitate maintenance and promote awareness.

Community Heritage Register: Guided by the BC Register of Historic Places, and Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, we identify and record sites and other cultural expressions. In 2016 we are updating our Heritage Inventory describing historic places,

identifying elements of place deemed historically significant, and identifying the heritage value of place.

PAST AND PRESENT PROJECTS

- *Heritage Here* newsletter has a new Web-friendly format.
- Annual Heritage Awards.
- Partnering and initiating events during Heritage Week in February.
- *Heritage Plan* is in implementation year three.
- Inventory of heritage plaques, information panels, mosaics, murals and other signage.
- Protecting a historic family cemetery.
- Education projects including workshops, public conversations and field trips.
- Conference attendance as a member of BC Historical Federation, Heritage BC and BC Museums Association.
- Open Access Digitization Project in partnership with Maple Ridge Historical Society

**Nelson & District
Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society
(Touchstones Nelson)**

Report for 2015

1. Touchstones Nelson is in the final stages of concluding an arrangement to relocate its collections to the adjacent Post Office building using the former post WWII era subterranean bunker. This relocation is expected to be completed in 2017.
2. Touchstones received the Canadian Museums Association Award of Outstanding Achievement for Exhibitions for *Roll On Columbia*, a project developed to explore the legacy of the Columbia River Treaty and the current reassessment process (2014-2024). The exhibit was prepared in conjunction with U.S. counterparts and the sponsorship of Columbia Basin Trust. *Roll On Columbia* was first opened in Spokane, WA and is now touring Canada's Columbia River Basin (Nelson, Cranbrook, Fernie, Nakusp & Revelstoke)
3. The Society introduced a new membership programme to replace the one introduced in 2006. There were three key objectives: simplify the membership levels from 16 to 5, offer more benefits to all levels of membership and introduce a two-year membership renewal option that has proven to be very popular.
4. The Society launched an online portal for the public to view its permanent collection. Thanks to the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Programme as well as the Columbia Basin Trust.
5. The facility lobby was redesigned and rebuilt to create a more open and flexible exhibition space that accommodates an expanded shop, events and community displays.
6. *60 Years/60 Objects: A Diamond Anniversary* exhibition shared sixty notable or unusual objects from the TN Archives and Collections. Each object helped to tell the story of the Nelson community. This was the largest artifact show ever undertaken by TN to celebrate the Society's 60th Anniversary.
7. *Lost Orchards: A History of Fruit Farming in the West Kootenay* exhibition explored individual stories, images and artifacts from this nearly forgotten chapter in Kootenay regional history.

Ron Welwood
TN Volunteer

North Shuswap Historical Society

2016 Report to BCHF

Submitted by Loretta Greenough

The North Shuswap Historical Society continues to be very active and busy. We meet each month with different speakers or programs. We check our Driving Tour Signs each year and continue to hold a mystery tour as well as our Christmas and June pot luck meetings. Various members of the society are actively setting up the displays in the local museum.

Throughout the past winter several members of the Historical Society came each week to work on the Archives. This continues to be an ongoing process. We all see progress but know there is still much work to be done.

Our annual Photographic Presentation for the Community had the largest attendance to date. It was great to see new faces as well as the familiar ones.

Two members of the society continue to update and place new Geo-caches in places of historical significance in the North Shuswap. Each cache contains a short paragraph along with photos of why it has some historical significance. All caches have been found several times with very positive feedback.

We published our 2016 Calendar depicting Old Buildings of the North Shuswap.

Members continue to interview pioneers and individuals for our upcoming Volume 11 of the Shuswap Chronicles. Work has begun on Volume 11.

This year our Spring Clean Up of the North Shuswap Cemetery was tied in with the Clean Up of the North Shuswap Community Hall. This was a great success.

Volunteer members of the Historical Society completed the reconstruction of the old log cabin which was once Ed & Dorothy Riley's home. It is now forming an addition to the local museum. Congratulations to all the volunteers!!

Our website www.northshuswaphistory.ca

OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Report to BCHF for 2016

Meetings and Events

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria was held on Friday, February 26 at Victoria City Hall. There were 43 people in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Gerry Buydens, President of OCS. The treasurer's report was presented by Gudrun Leys. Gerry Buydens summarized the high lights from the president's report & the committee reports. He thanked the executive for their support and also thanked the many volunteers. OCS has a high number of volunteers.

We did not participate in the Thrifty's Smile Card Project in 2015 as there was no one to coordinate the project. We are giving some consideration to potential projects for 2016 and hopefully will be putting in an application for a new project after May 4, 2016.

The Executive for 2016 will be Gerry Buydens - President; Wilf Bruch – Past President; Vice President – vacant; Gudrun Leys - Treasurer; Michael Halleran - Secretary; and Members at large are: Bente Svendsen, Drew Waveryn, Linda Richards, Stewart Dashwood, Pat Lydon, and Sharon Welsh.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 8:00 PM. After a refreshment break, the group was treated to a wonderful presentation about the construction and development of Victoria's City Hall. The evening ended with a tour of the clock tower.

The annual pot luck dinner for members was held for July 8. Approximately 30 volunteers attended.

Projects and activities

The society's tour program included Sunday afternoon tours at Ross Bay Cemetery as well as other Greater Victoria historic cemeteries; tours for Women's History Month in October; the Annual Halloween Ghost Walk at Ross Bay Cemetery; and 8 Ghost Bus-tours at the end of October attended by about 450 people. Society tour guides also delivered approximately 34 tours to 1000 persons, mainly school groups. These tours were on various themes, such as Ghost Walks, Remembrance Day, and BC history.

The Research Committee continued its work on the Ross Bay Cemetery burial database and gathered material used for the Sunday tour program. Researchers attended a number of family history fairs and responded to many requests from descendants for information on gravesites and family history.

Volunteer recorders inventoried and checked over 700 Ross Bay Cemetery monuments while 50 monuments received cleaning during the year.

BC Historical Federation Conference

The British Columbia Historical Federation held its annual conference in Quesnel on June 21 to 23 of 2015. A number of OCS members attended.

Office volunteers continue to organize the photograph collection, biography files and obituaries in the office.

Old Burying Ground Revitalization

From 2012 continuing on into 2016 your executive was involved on City of Victoria advisory committees for both Ross Bay Cemetery and The Old Burying Ground. The revitalization of the Old Burying Ground commenced this year with phase 1 being completed. The city has work scheduled for phases 2 & 3 over the next two years, but no action took place last year. Lack of funding is delaying activity.

Thrifty's Smile Cards

The Thrifty's Smile Card program has been a painless but very successful means of raising funds. This year, we did not participate as there was no one to run the projects. We are looking forward to 2016 and getting a new project in place.

There were a number of other notable restoration projects completed. 25 markers throughout the cemetery were repaired. 6 new bases were created and markers installed. The surface of Margaret Jenkins plot was repaired and a new layer of cement applied.

Membership is now at about 170.

I would like to thank the hard working executive for all their support and effort. I would also like to thank the office coordinator for her support and effort. Lastly I would like to thank all the volunteers and members that help to make this group the success it is. Thank you.

Gerry F. Buydens
President, Old Cemeteries Society

President's Report

Surrey Historical Society for 2015/16

Besides learning how to keep meetings within the time allotted and still follow Robert's Rules of Order, I have had the opportunity to play a role in many projects central to our mandate.

Our relationship with the Archives has grown with the digitalization of the Orange Lodge documents and the recent similar effort regarding the Surrey Leader newspaper. Open Doors 2016 will have the SHS once again working with the City's Museum and Archives at Veteran's Square. With Roger Bose's lead, the Surrey Historical Society will launch a new self-guided walking tour of downtown Cloverdale. This pamphlet will soon be followed by a self-guided driving tour. The SHS continues to support its popular website:

www.surreyhistory.ca

Our organization is promoting the preservation and maintenance of Anniedale School, the Centennial Totem Pole, and the 1881 Town Hall. On the matter of Anniedale School, the SHS met with the Heritage Advisory Commission to lay out a plan of co-operation. This has led to a ramping up of our efforts and a very good meeting with the Surrey School Board with a tentative offer to sell the school to the City. I am confident that there will continue to be positive movement on this file.

I also want to thank all those in the SHS Board of Directors: Ellen, for keeping us informed and connected with each other and the community; Jack and the web site which is without a doubt our best known asset; John, our Treasurer; Jim for his knowledge and support for the Project Committee; Kathleen and Barb for keeping us in touch with the BC Historical Federation and the Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission; Ernie and Charlene in membership, marketing, and organizing our presence at Door's Open.

Thank you to all our members who support the SHS and inspire us in our efforts.

Michael Gibbs,
President, Surrey Historical Society