

# BCHF Newsletter

British Columbia Historical Federation

Number 51 | April 2015

ISSN print 1710-1433 | online 1710-1441

## *Time are Changing for BC Archives!*

Gary Mitchell, BCHF President

Earlier this month, the Hon. Amrik Virk tabled *Bill 5 – Government Information Act* in the Legislature. It is the first major overhaul of the law regarding the care, management and preservation of government records (including its archives) in over 80 years. In fact, by my research BC had the oldest still in use records legislation in the Commonwealth, the *Document Disposal Act!*

*Bill 5* seeks to modernize the records keeping practices of government by dismantling the old records keeping structure and replacing it with a new agency under the administrative control of legislatively cited “Corporate Records Officer” who will oversee the management of government’s information banks (including its archives); it further establishes a “digital archives” to ensure preservation of government’s valued information. In fact, BC will have two government archives entities, the new digital archives, which will be a branch of government, and the newly

coined “museum archives” which for ease of discussion is the current BC Archives within the Royal BC Museum. The museum archives will house and make accessible the textual, cartographic, audio visual, and photographic archives.

The Corporate Records Officer will oversee the management of government’s digital information banks as government agencies continue their march towards digital only offices. The Officer will also have the authority to require all government offices to shift their records keeping systems into digital systems.

For British Columbians, this legislation is long, long overdue; government has been trying to shoe horn late 20<sup>th</sup> public services into a model designed to handle the records systems of the Great Depression; no amount of baling twine and Scotch tape will make an efficient and effective working records system. The recognition of the importance and growing dominance of digital records within our society is appropriate as is the commitment to create an

## **Journey to the Cariboo** British Columbia Historical Federation Annual Conference



**May 21- 23, 2015**  
**Quesnel, BC**

**Registration open to all  
history enthusiasts**

**Beer Tasting | Barkerville  
Talks | Authors’ Fair | Theatre**

### **Thursday May 21**

- Welcoming Reception

### **Friday May 22**

- Full day trip to Barkerville, Cottonwood House, Blessing’s Grave & Wells
- Movie Night at the Museum

### **Saturday May 23**

- Keynote Speaker Richard Wright
- The Road to the Gold Fields
- Cariboo Pioneers and Portraits
- Cemetery Walk
- The Cariboo Caravan
- Awards Banquet with “The Bride of Barkerville” by Danette Boucher

[www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

archives to preserve and make accessible digital records.

All things considered *Bill 5* moves BC into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Is it perfect? NO! Does it create a stronger records keeping system? On paper, yes it does.

*Bill 5* creates the framework and vision for a new approach to government records keeping; what's missing is an understanding of how it will really work. What will be the relationship between the museum archives and the digital archives? Where will researchers go for digitized versions of textual records? Will the museum archives create another digital archives function to handle their digital formats? If

## *Anglican Archives move* Temporary Space at Synod Office

As many of you have already heard, the Archives of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and Provincial Synod of BC & Yukon has had to vacate its space on the UBC campus. They are in the midst of building a new archives facility which is slated to be completed in late spring. Until that time, their records are in temporary storage and will not be accessible. Melanie Delva will be working from a desk at the main Synod Office., c/o Diocese of New Westminster, 580-401 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.  
<http://vancouver.anglican.ca/resources/archives>

## Digitize Your Microfilm Newspaper Content

Canadiana.org is partnering with holders of microfilm newspaper content across Canada to provide free, convenient online access and discovery to local and regional papers.

## RBCM launches the Learning Portal

The Learning Portal is a window into RBCM's collections that kids and adult learners can crack open no matter where they live in the province.

one was cynical, the question to be answered: Can the "tired old formats of paper" match the "shiny new toys" syndrome of digital formats for budget and resource allocations? Under these changes, will the acquisition of the archives of private individual and companies be affected? What is government's role, if any, in such a program? What is the priority of the museum archives towards private acquisition? For an old bureaucrat the question is: who is the decision maker accountable for our archival heritage (the combined collections and records held within the museum archives and digital archives)?

## In Memoriam

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**Francis John Sleigh**, January 4, 1925 ~ December 18, 2014. Francis had a keen interest in history and civic affairs. He served a term on Mission Council and ten years as director for Lake Errock. He held office in various historical associations, and after retirement was a prominent spokesperson for seniors' issues. He passed away in the Mission Hospital just short of his 90th birthday. Obituary in *Mission City Record*.

**Florence Florence Olga Dodwell** died peacefully February 20th, 2015. Born in 1918 to Norwegian immigrant parents, Florence grew up in Ocean Park where she and her parents, sisters and brother shared a close family bond. In 1972, Flo married Charlie Dodwell and they moved to Galiano where they lived an idyllic life for almost 40 years. She and Charlie, were active in the Gulf Islands Historical Society and attended many BCHF annual conferences.

## *Notice to* *Member Societies*

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As of December 31, 2015 the British Columbia Historical Federation will no longer be offering the bulk subscription program for *British Columbia History* magazine.

## Upcoming Events

### BCHF Member Society Events from around British Columbia

#### Arrow Lakes Historical Society

[alhs-archives.com](http://alhs-archives.com)

##### AGM

Friday, April 10, 2015, 1:00 pm

At the new office at the back of the Centennial building that houses the Museum and Library. Feature speaker will be Hal Wright who owns the hydro generating plant at Sandon.

##### Slideshow ICHI100

Friday, April 17, 2015, 7:00 pm

A series of photographs and movies that were taken starting in the 1940s when Ichiro Shiino came to Nakusp. For over half-a-century, Ichi documented the lifestyle of the Arrow Lakes with his photographs and movies.

#### Kamloops Museum & Archives

[www.kamloops.ca/museum](http://www.kamloops.ca/museum)

Mary Spencer, Photographer  
February 27 – June 30 2015

Between 1899 and 1909, Mary Spencer produced some of the most stunning photographs ever taken of Kamloops and the surrounding area.

#### Langley Centennial Museum

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

Art of the Book Lecture Series  
April 9-May 28, 2015

Authors and other literary professionals share their creative process and provide insight into this noble craft. Whether you are an aspiring author or a literary

aficionado, this lecture series will be sure to enlighten and engage you.

#### Touchstones Nelson

[www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca)

Corazon Concert in Gallery A  
Saturday, April 11, 2015, 1:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:00 pm, Tickets \$10

Once again, the gallery will be filled with the incredible sounds of the Corazon youth choir. Immerse your senses in art and music.

##### 2015 AGM

April 18, 2015, 6:30 pm

Speaker Helen Chernoff Freeman. Stay for coffee and refreshments.



**The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society** has worked since 1992 to increase public awareness of the Riverview Lands in Coquitlam with the goal of having the site preserved for the mentally ill and public community uses. Riverview has historically been a sanctuary for the mentally ill and it is hoped that it can once again be in the future.

### 2015 Tree Tour Schedule

March 22	Sunday	1 pm	First TREE TOUR of 2015
April 19	Sunday	1 pm	Earth Sunday TREE TOUR
May 3	Sunday	1 pm	Heritage WALK - Mental Health Week <small>BMN &amp; RHCS</small>
May 10	Sunday	1 pm	Mother's Day TREE TOUR
June 14	Sunday	1 pm	Backyard WALK - BMN
June 21	Sunday	1 pm	Aboriginal Day/Father's Day TREE TOUR
July 5	Sunday	1 pm	Linden TREE TOUR (1)
July 16	Thursday	7:30 pm	Linden TREE TOUR (2) & TEA
August 9	Sunday	1 pm	Catalpa TREE TOUR
August 23	Sunday	1 pm	Heritage WALK - BMN & RHCS <small>possible bus w/parallel walk</small>
<b>September 19</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11am-4pm</b>	<b>TREEFEST 2015</b>
September 27	Sunday	1 pm	National Forest Week TOUR - RHCS
October 4	Sunday	1 pm	Last TREE TOUR - last tour of 2015 

All walks start at the Henry Esson Young building at 1 pm unless stated otherwise

The old Riverview Hospital is closed. This break from the past allows for the new Riverview to come into being. It's a jewel of a site that's far too good for anything but a compassionate, diverse care community for mental health treatment, education & healing.

*Brenda Guild*

The Heritage Trees on the Riverview Lands form an irreplaceable asset for the people of BC complementing the Metro Vancouver Regional Park at Colony Farm as a regional green space for Greater Vancouver.

**Join us at one of our scheduled Tree Tours**  
Help save this beautiful 244 acre site!

**www.rhcs.org**  
or call 604-290-9910  
for more info

# AS A MEMBER YOU GET MORE. THEN YOU GET MORE.

BCHF members enjoy discounts, personalized service and additional coverage. Plus, get a home<sup>1</sup> or MEDOC<sup>®</sup> travel<sup>2</sup> insurance quote for a chance to **win BIG** and **win MORE** – a new BMW 3 Series, **PLUS** a dream trip to the Bahamas, **PLUS** \$5,000 cash.\*



**\$5,000  
CASH**

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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

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