

# Heritage News



The Official Newsletter of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society



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## Wood Windows: A Balancing Act

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011

9:00am to 3:30pm

Reid Hall, Benvoulin Heritage Park

2279 Benvoulin Road, Kelowna



Instructor: **Jim Stiven**  
Principal, Vintage Woodworks

Cost: **\$40**  
**(\$25 for COHS members)**  
**(COHS Membership \$20)**

Registration is Limited

To register, call the  
**COHS Office**  
**250-861-7188**

(See page 3 under upcoming events  
for more details)

## A TRIBUTE TO SANDY WELBOURN

Welbourn, F.A. (Sandy) - June 21, 1928 – May 23, 2011



Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Heritage Society recently lost an outstanding supporter and volunteer. Since arriving in the Kelowna area in 1990 Sandy Welbourn took on many tasks for the good of the community. He filled posts at president, past-president and on the Advisory Board of COHS. He also represented the Society on the City of Kelowna Community Heritage Commission for several years. Sandy also served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Fintry and the Interior Alzheimer's Society.

During the building of Reid Hall at Benvoulin Park during 1999 - 2000, Sandy took on the task of Clerk of Works. It is due to his diligence and the carpentry skills of Grant Davies that the Society has this wonderful building on the Benvoulin Church property.

Prior to moving to Kelowna, Sandy worked as a senior vice president at Canadian Pacific Airlines. Among Sandy's proudest accomplishments was his transformation of an overgrown acreage in Trochu Alberta. Sandy had discovered this property was home to a wide variety of exotic trees. He and his wife Mary lovingly restored the site and

after several years of hard work created the Trochu Arboretum, which is now owned by the Town of Trochu. It was opened to the public in 1998 and stands as a living testament to the work and community involvement of Sandy and Mary Welbourn.

## DAVE BOWDEN REMEMBERED

David Merle Bowden – September 2, 1929 – May 18, 2011



David Bowden a former director of COHS, passed away after a brief illness in May 2011. David was born in Hedley, BC and grew up in the Similkameen valley working with his father on a Ranch near Keremeos. He attended university at UBC and obtained his PHD in Animal Husbandry from the University of Oregon in 1961. He worked with the federal government for 39 years, where he was fortunate to work in places such as Iran, England, and Pakistan. From 1985 to 1988, David was the Director of the Summerland Research Station. Following retirement in 1992 he was a dedicated volunteer with Probus and Learning in Retirement as well as two terms as a Director of Central Okanagan Heritage Society. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed being on the Guisachan Garden committee and was very handy with small repairs and painting tasks for the Society.

Predeceased by his wife Marnie in 2005, David is survived by two sons, David and John.

## CELTIC CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

After many years of memorable “Christmas at Benvoulin” events the Society is trying something a little different this year. On the afternoon of Sunday December 4th (which has traditionally been our Christmas at Benvoulin event) we will be inviting our volunteers, member, supporters and those who love Celtic Music to join us for a “Celtic Christmas” concert. Lynda Norman a long-time friend of COHS is using her extensive net-work to pull in a great range of Celtic entertainment. Among those who will be real crowd pleasers are Damian Brennan and Shamma Sabir. Damian grew up in Belfast, Ireland and plays the guitar, whistles, and Bodhran drum, a type of Celtic instrument. Shamma, originally from Saskatchewan, is one of four musical sisters and is recognized as one of Canada’s top fiddlers. Both are composers and songwriters and are actively involved with teaching music through their Ananada school of music. **Tickets may be purchased by calling the COHS office at 250-861-7188.**



*“There’s something about the lilt of traditional Irish music that has a certain way of lifting the spirits.”*



## Calendar of Events

**Bicentennial Celebration of the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail:** The Historic Westbank Association in conjunction with Westbank First Nation is hosting a series of events on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail. Events include Learning Centers, a re-enactment of the arrival of the horse brigade, native singing and dancing and an Indian Taco Supper. All events take place at the Bentley Memorial Field adjacent to the Bentley Aquatic Centre. For more information check out their website at [www.westbank.biz](http://www.westbank.biz) or call the Historic Westbank Association at 250-768-9989 or Westbank First Nations at 250-768-7738.

**A Fine Vintage: Celebrating 75 Years of the Kelowna Museums:** The gala takes place Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7pm. The evening includes live music, dance demonstrations, a vintage photo booth, an old-fashioned candy buffet, silent auction and fashion show. To purchase tickets contact the Kelowna Museums at: 250-763-2417.

**Heritage BC Annual Conference: Forging Our Future:** Friday, September 30 to Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby BC. As Heritage BC celebrates its 30th Anniversary, heritage in our province has indeed reached a crisis. The 2011 conference has been organized as a forum and will discuss heritage conservation and its future in BC. For more information: [www.heritagebc.ca/events/annual-conference-registration](http://www.heritagebc.ca/events/annual-conference-registration)

**23rd Annual Apple Fair:** Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10 to 3pm at the BC Orchard Museum in the Laurel Packing House. Free admission. For further information call the Orchard Museum at 778-478-0347.

**Wood Windows: A Balancing Act:** The Workshop is on Saturday, October 29th, 2011 from 9am to 3:30pm at Reid Hall at the Benvoulin Heritage Park. Jim Stiven of Vintage Woodworks, the workshop leader, will talk about balancing the historic integrity, current functional requirements, aesthetics and energy efficiency of wood windows. A hands-on demonstration will be part of the workshop. This workshop is made possible through a Heritage BC grant and support from COHS and the CoKHGP. For more information or to register, please call the COHS Office at 250-861-7188.

**The Memory Project: Art & Stories of the Second World War:** April 9-Nov 4, 2011 at the Kelowna Museums. For further information contact the Kelowna Museums at 250-763-2417.

**COHS Celtic Concert Fundraising Concert :** On December 4, 2011 pm at UBCO. (see article above: time and location TBC)



## KELOWNA'S CHINA TOWN

*(The following article is written using information contained in a report by Ross Huyskamp and presented to Kelowna's Community Heritage Commission in August of 2010. Ross was a UBC-O History Major at the time.)*

The site of Kelowna's former Chinatown is located in the block bordered by Abbott Street to the west, Leon Avenue to the north, Water Street to the east and Hwy 97 to the south. In this large one block radius lived the vast majority of Kelowna's Chinese population from the late 1800s with the last business closing in 1978. Similar sized Chinese communities existed in Vernon and Armstrong, while Penticton had a smaller Chinatown known as "Shanghai Alley." Kelowna's Chinese population was approx 15% of the total population in 1909 indicating the strength and importance of the Chinese community to Kelowna's history.



**Interior view of City Park Café located at Abbott Street & Harvey Avenue, ca.1950s** (Courtesy: Kelowna Museum Archives, #415)



**Chinese Dart Coon Club Members in front of club, ca. 1920s** (Courtesy: Kelowna Museum Archives, #5743)

The predominantly male population consisted mostly of bachelors – who were unable to bring their wives to Canada due to the large head tax required. The Chinese men were first lured to British Columbia by the Gold Rush of 1858. When the gold petered out many found work on the British Columbia section of the CPR. Most of those who stayed in the interior after the completion of the railway worked on orchards and farms helping those looking for cheap labour. The men generally lived on these farms and orchards and would return to Chinatown in the off-season, when the population would see a dramatic increase.

The buildings in Chinatown were predominantly two-story wooden structures that had rooming houses on the second floor, while the first floor was commonly used for entrepreneurial ventures, such as cafe's and laundries. Given the specific design and low quality of materials of these buildings only one at 265/269 Leon Avenue has survived. The Kelowna Museum houses another structure at - 470 Queensway Avenue that is a representation of the commercial buildings of the period.

## COMMUNITY MEMORIES PROJECT: Benvoulin Church– a building that reflects its community

COHS has just received a federal grant from the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), to support the creation of a virtual exhibition on the Benvoulin Church and site. Community support will be important to create a thorough and interesting exhibit that will be shared with the rest of the country. Through the use of photographs, images and text, the story of Benvoulin Church will be explored and brought to life.

The high expectations for the Benvoulin townsite to become the city centre for the growing population were never realized. Instead, Benvoulin reverted back to a rural area in which the church served its congregation for over 70 years as a spiritual and social gathering place. The physical changes to the church and the site reflect the changing needs of the community it served. With the pressure of new development in Kelowna, many of its early buildings were lost. A new organization was created by community members who realized that there was a need to conserve Kelowna's important buildings before they were all gone. The construction, restoration and the continued preservation of this building and its site reflects the value that the community placed and continues to place on the Benvoulin Church.

If you have any photographs or information on the Benvoulin Church and the site from its beginnings as a Presbyterian church in 1892 to its present use as a community facility, please contact: Lorri Dauncey at the COHS Office at 250-861-7188 or by e-mail at [cohs@telus.net](mailto:cohs@telus.net).



Leaving Bethel United Church (Benvoulin Church), pre 1955  
(Courtesy: COHS Photo Collection)

### Coming in 2012: Benvoulin Church's 120th & COHS's 30th Anniversary



Planning is in the preliminary stages for two celebrations in 2012. Benvoulin church held its first church service on September 11, 1892, making September 2012 the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. A number of activities are being planned to coincide with this anniversary date, including a picnic, tours of the sight and a fashion show of wedding apparel and photographs taken at the site. Watch for more details as the year unfolds.

2012 also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. We have much to be proud of. Part of our focus in 2012 will be to reflect on where we have come from and what we have been able to accomplish.

We look forward to celebrating these two anniversaries with you, our members and supporters.

## CHIMNEY POT ON GARDENER'S SHED AT GUISACHAN HERITAGE PARK

Have you ever wondered about the sculpture above the south doors of the Gardener's Shed at Guisachan Park?

It is a "chimney pot", common in Britain and other parts of the world since the Victorian era. Chimney pots were designed to finish your chimney with clean simple lines and were matched to the size of the fireplace opening in the home and the chimney flue it was covering. Even though we do not have a chimney in our garden shed, many enjoy the sight of the "pot" atop the roof peak.

The Guisachan piece was donated to the Society in 1996 by Bob Kingsmill, a noted stoneware potter. Bob moved to the Okanagan from Winnipeg in 1967, to open his first studio where he produced stoneware and raku-fired pieces. The studio was located on Lakeshore Road in the Surtees barn, next to St Andrews Anglican Church. He initiated the "Mission Hall Sale", helping other Okanagan potters gain recognition for their fine work. In the mid 1970s Bob moved to the coast, setting up a studio on Granville Island, which he continues to maintain. He is currently living in Vernon and still "potting" at his Vernon studio. When I recently spoke to him by telephone he was working in his Vernon studio. His website says he welcomes visitors and suggests a call to ensure he is in.

*Lorraine McLarty (COHS past president)*



**Chimney Pot located on the Gardener's Shed at Guisachan Park, 2011** (Courtesy: COHS Photo Collection)



**Bob Kingsmill working in his studio in Vernon, 2008** (Courtesy: Thompson Valley Potters Guild, [www.tvpg.ca/workshops-kingsmill.htm](http://www.tvpg.ca/workshops-kingsmill.htm))



## The Role of Planners in Heritage Conservation

### Planners are Important Folks!

The Central Okanagan Heritage Society works with a broad range of people on a regular basis. One of the groups that is doing really important work in the area of heritage, are those working in the field of Planning.

COHS recently participated in a visioning session hosted by the District of West Kelowna Planning Department, whereby a group of citizens was asked to come together to look at and explore community values and heritage sites in West Kelowna. The workshop is one of several steps the District is taking as it creates policies and looks towards the creation of a Heritage Register and the establishment of a West Kelowna Heritage Commission.

District of West Kelowna Planning Technician Andrew Gaylor helped to organize the workshop. Andrew moved to the Okanagan from Courtenay, BC where he helped establish their Heritage Register. The prospect of working in a new, fast-paced municipality with remarkable heritage assets like the fur brigade trail ultimately drew him to West Kelowna.

The City of Kelowna has a new Planner with heritage as one of her areas of responsibility. Lauren Bytelaar started her full-time position as a Planner 1 in April of this year. Lauren has lived most of her life in Kelowna and is a graduate of UBCO. Her third year of university was spent in Norway and Uganda where she participated in a *Go Global* exchange program studying urban and rural development. Among her many responsibilities with the City of Kelowna, Lauren works with the Community Heritage Commission. She also provides support for senior management and staff on a wide range of projects including the development of policy on heritage matters.



Judith Cook, Community Heritage Planner with the Heritage Branch, discussing heritage policy with Andrew Gaylor, Planning Technician with the District of West Kelowna at the Heritage Values Workshop held on August 5th.



Heritage advocates and supporters, Heather Raybould and Ferne Jean, looking at historic photographs at West Kelowna's Heritage Values Workshop.

## A Joint Note from the President and the Executive Director

Premier Christy Clark is fulfilling a promise with the appointment of Skip Triplett, a former university boss who will be visiting 14 communities across the province, including Kelowna. The purpose of his visit is a provincial review of what has been happening with community gaming grants and looking at ways to create certainty and sustainability for non-profits and charitable groups who provide vital services throughout the province.

For the ten year period ending in 2008, COHS had received on average of \$20,000 each year in provincial gaming funds. The Society was able to use these funds for a wide variety of activities, including Heritage week, Heritage awards, Heritage Home Tours, Fall Fairs, brochures, staffing, and awareness. In August 2009, half way through our fiscal year, COHS received word that we would no longer be eligible for gaming grants. The total available for gaming grants has been dramatically reduced and the list of those who could apply for a grant was shortened and now excluded heritage organizations. The impact was dramatic and sudden.

With staff lay-offs and cut-backs and the cancellation and scale back of projects and programs, COHS has survived for the past three years.



COHS will be putting forward a 10-minute submission to Mr. Triplett at the September 12<sup>th</sup> forum at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society. The review will examine the government's role in the distribution of gaming funds and look at formulas, eligibility requirements and the process of applying for grants. It is our hope that Mr. Triplett's final report due October 31, 2011 will include the reinstatement of heritage as a funding category for gaming grants. The \$60,000 that we have done without for the past three years has clipped our sails, but we are one of the lucky ones who have found a way to navigate and come out the other side. Having the opportunity to apply for gaming grants once again, could open up new opportunities for COHS in the years that lie ahead.

*Janice Henry, Executive Director  
Donald Knox, President*

## Kelowna Heritage Grants Program



The City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP) is having another busy year, approving and distributing heritage grants for buildings on Kelowna's Heritage Register. The eleven applications received at the first two meetings of the year have resulted in the approval of over \$34,000 in heritage grants. Grants have been approved for projects including: the repair, prep and painting of the exterior of heritage register buildings; new roofs; repairs to building's foundations; wood storms and window repairs.

The grant guidelines and application form is available on the City of Kelowna website (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page85.aspx>) or through the grant program manager. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise. **Application deadlines for 2011 are: March 22; June 7; August 30; November 1.**

Lorri Dauncey, Manager, City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program [ldauncey.cohs@telus.net](mailto:ldauncey.cohs@telus.net)



## THREE DECADES OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION

“Heritage BC is 30-something. The heady days of youth are over. Heritage BC turned 30 in April and is now entering its fourth decade. Thirty is a major milestone for everyone. It is a time to reflect on what you have achieved so far, and where you are going. Some goals have been reached. A few dreams have been dashed.

Although not incorporated under the Society Act until April 21, 1981, Heritage BC (aka Dogwood Heritage Society of British Columbia), emerged out of the heady days of the 1970s when so many things, heritage-wise, had their beginnings.

The Heritage Canada Foundation was created by federal charter in 1973. One of the first initiatives of the HCF was to establish a series of regional councils, and one was soon set up in B.C. and the Yukon. The new council got busy right away, spurred on by a membership drawn from the leaders of the nascent B.C. heritage movement.

Things moved ahead quickly. The provincial Heritage Conservation Act was passed in 1977, creating for the first time municipal heritage powers to designate heritage property and establish a heritage advisory committee. The following year, the British Columbia Heritage Trust was launched, a major funding engine that was soon supporting literally hundreds of projects around the province.

By 1980, it was clear that B.C. needed its own heritage society, and the regional council got to work on a constitution and bylaws. The next year, the Heritage Society of B.C. was created. A continuing relationship with the HCF was confirmed by the inclusion of the Heritage Canada Governor for British Columbia on the Heritage BC board. For several years there was a joint membership relationship as well.

In the early years, many of the basic programs that have continued to the present day were established. The annual conference had actually been a reality for a few years prior to incorporation. An awards program, recognizing all of the new and exciting activity, was also a must. The society began to publish a newsletter, ‘Heritage West’, which quickly gained popularity as the best source of heritage news.

An important relationship between Heritage BC and the provincial government also emerged in these early years. The province of course played a critical funding role, but there was also a great deal of cooperation, working together toward clearly understood and shared goals.

With some funding, the society could support at least part-time staff. But in 1989, the B.C. Heritage Trust made a commitment to an annual operating grant, and Heritage BC was able to hire a full time executive director the following year.

After the first exciting and energetic decade, things took a turn for the worse as we entered the 1990’s. There were still a number of important accomplishments, provincially, including the Heritage Conservation Statutes Amendment Act of 1994. Many community programs continued to grow and mature, some the equal of any in the country. But the last 20 years have been a more austere period, culminating in the very disappointing downturn of the past couple of years.

However, Heritage BC and heritage conservation march on. It has been a good beginning, but there is much more work to do. Heritage BC continues to evolve and improve. We are very pleased to have established the Heritage Legacy Fund in 2003. We look forward to growing the fund, and offering more and better services to the heritage community, and British Columbia. There is much to look forward to.”

**Source: excerpts from the Heritage BC Website,  
Three Decades of Heritage Conservation by Rick Goodacre, executive director**



### First HBC Board 1981

(from left) Nancy Oliver, Ron Sutherland, Liz O’Kiely, Christine Straiton (now Weibe), Russ Irvine (Heritage Conservation Branch), Mary Liz Bayer, Elizabeth Low, Martin Segger (Heritage Canada Governor General) (Courtesy: HBC Photo Collection)

*“Heritage BC  
is 30-something.  
The heady days  
of youth are  
over.”*

## HERITAGE NEWS

### BOARD MEMBERS & ADVISORY BOARD

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#### Secretary-Treasurer

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Janice Henry

#### City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program

Lorri Dauncey

#### Head Gardener

Carla Harrison

#### Assistant Gardener

Kevin O'Neil

#### Site Manager at Benvoulin Park

Percy Lujan



### HERITAGE NEWS

**Designating Heritage Lighthouses:** Under the federal Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, Canadians can now nominate lighthouses for designation and protection. There is a two-year window for the nomination process, ending May 29, 2012. Nominations will be considered by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. So far, 56 lighthouses have been nominated, but only three from BC: Point Atkinson, Sisters Islets and Sheringham Point. Heritage BC and the provincial Heritage Branch have provided the federal Heritage Lighthouse Program with a list of community organizations and local governments that may have an interest in the 35 BC lighthouses identified by Parks Canada as having nomination potential. Parks Canada is writing to these organizations and governments to inform them about the nominations process and to discover if there is an interest in participating in information sessions. Some sessions have already been held in the Maritimes and more may be scheduled on the west coast in September, if the level of interest warrants.

For more information contact: Heritage Lighthouse Program at 819-934-9096; [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca).

**District of West Kelowna's Heritage Events:** The District of West Kelowna has been a busy place of late with several key heritage events. The District held a Heritage Values Workshop on August 5<sup>th</sup>, with COHS represented by executive director Janice Henry. (See article on page 7). The grand opening of the newly relocated Westbank Museum was held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The new location next to the Police Station and the Westbank and District Chamber of Commerce at 2376 Dobbin Road, will serve the museum well. The Museum entrance area also serves as the Westbank Visitor Information area. A barn area inside the Museum contains information, articles and artefacts pertaining to orchards, farming, logging and blacksmithing. For more information on the Westbank Museum, check out their website at [info@westbankmuseum.com](mailto:info@westbankmuseum.com) or call Tammy at 250-768-0110.

#### Okanagan Historical Society's Father Pandosy Mission 150th

**Anniversary Commemorative Sculpture:** Over 75% of the project budget has been raised through community donations and a \$49,000 grant from Canadian Heritage. The life-sized bronze sculpture will become part of Kelowna's Public Art Collection and will be installed in Mission Recreation Park in March 2012. A limited edition of 20 artist-signed (Crystal Przbille) bronze maquettes are available for purchase. For more information: <http://sites.google.com/site/pandosysculpture/>.



COHS thanks the City of Kelowna for their support through an Arts, Culture and Heritage Operating Grant for 2011.

*Newsletter: Lorri Dauncey & Janice Henry (editor)*

**Want to Join or Renew Your Membership ~ Or Make a Donation?**

**Please fill in the enclosed Membership & Donation Form and mail to:**

**COHS, 1060 Cameron Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8V3**