

Heritage News



The Official Newsletter of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society

FALL 2012

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St. Aidan's Church, Rutland Road, Kelowna. See article on page 6.

Top: Opening on June 15, 1933 (Courtesy: Evelyn Vielvoye)

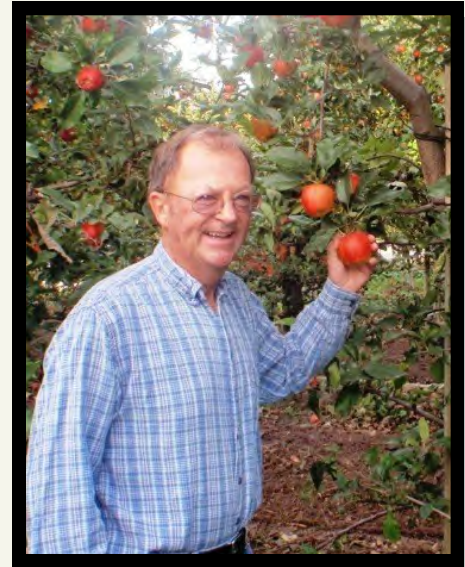
Bottom: Closed, circa 2004 (Courtesy: City of Kelowna SOS)

David Hobson

COHS lost another good friend with the passing of David Hobson on May 12, 2012. David was deeply engaged with his community, serving on numerous boards of directors. David had been a COHS member, board member and served a term as President on the Central Okanagan Heritage Society board. David could often be seen helping at society events, buying tickets to fund-raising activities and he along with wife Margaret were generous with annual gifts to the work of COHS.

David died as a result of leukemia after a two year battle with the disease. Memorial gifts were directed to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Central Okanagan Heritage Society.

We will miss David with his good common-sense, easy manner, and generous spirit.



Gifts that really do – Keep on Giving

Making a charitable gift to organizations that support heritage is something all of us should consider.

There are three ways that local citizens can support heritage now and into the future. The Central Okanagan Heritage Society has the capacity to handle major gifts. Donors can choose to give a gift directly to the society, whereby the board of directors will make decisions about how the funds be best used. This can include funding a major restoration project, purchasing a capital item that does not fit into the budget, or adding the money to the society's endowment fund. All options would be considered and the best use of the money identified.

For many years the COHS has had an endowment fund with the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF), where by the fund generates income which is annually paid out to COHS. The Captain Bull fund was established by the Bull family and is also held by the COF. This fund also pays out annual income to the society. We just received our annual allocation from these two funds this week totalling \$1,114. While not huge, every dollar helps and the best part is that we get a cheque each year. It is money we can count on and budget for.

For those who would like to support heritage through-out the province, the Heritage Legacy Fund is a good option. Established in 2003 with five million dollars from the Government of British Columbia, the income generated by the fund has supported 123 projects totalling 1.7 million dollars. The Heritage Legacy Fund provides much-needed funds to assist with the costs of conservation. Grants have helped replace worn roofs, or essential repairs to windows, doors and other features that are intrinsic to the character of the building. COHS received a grant in 2012 to help with the replacement of the Benvoulin Heritage Church roof.

If you would like to discuss options for charitable gifts to heritage related organizations – contact the Central Okanagan Heritage Society.



Heritage BC Conference

The Central Okanagan was well represented at the annual HBC conference held October 19th at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby, with six delegates out of the 67 people registered. The program was a scaled down version of previous conferences due to severe budget restrictions. The one day conference included much discussion about the difficulties facing heritage organizations at the National, Provincial and local level and looking for possible long term solutions.

The conference concluded with the HBC Annual General Meeting which saw Kelowna's Larry Foster come off the board after four years of service, two as board chair. COHS executive director Janice Henry has been appointed to the board, along with Ranjit Gill, the executive director of the Central BC Railways and Forest Museum from Prince George.



Kelowna Contingent
L-R back row: Peter Chataway, Frithjof Petscheleit, Larry Foster
L-R front row: Michele Rule, Janice Henry, Lorri Dauncey



Following a light reception the Heritage BC Annual Awards were given out to acknowledge the work that is being done throughout the province with respect to heritage conservation. As part of the evening presentations, Heritage Canada gave out a **National Achievement Award** to the City of Kelowna for the rehabilitation of the Laurel Packing House.

The Laurel Packinghouse was built in 1917 from locally made Knox Mountain clay bricks. The oldest and largest remaining packing house in British Columbia, it operated until the 1970's. The 2.5 million dollar structural renovation of the Laurel has ensured its continued public use for arts, heritage and cultural events. The extensive project involved implementing a range of major structural upgrades without compromising the historic appearance of the building.



The award presentation was made to Joel Shaw (project manager), Jim Meiklejohn (architect) and Gord Sandrin (Sawchuck Development Co. Ltd) by Lesley Moore (executive director of Kelowna Museums Society) and Pamela Madoff (former director of the Heritage Canada Foundation).

L-R : Gord Sandrin, Joel Shaw, Jim Meiklejohn, Pamela Madoff, Lesley Moore (Courtesy: Heritage BC)

"The 2.5 million dollar structural renovation of the Laurel has ensured its continued public use for arts, heritage and cultural events."

Benvoulin Church's 120th & COHS's 30th Anniversary Weekend



Top left: Event Signage — Don Knox, COHS president addresses attendees at opening ceremony — COHS's first president, Cynthia Hunter with her painting of Benvoulin Church by artist Mary Bull — Jane Eamon & Gord Brush perform in the garden. Bottom left: Alisa Parker plays in the church — Janice Henry leads a tour group — Local politicians Minister Steve Thomson, MLA Norm Letnick & Kelowna City Councillor Robert Hobson at opening ceremony — COHS board member Wilma Schellenberger & Eileen Chappel (Courtesy: Wendy McAlpine, photographer, August 2012)

Benvoulin Church's 120th & COHS's 30th Anniversary Dinner



Top left: Margaret Hobson, Robert Hobson, Rosemary Stiell — Nancy & Don Branch — Ian Pooley, Carolyn MacHardy
 Bottom left: Pat Arcand, Percy Lujan — Mayor Walter & Doreen Gray — Barry & Eva Eshpeter with granddaughters
 (Courtesy: Conor Tahen, photographer, September 2012)



BENVOULIN CHURCH: A BUILDING THAT REFLECTS ITS COMMUNITY

COHS volunteers and staff have spent the last year putting together a project for the Virtual Museums of Canada – Community Memory project. The goal of the program is to ensure that local history gets recorded and becomes available to those around the globe. With small grants to projects across Canada, the list of buildings and sites continues to grow.

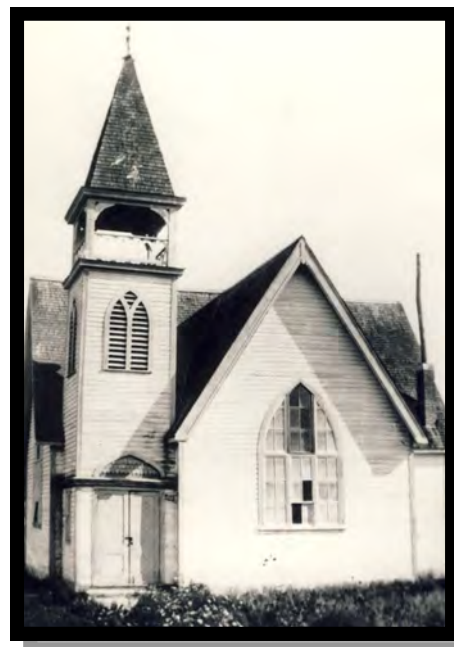
Under the staff leadership of Lorri Dauncey, the project is now complete and has exceeded expectations. Through the use of nearly 200 photographs, images and text, the story of the Benvoulin Church is explored and brought to life. The physical changes to the church and site reflect the changing needs of the community. The construction, restoration and the continued preservation of this important building and site, reflects the value the community continues to place on the Benvoulin Heritage Church.

In order to view the complete project, go to the Canadian Heritage Information site at: http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_memories/pm_v2.php?id=exhibit_home&fl=0&lg=English&ex=815

While you're at it check out our first Community Memories Project on Brent's Grist Mill at: http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_memories/pm_v2.php?id=exhibit_home&fl=0&lg=English&ex=00000372

The Central Okanagan Heritage Society is very grateful for all the help and support from the following organizations and people: Kelowna Public Archives; Greater Vernon Museum and Archives; Okanagan Historical Society; Kamloops Land Title Office Archives; Ferguson Land Surveying & Geomatics Ltd; Pat Arcand; Doug Arthur; Kay Benzer; Peter Chataway; Lorri Dauncey; Alex Dauncey-Elwood; Jim Elwood; Gordon Hartley; Fran and Ray Helgeson; Janice Henry; Cam Henry; Robert Hobson; Cynthia Hunter; Henry, John and Jeff Johnson; Don Knox; Marietta Lightbody; Carolyn MacHardy; Lorainne McLarty; Stephen Munson; Allen Reid; Sue Thompson; Dorothy Zoellner

Bethel Presbyterian Church (later renamed
 Benvoulin United Church), c. 1915
 (Courtesy: COHS Fonds)



A Joint Note from the President and the Executive Director



In our spring 2012 newsletter we wrote about the City of Kelowna and action on three city-owned heritage sites that are in dire need of rehabilitation. The Brent's Grist Mill, at the bottom of Dilworth Drive, the Surtees barn and house in the lower Mission and St. Aidan's Church in Rutland.

The process began last spring when the city brought together community stake-holders to talk about how best to move forward with these six buildings at three sites. COHS was at that meeting with our heritage expertise and were encouraged to

actually see some progress. The scope of these projects is large, complex and expensive. While COHS has an interest in all three projects, and have a long history with Brent's Grist Mill, after careful consideration it was determined that at this point, we would focus on trying to play a role in saving St. Aidan's Church.

During the summer we meet with the Rutland Residents Association to discuss partnership opportunities. We also called a broader community meeting on St. Aidan's to gauge community support, and bring interested parties up to-date on the city's direction.

With a deadline of September 11th, COHS responded to the City's request for *Expressions of Interest* with a proposal that would have seen the city give COHS the church and the land it sits on plus one additional lot to the south. COHS would have then taken on the ownership and restoration of the building. There is significant work needed on the building including, the addition of washrooms. Our proposal involved interpretation, and if at all possible making the building available for public rental space, much as we have done with Benvoulin.

While we scored well in the first four criteria that the city laid out, we have been told that our proposal did not have enough money attached and we were there-for not asked to move forward to the next step which is the *Request for Proposals (RFP)*.

Criterion	Weight
Proposed use of building and site and duration of occupancy	30
Scope of conservation strategy	15
Public access and benefit	15
Proponent's experience and credentials	20
Proponent's contribution relative to proposed contribution from the City	20
Total	100

COHS had also been involved with a new non-profit that was looking to set up shop in the restored Brent's Mill and their *Expression of Interest* included a role for COHS as the Heritage consultant on that project. We have since learned that that project was also not asked to move to the RFP stage.

We are disappointed to not be involved with either of these two significant sites and will be eager to see what direction the city is moving in. At this point the process has been driven by city staff, and the list of those who have been asked to move to the RFP has not been made public.

Donald Knox, President

Janice Henry, Executive Director

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 twelve applications received in 2012 have resulted in

the approval of over \$39,000 in heritage grants. Grants have been approved for projects including: the repair, prep and painting of buildings; new roofs; and window repairs. With all available granting dollars allocated, two qualified applications were moved to the first meeting in 2013. As this is the second year in a row that qualified projects were put forward to the following year, Committee chair Janet Digby sent a letter to the City of Kelowna planning staff requesting consideration for incrementally increasing the City's annual allotment.

The Rutland Dudgeon Farm House (see photo on right) conservation project has just been completed this fall. Repairs included: new paint, new roof and the addition of eaves troughs and drainpipes.

The grant guidelines and application form is available on COHS's website (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs//Heritage/HeritageGrantsProgramPackage.pdf>), on the City of Kelowna website (<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page85.aspx>) or through the heritage grant program manager, Lorri Dauncey. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise.

Application deadlines for 2013 are tentatively set for:
March 12; May 28 August 27; October 29



"The Rutland Dudgeon Farm House conservation project has just been completed this fall."



Heritage Marker Program

Interpretive signage for heritage buildings plays a big role in bringing a site's history alive for the visitor. But often it contains only minimal information and leaves us with more questions than answers.

For the 120th anniversary for the Benvoulin Heritage Church we created a plaque that gives the Heritage Society a platform to provide up to date, interesting information about the church and its history, to show a video of the inside and to give visitors the opportunity to learn more than ever before. The new plaque is the first project for "The Heritage Marker Project". It features a special scanner code (QR code) that can be scanned with smartphones and tablet computers or by typing a short internet address into your mobile browser. Currently the mobile website offers a page about the church, two videos about the inside of the church and Reid Hall as well as a map and links to Facebook, email and telephone.



For the next phase of the project we are planning to add the same functionality to other historic sites in Kelowna and enable visitors to create tours using their phones navigation systems. The system works the other way around as well! You can find the Heritage Marker sites through the Internet at <http://heritagemarker.com> and plan your visit that way. More and more people rely on their mobile devices for work and play – being able to serve fresh multimedia content that can be changed without changing out the plaque itself is a huge savings and an opportunity for any historic site. Making it easier for visitors to share their experience with their social media networks is like a built-in marketing machine.

So far 71 people have scanned the plaque but we expect this number to grow exponentially as soon as we add more heritage marker sites. Have you tried it?

Submitted by: Frithjof Petscheleit

HERITAGE NEWS

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Site Manager at Benvoulin Park

Percy Lujan



COHS thanks the City of Kelowna for their support through an Arts, Culture and Heritage Operating Grant for 2012

HERITAGE NEWS

After the federal *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* was passed in 2010, Canadians had two years to nominate lighthouses for protection. A year ago, Heritage BC Quarterly reported that only 56 out of many hundreds of lighthouses across Canada had been nominated, and of these only three were in B.C. Fortunately by the May 29, 2012 deadline, 348 lighthouses had been nominated nationally, with 41 in B.C. All nominations are listed on the Parks Canada website.

Life Histories: Historical Manuscripts of the District of Lake Country, BC: The Lake Country Museum and Archives has recently completed a major digitization project of archival records, making them available to the public at no cost through the museum's website.: www.lakecountrymuseum.com

76th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society is now available for purchase from the Kelowna Branch! You can get copies of this excellent edition, for only \$25, by contacting Branch Director Bob Hayes.

The Land is our Culture: September 22nd, 2012 to April 6th, 2013 at the Okanagan Heritage Museum. *The Land is our Culture* is a partnership between Westbank First Nation and Kelowna Museums Society. It explores the use of land and green materials as traditional media, and the contemporary techniques and materials used to create the stunning collection of art works by artists Barb Marchand and Janine Lot.

Heritage Week 2013 February 18 to 24, 2013: The theme is *Heritage Homes & Neighbourhoods*. "Historic neighbourhoods are more than a great place to live—they provide a sense of pride and stability for the entire community."

Local Heritage News – In brief

Special thanks to all our volunteers during the Anniversary celebration events. We couldn't do it without you!

Benvoulin Roof: We are absolutely thrilled to see a new roof going on Benvoulin Church. A concerted effort and generous grants and donations have allowed us to proceed with this \$36,000 project.

Christmas at Benvoulin: COHS had a busy year with anniversary celebrations, so for this year, there will be no Christmas at Benvoulin. If you miss this event and want to get involved next year- give us a call!

New Art for COHS: COHS has an impressive collection of art work with many pieces depicting Benvoulin Heritage Church. Two new pieces have been added to our collection and will be hung at Benvoulin for all to see and enjoy.

Moksha Yoga Kelowna: Took the proceeds from a month of drop-in classes and donated them to COHS! This generous gift of \$1,231 was a terrific surprise and will help us with our work.

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