



# Heritage News

**CENTRAL OKANAGAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
FALL 2013**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- COHS Fundraising Concert
- COHS Fall Speaker Series
- Central Elementary School
- COHS New Board Member
- Calendar of Events
- Changes at Benvoulin Park
- Heritage BC's New ED
- COHS News in Brief
- Heritage Grants Program
- Heritage BC Awards
- Heritage News

**Doing It Right – Central Elementary has its windows restored not replaced!**



**Central Elementary School is located at 1825 Richter St. This heritage designated building while owned by the City of Kelowna, has a stewardship agreement with the Central Okanagan School District.**

Courtesy: L.Dauncey,

## COHS Fundraising Concert with Jaclyn Guillou

COHS needs a new shed to store our beautiful white folding chairs, purchased this spring to expand our ability to host outdoor weddings. The outdoor weddings have taken off – and now we really need proper storage. Thanks to COHS director Brian Wright, COHS will be holding a fundraising concert to “build the shed!” Brian heard Jaclyn Guillou sing at an event held at the Kelowna Yacht Club. He was so impressed he made contact, and let her know that he had this wonderful venue – called Benvoulin Heritage Church where she might like to perform one day. That date has now been set for Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>. We invite friends of heritage and jazz to come hear this amazing talent.

In 2009 Jaclyn was honoured to be the recipient of the **CBC Galaxie Rising Star Award** for her very first performance at the *Vancouver International Jazz Festival*. She has had the pleasure of studying with some of the world's best jazz singers which include American vocal luminaries Nancy King, Sheila Jordan and Vancouver's own Jennifer Scott. In 2011 Jaclyn released her first album *To the City* a collection of original songs and unusual arrangements of jazz standards. Jaclyn was invited to perform a tribute concert to Dinah Washington which was recorded at CBC radio and TV which aired globally this summer.

*“Jazz Concert  
on Sunday,  
October 20,  
at 7pm in the  
Benvoulin  
Heritage  
Church”*

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Doors open at 6:00 pm for a wine and cheese reception. Wine \$5.00 a glass.**

**Concert at 7:00 pm**

**Benvoulin Church and Hall – 2279 Benvoulin Road, Kelowna**

**Tickets are \$20; Please call Brian at 250-681-0198 or the COHS office 250-861-7188**



**COLDWELL BANKER HORIZON REALTY**  
#14 - 1470 Harvey Avenue  
Kelowna, BC, V1Y 9K8  
Office: 250.860.7500 Fax: 250.868.2488  
Toll Free: 1.888.KELOWNA (535.6962)  
Website: www.KelownaRealEstate.com

**Brian Wright**

**John Mandoli**



**QUAILS' GATE**  
*Okanagan Valley*



*In George Washington's Day...*

*Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TVs, email, texts or twitter, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns and pubs. They were told to “go sip some ale” and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. “You go sip here” and “You go sip there.” The two words “go sip” were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and thus we have the term ‘gossip.’*

## COHS Fall Speaker Series

Location: Reid Hall, Benvoulin Heritage Park

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Limited Seating

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, October 22  | <b><i>Colour Matters</i></b> (Benjamin Moore & COHS)                                   |
| Tuesday, October 29  | <b><i>Kakonosedai: A Century of Community</i></b> (Lake Country Museum)                |
| Tuesday, November 5  | <b><i>Heritage Exposed - the cosmetic look and skeleton of a building</i></b> (CoKHGP) |
| Tuesday, November 12 | <b><i>My Journey to Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953</i></b> (Carl Zanon)       |
| Tuesday, November 19 | <b><i>Benvoulin Church: a building that reflects its community</i></b> (COHS)          |

### ***Colour Matters – Benjamin Moore and COHS***

Lying unseen for decades under layers of paint and hidden in black and white photographs was a whole host of colour waiting to be discovered by heritage experts, Vancouver Heritage Foundation and Benjamin Moore. With research and on-site paint sampling, the original colours of the historic houses in the Vancouver area were revealed. It was discovered that the use of colour was not arbitrary but an integral part of the design which reflected the time period and architecture in addition to protecting the building materials. Join us to find out how you can maintain the authenticity of your heritage building through the use of exterior paint.

### ***Kakonosedai: A Century of Community – Lake Country Museum and Archives***

The Lake Country Museum and Archives will present the history of the Japanese Canadian Pioneers of Lake Country, BC. The Museum has worked with the community since 2011 to develop a comprehensive history of the first Japanese Canadian pioneers of the region and their experiences during the period from 1899 to pre-World War II. The core theme of the presented history is courage, perseverance, and resilience, with selections from the online and museum exhibitions featuring original artefacts brought from Japan, archival photographs, personal memories, and interviews of the children and grandchildren of the pioneers.

### ***Heritage Exposed- the cosmetic look and skeleton of a building – City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program***

Peter Chataway and Ian Crichton are a design-build team exposing the beauty and integrity of heritage houses. Elements of a heritage building, such as colour schemes, appropriate roofing materials, original wood windows and siding will be combined with essential ingredients such as upgrading the heritage structure, conserving materials, healthy mechanical systems and energy conservation issues. Heritage homes need understanding and care, to serve their occupants and the community well. Come and hear Peter and Ian **expose** the heritage house, like never before.

### ***My journey to Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 – Carl Zanon***

Twelve Canadian sea cadets were selected by the Navy League of Canada to participate in the Coronation and Naval Review to be held in conjunction with Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Carl from Nelson BC was chosen to represent British Columbia and the Hampton Gray, VC unit. The cadets traveled by train to Halifax, NS where they boarded the aircraft carrier *HMCS Magnificent*. In London, the Canadian contingent joined sea cadets from the other Commonwealth countries who then toured cities in England and Scotland. All of this adventure, when he was just sixteen years old.

### ***Benvoulin Church: a building that reflects its community - COHS***

The Bethel (Benvoulin) Church, the first Presbyterian Church south of Vernon, was built by the community in 1892, on a piece of land donated by real estate promoter/developer George Grant MacKay. The church was built by H.W. Raymer, who was Kelowna's first mayor. Lumber for construction came from the sawmill of the notable pioneer Lequime family. Canada's seventh Governor General, Lord Aberdeen, and his wife Lady Aberdeen, who purchased the neighbouring Guisachan Ranch, provided liberal donations towards the building of the church. Come and hear the "rest of the 120 year story."



## Central Elementary School's Restored Window Project

Anyone casually driving by Central Elementary School on Richter Street this summer would be forgiven for thinking that some catastrophic event had taken place. The reality is quite different and indeed, inspiring to anyone who values heritage buildings and the ingenious technologies they contain.

Plywood boarding on all the windows signalled a major project, but exactly what was going on in the venerable old building? Moyra Baxter, Chair of the School Board explained that when a school ceases to be used for educational purposes, the City of Kelowna takes over ownership. Even though Central Elementary is not used for its original purpose, it still has a strong educational focus, so the School Board is responsible for its maintenance. In recent years, the Board budget paid for the masonry to be re-pointed and the foundations waterproofed to stabilize these crucial architectural elements. The building also received a small grant from the City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program towards the foundation repairs. The windows had not benefited from any major repairs since they were installed in 1913 and they were certainly not performing to current expectations for heating efficiency.

Research on options concluded that new double glazed panes would not fit the wooden frames, replicas were costly and in the long run, restoring the windows would be less expensive than installing new units. A budget of \$500,000 was approved for the project. The final cost is projected to be approximately \$400,000, which is an admirable achievement considering the ingenuity that was needed to solve the myriad of challenges that emerged as the work went forward, to say nothing of the project's short time frame. Work began in early July, with an end date expected to coincide with the start of the school year at the beginning of September.

The challenging project was put out to tender and Greyback Construction of Penticton was given the contract. Under the leadership of Ken McLellan, the skilled team has worked wonders to remove, restore and re-install each of the 95 windows.

The Board's commitment to restoration is important on two fronts.

~if any funding to support the heritage status of the building is to be received in the future, no aspect of the original construction and design can have been compromised

~the fundamental harmony of the Neo-Classical and Georgian elements expressed in the building's design will be there for the next hundred years.

Built in 1913 and opened in January 1914, Central Elementary School is a gem representing the loftiest architectural ideals of its time. Beaux-Arts design inspired the recessed central and projecting side wings. Neo-Classical and Georgian design contributed the details: imposing entrances graced with free-standing columns, pilasters and arches. The pediment that surrounds and enhances the building's roof features dentils that are characteristic of the style. The placement of the windows provides a sense of balance and harmony. The windows are all six over six, meaning that each moveable sash contains six panes of glass.



**East Side Ready for Window Installation**

Courtesy: Tracey Read, 2013

How was their restoration achieved? Ken McLellan was kind enough to provide a tour of the site and describe the challenges and their solutions. The short time allotted for the project meant that ingenuity would rule the day. If the only appropriate scaffolding had been ordered from Calgary, it would have taken ten days to arrive in Kelowna and be installed. Instead, jig and scissor lift equipment was used to remove each window and place what looked, from the outside, to be simple plywood boarding.

Not so - a trick of clever construction provided solid plywood sheeting on the outside backed with spacers that permitted all the work to proceed, rain or shine, to refurbish the frames and mechanical components from the inside. This was all achieved in less than the ten days it would have taken to install scaffolding.

Each room was protected - "bagged" if you will - with an envelope of tarpaulins installed to provide a perimeter for construction. This ensured that air would flow to the outside when lead paint mitigation was being done. The School Board was well aware of the dangers of removing lead-based paint and ensured that heat guns, not chemicals were used to remove the many layers that had accumulated over the past 100 years. Up to five colours were identified. Each window has received its coat of off-white paint to take it into the future.

A photographic record of each and every element was made to ensure that everything would be returned to its original position. This was necessary since minute differences in frame sizes meant that the windows were not interchangeable. Once



**Window Transom Detail**

Courtesy: Tracey Read, 2013

they had been removed, the windows were delivered for restoration to Vintage Woodworks in Victoria. The decision was made that if a mullion were structurally sound but it had, for instance, an initial carved in it, no effort would be made to return the mullion to its original pristine state. If a pane of glass had a chip in it that wouldn't affect its use, the pane was not replaced. The result provides a comforting sense of respect for authenticity and the passage of time.

While the windows were off site, work continued behind the plywood boardings. The window sills were rebuilt where necessary, using old fir boards and sculptwood when needed. The parting strips, used to keep the windows in their tracks, were also repaired. Virtually all the sash stop material was salvaged. Before shipping the windows, all their hardware was re-claimed and the painstaking job of removing layers of lead-based paint began.

Amazing suppliers for parts were researched although not all were used. The new weatherstripping is from the original supplier. (As a matter of interest, each piece was modified here in Kelowna and required 75 tiny nails to attach the weatherstripping to its window sash. A tool used for carpet installation was adapted to accommodate the tiny nails, ensure accurate installation and speed up the process.) The strips of shiny brass that provide the "tracks" for raising and lowering the windows could have been provided by the Pullman Company of railroad fame. Instead they were refurbished on

site through a painstaking process of stripping the lead paint, sanding, oiling and ultimately, replacing the strips. All the brass pulleys and locks were refurbished through the same process.

Over each window there is a transom glazed with textured glass. These transoms are visible from the outside but over the years, as heating pipes, electrical conduits etc were required to upgrade the classrooms, the ceilings were dropped inside to conceal the new infrastructure thus cutting out the light from the transoms. It was not possible to source the original textured glass so a close replica is being used.

Not every part for every window was available. In total there should have been 1,288 grommets to hold the window sashes in place, but 120 were missing. They will be replaced with new. Some elements have been moved around. For example, the Heritage Room will have 100% historic parts, as befits its name. Where new parts are needed they will be installed in the kitchen, which has many modern upgrades already in place.

Central Elementary School has opened its doors once again to generations of students whose lives bear little resemblance to their forebears. Thanks to the vision of the School Board and the expertise and ingenuity of Greyback Construction, the building will continue to remind us of our collective past.



**Window Sash Hardware,**

Courtesy: Tracey Read, 2013

Submitted by: Tracey Read



## COHS Welcomes New Board Member



COHS is delighted to welcome Tracey Read to our board of directors. Tracey recently moved to Kelowna from the Strathmore area- east of Calgary. Tracy has written several books – all with a heritage/history theme including; ***Yukon Women*** that provides history and context for the traditional and modern roles of women in the Yukon territory; ***Acres and Empires*** which looks at the pioneers of the Municipality District of Rocky View No 44, and ***Celebrating the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede***. Tracey worked with the Calgary Stampede for many years including managing the Stampede archives as well as strategically planning the Stampede Centennial year in 2012, including developing relationships with all the heritage organizations in the Stampede's historical catchment area from Olds south to Fort Macleod. Tracey has already put her wonderful writing skills to work in this newsletter's article on Central Elementary School.

## Calendar of Events

~Kelowna Museums exhibit "Voices of the Town: Vaudeville in Canada" Oct. 4th – Jan. 4th 2014

~Grow Local Fair (combined the Cherry fair and the Apple fair) on Oct. 19 at 10am-3pm at Laurel Packing House

~COHS Fundraiser Concert with Jaclyn Guillou on Oct. 20 at 6pm at Benvoulin Heritage Church and Reid Hall. See page 2 for more details.

~COHS Fall Lecture Series (Tuesdays Oct. 22 – Nov. 19) at Reid Hall. See page 3 for more details

~COHS Fall Craft Fair on Oct. 25 at Benvoulin Heritage Church and Reid Hall at 3–7:30 pm. For more information call Judy at 250-491-5058 or 250-861-7188

~Okanagan Historical Society Fall Social & Lunch on Oct. 26, at First United Church Hall at 12:30-2:30pm. For tickets call 250-862-2801

~Artists for Creative Alliance's Coffeehouse last Wednesday of month at 7pm in Reid Hall (Oct. 30, Nov. 27, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, April 30). For more information email Lynda Norman at [ArtistsforCreativeAlliance@shaw.ca](mailto:ArtistsforCreativeAlliance@shaw.ca)

~19th Annual Benvoulin Heritage Church Christmas Craft Sale on Nov. 23 at 9 am to 4pm. For more information contact Heather at [handkw@telus.net](mailto:handkw@telus.net)

~COHS Christmas at Benvoulin on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2-4pm. For more information call 250-861-7188.

~Christmas Eve Service at Benvoulin Heritage Church, Anglican Network Church.

## Changes at Benvoulin Heritage Park

Kelowna has become a destination wedding location, the Niagara Falls of the West. While previous generations were married mainly indoors in churches and halls the trend to outdoor weddings continues to grow.

With more and more venues offering wedding, wineries, golf courses and locations such as Alyssum Gardens and other purpose-created sites, the number of weddings at Benvoulin had gone down over the years. In an effort to turn things around we have made changes to the Benvoulin grounds to encourage outdoor weddings at the site. With the church as a backup for those rainy days, brides and their families have the peace of mind that they have a suitable back-up plan in the event of poor weather.

A spring work bee had volunteers start on the changes to turn the grounds into a more suitable space for outdoor weddings. The old fence on the south border was taken down and replaced with a new split rail fence. A bed of old overgrown bushes was removed to expand the wedding lawn. A weeping birch was removed near the gazebo, opening up the space to a little more sunlight and allowed for significant improvements to what we now refer to as the wedding bed which is filled with a selection of white shrubs, perennials and seasonal flowers. A post was taken out of the gazebo which increased site-lines. A linear bed of old rose bushes (beyond their prime) was removed and an extension of the caragana hedge was planted. With a new part-time gardener at the site, the grounds have seen significant improvement this year.



COHS received a grant for \$1,000 last year from Kiwanis Club, which was the seed money to allow us to move forward with the ordering of 100 white folding chairs, which we are now renting out for outdoor weddings. This has proven to be a critical piece to expanding our venue for outdoor weddings.

Special thanks to all the business, volunteers, staff and service clubs that help us keep Benvoulin the special site that it is. We appreciate you!



## Heritage BC Welcomes New Executive Director



Following an intensive search process, Heritage BC is very pleased to welcome Kathryn Molloy as the society's new executive director. She will take over in September from Rick Goodacre who is retiring. Kathryn is currently a resident of Gabriola Island where she is executive director of People for a Healthy Community. Prior to taking on that post in 2009, she was executive director of the BC Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada for six years. Other professional experience includes several years as a consultant specializing in project management and event planning for national and international environmental organizations.

*"Heritage BC is very pleased to welcome Kathryn Molloy as the society's new executive director."*

Ms. Molloy's formal educational background is in financial management and education. Her considerable skills in budget development, building non-profit organizations and fund raising are ideally suited to the strategic goals of Heritage BC over the next five years. Under a plan endorsed by both HBC and the provincial government, Heritage BC will take on greater responsibility for community heritage management services, build and diversify its business and funding opportunities, and grow the Heritage Legacy Fund. The society is also in the process of establishing a new head office in the Greater Vancouver area. Heritage BC looks forward to working with Kathryn on these many new and exciting challenges.

Kathryn Molloy, Executive Director  
[kmolloy@heritagebc.ca](mailto:kmolloy@heritagebc.ca)

## COHS News in Brief

COHS has been busy with a number of issues for the past several months. Here are some of the highlights:

~COHS found itself in a difficult position again this year when we were denied our Gaming grant due to a technical error. After living in limbo for several months, our request to have our application reconsidered was successful and we are happy to report that our Gaming grant has been fully restored!

~We are happy to report that a local group known as *the Okanagan Buddhist Cultural Centre* working with local heritage professionals and has submitted a proposal for St. Aidan's Church in Rutland. This is the second step in a city-lead process to look at opportunities to see St. Aidan's Church brought back to a useful purpose.

~We were extremely disappointed that COHS will not be the new tenant in the Knowles house on Bernard Avenue. After months of deliberations with the city, the Okanagan Symphony was deemed to be a better fit for the house.

~After missing Christmas at Benvoulin in 2012 - we are happy to report that we will meet again in 2013. Stay tuned for more details as our plans develop.

## Kelowna Heritage Grants Program



COHS is in its sixth year of managing the City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP). The program was created to recognize the value of heritage in the community by providing financial support to owners of heritage properties. The program promotes the conservation of resi-

dential, commercial, industrial and agricultural heritage. Grants assist with a portion of the costs incurred in maintaining the building's exterior including the foundation. Only buildings listed on the Kelowna Heritage Register are eligible to apply for grants from the program. The Kelowna Heritage Register currently has 212 properties listed, including 20 that are protected by a Heritage Designation Bylaw. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise. The Kelowna Heritage Register can be accessed at <http://www.kelowna.ca/iHeritage/Scripts/>

As part of the COHS lecture series, there will be two talks of particular interest to character buildings owners. The first talk "Colour Matters" will include information on Benjamin Moore's True Colour Program and researched heritage colour schemes. My first volunteer work with COHS began with the conservation of the McIver House after it was moved onto the Benvoulin site. One of the most interesting parts of this project was discovering that this white with green trim farmhouse had not always been these colours. With careful colour sampling, the 'new' early colour scheme of carmel colour siding with burgundy and cream trim was revealed. In 1995, this new colour scheme caused quite a stir. Today, there are many heritage homes painted in similar colour schemes.

The second lecture, which will be given by two CoKHGP committee members, Peter Chataway and Ian Crichton, is entitled "Heritage Exposed." The ins and outs of owning a heritage house will be explored.

For more information on the program contact ~ Lorri Dauncey at [ldauncey.cohs@telus.net](mailto:ldauncey.cohs@telus.net)



## Two Kelowna Heritage BC Awards Recipients



Several Kelowna residents will receive provincial recognition at the upcoming HBC conference to be held in Burnaby on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. Those involved with the conservation of the H.D. Riggs House, located at the corner of Ethel and Borden in Kelowna will receive an *Award of Honour* for their care and commitment to conserve this important building. The award will be presented to Dave & Donara Krysko of Davara Holdings Ltd, Dustin Sargent of Davara Holdings Ltd, and Gordon Wilson of TEAM Construction.

Lorainne McLarty will receive the *Ruby Nobbs* award for her outstanding contribution as a volunteer in heritage conservation. We are delighted about both of these awards. Congratulations to each of you!

## HERITAGE NEWS

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### HERITAGE NEWS

#### ~Heritage BC Annual Conference: A New Beginning (October 18-19)

On Friday, October 18, the one-day program includes valuable presentations and discussions, member reports, displays and the AGM. The evening Awards Ceremony will celebrate and honour some important successes and achievements in heritage conservation. On Saturday, October 19, there will be a half-day heritage bus tour of the provincially-owned Riverview Hospital Site in Coquitlam, co-hosted by the Province of BC and Heritage BC. For more information check out: [www.heritagebc.ca/events/annual-conference-registration](http://www.heritagebc.ca/events/annual-conference-registration)

#### ~A Sustainable Business Model for Heritage BC

The provincial government commissioned Earthvoice Strategies Inc. to develop a business case for Heritage BC in the fall 2012. The project involved identifying, evaluating and making recommendations on business and/or operational models that will establish a sustainable and increasingly self-sufficient organization and reaffirm Heritage BC's role within the heritage sector.

#### ~Heritage BC Stops: A Virtual History Tour

The green 'Stop of Interest' plaques you see along BC's highways and at historical landmarks have a special place in the hearts of many travellers. The concept is re-visited and refreshed, utilizing new 'state of the art' technologies to help make history more widely accessible, interesting and fun...and it's not just for kids. We encourage everyone to visit the interactive website that is based on the 'Stop of Interest' program that was originally developed for the provincial centennial in 1958 to mark sites of historic significance.

Send your feedback, spread the word, and most importantly, take the opportunity to promote local community resources and links for preservation societies, publications, museums, tourism attractions and more. [www.heritagebcstops.com](http://www.heritagebcstops.com)

#### ~2014 Heritage Week: Heritage Afloat! February 17 - 23

Water is not just for drinking. For thousands of years, the simple fact that water is buoyant has allowed us, and our cargo, to get from one place to another. Before there was the wheel, there was the boat. Because water floats our boats, we live close to water whenever we can. British Columbia is blessed with an abundance of water, and most of our towns and cities have been built next to lakes and rivers, at the ocean's edge, or where rivers enter the sea. When we built roads and railways on land, they linked bodies of water to create a complete transportation network. Even today our economic future depends on the continuing availability of efficient and effective shipping to reach the world's markets.



COHS thanks the City of Kelowna for their support through an Arts, Culture and Heritage Operating Grant for 2013

COHS thanks the BC Government for the 2013 BC Gaming



Newsletter: Lorri Dauncey & Janice Henry (editor)