



Heritage News

Central Okanagan Heritage Society
Spring 2013

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COHS Office located in the Milkshed at Gulsachan Heritage Park



Spring at Gulsachan House located at Gulsachan Heritage Park

New COHS Website

COHS has a new website thanks to UBCO Professor Patricia Lasserre and her students. The course entitled *Human Computer Interaction*, saw students put into teams of three, and assigned to one of eight different non-profit organizations in either Kelowna or Vernon. The student teams met with a group of volunteers who gave input on the current web-site, and then provided feed-back through-out the re-vamping process.

Final presentations were made on April 3rd in the University Centre Ballroom. Janice Henry attended as COHS representative and was “thrilled with the work done by the students.”

Special thanks to the COHS volunteer group of: Michele Rule, Frithjof Petscheleit; Ian Pooley; John Pendray; Arina Elyzen; Don Knox; Colleen Knox; Cathryn Wellner and Sharon Shephard. Without you the project would not have been possible!

Check out the new website at www.okheritagesociety.com

Pictured are the UBCO students who took on the project. Braydn Pellegrini, Ryan Kuzemski and Michele Wilmot.



“Check out the new website at: www.okheritagesociety.com”



In George Washington’s days, personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had develop acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee’s wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions... When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman’s face she was told, ‘mind your own bee’s wax.’ Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term ‘crack a smile’. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt... Therefore, the expression ‘losing face.’

COHS Fall Speaker Series

At Reid Hall for four consecutive weeks. Plan to attend these informative talks. Admission by donation.

- Tuesday October 29 *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community* presented by Lake Country Museum
- Tuesday November 5 *Heritage Exposed ~ the cosmetic look and skeleton of a building*, presented by Peter Chataway and Ian Crichton
- Tuesday November 12 *A Century of Table Games, Cards & Puzzles: 1860s–1960s*, presented by John and Heather Raybould
- Tuesday November 19 *Benvoulin Church: a building that reflects its community'*, presented by COHS

COHS RUMMAGE SALE will be held on May 25 at the
Benvoulin Heritage Park.

For more info on contributing or attending this fundraiser, please contact

Michele Rule at: 250-717-6359 or michele@michelerule.ca



Calendar of Events

A Chance for Peace in Korea exhibition recently opened in the Okanagan Military Museum and will be up all summer. The exhibit profiles the relationship between North and South Korea since the end of the Korean War in 1953, with discussions of the tensions and diplomatic attempts for peace in the region. It also examines the relationship between the Koreans, Japan, China, Russia and the United States in today's changing political climate. For more info: <http://www.kelownamuseums.ca/>

Foundations to Build On exhibition opens at the Kelowna Centennial Museum on May 2. This exhibit tells the stories of Kelowna and the surrounding communities of Glenmore, Rutland, the Mission, and the Benvoulin townsite, from the beginning of European settlement until approx 1920. For more info: <http://www.kelownamuseums.ca/>

The 3rd Annual Fintry Spring Festival on Sunday May 12 from 10am to 4pm on the grounds of the Fintry Manor House in Fintry Provincial Park. Booths will be set up on the front lawn showcasing plants, gardening know-how and arts and crafts. The Fire Fighters will bring their heavy equipment and invite local car clubs to bring their beautiful antique cars down to the grounds. Local musicians will play from the Veranda and there will be games on the front lawn and a BBQ lunch. Admission to the grounds and tours of Manor House and Barns will be by donation. For more info email: info@fintry.ca

Regional Heritage Fair at the Laurel Packinghouse on May 16 and 17. This is a celebration of Canadian history and heritage through student project displays, field trips and heritage workshops. The fair will showcase 60+ projects from grade 4-10 students from schools throughout the Okanagan Valley. For more Info email: lindsay.gibson@sd23.bc.ca

St Michael's Centennial Heritage Festival from May 26 to June 1. Please see page 4 & 5 for more details. For more info please phone: 250-764-5351

Fintry Summer Fair celebrating BC Parks Day on Sunday July 14 will be held on the scenic lawns of the Manor House. The fair will include a Pancake breakfast, the Kalamalka Pipe Band and musicians, and local artists and artisans will exhibit their work and antiques and collectibles will be for sale. Admission to the grounds and tours of Manor House and Barns will be by donation. For more info email: info@fintry.ca

Fintry Fall Fair will be held on Sunday September 15. Everyone is invited to bring a car or pick-up to the front lawn to sell produce, jams, jellies or family treasures from the trunk or tailgate. Admission to the grounds and tours of Manor House and Barns will be by donation. For more info email: info@fintry.ca



Saint Michael and All Angels to Celebrate Centennial

The beautiful old grey stone church on the corner of Richter Street and Sutherland Avenue is a familiar landmark in Kelowna. This year, the building will be 100 years old, and the congregation of St. Michael is inviting the community to help celebrate its birthday with a Centennial Heritage Festival from May 26 to June 1.

St. Michael and All Angels was the first Anglican church built in Kelowna. In 1895 it occupied a lot where the Kelowna Centennial Museum now stands. Bernard Lequime donated this land to the church when he laid out the Kelowna townsite in 1892. The original building quickly became too small for a **growing congregation, and a church committee was appointed in 1906, headed up by St. Michael's** first Rector, Rev. Thomas Greene. The committee was composed of T.W. Stirling, F.A. Taylor, E.R. Bailey, W.C. Cameron, A.H. Crichton, R.H. Parkinson, M.G. Gorrie, Dr. B.F. Boyce, E.M. Carruthers, J.B. Whitehead and Dr. Shepherd.

As a result of their labours, Alderman F.A. Taylor laid the cornerstone of the new church on July 30th, 1911, as seen in the photograph below. Built by Harry A. Raymer, the church was dedicated on June 15, 1913. The event that St. Michael and All Angels will be celebrating in this centennial year.



Source: Diocese of Kootenay Archives, 1911

A Festival of Arts and History

On Saturday, June 1, bring friends and family to the grounds of St. Michael, from 9am to 3pm. You will find **buskers, clowns and balloon, as well as children's crafts and games. Explore the new building and gardens at St. Michael.** There will be free hotdogs and coffee, and delicious home-baked cookies and lemonade for sale.

Many artisans and groups have joined in. Orchard Valley Quilters Guild will display antique and heritage-design quilts. Weaving, spinning and rug-hooking will be demonstrated by the Ponderosa Spinners and Weavers. Artisans will be working on stained glass making and wood carving. The Okanagan Historical Society will help mount a photo display of 100 years of the Cathedral in the community. The Central Okanagan Heritage Society will also have a booth.

Tours of the church building, designed by the talented architect Wesley A. Peters will be on-going. The church is a fine example of the Gothic revival style, with a strong Craftsman influence. The use of local materials, such as **the sandstone and pink granite trim of St. Michael's exterior and the coastal fir lining the soaring nave of its interior,** make it unique among its peers. Inside the church you will see banners, vestments and altar hangings **made over the decades, many by St. Monnica's Guild, a needlework group in the church.**

A Musical Heritage

St. Michael is not only known for its architecture, but also for its wonderful acoustics. Churches play an important role in nurturing and sustaining a range of musical traditions and talents in our communities. **Celebrating this role and history, St. Michael's is presenting two concerts. The first, on Sunday, May 26 at 7pm, will be a choral concert featuring St. Michael's choirs, Musaic Vocal Ensemble from Summerland, and the Amici Trio (Sandra Fletcher on organ, Allen Szeliga on trumpet, and Norene Morrow, soprano).** The second, on Friday, May 31 at 7pm, will present MASK (Musical Actors and Singers of Kelowna), Kelowna Secondary School Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Paul Moore, tenor. Everyone is welcome, and admission will be by donation.

St. Michael is grateful to the City of Kelowna and Canadian Heritage for their support of the Centennial Heritage Festival. For more information, check out the website at: www.stmichaelscathedral.ca, or call 250-764-5351. If you have memories or photos of experiences at St. Michael you would be willing to share, please let us know!

Submitted: by Lally Grauer



COHS Annual Heritage Awards

The COHS annual heritage awards were given out on February 21st, 2013, at Benvoulin Heritage Church. The awards ceremony is part of Heritage Week.

For the past 29 years, COHS has presented a number of awards to area building owners for their efforts in preserving heritage homes, buildings and neighborhoods. In addition to acknowledging the work of property owners, COHS gives an award each year to someone who has shown dedication and outstanding support to the field of heritage conservation.

The five awards presented that evening were:

Distinguished Community Service

Evelyn & John Vielvoye

Evelyn and John Vielvoye have lived in the Rutland area for many years and have been very active in their community. John became a member of the Rutland Residents Association in 1994 and continues to play a number of roles with the group including president. Some of the boards and committees that John has served or is serving on include: the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the City of Kelowna, Kelowna Community Resources Board, Rutland Park Society and the COHS Board. Evelyn has served on the Okanagan Historical Society Board, the District Genealogy Society Board, the COHS Brentsmill Committee and the Heritage Week Committee, as well as has written a number of books on the history of the Rutland area. Both of the Vielvoyes have been instrumental in the **preservation and future conservation of St. Aiden's Church in Rutland**. This couple is well deserving of this award for all their significant contributions to Rutland and the City of Kelowna.



Rosemary Carter



Rosemary Carter and her family have been in the **Lake Country area since the early 1900s**. Rosemary's contributions to her community include: founding member and volunteer in the Lake Country Museum (housed in the preserved heritage Okanagan Centre School-1930s to 1984); donated the 1906 historic Wentworth Cabin to the Lake Country Museum (the **cabin belonged to Rosemary's family**); continues to be involved in the maintenance and operation of the cabin; volunteer with the Gibson House at Kipje Park and the Fintry Manor House in Fintry Park. Rosemary is well deserving of this award for all her tireless work in Lake Country and Fintry.



Continued Conservation of a Heritage Building: *Gaddes House, 1857 Maple Street, Kelowna, owned by Richard & Carol Denison*

The Gaddes House has been very well maintained and has not undergone any major changes that have affected the heritage value of the building. This picturesque cottage-style house, built in 1939, illustrates modern, comfortable suburban ideals popular at the time, with its location on a spacious, clean and minimally landscaped lot in a setting of similar houses.” (SOS) The house, built by well-known local developer and contractor Hector Maranda, was designed by the prominent Okanagan architect Richard Curtis. The house was built for Charles and Jean Gaddes, who was well-known in real estate.



Conservation Project on a Heritage Building Currently in Residential Use: *J.W. Hughes House, 806 Bernard Avenue, Kelowna, owned by Marguerite & Clarke Berry*

The Hughes House, even though it has undergone a number of rear alterations over the years, it has retained much of its original character and heritage value. The house is valued for its “association with a significant member of the early horticultural industry, for its architecture and its context amongst the heritage structures along Bernard Avenue, east of the downtown core. The Hughes House is also representative of

changing urban patterns in Kelowna in the later twentieth century.” (SOS) Jesse Hughes built this house in 1933 for him and his wife Ruth. They lived in the house until the mid-1950s. J. Hughes and his wife moved to the Mission area in 1917, where he grew apples, then grapes, as well as vegetables, flowers and even raised poultry in the 1940s. Hughes was one of the earlier growers in Kelowna to produce grapes, now a leading agricultural industry in the Okanagan. This very important house was designated a municipal heritage building in 1995.



Construction of a new building compatible with its heritage surroundings: 570 Raymer Avenue, Kelowna owned by Shane Worman

This well-designed building’s use of both modern and traditional Kelowna materials is in keeping with the evolving character of the Pandosy Centre area. This building, set a block off of Pandosy Street, is part of the redevelopment of this area into a unique and interesting pedestrian-friendly center.

Conservation of a Neighbourhood or Area: Peachland’s Beach Avenue and Waterfront, owned by the District of Peachland & Residents

Peachland’s Beach Avenue and Waterfront area has been revitalized through the rehabilitation of its streetscape, while retaining its mostly public water front and the surrounding natural environment. The Beach Avenue recreational corridor offers both visitors and residents an unique experience. The Waterfront area is strongly integrated into the character neighbourhood and downtown core with enhanced connectivity and recreation amenities.



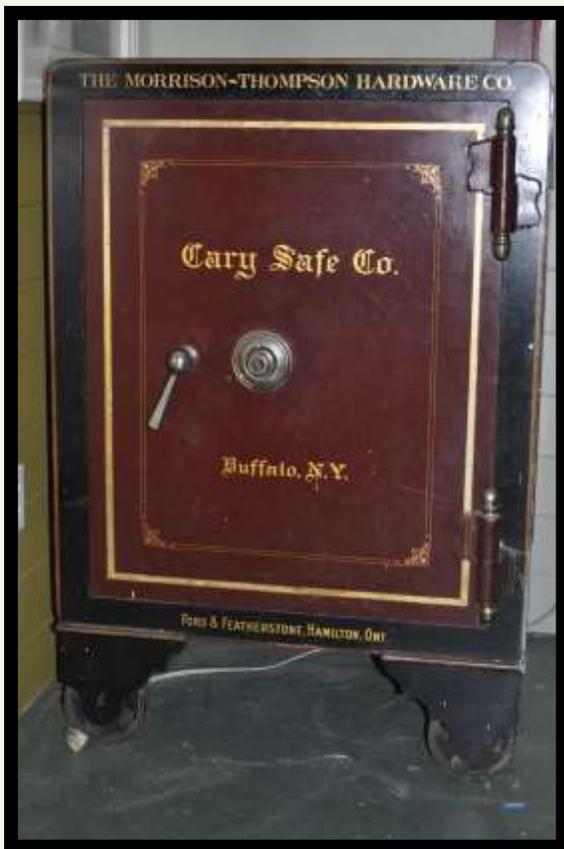
Casorso Safe

The COHS has a new artifact, donated by the Casorso family. A 1400 pound safe made its way out of a Kelowna storage locker and into its new home in the Milkshed at Guisachan Park. The safe was built by the Cary Safe company of Buffalo New York. They were in business as manufacturers of bank vaults, cabinet safes and Safe deposit boxes from 1878 to 1929. Information about the company indicates that they had letters painted to the purchaser's request on the upper portion of the safe.

Our safe has two company names on it – **"Ford & Featherstone, Hamilton, Ont" under the door, and above the door "Morrison-Thompson Hardware Co."**. The Featherstone family name is well known in Hamilton for farming, politics and as breeders of the Essex hog. The Morrison family arrived in Kelowna in 1904, and were in business with both S.T. Elliott and also J.N. Thompson for a number of years.

Robert Morrison with his wife Mary, daughter Kathleen and Mrs. Morrison's sister Sara Frank arrived in Kelowna in November 1904 from Boissevain, Manitoba. Morrison formed a partnership early in 1905 with S.T. Elliott to build a warehouse on Bernard Avenue near Elliott's Blacksmith Shop (Bernard Avenue and Pandosy Street). They carried farm implements. The family had also been in the hardware business in Manitoba. Due to experience in civic administration for three communities in Manitoba, Robert became Kelowna's first City Clerk. He served in that position from 1905 to 1908 when ill health forced his retirement. The family continued in the hardware business for a number of years.

"it was purchased to keep the money from their vegetables and fruit sales."



Giovanni Casorso, who later anglicized his name to John Casorso, came from Italy to the Okanagan in 1883. His wife Rosa followed in 1884 with three young children Caroline, Tony and Carlo. Many are familiar with the story of Rosa and her children, not speaking any English, but recognizing the words **"Okanagan Mission" on the crate carrying the bell for the Catholic Church here while waiting on the dock in San Francisco.**

Over the years the family had many business interests in the community. We are not sure when they acquired the safe, probably when Morrison Hardware closed, but are told that it was purchased to keep the money from their vegetable and fruit sales. It may have also been used by Casorso Meat Market, which was built in 1912, next door to the Morrison Hardware Co.

The safe has been in storage for a number of years, and we are very happy to be the new custodian of this piece of Okanagan history.

Submitted by: Lorainne McLarty

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/>

For more information on the program contact ~ Lorri Dauncey at ldauncey.cohs@telus.net

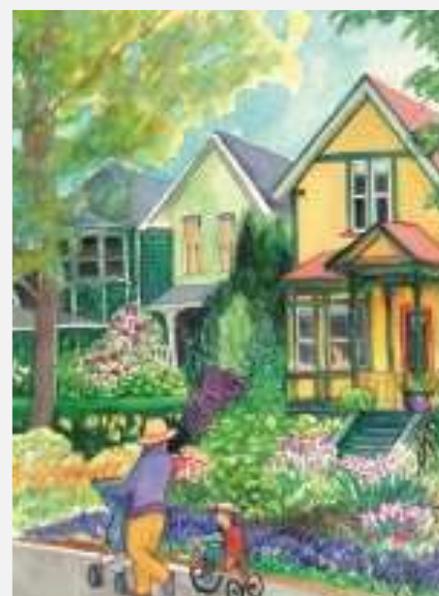


Heritage Week Wrap Up

Heritage Week (February 18-24, 2013) was a week full of activities. With twelve organizations involved **with the planning, and/or hosting of events, this may have been the best Heritage Week ever! This year's theme *Good Neighbors ~Heritage Homes and Neighborhoods*** resonated well with local committee members.

The Traditional Kick-off Breakfast - at the Canadian Italian Club was a great way to get the week started. Presentations to Kelowna City Council, talks at the Okanagan Regional Library, and the Kelowna Heritage **Museum were interesting and fit well with this year's theme. Heritage awards, contests, and a celebra-**tion by the Regional District of a new acquisition for the Fintry Manor, filled out the week. The capper was a Heritage Tea and self-guided Tour, presented by Kelowna South Central Association of Neighborhoods (KSAN) with support from FRACHAS and the Okanagan Genealogical Society. With record attendance - **attendees enjoyed getting to tour six of Kelowna's early homes in the Bernard- Lawrence area, and learn about their first inhabitants.**

Special thanks go out to: Okanagan Regional Library; Rutland Residents Association; Kelowna Canadian Italian Club; Central Okanagan Regional District; KSAN; FRACHAS: Kelowna & District Genealogical Society; Okanagan Mission Residents Association; Kelowna Heritage **Museum; UBCO's Creative Studies Program; Okanagan Historical Soci-**ety; Sea to Ski Insurance; Heritage Marker Project, and all their volunteers! We look forward to working with you - on Heritage Week 2014!



HERITAGE NEWS

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Richard Bryant



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

Heritage News

\$500,000 for Heritage BC:

Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, announced that the Government of BC will provide \$500,000 to Heritage BC to support community heritage programs and help implement a new provincial heritage strategy. This announcement was made on February 15, 2013 at the Benvoulin Heritage Church in Kelowna. The funding will help strengthen the organization's ability to deliver heritage planning and training services to communities and provide other heritage conservation services to support the preservation of historic places.



In photo L-R: Larry Foster; Minister Steve Thomson; Janice Henry exec. director of COHS; Pat McAllister; Heritage BC President Eric Patterson; Minister of Agriculture Norm Letnick.

Special Thanks to our Corporate and Group members.

We appreciate you!

Corporate:

Buildings by Design

Courtyard Law Office

Davara Holding

Group:

Kelowna South Central Association of Neighbourhoods (KSAN)

Lake Country Heritage & Cultural Society

Moksha Yoga Kelowna

Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society

Rutland Residents Association

Westbank Museum



Newsletter: Lorri Dauncey & Janice Henry (editor)