

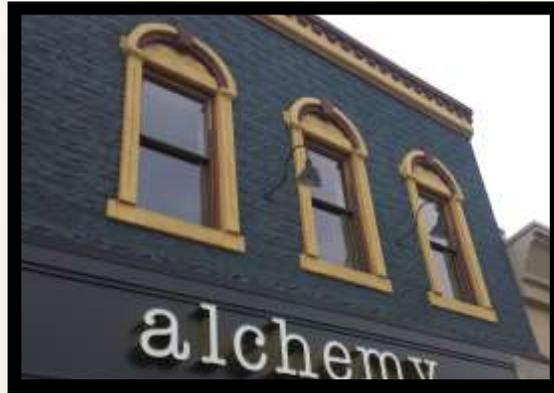


Heritage News

Central Okanagan Heritage Society
FALL 2015

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City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP) projects that recently received a grant for conservation work:

339 Bernard Ave—Old Sutherland Store (window conservation);
757 Lawrence Ave—Meikle House (porch and stair conservation);
2024 Pandosy—Dunn House (new heritage colour paint scheme)

A Hundred Years of Warmth and Charm: The Thompson House gets a new lease on life

Shona Harrison and her family are looking forward to a warm and cozy winter in their new old house.

"They work!" says Shona as she points out the decorative and sturdy looking hot water radiators that sit beneath the numerous windows in the historic Thompson house on Richter Street. "I just love that radiant heat."

And she just loves this house.

"I have been coveting this house since 2008," she says.

The third time is the charm, apparently. And now that the house is hers, she is hard at work restoring it from top to bottom, indoors and out.

Most recently used as a kind of boarding house, the house, built in 1910, seems as solid as a block of the granite that was used to build St. Michael's church across the street. The fir floors barely squeak and the walls don't lean. The timbers and beams in the basement look ready to stand another century.



The windows are mostly intact. Even the storms and screens.

And what windows they are. Each bay - there are six of them! - has double-hung leaded glass windows designed in an understated repeating gothic arch pattern.

The sheer number and size of the windows, fill this old house with light.

Kitchen windows however, present a challenge. Utilitarian sliding glass windows were installed at some point in the long life of the house, possibly to let in more light. Replacing them with custom windows that reference the age of the house, and also sit in approximately the right place, requires detective work. Was the lath and plaster interrupted there? Or there? Was there a pantry at some time in the past?

The kitchen renovation has been drafted to include all the modern conveniences as well as lots of heritage charm. The door between the kitchen and the dining room was carefully removed along with the wood casement and trim. This allowed for the installation of a contemporary stainless steel refrigerator and will be carefully reconstructed and reinstalled once the kitchen is complete.

The footprint of the kitchen will remain as it was, even as the space is reconfigured for modern family life.

A small powder room beneath the backstairs will once again be home to a pedestal sink. It's original to the house and Shona has sourced the trades people to repair and re-glaze it. Right now the sink sits on the living room floor among other pieces that will be retrofitted and repaired and put back together.





"I decided to do it right," she says about some of the expensive and time consuming projects she's undertaking to bring the house back to life.

A fireplace, discovered beneath a false front wall in the parlour that will become Shona's study, needs new old bricks so that it can once again be a real fireplace. Local bricks from Kelowna's early days are on the agenda of course. A fireplace insert with an art deco motif that is part of Shona's collection of heritage "finds" will fit perfectly.

Shona, a UBCO professor and dedicated COHS member, is a keen student of heritage buildings. She undertook the restoration of a house of similar vintage in Victoria and is well-acquainted with the potential for surprises, both good and bad, in a project like her current labour of love.

"I'm having such a fun time," she says with unflagging enthusiasm. "I think I missed my calling."

A particular object of affection for her in this house, is the built-in bookcase behind the stairwell on the second floor. The glass sliding doors are likely the originals and there is art nouveau wallpaper lining the back of one side. It was love at first sight for the professor.

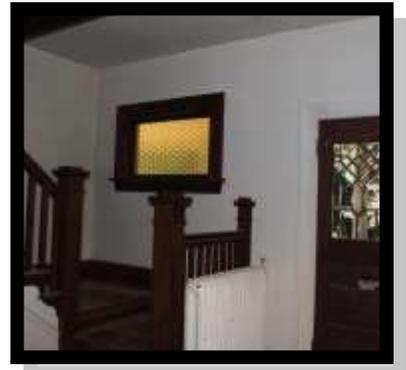
Like many houses of this vintage, this one has architectural detail to spare, from the window and door casements to the design of the main staircase.

Elegant, open and simple with banisters, balustrades and newel posts all in remarkably good condition, the staircase is a prime indicator that the architect and owners wanted this house to be "modern." Like the house itself, the staircase is without Victorian or Edwardian frills or flourishes and feels surprisingly contemporary.

While the front hall makes a style statement, the backstairs, designed for utilitarian purposes (probably for the maid) is narrow and enclosed.

The small room at the top of those stairs was likely the maid's. Shona has incorporated the small space to increase the size of the original bathroom. Like the kitchen below it, the bathroom will have glamour touches and lots of modern conveniences. Also, like the kitchen, its design and decor will be in keeping with the age and style of the house.

Hexagonal "penny" tiles in white with black accent tiles have been installed recently. The popular again tiles give an authentic heritage feel to the space. A claw foot tub is destined for the bathroom as well.



When the kitchen ceiling was removed, a four-inch thick concrete slab was revealed, installed no doubt, over a hundred years ago to keep the original cast iron tub from crashing through the floor boards into the kitchen below.

The house, quite literally, is made of sturdy stuff. The verandah that encircles the front of the house, though, has a certain delicacy. As does the small upper balcony. It's a harmonious house. Pleasing to the eye. And while it's been hidden by overgrown hedges and trees at the perimeter of its half-acre lot for many years, Shona has plans for a white picket fence. The house will soon be ready for its close-up. And maybe for another hundred years.

Julie Cosgrave is a Kelowna freelance writer who writes about decor and urban design. She also is a CoKHGP committee member.



What is a Heritage Register?

*“A community heritage register is an **official listing of properties** identified by a local government as having heritage value or heritage character. Inclusion on a community heritage register **does not** constitute heritage designation or any other form of permanent heritage protection.”* (Heritage Conservation: A Community Guide, Heritage Branch, 1996)

In the late 1970s-1980s, many communities created heritage resource inventories in response to the development pressures on heritage buildings by unprecedented growth and the subsequent loss of many heritage buildings. Heritage Inventories attempted to include all the sites and buildings (natural and built) that were older than 50 years and deemed to have historical and/or architectural importance in a community. This was meant to be a comprehensive list, with each resource undergoing an evaluation process to determine if it was Class A (most significant) to Class D (least/not significant). **Kelowna’s Heritage Resource Inventory**, completed in 1983, included over 300 Class A, B and C buildings.

In 1994, the Local Government Act, along with community growth and public interest in the conservation and revitalization of heritage buildings and sites, allowed for the creation of local heritage registers in BC. The City of Kelowna has 210 buildings currently listed on its heritage register. Each registered property has a Statement of Significance (SOS) that summarizes its heritage value and the character defining elements (CDE). These properties can be accessed on the City of Kelowna website at: www.kelowna.ca/iHeritage/Scripts/

Properties listed on a heritage register may be considered to have sufficient heritage value to warrant preservation actions by the municipality in the future. Inclusion on the heritage register does not give any formal protection to a building and/or site and is NOT the same as heritage designation. The register is a way to review and monitor proposed changes to properties that have heritage value. By properties being listed on a heritage register, owners are given fair notice that the heritage status of their buildings may affect future development options for their buildings.

Inclusion on municipal heritage registers, such as in Kelowna, may also benefit from incentives. These **include: Heritage buildings listed in the Kelowna Heritage Register may be eligible for variances to the City’s Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws.** This allows the City to consider providing property owners, on a case-by-case basis, with incentives and bonuses such as increasing density, relaxing height and setback restrictions, relaxing parking restrictions, and allowing appropriate adaptive re-uses. In return for these incentives, the property owners would agree to retain and protect the listed properties. Properties that are designated heritage (municipal heritage designation bylaw) may not be altered or demolished without approval of the local city council.



Since 1991, Kelowna has had an incentive program for heritage register properties. In 2008, the Kelowna Heritage Foundation was revamped into the City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (COKHP). The Central Okanagan Heritage Society (COHS) manages this program for the City of Kelowna. 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 residential, 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. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise.

Lorri Dauncey, Manager City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program

A community heritage register is an official listing of properties identified by a local government as having heritage value or heritage character.

Confessions of a Heritage Addict

Woke up, got out of bed, dragged a comb across my head.....went downtown to buy a house, but had to check it with my spouse. Got the place, added a porch, changed the proportions, and planted a garden where the driveway used to be. Settled in, liked the place, but did not feel secure. Some other idiot could build an apartment block across the street or worse yet - next door!



Fortunately for us, a most timely decision by the BC government in 1994, saw new legislation passed. The *Heritage Conservation Amendments Act*, enabled municipalities to establish by-laws protecting and celebrating places of historical significance as they deemed appropriate.

The lobbying soon began at Kelowna City Hall and the Abbott Street and Marshall Street Heritage Conservation areas were formed in 1998. Building design and contextual changes in these areas now needed a public review process and city council approval. Great news! Finally we were feeling more secure from rapacious land development around us. That got us wondering if our home had a story - the plain Jane, four-square, two-storey prairie-style house, with stucco siding, built in the mid 1930's. According to Bob Marriage, a resident historian, the neighbors laughed out loud during construction as "nobody built two-storey homes around here".

So....needing a new roof and paint-job we thought "let's see if the City Heritage Register aficionados are interested in our house and maybe we can get a heritage grant to help us out with the work we need to do". Upon the city doing their investigative research, conducted by Don Luxton and Associates, there indeed was a story for our old house! A.I. Dawson, the owner and builder of the house, was a fruit cannery superintendent, just when the Government of Canada passed new legislation to enhance the fruit industry. In order to ship fruit to the Canadian prairies where people were starving from the Great Depression and the dust bowl periods, refrigerated railway box cars were shuttled to the Okanagan. Agriculture and house construction were booming in Kelowna when most everyone else in the country had lost almost everything or had almost nothing!

That was the "hook" that gave our house historical significance. Not the design nor the ornamentation, but the context in Canada and the Okanagan during its construction. What an unusual and unexpected reason to gain heritage register status for our plain old two-storey house.

Consequently we got the grants, painted our house with Benjamin Moore's true colors for Western Canada and re-roofed using historically appropriate western red cedar shingles.



Now 80 years later, in the A.I. Dawson House, life is still perfect. We live in a heritage house, in a heritage neighborhood AND we can't get heritage out of our blood. It's addictive, continually providing pleasures. However, there is a negative side effect to heritage addiction. **The supply must last, so let's not lose any more heritage homes due to demolition. After all, once the supply is gone, the withdrawal will be long and painful for the entire community.**

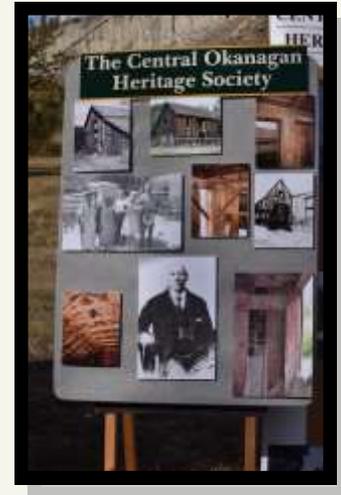
*Respectfully submitted by co-dependents Pat Munro and Peter Chataway, 368 Cadder Avenue.
Peter is a CoKHGP committee member.*



Brent's Grist Mill – Next Steps

The future of the Grist Mill looks a little more certain with the unanimous approval of Kelowna City Council to spend up to \$210,000 to stabilize the mill building. Work should get underway this fall, with the hiring of a contractor to do the actual work.

COHS will be supporting the project in whatever ways possible, including building awareness and community interest for the project. The first of these activities took place during Culture Days, September 26th, at the Brent's Grist Mill site.



Carol Millar, COHS's newest director took on a leadership role in gathering materials, and creating the activities which took place at Brent's Mill.

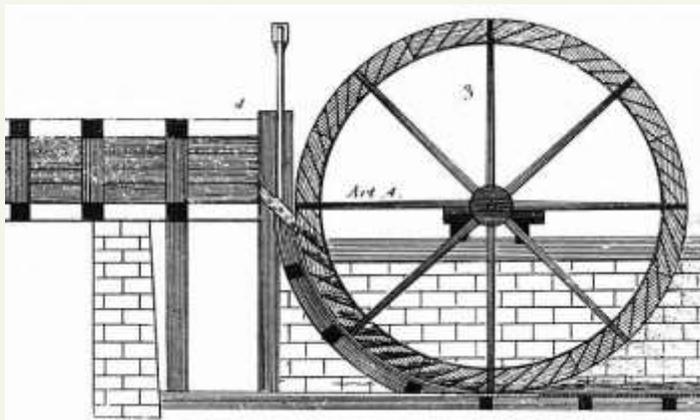
Rogers Food Ltd. from Armstrong, was most supportive with posters, a gift basket, and display items.

Many thanks as well to Kelowna Museums for putting together six mounted photographs for our display.

The Canadian Grain Commission as well as the *International Grain Institute* also sent materials to use in our display.

Cyler Page provided his **Bob's Logs**, to help illustrate the type of construction used to build the Fleming House as well as a small hand-grinder which was used to demonstrate how grains get ground.

COHS created a Brent's brochure for interpretive purposes which will be used throughout the fall. The brochure contains photos of a Middle Breast Shot Wheel – similar to what would have been used at Brent's.



Middle Breast Shot Water Wheel from "The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide by Oliver Evans

Heritage Review Advisory Committee (HRAC) - Phase II

The City of Kelowna has now completed the first phase of the Heritage Review. Lauren Sanbrooks, a planner with the City, gave a report to Council during the August 10th Monday morning council meeting. COHS was well represented to hear the report given, the comments of councillors, and to find out what were the next steps in the review process.

The most significant outcome of the HRAC process is the realization, that the current heritage landscape is not as effective as it can be, and that we can do better. After looking at models from other communities, the collective group determined that some sort of *Heritage Council* using the Edmonton Heritage council as a guide, was a good option. It is hoped that **Kelowna's Heritage Council** will play a role in connecting and encouraging collaboration, provide public education and advocacy of heritage programs, as well as possibly distributing grants to heritage groups on behalf of the City of Kelowna. The *Heritage Council* will work within an overarching *Contract for Service* with the City of Kelowna to provide a framework of accountability and reporting.

Happy to report that Kelowna City Council supported the recommendation to move to Phase II of the process, which will conclude this fall. Phase II will look at what current heritage stakeholders, including the city, are doing, and what the relationship will be with a new *Heritage Council*. In addition to this valuable piece of work, city staff will also be looking at the funding and resources needed to move to Phase III which is the Implementation of the *Heritage Council*. Strategic and financial planning work for the new council will begin in early 2016. It is hoped that the new *Heritage Council* will begin its work in January of 2017.



Black Mountain **Sntsk'il'nten Regional Park**

The distinctive mountain on the eastern boundary of Kelowna is now part of our newest regional park. The 510 acre ecological landmark, called **Sntsk'il'nten Regional Park** has been preserved for us all.

Its diverse eco-systems and terrain are now being preserved as a conservation area with various trails being planned. From rocky bluffs to extensive grassland this area is home to a wide range of birds and wild-life. Its views are beautiful and far-reaching.

The spring 2016 COHS newsletter will feature articles on cultural landscapes such as this beautiful new park.



COHS Fundraising Concert with Julie Masi



Julie Masi will be performing at the Benvoulin Heritage Church on Friday, November 27 at 7:30pm. This concert will help raise funds for the conservation of three of the 1892 Benvoulin Heritage Church gothic windows. The conservation of the first window was completed this fall by a specialist in wood window repair. Tickets (\$25/each) are limited. For more information or tickets please call the COHS office at 250.861.7188.

Julie Masi, originally from Winnipeg, joined the Parachute Club in 1983, after its initial founding members, Billy Bryans, Lorraine Segato and Lauri Conger, had been offered a management and recording contract with Current Records. She was with the band between 1983 and 1986, leaving after the band's Canadian tour in support of its third album. Some of the songs she co-wrote while with the band include "Slip Away" (from Parachute Club), "At The Feet of The Moon" (title track and lead single from At The Feet of The Moon) and "Secret Heart (Wild Zone)" (from Small Victories). She has contributed to the recordings of Martha and The Muffins and Raffi, among others, and has also collaborated with the band Images in Vogue. Based in Kelowna, British Columbia, she continues to perform on occasion and to contribute to the recordings of others.

COHS Heritage Awards 2016– Accepting Nominations

Central Okanagan Heritage Society is again inviting nominations for our Annual Heritage Awards to be presented during Heritage Week (February 15-21). We are interested in receiving nominations for projects within the geographic boundaries of the Central Okanagan region in the following categories:

- ~Distinguished community service
- ~Conservation project on a heritage building currently in non-residential use
- ~Conservation project on a heritage building currently in residential use
- ~Continued conservation of a heritage building
- ~Preservation or restoration of a neighborhood or area
- ~Special heritage project

For more information or to submit your nominations please call 250.861.7188 or email the Central Okanagan Heritage Society at cohs@telus.net. The deadline for nominations is January 27th, 2016.

COHS News in Brief

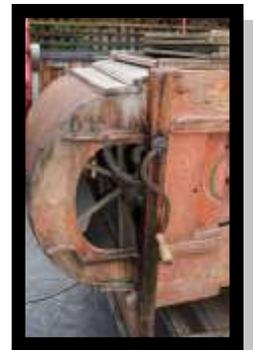
Kelowna Garden Club's Juried Flower Show was held on Saturday June 27 at Guisachan Heritage Park. Central Okanagan Heritage Society supported the Kelowna Garden Club annual Flower Show at Guisachan Park again this year. Along with refreshments being served from the Milk Shed, displays were set up to promote the work of the society. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make the event a great success. Thanks as well to the Kelowna Garden Club for a cheque for \$125 to COHS. The money will be used to plant a tree at Benvoulin Heritage Park.



COHS was chosen a winner of a Green Thumb Award for the work done in the gardens at Benvoulin and Guisachan Heritage Parks. Along with staff members, Alison Mooney, Jim Elwood and Kevin O'Neil, the Kelowna Master Gardeners have made a significant contribution to the work at Guisachan Gardens. The park is well loved and has seen major rejuvenation work tackled in the past two years. The award was presented at the *Communities in Bloom* event held on September the 9th. This annual event has been held at Benvoulin for the last number of years, providing great exposure of our beautiful facility to the winners, their friends and families.

Councillor Luke Stack bringing greetings from the City of Kelowna

COHS has become the recent recipient of a circa 1900 Fanning Mill. Donated by Boyd Bare, the mill was found in the Enderby area. The Fanning Mill was shown for the first time at the *Culture Days* event at Brent's Mill on September 26th. It is hoped that the Fanning Mill can be part of a permanent display to be housed at Brent's Grist Mill.



Guisachan gardens has been chosen as one of 15 locations in British Columbia and one of 140 across Canada – as a Friendship Tulip Garden. The initiative undertaken with the help and support of a number of sponsors, has each garden receiving 700 tulip bulbs. The tulips are sent to celebrate the gift of 100,000 tulip bulbs that were sent to Canada in 1945 as a symbol of appreciation by the Dutch Royal family for Canada's hospitality to their members during the Second World War. The tulips were also sent as a way to acknowledge the sacrifice and the major role that was played by Canadian troops in the liberation of the Netherlands. A planting ceremony was held at Guisachan on October 21st. A second celebration will be planned for spring 2016 when the tulips are in full bloom.



Update on the Community Heritage Committee, which has been inactive since January 2015. While the City of Kelowna works on plans for a more comprehensive approach to heritage, volunteers and staff of COHS have had discussions with them on the composition, professional development needs and the scope of work that will be under-taken by the revamped Community Heritage Committee. The new Terms of Reference should be completed this fall with the CHC up and operational early in 2016.



Calendar of Events

~**Kelowna Art's Council– Our Coffeehouse** is on the second and last Wednesday of each month at 7pm in Reid Hall (Oct 14 & 28, Nov 11 & 25; Dec 16). For more information email Lynda Norman at ArtistsforCreativeAlliance@shaw.ca.

~**Dorjechang Buddhist Meditation Classes** are held every Thursday at 7-8:30pm at Reid Hall. The classes are self-contained, so you can drop in any time. For more information email Karen at epc@dorjechang.ca.

~**Kelowna Museums presents Cemetery Tour with Bob Hayes** on October 24th at 11am to 12pm. **Bob Hayes, local historian, will guide visitors through the cemetery and share the stories of Kelowna's founding people.** Bob is an active member of the Okanagan Historical Society and the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society. No reservations necessary. The cost is \$5.00. If you have any questions please contact: Christina Neale at 250.763.2417 ext. 28 cneale@kelownamuseums.ca.

~**Okanagan Historical Society, Kelowna Branch's Fall Social and High Tea** is taking place on Saturday, October 24th, at the Missionwood Retirement Resort (1075 Barnes Avenue: at Gordon Drive) between 1:30 and 3:30pm. Sweet and savoury treats will be served and President Bob Hayes will give a historic-related presentation. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at Mosaic Books, the Okanagan Heritage Museum or by calling 250.862.2801.

~**Kelowna Museums presents Museum Mayhem: SOS Soldier for the day**, November 14 at 10am-1pm, Be a soldier for the day! Explore the Okanagan Military Museum and discover stories from Okanagan soldiers. For more information, please contact: Christina Neale at 250.763.2417 ext. 28 cneale@kelownamuseums.ca.

~**COHS Fundraiser Concert** featuring Julie Masi on Friday, November 27 at 7:30pm. For more information or to purchase a ticket (\$25 each), please call the COHS office at 250.861.7188 or email at cohs@telus.net.



~**Christmas at Benvoulin**, December 6 at 2pm, Festive Christmas music by "8 Misbehavin", refreshments, children crafts and more family fun at the beautiful historic Benvoulin Heritage Church. This event is by donation. For more information, please call the COHS office at 250.861.7188 or email at cohs@telus.net.

~**Kelowna Museums presents Museum Mayhem: Fun with Furs**, December 12 at 10am-1pm, Be a fur trader! Take a trip back to pioneer days and learn about our founding fathers and the fascinating trade of furs with some interactive activities. For more information, please contact: Christina Neale at 250.763.2417 ext. 28 cneale@kelownamuseums.ca.

~**Canada's Heritage Day is February 15, 2016.**

~**Heritage Week, February 15-21, 2016:** The theme is *Distinctive Destinations—Experience Historic Places*. Work on the 2016 Heritage Week committee has already begun. If you know of a group or business who would like to get involved please get in touch with the office at cohs@telus.net.



National Trust Top Ten Endangered Places in Canada

The **Top Ten Endangered Places List** is released annually to bring national attention to sites at risk due to neglect, lack of funding, inappropriate development and weak legislation. From unique 19th-century landmarks to simple vernacular housing, stone railway stations to Modernist airports, heritage districts to single buildings, the list has become a powerful tool in the fight to make landmarks, not landfill.

The National Trust uses three primary criteria to determine the 10 final sites for inclusion on the list:

- **Significance of the site**
- **Urgency of the threat/potential for a positive and creative solution**
- **Evidence of active community support on the ground for its preservation**

Two British Columbia locations made the Top Ten Endangered Places list in 2015.



Point Grey Secondary School opened in 1929. This stunning Collegiate Gothic-style school remains at the mercy of the BC Ministry of Education Seismic Mitigation Program, which limits the costs of retrofit to 70% of the cost of new construction. Heritage advocates are concerned that the school board will resort to the widespread demolition of its historic schools including Point Grey Secondary.



The other area at risk is the **Peace River Valley**, where Hydro power trumps aboriginal and natural heritage. Archaeological and oral history bears witness to at least 10,500 years of human occupation along the Peace River Valley. The area contains many First Nations traditional and sacred sites, as well as heritage sites from the fur trade and later periods of European settlement. Should the site C dam and generating station proceed, 56,000 acres of agricultural and forested lands will be flooded, destroying hundreds of heritage, archeological and paleontological sites.

For more information on these British Columbia sites and the other eight endangered places please check out the National Trust website at: www.nationaltrustcanada.ca/issues-campaigns/top-ten-endangered.



HERITAGE NEWS

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Heritage News



Heritage BC conference: Kelowna and COHS were well represented at the provincial conference in Rossland with nine people attending. Highlights included spending time in the quaint mountain community, and enjoying the three historic buildings that served as conference venues. An opening reception with Mark Forsythe former CBC radio host of Almanac, and keynote speaker Jim Mountain from the National Trust set the tone for the weekend's workshops.

Janice Henry wraps up term as Chair of Heritage BC: Janice has completed her two-year term as Chair of the Board for Heritage BC. She will now serve in the capacity of past-Chair. Taking on the Chair role for the next two years is Helen Cain, a Planner with the City of Richmond. The board of Heritage BC has been recently expanded, and includes a range of heritage professionals from throughout the province.

The 2016 Heritage Week theme is *Distinctive Destinations- Experience Historic Places* from February 15-21, 2016: Canada is rich in historic sites, special places and events that tell our story and delight visitors from near and far. Our distinctive destinations are as varied as Canadians themselves; Aboriginal Pow Wows, music halls, traditional fishing villages, historic lighthouses, old stone mills, prairie festivals and botanical gardens. All of these types of places will be celebrated and enlivened during Heritage Week 2016.

Central Okanagan Regional District creates historical map: Old aerial photographs taken from the 1950s through to the 1990s have been digitized and organized to create a historical map of the region. Visible are significant projects undertaken during those years including the Highway 97 completion, and aerial mapping of Wood Lake, Kalamalka Lake and Lake Okanagan, all taken in 1973. In addition points of interest are marked with digital push-pins, where viewers can link to additional information. The online map can be viewed by going to www.regional.district.com/GIS.

Vernon Museums recently opened the doors of the new Silver Star Mountain Museum located in the village at Silver Star. The museum portrays the history of Silver Star Mountain since its time as an early silver mine, through the 1930s when cross country skiing was introduced to the area and up to the development of the resort in the 1950s. **Vernon Museums' newest satellite location will continue to grow** as more funds are raised and artifacts related to the mountain are found and developed. The space in the foyer of the Silver Star Mountain Snow-sport Ski School also serves as an information centre for visitors.



COHS thanks the City of Kelowna for their support through an Arts, Culture and Heritage Operating Grant for 2015

COHS thanks the BC Government for a 2014 BC Gaming Grant



Newsletter: Lorri Dauncey & Janice Henry (editor)