



# Heritage News

Central Okanagan Heritage Society  
SPRING 2017

*Benvoul in Heritage Church turns 125!*

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*Celebrating Benvoulin Heritage Church's 125th anniversary (1892-2017) & Central Okanagan Heritage Society's 35th anniversary (1982-2017)*

## Remembering Cynthia Hunter– COHS Founder & First President



Cynthia Anne Hunter will long be remembered and appreciated for her work in heritage in Kelowna, as a founding member and the first president of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society.

The Central Okanagan Heritage Society (COHS) was created in 1982, to save and restore Benvoulin Church and Guisachan House. The new COHS board under the leadership of President Cynthia Ellis (Hunter) and Dr. Walter Anderson began negotiations with the Kamloops Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. COHS was granted a one-year lease to develop a plan for the **restoration of the building. The Society's 10 year plan was** subsequently accepted and fundraising efforts began in

earnest. In 1983 the BC Heritage Trust approved a grant, followed by other funders, local businesses and interested citizens. The Benvoulin Church was designated as a municipal heritage building in 1983. Cynthia led COHS from its inception in 1982 to 1991 and continued to support and work with the Society as an active volunteer and member of the Advisory Board. Cynthia received a Distinguished Service Award from COHS in 1994. In recognition of her important community work, Cynthia received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal and garnered local and provincial awards for historic restoration projects in Kelowna including Benvoulin Heritage Church, Guisachan House and the Laurel Packinghouse.



Cynthia is remembered by long-time friend and (also) past-president Lorainne McLarty:

*Cynthia was always so enthusiastic about the heritage here. She was a great President – she seemed to be able to find people to follow up on her “job list”, and there were many of them in the early days at Benvoulin. The project was started in 1983 and completed in 1986, long before schedule. I think her pride and joy though was the Guisachan restoration. With the help of the Middleton family, the Aberdeens were invited to come from Scotland for the opening, and a wonderful celebration was planned that included many dignitaries of the City as well as the pioneers of the area. If Cynthia asked you to help with a project, it was hard to turn her down!*



Cynthia speaking at the Guisachan Opening with special guests Lord & Lady Aberdeen

*COHS hosted the first Heritage BC Annual Conference ever held outside of Vancouver in 1989. It was a great success, and it was again held in Kelowna in 2009.*

*Cynthia was president from 1982 until the Annual Meeting of 1991. In recent years, some of the early members would meet for tea with Cynthia, and she was always pushing us to become more active in lobbying the City to help with some project. It was very hard to keep up with her!*

*We all will certainly miss her, but remember many happy times together.*

As part of Cynthia's on-going support of heritage, she established an endowment that will help support COHS in the years to come.



## Gifts that really do Keep on Giving

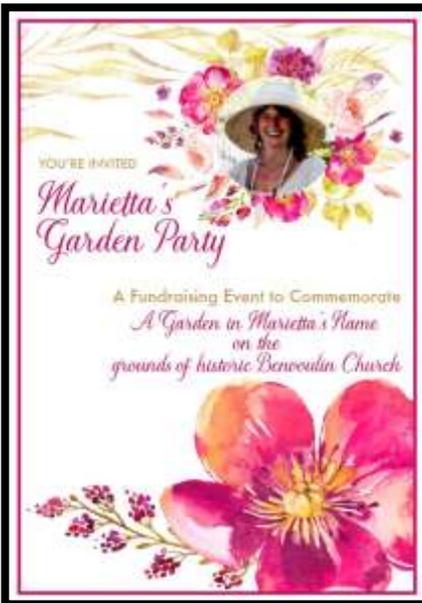
Making a charitable gift to organizations that support heritage is something all of us should consider.

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 are considered and the best use of the money identified.

For many years COHS has had an endowment fund with the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF), which generates income that is paid annually to COHS. The *Captain Bull Fund*, established by the Bull family, is another fund held by the COF, which pays out annual income to the society. Our annual allocation from these two funds is approximately \$1400 per year, which is not a huge amount, but 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 throughout 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 nearly 100 projects, mainly for the conservation of historic buildings and other structures. 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.

## Marietta's Garden



Don Burnett is working with COHS to design a new garden on the grounds of the historic Benvoulin Church. **Marietta's Garden will recognize and commemorate Marietta Lightbody, a long-time supporter of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society, as well as her father, Dr. Anderson, COHS founder.**

**The new garden will enhance Benvoulin's gardens with additional pathways and seating, and will create a space for guests to enjoy.** Located at the south-east side of the church, new access will be gained through the east main door as well as from the existing gardens.

**Marietta's Garden will be unveiled at a fundraising event June 30th from 4:30 to 6:30pm, with a private garden dedication and musical offerings by concert violinist Nancy Dinovo and pianist Arnold Draper.**

**The garden dedication will be followed by Marietta's Traditional Canada Day Garden Party from 7:00 to 11:00pm at the Lightbody home on Okanagan Lake.** This private event will include a dinner and dance with musical offerings by Jazz vocalists Anna Jacyszyn, Robert Fine (Kelowna's Frank Sinatra) and the 17 piece Dreamland Orchestra, bringing back memories with all your favourite songs.

A contribution of \$100 per person towards this fundraiser is most appreciated, with \$50 dedicated to the Marietta Garden Fund. A tax receipt for this portion will be provided by the Central Okanagan Heritage Society.

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP by e-mail to Walley Lightbody at [luxcorpus@shaw.ca](mailto:luxcorpus@shaw.ca)



Don Burnett, Don Knox, Jim Elwood & Shannon Jorgenson planning the new garden

## Heritage BC Awards

*Heritage BC's mission is to provide leadership for sustainable conservation of British Columbia's unique cultural heritage. Towards this goal, the Annual Awards Program recognizes the outstanding and significant achievements in heritage conservation of individuals, organizations, groups, businesses and government in communities across B.C.*

There were two Heritage BC awards given to local recipients at **Heritage BC's 36th Annual Awards Gala**. The first was for *Outstanding Achievement for excellence in Heritage Education and Awareness* awarded to **COHS Kelowna's Heritage Week** program has been running for over 15 years. COHS has led, advocated and expanded Heritage Week to include events from many different groups in the Central Okanagan. The award was established to create awareness and support for historic places and conservation in a community, heritage education and interpretation while emphasizing community engagement and public involvement.



Gord Macdonald, Heritage BC chair, presenting Heritage Awards to Shona Harrison, COHS board member

The second award was given to Shona Harrison (our own COHS Board member and creator of the *Old Kelowna* Facebook page) for the conservation work on her home, the J.N. Thompson House on Richter Avenue. This recognition award for Heritage Conservation acknowledges the high standards of heritage conservation of the project based on the national *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

## Community Stories Exhibition

COHS has been awarded a contract with the Canadian Museum of History to create an online exhibit for the Virtual Museum of Canada, *Advance with Courage: Lord and Lady Aberdeen in the Okanagan*.

*Advance with Courage* explores the unusual circumstances of the aristocratic Scottish couple, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, who in 1890 purchased land in the Okanagan Valley sight unseen. The Aberdeens named the property the "Guisachan Farm" and ensconced Lady Aberdeen's brother as its manager. The exhibit follows the Aberdeens' time at Guisachan and the trail north to the Coldstream Ranch, which they purchased in 1891. The Aberdeens had a profound impact on the Okanagan with their encouragement of British and Scottish immigration, the first commercial attempts at fruit growing and the establishment of the first Presbyterian Church in the area. While much of Lord and Lady Aberdeen's history is well documented and presented previously, their years in the Okanagan are relatively unknown. 'Advance with Courage' will present a new chapter to this remarkable couple's story.

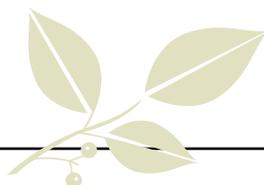
There is a community input meeting on:  
**July 6th @ 7pm at the Reid Hall.**

We welcome stories, information and other tidbits about the Aberdeens and their time in the Okanagan. This is also an opportunity to find out more about the project.

The exhibit will launch in October 2018.



Courtesy: Aberdeen Family, National Archives of Canada, c.1893



## Modernism Week in Palm Springs

Janice Henry & Lorri Dauncey



When we think of heritage buildings in Western Canada, we picture Victorian, Edwardian, Arts & Crafts and possibly the odd Art Deco building. **In Southern California's desert country, heritage architecture is almost exclusively Mid-Century Modern.** Palm Springs has the largest concentration of Mid-Century Modern Architecture in the world!

The Mid-Century Modern style is a global movement that spanned almost five decades from the 1930s to the late 1960s. Modernism influenced architecture, industrial design, graphic design and interior design. Frank Lloyd Wright, credited with popularizing the modernism movement in American architecture, was one of many influential architects and designers who are known for their modernism style.

The style is known for creating buildings with lots of windows and open floor plans that bring the outdoors inside, emphasizing the houses' integration with nature. The use of post and beam architectural design creates seemingly walls of glass, eliminating bulky support walls. **"Form follows function"** brought together a mix of organic shapes, clean lines and minimal ornamentation.



With the goal of encouraging appreciation of this architectural style, as well as education and preservation, a local charitable organization was formed in the 2006. Modernism Week (which Palm Springs actually runs for 10 days) is held each February. The **2017 version hosted some 250 events with over 97,000 attendees.** This year's event included: a modernism show and sale; signature home tours; films; lectures; walking and bike tours; double-decker bus tours; classic car show; garden tours as well as a vintage trailer exhibition.

Janice and Mike purchased a little hideaway in the desert four years ago, after coming to the Palm Springs area off and on since 1982. Retirement brought the opportunity to spend more time in the once glamorous valley of the rich and famous. Having been colleagues and friends for nine years as well as sharing a common interest in mid-century modern architecture, we (Janice and Lorri) decided to take in some of the Modernism Week events.



While the choices were overwhelming, our time and resources were limited. In three days, we attended seven events including a walking tour, a double-decker bus tour, two home tours, a wonderful Catholic Church and a personal favorite of ours – the vintage trailer show.



For those interested in adventure in architecture, check out Modernism Week in Palm Springs California at [www.modernismweek.com](http://www.modernismweek.com).

## Canada 150 Funding for Reid Hall

COHS has been awarded significant funding to complete much-needed rehabilitation work on Reid Hall.

With Canada celebrating its 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, the Province of British Columbia is acknowledging this significant milestone by investing in legacy, culture and heritage projects in communities throughout the province, such as Reid Hall.

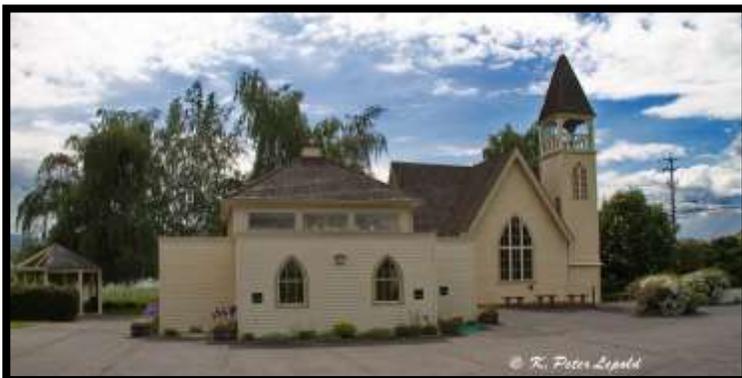
The project will renovate and restore parts of the common areas attached to the church. This includes upgrading the public washrooms and the warm-up kitchen, and a flooring upgrade throughout these areas and the main entrance. Benvoulin Church and Reid Hall are used extensively throughout the year for public events, community and civic gatherings, church services, and weddings. The Church exterior and much of the interior has been restored according to the Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places in Canada. The common areas and the community hall attached to the church have not had any upgrades since the initial community restoration/rebuild in 2000. This work will not affect the events booked for the church and hall.

Reid Hall draws its name from long time elders of the Benvoulin United Church congregation, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Reid. The Reid family arrived in the early 1900s, and attended Bethel Presbyterian Church and continued as strong members with Benvoulin United Church for over half a century. Reid Hall, funded and built by the Reid family and the community, was added to the original church structure in 1956. Reid Hall served the region as a Sunday school and meeting room.

After religious services were no longer offered at Benvoulin United Church, it was used as a youth centre and coffeehouse. In 1982 the Central Okanagan Heritage Society formed, with the restoration of the church being its first project. The restored building opened in 1986, with the replication of the original bell tower. The original Reid Hall was in very poor condition, partially due to its inferior construction and materials, and a new hall was built in 2000. This was situated a few metres back and allowed for the restoration of the north window, whose top section had been boarded up and lower section removed to create an entry into the original hall.



The 125th anniversary of Benvoulin Heritage Church and the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society to save Benvoulin Church add to the legacy of Canada's 150th birthday. The project creates a lasting legacy in the rehabilitation of the common areas of the building and ensures continued public use and accessibility. The project will ensure that Benvoulin Heritage Church and Reid Hall continue to be gathering places for the community.



*“Benvoulin Heritage Church and Reid Hall continue to be gathering places for the community.”*



# Mclver House Conservation Project



The Mclver House at Benvoulin Heritage Park will soon undergo exterior conservation work. The original restoration of the farmhouse took place in 1995, after it was moved on site from its original location on KLO Road. The early 1900s house was donated to COHS by Pat Arcand and her brother Barry Mclver in 1994. **Pat and Barry's parents had bought the house in the 1920s from the Scott family.** The Mclver House replaced the old Manse that had burned down in the 1960s.

Alasdair Smith, heritage contractor, has been hired to repair a number of areas on the house. Conservation work includes: repair one of the window sills, repair

the unique decorative elements and the flooring on the verandah, repair the front second story balcony and paint areas where needed.

**This project will begin in June and should be completed by September as part of Benvoulin's 125th Anniversary celebrations.** The project will receive a City of Kelowna Heritage grant to help with the costs.



## Kelowna Heritage Grants Program



COHS is well into its tenth 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 on the City of Kelowna Heritage Register. Grants assist with a **portion of the costs in maintaining the buildings'** exteriors including their foundations.

The first ever CoKHGP

Information Session was held on March 9th at the Reid Hall. Lauren Sanbrooks, City of Kelowna planner and Lorri Dauncey, CoKHGP manager, were on hand to answer questions about heritage in Kelowna and specifically about how to apply for grants.



**Update:** The maximum grant amount that a building can receive in a three year time period was increased for the first time since the original Kelowna Heritage Foundation was created in 1991. Buildings on the Heritage Register may now receive a maximum of \$7,500 (previously \$5,000) and Designated Heritage buildings may now receive a maximum of \$12,500 (previously \$10,000).

All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise. The Kelowna Heritage Register can be accessed at: [www.kelowna.ca/our-community/arts-culture-heritage/heritage/heritage-register](http://www.kelowna.ca/our-community/arts-culture-heritage/heritage/heritage-register)  
For more information on the program contact ~ Lorri Dauncey at [lداuncey.cohs@telus.net](mailto:lداuncey.cohs@telus.net)

The Winter House, 815 Bernard Avenue, was built in 1939 The building was awarded a heritage grant for a new asphalt shingle roof installed with a rolled fascia, which is a character-defining element. The work is now complete.

**This building's** heritage value lies in its association with a long-standing member of the community (Ernie Winter 1909-2002 of E. Winter Plumbing Ltd, now Winter Plumbing and Heating Ltd) and for its architecture. It also has value for being one of many notable heritage buildings along the Bernard Avenue corridor east of the downtown core area. The house design, typical of many houses built between the world wars, has a unique rolled fascia as part of its roof. Winter family members continue to reside in the house. (SOS, Kelowna Heritage Register)



## 2017 COHS Heritage Award Winners

The 2017 Heritage Awards were presented at a ticketed luncheon event at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre on February 15th – as part of Heritage Week. Special thanks to:

- Chief Roxanne Lindley and Jordan Coble for their warm welcome
- Edna Terbasket, ED of the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre, who provided the venue
- Deena Donald and her volunteers who served the delicious lunch
- Birte Decloux and Carol Millar for emceeing the event
- Birte Decloux, Carol Millar, Tracey Read, Amanda Snyder and Lorri Dauncey for serving on the awards selection committee
- And to all our corporate sponsors for their support

### Distinguished Community Service:

*Awarded to a person or persons in recognition of their service to the community in the heritage field.*



**Ken and Gwen Campbell, Kelowna:** Ken and Gwen Campbell have undertaken many hours volunteering for heritage organizations in Kelowna. Gwen served on the COHS board and various committees for over 10 years, volunteering for almost every heritage society event, **project and fundraiser during this time, from the Guisachan Garden shows to the Brent's Grist Mill committee.** Ken was one of the key people involved in the initial preservation and the subsequent restoration of the Myra Canyon Trestles. Ken was also a founding member and president of the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society and is an ongoing director and educator of the site.

**Ferne Jean, West Kelowna:** Ferne Jean almost single-handedly saved and preserved two very important Westside heritage sites by bringing together volunteers, the Regional District and other stakeholders. **Ferne's perseverance created the Gellatly Nut Farm Society and led to the conservation and the development of the Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park** (hundreds of nut trees were saved, as well as the house, barn, nut-drying shed, cottage and lakeside cabin) and the Gellatly Heritage Regional Park (with its historic log cabin, barn and cemetery).

**Ferne's personal connection with these two sites, can be seen in her passion and tenacity in ensuring the success of these two community projects.**



**Conservation project on a heritage building currently in non-residential use:** *Awarded to a non-residential building that has recently undergone an exterior restoration and/or rehabilitation.*

**1250 Ellis Street, BNA Brewing Co in the Old Cannery Building:** The 1920 north-end addition on the 1912 British North American Tobacco Company recently underwent a rehabilitation to turn this storage warehouse area into the new BNA Brewing Company and eatery. The exterior of this large 2-storey building was cleaned to expose the original bricks with some early window openings. The interior space of the pub has been opened up to show the original post and beam structure, the exposed interior brick walls and the original floor preserved. This project was undertaken by Whitworth Holdings (the building owner), Kyle and Carolyn Nixon (the business owner of BNA Brewing Co) and Worman Construction (the project contractor).



**Conservation project on a building currently in residential use:** *Awarded to a residential building that has recently undergone an exterior restoration and/or rehabilitation.*



**J. N. Thompson House, 1875 Richter Avenue:** This two-storey Queen Anne Revival style house was built in 1911 by George Ritchie for Thompson, a prominent business man. The current owner, Shona Harrison, has restored this house inside and out. The modern kitchen windows were replaced with traditional windows, the exterior wood elements have been repaired, the roof has been replaced and new paint using the Benjamin Moore researched Historic True Colour palette has been applied. The interior of the house has also undergone significant conservation work including finishing of the original floors, mouldings, lathe and plaster walls, fireplace and other period elements and finishes.

**Continued conservation of a building:** *Awarded to a building to recognize the high quality of its exterior preservation and maintenance over the years, in keeping with its original design and structure.*



**Residential use Winner**

**G.D. Loane House, 1858 Abbott Street, Kelowna:** This Moderne style home, designed in 1937 by Robert Lyon, is one of the best examples of Lyon’s residential work. Notable elements of this house’s style include: the asymmetrical façade, horizontal emphasis provided by the flat roof and horizontal window proportioning, smooth stucco façade, pale colour palette, rounded corners and front steps and corner windows. These important style elements have been well-maintained by the current owners Ron Lutz and Loy Pierce.



**Non-residential use Winner:**

**Hughes Building, 2471 Main Street, West Kelowna:** This unique art deco building was first used by the Westbank Irrigation District until the 1970s. Bob Hughes began his new tire business in this building in 1976. Bob converted the upstairs into a suite for his own living space (after being used for tire storage when he first rented the building) and continues to operate his used tire service out of the back of the building. The front has had a number of local businesses from an art and crafts store, to a barbershop to its current use as a hair salon and spa. The building’s location on Main Street, across from the Lion’s Hall, provides a unique style to the architecture of this prominent street.

**Conservation of a Neighbourhood or Area:** *Awarded to a neighbourhood or area that has largely remained unchanged over time or has been revitalized through the restoration and/or rehabilitation of its buildings and streetscape.*

**Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park, 6970 Chute Lake Rd, Kelowna:** The Johns family donated their land to the Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) to create an 800-acre park with conservation as its main goal. In partnership with the Central Okanagan Regional District, this park on the east side of the lake has impressive views. A number of habitats on this land make it a home for a wide variety of animals and plant life. Cliffs, marsh, grasslands and forests offer shelter and food for many birds, reptiles and land animals. Rehabilitation of the farmland, addition of infrastructure and trail development make this a natural treasure for generations to come.



**Special Heritage Project:** *To recognize and honour special projects and accomplishments in the Central Okanagan. This may include advocacy, awareness and planning heritage and historical projects.*

**Stabilization of the Brent’s Grist Mill Building, 2128 Leckie Place, Kelowna:** The Brent’s Grist Mill building, built in 1871, along with a milk house, the Fleming House and the 1958 cairn were moved downstream from their original location onto a 10-acre heritage park in 2002. The stabilization of this designated heritage Grist Mill building, which is owned by the City of Kelowna, was undertaken in 2016. The stabilization process included: the conservation of the foundation, the posts, the roof and structure and the ponderosa pine board and batten siding. The openings have been boarded up or screened in to secure the building. Once this site has a new use and the buildings have been rehabilitated, this park will become an important community asset and landmark in Kelowna.



Thank You to Our Heritage Week Luncheon Sponsors:



## COHS News in Brief

2017 marks the 35th anniversary of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. This year also celebrates the 125th anniversary of Benvoulin Heritage Church. Indeed, it was the desire to preserve Benvoulin Church which inspired Dr. Walter Anderson to start the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. He, along with other noted heritage lovers and historians including Gordon Hartley, Ursula Surtees, Cynthia Ellis (Hunter), Robert Hobson and Bill Knowles decided to rescue the church from fire prevention practice by the Kelowna Fire Department.

To celebrate these milestone anniversaries, COHS is offering a number of public events this year:

### Upcoming Events:

**Public Guided Tours of Benvoulin Heritage Church and grounds** May 28, June 11, June 25, July 16, July 30 and August 13. Tours begin at 2pm and are by donation.

**Marietta's Garden Fundraiser**, June 30 (ticketed event)

**Colour Matters II** talk (Benjamin Moore & COHS) June 22 7pm at Reid Hall (by donation)

**Heritage Gardening with Don Burnett** talk July 13, 7pm at Reid Hall (by donation)

**COHS at Brent's Mill Outdoor Concert Parks Alive evening** Aug 29, 6:30-8:30 (Festivals Kelowna)

**Benvoulin Heritage Festival and Concert**, Sept 30

### Colour Matters II –

June 22nd, 7pm to 8pm at Reid Hall

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.



### Benvoulin Heritage Festival –

September 30th, 11am to 3pm at Benvoulin Heritage Park

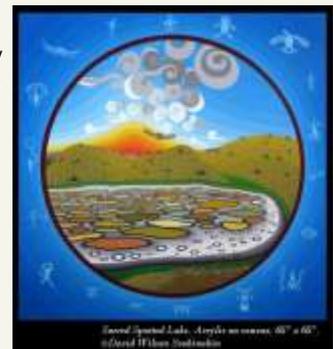
The Heritage Festival will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Benvoulin Church and the 35th anniversary of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. The Festival will highlight the year 1892 and the building of Benvoulin Church, bringing history alive through performances and activities, such as 'Who Were You in '92?' with costumed characters telling their stories, an old time costume booth, and on-site artists and performers.

### Benvoulin Heritage Festival Concert – September 30th at 7pm

To RSVP or for more information, please contact us at 250.861.7188 or by email to [cohs@telus.net](mailto:cohs@telus.net)

### Heritage Week 2017

'My Canada! My BC! My Okanagan!' was the theme of Heritage Week 2017, February 13th to 19th, with events throughout the Central Okanagan. This Heritage Week also celebrated Canada's Sesquicentennial birthday through the history of our communities and our people, and brought new community partners to Heritage Week. The 2017 events included the 'Our Okanagan' Opening Event at Benvoulin Church, the History-Mystery Tour, the Rutland Centennial Hall Birthday Bash, various talks and lectures, and the signature Heritage Awards Luncheon which was held at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre. A big thank you to all our partners and volunteers! Watch the COHS website and Facebook page for continuing events and tours throughout 2017, hosted by COHS and our Heritage Week partners.



Courtesy: David Wilson



## COHS News in Brief



### COHS 35th AGM

The 35th AGM was held on March 28th at the Benvoulin Heritage Church. The meeting began with amendments to the COHS Constitution and Bylaws (as required by BC's New Societies Act). The highlight was Carolyn MacHardy's talk entitled **"Kodaking and being Kodaked": Lady Aberdeen's 1891 photographs in *The Guisachan Album***.

*"In 1891 Lady Aberdeen took a series of Kodaks of her new property at the Guisachan Farm in what is now Kelowna. This presentation looks at a number of these photos and discusses them in terms of the Aberdeens' family life at Guisachan. Most of these photos have never been seen before as they are kept in a private family album. I suggest that *The Guisachan Album*, which was not meant for public consumption, reveals information about the Aberdeens' first venture in the Okanagan which adds greatly to our understanding of the meaning which Guisachan held for the Aberdeens."*



### Spring Work Bee

The Central Okanagan Heritage Society's Spring Work Bee took place Sunday, April 30th, with maintenance and yard work at Benvoulin Heritage Park. Volunteers weeded, painted, cleaned, and scrubbed – very appreciated! The newly scraped and painted picket fence in the front of the church looks wonderful. All the garden work, from trimming the hedge, to weeding, to cleaning the gazebo and benches make the site look great. The (very)

heavy work of moving the two antique radiators will help to get the container organized.



**COHS Fundraising Concert:** COHS's spring concert on April 21st had the church rocking with the Cajun Band Jambalaya, a high energy band with fast tempo zydeco and Cajun blues music. Jambalaya has been introducing Kelowna to lively Cajun/Zydeco dance music from Louisiana for the past ten years. Band members include: John McIntyre (Cajun accordions and fiddles) and Denney Thompson (bass) both formerly of popular Celtic group Mullingar; Jack Fonseca (acoustic

and electric guitars); and Marzio Manderioli (drums and percussion). Also in the concert were several members of the audience, enthusiastically playing the 'frottoir' – a type of washboard worn on the chest. Thank you Jambalaya for a great performance! Your concert raised much-needed funds to preserve Benvoulin Church. Also a thank you to our tireless volunteers and COHS supporters, and to our sponsor, Boyd's Autobody.



**Heritage BC Conference**– COHS was well represented at the May 4th - 6th conference. COHS Board member Carol Millar as well as member Robin Digby and COHS staff Shannon Jorgenson and Lorri Dauncey attended. With the theme of *Imagining Futures*, the group took part in a range of workshops that both challenged and inspired. One of the highlights was

keynote speaker **Dr. Lorna Williams** who is Lil'wat from the St'at'yem'c First Nation. She currently holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning and is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Department of Linguistics at the University of Victoria. Dr. Williams was inducted into the Order of British Columbia for her work in education in 1992.



## HERITAGE NEWS

### Board Members & Advisory Board

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Lorainne McLarty

Michele Rule

### S t a f f

#### Managing Director

Shannon Jorgenson

#### Planning & Heritage Projects Director & City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program

Lorri Dauncey

#### Benvoulin Park Gardener

Jim Elwood

#### Site Caretaker at Benvoulin Park

Percy Lujan

## Heritage News

The mission of the **National Trust for Canada**, established in 1973, is to lead and inspire action for places that matter.

*Every year, heritage buildings and cultural landscapes are threatened due to neglect, lack of funding, development pressures, inappropriate alterations and weak legislation. (National Trust for Canada)*

The National Trust publishes a **Top Ten Endangered Places List** every year. **This year's list will be out soon. Last year, Vancouver's Chinatown made the list. At this year's Heritage BC conference, we heard about another corner of Chinatown that is being threatened by large-scale development.**

***Why Does It Matter:*** *Canada's largest Chinatown stands as a testament to the integral role the Chinese community has played in shaping Vancouver. Since before the city's founding in 1886, Chinese immigrants settled in the area of Carrall Street and Pender Street, forming a tight-knit self-segregated community, amidst racial prejudice. They brought with them Chinese architectural styles, whose influence is felt throughout the neighbourhood and in the National Historic Site at its core. The blend of Chinese and Western styles lends Chinatown its distinctive feel, giving rise to places like the Sam Kee Building, the world's narrowest commercial building, and the Chinese Freemason's Building. Today, Chinatown continues to be a hub for social and cultural activities for Vancouver's thriving Chinese community.*

***Why It's Endangered:*** *Relentless development threatens the physical fabric of this nationally significant urban cultural landscape. Design guidelines meant to maintain a "Chinatown look" are often overlooked and building heights have been dramatically increased. At the same time, intense speculation is driving up rents and displacing long-time residents, many of them seniors, who are central to the area's rich cultural identity. Without better control on new development and efforts to sustain local businesses, Chinatown's unique character will be lost. (National Trust for Canada)*



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