

# LAKE COUNTRY MUSEUM

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## Curator Wins Award

Lake Country Museum Curator Dan Bruce was awarded the prestigious Arts Educator Award at the 2012 Okanagan Arts Awards on Saturday, February 25, 2012. In accepting the award Dan said, "I am honoured and surprised – thank you. I am proud to bring such an award to Lake Country."

Dan Bruce is the Curator of the Lake Country Museum, housed in the heritage Okanagan Centre School building and grounds, and he also manages the collections of the Fintry Estate and Manor House as Executive Director. Dan has lived in Lake Country for 26 years. His museum career started in Jamaica, where he worked in archaeological exploration of Pre-Columbian sites. Dan was hired by the British Museum to curate its collections from the Caribbean. In Canada, he has worked with James Baker at the archaeology field school in Lytton, BC, has curated at the Princeton Museum and the Kelowna Centennial Museum and has assisted the Regional District with heritage sites. Over the last several years, the American Museum of Natural History in New York has selected Dan Bruce as their lecturing tour guide for field trips in Latin America. Dan has also given numerous public lectures in the fields of history and archaeology.

Duane Thomson, President of the Lake Country Museum writes: "Dan has made an impressive contribution to Lake Country Museum, most recently by curating the "All Fired Up" exhibition of pottery from around the world. He plans to mount further exhibitions on Mexican arts and crafts and the Japanese Canadians of Lake Country. In preparing these exhibitions Dan uses his extensive contacts internationally and throughout BC to gather artifacts which complement our own holdings."

The year 2012 marks the fifth anniversary of the Okanagan Arts Awards, which celebrates excellence in arts throughout the Okanagan and recognize outstanding achievement. This year's winners were presented with a bronze cast sculpture of a spiral created by artist Terry Shewchuk of Kamloops.



Mayor Baker, Dan Bruce, Mrs Baker

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### **Daughters of Thomas and Ellen Florence Wood**

Much has been written about Lake Country pioneers Thomas (1841-1931) and Ellen Florence “Nellie” (Whelan: 1861-1905) Wood. Their lives have been carefully chronicled especially during the years that they lived in what is now Winfield. However, little has been written about their four daughters, all born in the district in the 1890s, and all deserving to be called “pioneers”.

Florence Finch Wood was born in the Winfield District on June 15, 1890. She was baptized by the Rev. Sheldrich at Vernon, on November 25, 1890. “Flossie” spent her childhood in the district, probably receiving a basic education from her parents, since there was no local school at the time. She and her family left the Central Okanagan in 1902, and relocated to Victoria, on the corner of Rockland and Oak Bay avenues. On July 24, 1923, at Oak Bay, Florence Wood married John Falconer Johnston. For many years, they lived on Vancouver Island. Florence (Wood) Johnston died at Burnaby on March 6, 1980, in her ninetieth year. She was buried in the Wood Family Plot, Ross Bay Cemetery. She had one child: Rosemary (deceased)

May Frances Wood was born in the Winfield District on June 22, 1891, and was baptized on October 1, 1893 by the Rev. A.C.F. Wood. Educated at home, she was with the Wood family when they moved to Victoria in 1902. May Wood married Fred Lee Jameson at Vernon, on May 1, 1926. Lee Jameson inherited a family business in Northumberland, England, and so they left Canada, in the 1920s. I met “Cousin May” in the summer of 1977, during one of my trips to England. Sadly, she was then suffering from dementia, and so could not be able to tell me about her childhood years in the Central Okanagan. May (Wood) Jameson died in Northumberland in late 1983, in her ninety-third year. She and Lee Jameson had three

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children, all living in England: Thomas (named for his pioneer grandfather), Sally, and Barbara.

Ruth Hilda Wood was born in the Winfield District on July 18, 1893, and baptized on October 1, 1893 by the Rev. A.C.F. Wood. She, too, received her early education at home, and moved with the Wood family to Victoria. In that city, the three Wood daughters were able to attend public school. Ruth Wood married Elias James Tingley at Victoria, July 14, 1913. Eli Tingley was a relation of renowned Cariboo Road stage driver Steven Tingley; both born at Sackville, New Brunswick. Ruth (Wood) Tingley died at Victoria on July 19, 1982, in her eighty-ninth year. She was buried in the Wood Family Plot, in Victoria's Ross Bay Cemetery. She had one daughter: Evening May (deceased).

It should be noted that the Wood Family Plot is virtually unmarked. The surname "Wood" appears at the head of this grave. Sadly, there is no additional information about the members of the Wood family who buried there, all pioneers of the Central Okanagan.

The three eldest Wood daughters all lived long lives, well into their late eighties and early nineties. The youngest of Thomas and Nellie Wood's four daughters was not so fortunate.

Winifred Margaret Wood was born in the Winfield District on April 15, 1895. She died at Vernon on October 21, 1898, only three years old. She was buried in the original Vernon Cemetery (which was later replaced by the cemetery on Pleasant Valley Road). In 1905, her remains were removed from the old Vernon Cemetery, and re-buried in the Wood Family Plot, Ross Bay Cemetery.

*By Robert M. (Bob) Hayes  
Author, Historian  
Director*