

# Lake Country Museum—February 2008

"SAVING OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE." LAKE COUNTRY MUSEUM · FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 2-ISSUE 1

## *Honourary Life Membership — Sonya MacCrimmon*

The very first time I met Sonya MacCrimmon I was walking the dog and she was walking with a mutual friend. By the time we'd been introduced, she had invited me to join an ecology committee.

A few months after that, I returned the favour. I invited her to join the Museum's Board of Directors as our Archivist. We had never had an Archivist before. Some of the Directors weren't sure we needed an Archivist.

But we did need a Secretary. So we accepted Sonya as our new Secretary, and she created the Archivist's job along the way.

Since then she has continued inviting anyone who shows the slightest interest in history, documents, or research to join the archival team, the same way she invited me on that first encounter. It's paid off handsomely. Our archives are now an invaluable resource for Lake Country, and often for the wider world too. The website, which Sonya originally designed, is now visited by an average of 2,400 people every month—and growing.

In December, during our Directors' Christmas party at Eleanor Geen's home, we presented Sonya MacCrimmon with a richly

deserved Honourary Life Membership. She joins such illustrious Life Members as Peter Short, Ross McDonough, and Ruth Whitson.

Fortunately, Sonya shows no signs of resting—on her laurels or anything else.

*Submitted by Jim Taylor*

**Lake Country Museum  
Lake Country Heritage  
and Cultural Society  
Annual General Meeting  
March 5, 2008  
9:00 am at the offices of  
the District of Lake  
Country.**

A meeting of the newly elected Board will follow. All members and interested folks are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served



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## *First Volunteer Christmas Luncheon*



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Dan Bruce, Ann Knott, Sharon Laing, Eleanor Geen, Andrew Miller, Richard Gibbons, James Baker, Allen Easthope, Ruby Buick, Margaret Carruthers, Rose Moore.



## *Lake Country Museum Tea House*

The Lake Country Museum is proposing to operate a Tea House at the museum. We would like to enhance the heritage feel and provide a great experience for our guests. The Tea House would initially operate through the summer months (maybe May to September). We need to hire someone with Food Safe to operate the site and would appreciate your input. Do you know someone who would like to do this? Please contact Sonja McCrimmon at the Museum at 766-0111 or at home 766-1010.

## *Doris Phillips—Friend of The Museum*



Doris was born in Vernon, BC, September 16, 1918. She died instantly in a car crash on January 17, 2008. She was pre-deceased by her parents, James (Jim) and Edith Glead, her sister Ellen (seven years her senior), and her husband Chris. Doris is survived by her son David and his wife Sandy of Winfield, her brother-in-law John Baldwin in Wales, and several cousins.

Doris grew up at The Store and Post Office in Okanagan Centre which was owned and run by Mr. & Mrs. Glead from 1908-1948. She attended the local school (which was also the United Church) for the elementary grades, and boarded in Kelowna for high school classes. In 1937 she went to Winnipeg to get her teaching degree in Home Economics & Applied Arts.

In February 1946 she married "Chris" (Christie) Phillips. For a short time they lived in North Bay, ON before moving back to BC where they lived in the Burnaby area. During that time, David was born (December 20, 1957). With Chris' help at home she went back to teaching—mostly at Burnaby Central. Added to that, for two or three years she went to summer school for additional courses. Otherwise, summers were spent in the Okanagan helping her parents—especially with their soft fruit orchards and often picked fruit with childhood friend Nora (Carter) Magrath.

Doris retired in 1980 after 30 years and moved back home to look after her mother (taking over from Chris) and again helping with the orchard. Her sister Ellen was married and living in Wales so they visited one another on alternate years. Doris made a number of trips to the UK. During the retirement years, Doris went to TOPS, bowled, line danced and enjoyed pancake breakfasts and the Senior's lunches and was always a generous supporter of local organizations.

Doris was a dear, quiet person with a lovely smile and a great deal of courage. She will be missed by many friends.

*Submitted by Anne Land*

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There is a whole section of Lake Country Museum that a casual visitor might not notice although the visitor looking for specific information might. That section is the archives. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, "an archive refers to a collection of historical records, and also refers to the location in which these records are kept. Archival records are normally unpublished and almost always unique, unlike books or magazines, in which many identical copies exist. This means that archives are quite distinct from libraries." The goal of Lake Country Museum archives is to gather all sorts of information about the area that comprises this community and surrounding area and that includes documents, pictures, recordings, books, videos and newspapers. We like to have the original documents and we have a number of those such as the autobiography of Northcote Caesar and the cartoons of Cyril Smith.. We have original photos and photo albums and recordings of reminiscences. We have several collections of documents relating to specific people or organizations and the business records of an orchard that operated in the 1940s. We also have the records of the Lake Country Museum—minutes, reports, correspondence and catalogued records of the collections. We have copies of weather records kept by the Bernaus for a fifty five-year period. We do like to have original documents but we'll take any kind of record if we don't already have that information in original form. We have printed, published documents like a complete set of the Okanagan Historical Society Reports, a full collection of the Lake Country Calendar and The Lake Country Magazine and The View. We have files, mostly of newspaper clippings by subject—from Agriculture, Fruit Growing to Wrinkly Face Park, and by person and/or family. The person and family files are used to create a further archive, the Community Family Tree. We have a collection of books published about this community or people connected with it and by

residents of this community. We have roadmaps, irrigation maps and property maps, many of which are not dated! We certainly don't have everything that we would like. We would like information of every important event from the beginning of time until today but it's not likely that we'll get that or ever have the storage capacity for it. We really find it disheartening when we can't help people who ask us for information but we try. One thing we can't do is loan out any of our files or books. We don't have the routines in place to keep track of them and have them returned. We are, however, in the process of a renovation for the archives that will allow the public to come into the museum, sit down and do research. It should be ready by the time we reopen in May. See you then.

*Submitted by Sonja MacCrimmon*

*...and for all this work Sonja has done, the Board was most happy award her a life membership.*

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## Road Report

**Goldie Road** (formerly Caesar Road) was named after the family of James Goldie who arrived in Okanagan Centre in 1908. In 1908, he bought a share in the Rainbow Ranche that he managed for 40 years. Many of the early Japanese worked in the orchards at Rainbow Ranche under the management of Denbie Kobayashi. The road was originally surveyed by George Meredith Watt.

**Hayton Road** Established 1904. Hayton Road runs from Todd Road to Oyama Lake Road. Jack Hayton was a respectable English remittance man who ran 200 cattle and 100 horses on the V Bar V ranch before Vernon Ellison came to the valley. He bought the ranch from H. Furnass who had acquired the Bovee Brother’s place. Later Fleetwood Wilson, another remittance man, a bachelor and a real English gentleman, raised cattle on the V Bar V ranch. Hayton Creek, also known as Spring Creek, was named after Jack Hayton. This creek runs across Sawmill Road down to the Oyama Swamp on the isthmus.

*Submitted by Margaret Carruthers*



V Bar V ranch (rider unidentified)



Mr. Wilson and guest

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