

# The Lake Country Museum

The Lake Country Museum has undergone more renovations. Ruby Buick, Architect and one of our Directors, has designed and implemented many changes. The office space for the volunteers is now a proper working area. A lot goes on keeping the information up to date and entering data in the archives, and recording our history. Ruby also designed the new patio.

Dan Bruce, our Curator, has changed some of the exhibits so be sure to come in and have a look.



This summer we had two students working at the Museum. Nikki Marchand was our archivist and Museum greeter. Nikki will enter her second year at Okanagan College taking University Arts Transfer courses with a major in English. She is looking forward to learning more about Lake Country's history and the people of the community. Nikki worked on the school exhibit in the Museum.

Diane Kalis graduated from George Elliot Secondary School this year where she received the Lake Country Heritage Cultural Society \$500 bursary and will enter her first year of University at UBCO. Diane plans to be a English/History teacher or an archaeologist.

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*Tea Room*

Lake Country Museum opened the Team Room this July on our beautiful new outdoor patio. Thanks to Ruby Buick and the volunteers, you helped make it a reality. The Tea Room offered the most delicious desserts made by Mr. D's Gourmet Cheesecakes, along with special teas and coffee. (They also had an ice cream bar.) According to the many visitors the patio was a great place to socialize, relax and enjoy David's cheesecakes and other fabulous desserts.



*Ruby Buick*

This October Ruby Buick planted some heritage trees donated from Gellatly Nut Farm. The White Oaks and edible Chestnut trees are planted along the north end of the park. They will be spectacular in a few years. Thanks again Ruby for your vision and hard work.

Wendy from the Municipality has been busy landscaping around the museum.



*Work in progress*



*Customers enjoying a cup of tea*

**Road Report**

**READ ROAD.** Read Road was first established in 1907 but was unopened at that time, the start of the road was at Okanagan Centre Road, and Read Road terminated at Maddock Avenue. The late Bill & Gertrude (Gertie as she was commonly known) Read, is whom Read Road is named after. Bill Read was a fruit inspector, transferred to Vernon in the late 1930's. Bill worked in the area for quite some time, later becoming Chief Inspector for the Valley. The house on Read Road where Bill & Gertie lived was purchased by Frank Constable's parents, who later sold it to one of the Berry family members. Bill and Gertie are both buried in the Vernon Cemetery.

*(Ref: Lake Country Museum Archives)*

**REISWIG ROAD.** Reiswig Road was first established in 1947. The road started at Woodsdale Road and terminated as a dead end road. Reiswig Road was not paved until 1962. The name Reiswig Road is so named after early pioneers Dan and Lucy Reiswig. Lucy was a native of Winnipeg and moved to the Armstrong area with her family at age 16, while Dan who came from South Dakota arrived in Armstrong with his family when he was only 6 years old. Dan and Lucy met in school, and after they married moved to Alberta where Dan found employment in grain farming, and it was here that Dan built the first of 10 sawmill which he owned and operated for many years. Dan and Lucy moved back to the Okanagan area, setting up home in Winfield, where Dan continued with his sawmills in The China Valley, Falkland, Chase Creek, Grinrod, and Malakwa. The Reiswigs' had six children, three boys and three girls, and most of their descendants, still reside in the Winfield area. The Reiswigs were well known members of Winfield Seventh-day Adventist congregation; moreover, it was there that Lucy taught children's classes.

Even in his retirement Dan still kept busy building, he built each of his children and grandchildren cedar chests. While Lucy was a very active member of the Dorcas Society, a group that met once a week to make quilts.

*(Ref: The Calendar November 1985)*



*Dan & Lucy Reiswig at age 89*

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*Centre Piece*

Okanagan Centre celebrated with a community picnic on August 24th. We were all entertained by the Lake Country Big Band and the Late Harvest Barber Shop Quartet. The kids, of course, waited for the Cake Walk which is always fun. They also participated in the usual games of sack races, balloon toss and tug-a-war. Jim Taylor was taller than usual that day???

Coopers Foods supplied the hamburgers and hot dogs so well prepared by Mayor Baker and Councilor Rees (with help from the other volunteers too). Eleanor Geen made the biscuits for the Strawberry Tea which were absolutely fabulous—covered in whipped cream and assorted berries. Ann Nott and Ardur Miller were appropriately attired in period dress to add to the experience.



*Lake Country Big Band & Jim Taylor at Centre Piece*

*Music in the Park*

The Museum park enjoyed two concerts this summer with local musicians. On July 4th John Lent and Phat Betty played what they called Southern Fried Blues, July 5th Les Copeland and Ellen Churchill entertained us with some great R&B. We had perfect nights with warm summer breezes and beautiful sunsets while listening to some very talented groups. The Kopje Regional Park concert was cancelled due to thunder and lightening storms but we had more concerts at Beasley and Swalwell Parks to finish off the tour. The concerts were very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We look forward to having music in the parks again next year.



*Enjoying the concert at the Museum park*



*Rich Gibbons & Mayor James Baker grilling the burgers at Centre Piece*



*Center Piece old timers*