

“SAVING OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE.”

Report from the President

Spring seems to be arriving early this year so it's appropriate that our Lake Country Museum is already a busy place. Following a very successful 2009 season your Board and volunteers have even more plans for 2010.

We're absolutely delighted to announce our biggest change now in effect, the hiring of our new manager. Shannon Jorgenson began work on February 1st on a permanent part-time basis. She will hold a variety of portfolios for us including the training and supervision of our volunteers and summer students. She has already formulated a very long list of projects and programs that will increase our profile and enhance our visitors' experience. Treasurer, Andy Miller, is very happy that she has experience in seeking funding grants and Sonja is thrilled to have another highly computer literate person on board, assisting in Carol Thomson's efforts to improve our website. Shannon will become the public "face" for the Museum in our community. Her background ideally qualifies her for this unique and demanding position. She has been the Curator of Education for Kelowna Museums and holds a BA in Political Science and a BED in Elementary Education. As a volunteer herself she is on the Board of Central Okanagan Science Opportunities for Kids Society.

One of the significant benefits from this appointment will be an extension of the hours of operation for the Museum. We plan to be open to the public several days each week in the "off season" so keep an eye on our website for some revisions to our hours. For those who may be wondering, Sonja MacCrimmon will continue her volunteer responsibilities as archivist and Dan Bruce as our Curator responsible for artefacts.

There are several ways you can help our Museum's success.

**AGM April 6, 2010
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Municipal Hall**

We are embarking on an ambitious program to feature community families on our website and within the Museum. We need funding assistance to make this a reality and look forward to telling you more soon.

We also need more volunteers with whom Shannon can match some fun and interesting projects. Please give her a call at 766-0111 for more information. Additionally we're always on the lookout for photos and artefacts that will enhance our collection. We hope to see you soon.

Rich Gibbons, President



*Shannon Jorgenson
Museum Manager*

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Current display at District of Lake Country

The 'Local Champions' exhibit in the District of Lake Country building lobby was an ad hoc project from start to finish.

The Board of Directors of the museum held a 'visioning' meeting in January of 2009. Discussion suggested we needed more exposure with 'outreach' exhibitions. Parks and Recreation Director, Steve Schaffrick, said that we could use one of the exhibit cases in the lobby and that he would have one cleared out for us.

Sonja MacCrimmon, Archivist, knew that Lake Country had several people who had competed in international, national or provincial sports competitions and started asking the other volunteers for names. We have lots of files on individuals and families who have lived, worked and played in this area but we don't yet have them catalogued by contribution

to community or reason for fame. As a group, we came up with some names and pulled the files that we had of some individuals and we looked up others on the Internet.

Sonja created an exhibit to coincide with Heritage Week and the 2010 Olympics. The exhibit includes newspaper clippings and internet write-ups of our local athletes..

We plan to continue to put up exhibits in the case in the District of Lake Country building, probably one every two months or so. The next one will be on the history of ranching in this area and after that, who knows? We are always open to suggestions.

Please contact Sonja McCrimmon at the museum at 250 766-0111

Lake Country Museum Celebrates 25 Years

This spring, the Lake Country Museum and Archives celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

In recognition of the community and volunteer support over the past twenty-five years, a Wine and Cheese event will be held at the Museum on May 14th, 2010. Special invitations will be mailed to the Museum's founders and community members. The Lake Country Museum is located in the former Okanagan Centre Elementary School at 11255 Okanagan Centre Road West, and is open seven days a week from May through September and two days a week during the winter.

The Okanagan Centre School in which the museum's collections are housed, first opened in 1932. Over the years, the school population fluctuated as the community developed, and before its closure in 1984 the Okanagan Centre School held only primary grade students.

As a school district trustee, Helen Gatzke knew about the closure. She, along with other members of the local Ratepayers Association, thought that the school property should be kept intact and used for the benefit of the community. On June 18, 1984 after a special meeting of the Ratepayers Association, the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society was formed. Helen Gatzke of Oyama was elected as the first president, Ron Carter of Okanagan Centre the treasurer, and Jane Arnold of Winfield, the secretary. The other founding members were Penny Baughen, Yvonne Saunders, Win Sutton, David Lodge, James Baker, Flora Snowdon, Jack McCarthy, and George Kozub.

In June 1985, School District #23 advertised asking for tenders to purchase the property. By July 18, the Central Okanagan Regional District was prepared to bid \$1000 for it. Meanwhile, about 550 members of the community signed a petition expressing support for the CORD bid. By September, CORD was prepared to grant the Heritage Society a long term lease and to maintain the grounds if the School District would turn over the property to them. At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the members voted unanimously to turn over building and property to the Regional District for the sum of one dollar. It has housed the museum ever since.

We are on the web !

www.lakecountrymuseum.com



1999.000.046 Opening Lake Country Museum; 1985?

Mrs. Berneau at museum opening



1999.000.051 Pouring foundations for museum cage; 1980s-1990s

Events

Museum Opening—March 1, 2010
Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 pm—4:00 pm
Seven days a week in May

Anniversary—May 14th

Tea Room—May 1, 2010

Historical Walks—June 2nd and June 9th
Register with the District of Lake Country

Centre Piece—August 29, 2010

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