

LAKE COUNTRY MUSEUM

LAKE COUNTRY HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

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Lecture Series

The start of the Lake Country Museum's Lecture Series of 2011 was very successful. *On Tour in Egypt: Recent Discoveries in Egyptian Archaeology* took place on Sunday, February 6th at The Creekside Theatre, with 105 people in attendance. A second lecture of *On Tour in Egypt* was held February 22nd at The Dorchester in Kelowna, and was very much enjoyed by 55 residents and guests.



Ramesses II at the entrance to the temple at Luxor, carved in black granite.

Website: lakecountrymuseum.com

Building the Kettle Valley Railway

The Lake Country Museum is pleased to invite you to a public presentation at the Creekside Theatre on Sunday, April 3rd, 1:30pm to 3:00pm.

Building the Kettle Valley Railway: Myra and its Men is presented by Dr. Maurice Williams and Dr. Richard Garvin of UBC-O, who established the Myra Canyon Research Project to uncover the history behind this famous section of the Kettle Valley Railway. Maury William's book, *Myra's Men: Building the Kettle Valley Railway*, will be available for purchase, as will art prints and note-cards of *Kettle Valley Trestle #4*, by local artist Margaret Kyle.

Admission is by donation. Doors open at 1:00pm

The Creekside Theatre

10241 Bottom Wood Lake Road, Winfield



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Life Histories: Historical Manuscripts of the District of Lake Country

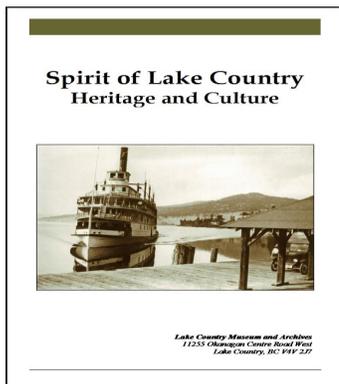
We are pleased to announce that the Lake Country Museum and Archives has been awarded funding from the Irving K. Barber School's *BC History Digitization Project*.

The project will take place through 2011, as staff and volunteers digitize forty-seven original manuscripts held in the Museum's Archives.

Life Histories: Historical Manuscripts of the District of Lake Country will provide public access to various aspects of Lake Country's history from the late 1800s to the 1950s, and will be accompanied by archival photographs. The manuscripts will be uploaded to the Lake Country Museum's website in early January 2012.

Spirit of Lake Country: Heritage and Culture

The Lake Country Museum and Archives, with our community partners, has written a community guidebook, which will be available in March 2011. *Spirit of Lake Country: Heritage and Culture* is a compilation of articles by local authors featuring the history of the community, with photographs from the archives, Lake Country's Public Art, and the non-profit arts and cultural venues. The book launch will be advertised in the Lake Country Calendar.



The Japanese Canadian Pioneers of Lake Country, British Columbia



The Lake Country Museum and Archives has submitted a proposal to the **Virtual Museum of Canada**, Canadian Heritage Information Network, to develop an exhibition to tell the story of the first Japanese Canadian pioneers of Lake Country, BC, and their experiences during the period from 1899 to pre-World War II.

The core theme of the exhibition will be courage and perseverance, with stories and histories to highlight this theme: obtaining citizenship, raising families, and their own and their children's contributions to the community. Sub-themes of the exhibition, with hot-button links, may include individual and family histories, types and locations of work, the skills and knowledge brought to the area, the experiences of their wives and families, and the formation of cultural organizations.

The selection of the core storyline and all sub-themes, as well as the presentation and final editing of the exhibition will be done by members of the Japanese Canadian community of Lake Country, the descendents of these first pioneers, working with the museum's staff and volunteers.

The Lake Country Museum and Archives is also hosting a community meeting to invite input and assistance with this exhibition.

The community meeting will take place:

Saturday, May 14, 2011 – 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

In the Carr's Landing Room, District of Lake Country, 10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road, Winfield

But What About *Mrs. Wood*?

Deservedly, much has been written about Lake Country pioneer Thomas Wood (1841-1931), who helped open up this area to settlement. Little, however, has been written about "Mrs. Wood". This oversight needs to be dealt with.

Ellen Florence "Nellie" Whelan was born at Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire, England, October 6, 1861, the youngest of seven children born to Peter Whelan (1814-1879) and Sarah Cordell Burr (1818-1889). Nellie's older brother, George Whelan (1844-1927), was a pioneer of the Central Okanagan; it was this connection which enticed Nellie to leave "Mother England" and relocate to the Central Okanagan Valley. Nellie arrived in the Okanagan in June of 1889. On July 1st, she married Thomas Wood, pioneer rancher. The ceremony was probably performed at the Whelan "Cloverdale" Ranch, in the Ellison District. Nellie Wood settled into the life of a pioneer, trying to make Winfield Lodge into a home.

Tom and Nellie Wood had four daughters, all born in Winfield Lodge, at the south end of Wood Lake: Florence Finch (1890-1980), May Francis (1891-1983), Ruth Hilda (1893-1982), and Winifred Margaret (1895-1898)...four of the earliest pioneer births in the district.

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Fortunately, we have some personal details about Nellie Wood. Ruth (Wood) Tingley wrote, "*Her [Nellie Wood's] specialty in life was helping anything in distress, people, animals, birds, etc. She did a lot for some poor...woman that used to come and work for her and her poor thin dogs... any animal that was badly treated by its owner she would buy at any price.*"

Nellie Wood did not enjoy good health. In 1902, she was diagnosed with diabetes, then considered a fatal affliction. Life in rural Lake Country, miles from medical care, was no longer possible.

In 1903, the Woods left the Okanagan, and purchased a home on Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria. Winfield Ranch was sold, severing their last connection with the Okanagan.

Nellie Wood lived in Victoria for only a short time. She died June 15, 1905, age forty-three years. Thomas Wood survived her by many years; he died in Vancouver, October 27, 1931. Both are buried in the Oak Bay Cemetery, at Victoria.

Nellie (Whelan) and Thomas Wood were the author's great great aunt and uncle.

Robert (Bob) Hayes, Director