

Annual Report

Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

2014



Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society / Lake Country Museum and Archives
11255 Okanagan Centre Road West
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7
www.lakecountrymuseum.com



President's Report to the AGM

The past year has been a year of advancement for the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society and its major project, the operation of the Lake Country Museum and Archives.

We have rotated numerous exhibits at the Museum and have mounted satellite exhibits at the Municipal Hall and at George Elliot Secondary School. As part of our community outreach we have collaborated with the Oyama Community Club to upgrade the Memorial Hall with the addition of proper lighting, historical panels and exhibition cases. The Lecture Series Committee assisted with this outreach effort by offering four lectures this year. We maintain an active internet presence through our website, Blog, Facebook page and YouTube channel. My hope is that we will be more actively involved in placing historical markers around the community at strategic places where residents and tourists gather. Pel-mewash Parkway and the new CN corridor are obvious places to erect interpretative kiosks.

Our Archivist, Laura Neame and two or three committed volunteers are busy rationalizing and cataloguing our collection. Work is continuing on conserving and accessioning the large Rainbow Ranche Collection and numerous smaller collections that continue to appear. Interviews with pioneers and with Lake Country artists are adding much value to our archival collection.

In our community programming efforts I am particularly impressed with the Oral Histories of Lake Country Artists project and the resulting documentary film featuring twelve local artists. This is an example of a fruitful collaboration between the LCMA and the Lake Country Art Gallery, UBC Okanagan, ARTSCO, and the Lake Country ArtWalk and Public Art committees. Another project that is "gathering speed" is our History Pin project. This will be an important component in the planned Heritage Driving Tour that will be ready for the summer season.

Planning is well under way for a major collaboration with the Okanagan Indian Band to present a number of events celebrating the history of the Okanagan First Peoples in this region. The Museum will exhibit a large number of Syilx artifacts, hopefully to include those excavated at the village site at the foot of Pretty Road.

The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society is generously supported by the District of Lake Country, for which we are appreciative.



Duane Thomson
President
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society
April 9th, 2015



The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

Lake Country Museum and Archives

2014 Highlights

This year the Lake Country Museum celebrates thirty years as a community museum and archives. The Museum, located at the shore of Lake Okanagan, houses artefacts, archival photographs, and collections from the District of Lake Country's earliest days. The main building of the Museum is a historic two-room schoolhouse, where students were taught from 1932 to the mid-1980s. The museum also includes the Annex, an outdoor exhibit area, and the Wentworth Cabin, built by Cyril and Joseph Wentworth in 1906 and relocated to the Museum grounds in 1998. The Lake Country Museum and Archives are open year round. Admission is by donation.

Staff/Volunteers

The LCMA currently has two part-time staff, Curator, Dan Bruce, (2 days/month) and Manager, Shannon Jorgenson (16 hours/week). The LCMA employed two summer students in 2014, Lucas Anderson and Mark Gill, with wages partially paid through HRDC Canada Summer Jobs funding. From January through May, 2014 the LCMA staffed a Directed Study intern through the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus (Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies). Shea McMartin worked as community liason and interviewer with the *Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists* project.



In 2015, the LCMA plans to have two full-time summer students again from mid-May through August.

The LCMA has an active, working Board of 13 and an additional 18 regular volunteers, without whom the Museum could not operate.

Volunteer hours for 2014 = 3695 hours
Volunteer hours for 2013 = 3029.5 hours
Volunteer hours for 2012 = 2294 hours
Volunteer hours for 2011 = 1905 hours

The Lake Country Museum opened seven days a week through the summer of 2014 (mid-May through Labour Day). During the winter months, the Museum was open three days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The Museum also opened additional days on request for school tours, researchers, and UBCO student teachers.

The Ok Patio Café, operated by a lessee, was open seven days a week, weather permitting, from mid-May through Labour Day.

Total recorded visitors to the Museum in 2014 were 1874. The number declined from 2013 as we did not feature a special exhibition last year.

Visitors in 2013 = 2436
Visitors in 2012 = 1849
Visitors in 2011 = 1533
Visitors in 2010 = 1459

One of the LCMA's ongoing goals is to continue to increase visitorship to the Museum. This is being accomplished through special exhibitions, community workshops and public lectures, partnerships, and increasing community awareness through our website, Facebook page, and print media.



Membership

The LCHCS recently completed a review of its membership in an effort to ensure that the list of members and their contact information is current and that members are apprised of the benefits of membership. A new Constitution and Bylaws came into effect after they were adopted at the 2014 AGM. Members now are those who, because they have made a contribution to the Society, have been offered membership. Membership is ongoing and free. Members are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting to: approve minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting; move, amend, and vote on motions; pass annual reports; approve the next year's budget; and nominate and elect directors and table officers of the Society. Members include directors, volunteers, municipal council, those who have been interviewed as part of the Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists and the Oral Histories of Lake Country's Pioneers projects, plus many others who have contributed in innumerable ways to the Society.



Collections & Archives

Through its exhibits and archives, the Museum tells the story of the District of Lake Country and its four wards of Winfield, Oyama, Carr's Landing, and Okanagan Centre. The Museum's artefacts include items relative to the Okanagan First Nations, histories of the orchard, wine, and ranching industries, turn of the century living, and collections from the early Japanese community. The outdoor exhibits include an antique pleasure boat, farm wagons, ploughs, and the 1906 Wentworth Cabin. The Archives currently house over 4000 photographs, a large collection of manuscripts, ledgers, maps, library books, and a full collection of the Lake Country *Calendar*. The Museum's collection of over 4300 artefacts is either on display or in storage and rotated on exhibit. The majority of items in the collection has been donated by local residents.

The LCMA collection continues to grow, with donations of primary documents, photographs, and objects important to Lake Country's history and development. These include the original ledgers and documents of the Rainbow Ranche, the Winfield Farmer's Institute, the letters of Dorothea Allison and photo albums of George Goulding, an Oyama pioneer.

Exhibits

Ongoing work and exhibit rotation took place throughout the year. The Museum's permanent exhibits in 2014 featured The Store exhibit, the Harvey Insect Collection, a First Nations showcase, pioneer Northcote Henry Caesar, Sigh Kobayashi, ceramics, and tools and equipment of the early ranching and orchard industries.



Charles Sydney Goldman Exhibit

Charles Sydney Goldman was perhaps one of the Province's most enigmatic historic figures. A German of Jewish ancestry, he left Germany for England, where he married the granddaughter of Sir Robert Peel. His next move was to South Africa, where he made a fortune in ostrich farming and gold mining. A major in the British forces during the Boer War, he assisted Winston Churchill as a war correspondent. He then moved to British Columbia, where he founded Nicola Stock Farm (now Nicola Ranch) in Merritt. He wrote a lengthy account of the Boer War, edited and translated several other historic works, as well as being a collector of Pre-Raphaelite art. One of his legacies still enjoyed by the public is Monck Provincial Park on the shore of Nicola Lake.



Satellite Exhibits

The LCMA featured eight satellite exhibits at the Municipal building through 2014. Exhibits included *Winter Sports*, *The China Cabinet*, *Spring Chicks*, *Oyama*, *The Medicine Chest*, *Preserving the Harvest*, *The Fire Department*, and *Christmas Toys*.

The LCMA also maintains satellite exhibits at George Elliot Secondary School and at the Lake Country Community Complex.

Oyama Legacy Exhibit

The LCHCS is working with the Oyama Community Hall Association to install a permanent, legacy exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Oyama Hall and Community Club.

The Legacy Project has begun renovations and electrical upgrades to the Memorial (upper) Hall and, in the spring of 2015, the LCMA will install a permanent exhibition featuring the history of the community of Oyama. The Legacy Project will also include audio-visual equipment to expand the community's use of the hall to public presentations, history talks, and community events.

The Legacy Project will include permanent exhibits designed by Curator Dan Bruce, with two exhibit cases, a photograph of Field Marshall Iwao Oyama, and a series of thirteen wall-mounted heritage panels, which recognize and celebrate various aspects of Oyama's history. The LCHCS plans to host a free public lecture in the hall, introducing the new exhibition and the general history of the community of Oyama.

The exhibition launch is planned for June 2015.

Curator's Report

Without a doubt, the most important development from the standpoint of collections in 2014 was the agreement with the Okanagan Centre Community Hall Association that allows us access to suitable storage space in the Hall basement. This will enable us to properly house collection items that are not part of current exhibitions, and also allows for items that will be acquired in the future. It is a great relief that this pressing need has been met for some time to come.

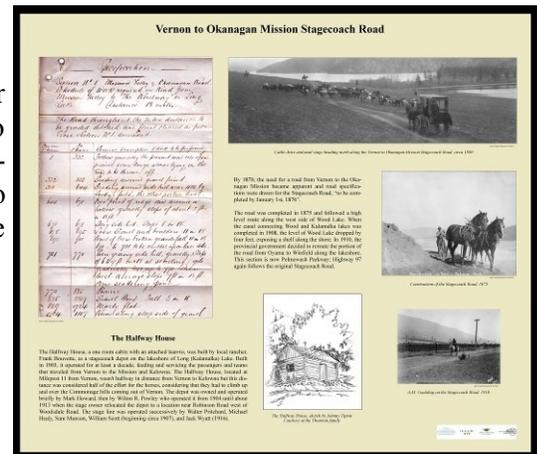
We have added to our already impressive insect collection, having been presented with a special group of parasitic insects which was originally part of the Harvey Collection already in our care. We plan to extend the exhibition space devoted to the insects, to include species that have particular significance in human cultures and enterprises. Grateful thanks to our Honorary Entomologist, Ward Strong !

Additional recent acquisitions include a tin container for chocolate, issued to soldiers during the Boer War. Several examples of this tin are known to exist, but ours may be unique in that it still contains some of the original chocolate. This, and two good examples of Mazawattee Tea tins were presented by Mr. Bob Hayes.

We were able to add considerably to our Japanese collection, notably a spectacular kimono overcoat, and a complete set of man's clothing. These came to us with the assistance of Yoshio Furumura of Kelowna, and will be exhibited in the Oceola Arts Council showcase in the very near future.

Our showcase in the Creekside Theatre lobby exhibited a selection of footwear, in order to complement the theme of Artwalk 2014. We are grateful to Mr. Lester Ganassin of Kelowna for the loan of a selection of early comics and related material from his extensive and well documented collection. In order to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, the Friends of Fintry Society loaned us a collection of items from the Fintry Manor House relating to the career and contribution of James Cameron Dun-Waters to the war effort in Europe, in particular, his introduction to the British Army of the well-known Canadian "Trapper Nelson" backpack.

Dan Bruce, Curator



Archives Report for Lake Country Heritage Society AGM, 2014

While 2014 was an active year for the Archives, much of what has been accomplished were continuations of projects started in the previous year.

The Rainbow Ranche Collection accessioning has been largely completed. This project has involved entering the records into our PastPerfect cataloguing software programme. The significant collection, consisting of financial records, legal documents, log books, photos, letters and diaries dating back to 1908 is now available for use by researchers. We are still hoping to add to the collection, as there is a mysterious ten year gap in the otherwise carefully maintained record of correspondence. A project request was submitted to The Hamber Foundation to make the resource available in digital form. This was not approved however and we continue to look for other grant opportunities.

The three owners of the Rainbow Ranche from 1908 through to the 1950s were James Goldie (also ranch manager), Robert Dormer, a resident of England, and frequent visitor to the Rainbow, and John Edgar McAllister, resident of Ontario. J. E. McAllister was a mining engineer who left a bequest to the University of Toronto School of Engineering. Robert White, a former U of T financial officer is on the Board of the John Edgar McAllister Foundation Trust that administers this bequest, and it is thanks to him that we have a photo of the portrait of John Edgar McAllister that hangs in the school. The other photos reproduced here are from our collection.



*James Goldie
1878 -1971*

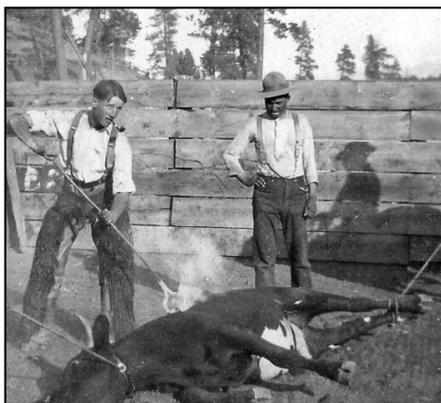


*Robert Stanhope Dormer
1880 – 1960*



*J. E. McAllister
1870 - 1959*

The George Goulding Photo Album Collection has been added to the collection and this interesting collection of photos, largely from 100 years ago is now available. The Goulding family was resident in Oyama from 1907 to 1929. George Goulding (1886 – 1943) was a horse breeder and an orchardist who first owned the Rainsford Ranch, and then moved, in the early 1920s to Iris Point (now Kaloya Park.) The collection contains a significant collection of photos of the area and surroundings. There are also a number of photos in the collection of Goulding's brother, Arthur Melville Goulding, a pilot in WWI, who after the war, married Dorothy Massey of the prominent Toronto Massey family.



*George Cassilis Goulding in 1907 (on left):
Branding.*



Arthur Melville Goulding, WW I pilot

The Dorothea Allison Collection has been completed. The Allisons were resident in Oyama from 1908 until their retirement to Kelowna, and the letters to Dorothea from family members and from Robert Allison to Dorothea, ranging from the early 1900s through the 1950s give interesting glimpses into past lives and times. There is also a biographical sketch of Robert Allison in the People File.



*Dorothea Allison (1878 – 1981)
1924 portrait*



Robert Allison (1871 – 1960)

The Kalamalka Women's Institute files were donated a number of years ago, but had not been entered into our online record system, PastPerfect. This work has now been nearly completed, and records and minutes are now available, dating from 1914 through the 1980s.

Photographs from the **Carter Collection** are being added to the archives. These were from the effects of Nora Carter, younger daughter of Curly and Nelly Carter, and sister to Mary. The Carter family lived in Okanagan Centre. Mary has left a family history of her parents, which is in the people file in the archives.

The Gleed Glass Negative Collection: The Archives has in its possession glass negatives, donated by daughter, Doris Gleed of photos taken in the early 20th century. The Gleed family were the original owners of the Okanagan Centre Store. James Gleed was a talented photographer as these original negatives attest. In addition to photos of the family and of Okanagan Centre, there are some of buildings in Lake Country in the early 1900s. Gleed was also a stone mason who worked on a number of fireplaces with the builder Edward Hare, and kept a photographic record of some of the houses and outbuildings.

The Lake Country Heritage Society Library has been reorganised and access improved. It is now possible to retrieve items directly by title. This small collection comprises local histories of the Okanagan Valley. Similarly, the Subject File has been reviewed with an eye to easier retrieval. This work is still on-going.

The archives report for 2014 would not be complete without a thank you to those who have been responsible for so much of what has been achieved. Elaine Pybus has spent many hours on the Rainbow Ranche Collection and is still inputting some of the odds and ends. Miriam Bowles has spent months of volunteer hours on the Kalamalka Women's Institute records, and before that on the letters in the Allison Collection. Matt Palsson, a more recent volunteer, has also been working on a number of archival projects.

*Laura Neame, Archivist
April 2015*



Gleed family on porch of post office/home ca. 1911

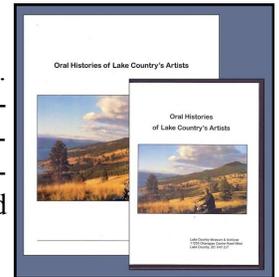
Public and Community Programming

Community Memories Interviews

The LCMA staff and volunteers conduct video and/or audio interviews to preserve Lake Country's history. We have 55 completed interviews in the Archives, which include local history interviews and Community Builders interviews.

Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists

The Lake Country Museum and Archives has created a documentary film of twelve local artists. Funded through the BC Arts Council and partnered with the Lake Country Art Gallery, UBC Okanagan, ARTSCO, and the Lake Country ArtWalk and Public Art committees, the Museum completed the first twelve interviews in 2014. Dr. Hussein Keshani of the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at UBCO assisted with the project by developing a 4th year Art History course and Shea McMartin worked with the project as a researcher and primary interviewer.



The artists interviewed and featured in the film are Christian Reiner, Margaret Kyle, Shani Wendell (Lake Country School of Dance), Petrina McNeill, David Alexander, Kate Gibson Oswald, Julie Elliot, Chris Malmkvist, Wendy Ord & Glen Samuel (Mountain Lake Films), Angela Hansen, Jennifer Boal, and John Revill.

The complete raw footage of the interviews are available to researchers at the Museum Archives and a short clip of each artist can be viewed on the Museum's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com. The documentary film and accompanying booklet have been given to each of Lake Country's schools, the UBCO library, and the Okanagan Regional Library, and additional copies are available for sale at the Lake Country Art Gallery and at the Lake Country Museum. The LCMA launched the documentary film at the Creekside Theatre January, 2015.

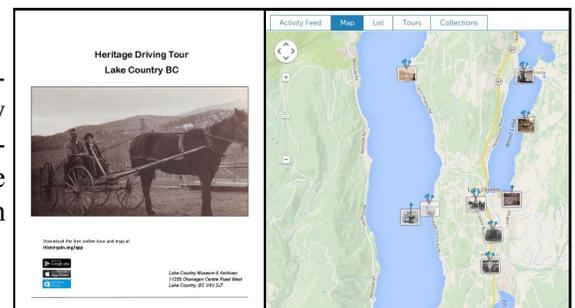
Kakonosedai: A Century of Community Book

The project, which began in 2013, funded through the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, involved the publishing and printing of 350 copies of a commemorative book. The book was launched in April 2014 at the Bohemian Café in Kelowna, hosted by the Okanagan Institute. Copies are available for sale at Mosaic Books, Komatsu Japanese Market, the Lake Country Art Gallery, and the Lake Country Museum.



History Pins

Research and work began in 2012 to select historical sites in Lake Country, where History Pins have been placed by the LCMA. We currently have 100 sites pinned and are working through the spring of 2015 to develop a *Heritage Driving Tour* through the History Pin tour app. The sites can be viewed online at www.historypin.com, and, upon tour launch will be available as an interactive free app.



Virtual Museum of Canada - Canadian History Museum

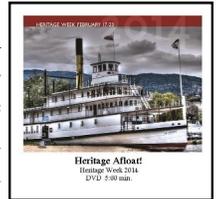
The LCMA has submitted a proposal to create our second online exhibition with the Virtual Museum of Canada - Canadian History Museum. The exhibition, *Applebox Belles: The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses*, will present the experiences of women in Lake Country's early packinghouses. The online exhibition will concentrate on the first women to work as packers, their training, work conditions, and personal experiences, and will include first-hand accounts and interviews.



Public Programming

The Museum hosted a number of guided tours and programs during 2014, including retirement homes from Kelowna and Vernon, the Lake Country Boys and Girls Club, the Winfield library Summer Reading Club, and a Mother's Day Tour and scavenger hunt. Both Peter Greer Elementary and Davidson Road Elementary schools had the Museum visit to present *The Pioneer Box* to grade 3 students. This hands-on presentation includes a 2 week loan of our *Pioneer Box* of artefacts and classroom activities to the school following the presentation.

Heritage Week 2014 featured the theme *Heritage Afloat*. The LCMA worked with museums and heritage organizations throughout the Central Okanagan to present a series of events, and also created a feature DVD. The LCMA partnered with the Heritage Week committee again in February 2015, with a joint exhibition at the Royal Anne Hotel and



the creation of another DVD, *Main Street: At the Heart of the Community*.

The LCMA in partnership with The Kelowna and District Genealogy Society presented an *Introduction to Genealogy Workshop* in April, 2014 with thirteen participants. The workshop is being offered again in 2015.



The LCMA had a booth at Oyama Days, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Oyama Community Hall and joint plans for a permanent, legacy exhibit in the Memorial Hall.

Archivist Laura Neame attended the genealogy conference *Harvest Your Family Tree* September 2014, with an on-site LCMA exhibit booth and participation in the conference.



We participated in the Kelowna Museums' *Grow Local Festival* October, 2014 with an exhibit booth featuring Lake Country's agricultural history.

LCMA Lecture Series

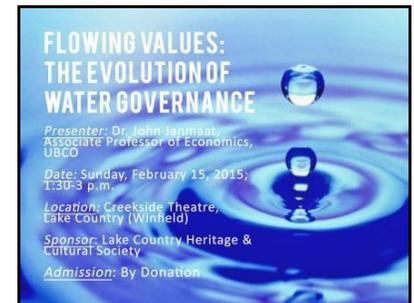
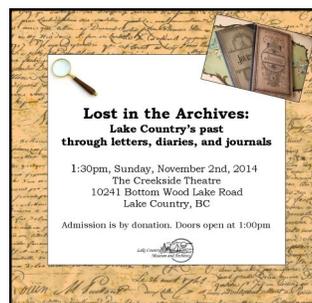
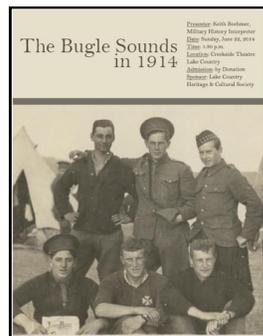
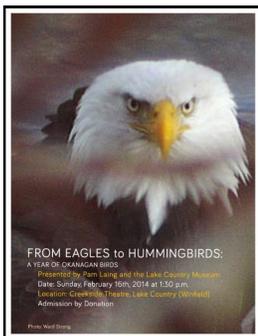
The LCMA continued its public lecture series at the Creekside Theatre through 2014. This program has been very well-received by the community and the LCMA plans to continue offering free, public lectures.

From Eagles to Hummingbirds: A Year of Okanagan Birds, presented by Pam Laing February 16th, 2014

The Bugle Sounds in 1914, presented by Keith Boehmer June 22nd, 2014

Lost in the Archives: Lake Country's past through letters, diaries, and journals, presented by Laura Neame November 2nd, 2014

Flowing Values: The Evolution of Water Governance, presented by Dr. John Janmaat February 15th, 2015



Community Projects and Partnerships

UBC-O Education Department Partnership

In the fall of 2014 (Sept–Nov) we again partnered with the UBC-O Education Department students. The ten ETEP students working with the LCMA completed short movies on aspects Lake Country’s history and created artefact-based big books or models as part of their classroom assignments. The movies can be viewed online at:

YouTube.com UBC 2014 GREEN EDUC 417

UBC—The History Education Network

In 2015, the LCMA is working with The History Education Network and advisor Dr. Vicki Green to develop a local Social Studies curriculum guide. The teacher’s guide, student booklets, and DVD will be developed from the History Pin sites and the *Heritage Driving Tour*, and will take elementary-level students on a virtual tour through Lake Country’s past. The curriculum guide will meet learning outcomes for the new BC Social Studies curriculum and will be launched September, 2015, to coincide with implementation of the new curriculum.

The Okanagan Indian Band

With funding approval through the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, the LCHCS in partnership with the Okanagan Indian Band, is planning a series of events through the summer and fall of 2015 to celebrate the history of the Okanagan First Peoples in this region. *Full Circle 2015* commemorates the 20th anniversary of the District of Lake Country and recognizes the ongoing history of the Okanagan Nation in this traditional territory. The events will include a re-enactment of a traditional canoe trek and portage, a Welcome Festival, a joint, major exhibition at the Museum, a public lecture and follow-up language learning workshop by an Okanagan Elder, and joint participation in Centrepiece. The Okanagan Nation Alliance and the municipality are assisting with event logistics. The events will be partially or fully digitized and a documentary video of the canoe trek and portage will be filmed by KlahowYa Productions.

LCMA Arnold Award

The Lake Country Museum’s COBSS Arnold Award of \$500 was presented to Julie Klingner-Jardine, George Elliot Secondary School, in May 2014.



District of Lake Country Heritage Planning

The LCHCS/LCMA worked with the District of Lake Country through 2012 to initiate a heritage survey of Lake Country. The LCHCS continues to work with the District on heritage issues, heritage planning and the placement of heritage markers throughout the community.

Centrepiece

Centrepiece is the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society’s annual community picnic and takes the form of a 1920’s garden party. *Centrepiece* 2014 included entertainment and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Some of the highlights include a Devonshire tea, children’s games and bouncy castle, performances by the Westside Ramblers and local musician Ron Short, an old fashioned dress up photo booth, and an antiques roadshow with on-site appraisals by Peter Blundell. The Big White events team were on site with their bouncy castle and mascot Loose Moose. Attendance at Centrepiece was approximately 250, with 152 visitors also touring the Museum.



Website

In this age of technology the website is providing an essential service. The site allows the Lake Country Museum and Archives to present a small sampling of the exhibits and archives available to the global public – through information on the site itself, the **Blog**, and the interconnection with **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

Website Statistics

The Daily Average number of Hits on the website has increased from 772 (April 2010 to March 2011) to the current 16,115 (April 2014 through March 2015). Since we began collecting statistics these have been generated by *Webalizer*, which can be a useful tool for viewing raw traffic. However, *Webalizer* is often unable to decipher if a visitor is a human or a robot (such as a web crawler) so readings are not always accurate. As of April 1, 2015 we switched to using *Google Analytics*, which does not record search engine bots and other crawlers on the site, so we should get a more accurate reading of our web traffic.

Social Media

The **Facebook** page is currently being maintained in the winter months by the Manager and by Summer Students during May through August.

The Museum's **YouTube** channel is maintained by the Manager and in this year clips have been added of the video interviews from the Japanese-Canadian exhibition, *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community*, and also video interviews from the *Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists*. Both of these projects have added valuable content to our site.

The **Blog** has posted approximately 288 items since its inception. This connection has directed information to the Museum that pertains to the history of Lake Country in the form of donated archival materials – documents and photographs – and some artefacts. Dialogue with readers has indicated that they most enjoy the historical vignettes and photographs. Announcements, which are sometimes posted, do not interest readers who do not live in the area.

2014 – 2015 Goals

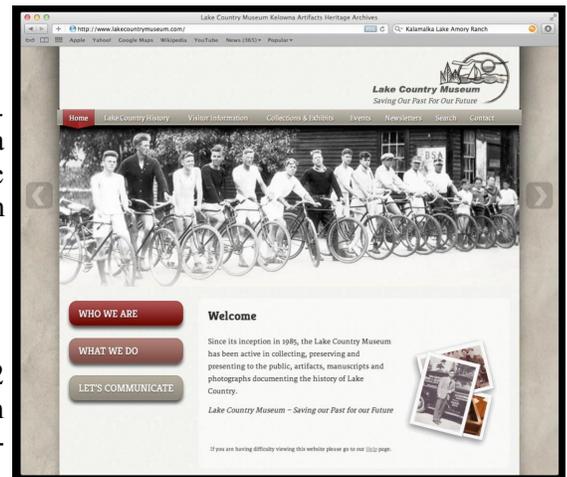
Most of the goals for 2014 – 2015 were met:

- completed the editing of updating of the *Wildflowers* and *Kokanee Salmon* project;
- continued to compile and update the Users' Manual;
- continued to maintain and update the website. This included uploading various exhibits and collections as well

The transfer of the *Letters of Dorothea Allison* was a goal if funding was available, but neither funding, nor web administrator's time, was available so that was not done. It shall be added to the goals for 2015 – 2016.

2015 – 2016 Goals

- transfer and edit the *Letters of Dorothea Allison*;
- upload to our site, or link to the Canadian History Museum, new projects such as the *Applebox Belles*. *The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses*;
- upload the LCMA *Heritage Driving Tour*;
- continue to maintain and update the website -- adding monthly displays, events, documents, collections, exhibits and major exhibitions such as the aboriginal project, *Full Circle 2015*.
- continually update the Users' Manual.



Building and Grounds

The District of Lake Country has supported the Museum in numerous day-to-day operations and maintenance, including installing hand rails at the front entrance and steps, rebuilding the gateway entrance with a new roof, building hand rails for the stairs into the furnace room, painting signage for handicapped parking, and assisting with Annex cleanup and garbage removal. The LCMA has expanded Museum storage through the lease of a section of the basement in the Okanagan Centre Hall, with renovations and artefact storage anticipated early 2015.

Insurance

The museum contents are now covered on an annual basis through Marsh Canada, under our CMA member rate. Coverage includes permanent collections, items on loan, temporary exhibitions, and items in transit.

Professional Memberships

The Canadian Heritage Information Network /CHIN

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA)

The BC Museums Association (BCMA)

The Archives Association of BC (AABC), Associate Member

Okanagan Historical Society

Central Okanagan Heritage Society

The LCMA is registered with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship Cultural Access Pass program for new immigrants.



Lake Country Museum History

The Lake Country Museum has seen many changes over the past thirty years, from the first vision of a community museum and parkland to the extensive artifacts and local history collections today.

The Okanagan Centre Elementary School was built in 1932, replacing the first school of 1911, and a second classroom was added as the community grew. The school population fluctuated over the years as other areas of the District of Lake Country developed, and the school closed permanently in 1984. 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 the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society was formed, with Helen Gatzke elected as the first president, Ron Carter the treasurer, and Jane Arnold the secretary. In June 1985, School District #23 advertised for bids to purchase the property. The Central Okanagan Regional District was prepared to bid \$1000 for it, and over 500 members of the community signed a petition expressing support for the CORD bid. In September, CORD agreed 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 the building and property to the Regional District for the sum of one dollar. It has housed the Museum ever since.

