

Heritage Update

To keep you informed about current heritage news and events, we bring you our Heritage Update. We hope you will find these periodic newsletters both useful and entertaining. Your feedback is welcome!



A message from the President

Dinner Theatre has been a long standing tradition at R.J. Haney Heritage Village & Museum. In 1994 President Doug Adams came

back from a holiday with a bright idea. He suggested we stage a dinner theatre to bring more visitors to the village. The meal was a simple but delicious beef stew made by Mary McTaggart, wife of soon to be retired “Keeper of the Park” Ted McTaggart. Over the years we changed the menu a few times but one thing never changed; dessert has always been our famous homemade rhubarb crisp.



Audiences loved the mix of local history and original music and delicious home cooked meals. Those meals were prepared on two residential stoves in a small hot kitchen in the lower level of the Broadview School. Our cooks and an army of volunteers did an amazing job working in the cramped kitchen with no air conditioning all summer.



In 2012 the play setting was moved from simple wooden benches and a basic stage behind the school to a natural amphitheatre set in the forest with a sound system and lighting. This was made possible by a generous donation from SASCU and a huge campaign to sell seats. Progress!

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From the desk of the GM

2021 was a successful but shortened season for R.J. Haney Heritage Village and Museum. We plowed through Covid-19, heatwaves, wildfire smoke and welcomed 4800 visitors to the Village!

The Sprig of Heather, our full-service restaurant, opened in June. Visitors enjoyed home-cooked meals using the vegetables grown on the property or purchased locally and our famous rhubarb crisp and fresh-baked goodies. The Sprig of Heather is a great place to enjoy a relaxing meal with family and friends.

The Children's Museum and Discovery Centre opened in July! This summer, some of the best memories are of children discovering in the Discovery Centre. With the help of our t-shirt sponsors SASCU, Total Office, Justin Maas, and Spectrum Signworks, we gave a keepsake t-shirt to the first 300 kids who came to play.



If you did not have a chance to visit the Village this year, I recommend adding it to your must-do list next season. We are the Shuswap's largest heritage attraction, and we get better and bigger each year!



We employed 23 youth with funding from Canada Summer Jobs at the Village from maintenance, gardening, kitchen, interpreters, and visitor services. These unique employment opportunities allowed youth to gain new or first-time jobs skills. . .

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The Salmon Arm Museum and Heritage Association is grateful to the Secwepemc First Nation, on whose traditional territory we live, work, and play.

A message from the President

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From the desk of the GM

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With the new theatre we were able to increase our house capacity but the physical kitchen still limited our numbers. The old theatre seated an audience of 75. The new amphitheatre seated 150. This added undue stress for the volunteers and staff.

The pandemic made it impossible to open the

Village in 2020 but work continued behind the scenes. The former museum gallery and archives space had been renovated to become the new Sprig of Heather Restaurant named in honour of an establishment run by Elvira Stirling and Mrs. Simm in 1914. We painted the exterior, hung curtains and photographs, and reupholstered chairs.

We optimistically re-opened the Village in 2021 and dinner theatre was staged with a limited capacity because of ongoing Covid-19 gathering restrictions. Meals were prepared in the state-of-the-art kitchen and staff



and volunteers were thrilled to have professional equipment in a roomy and air conditioned work space. Our summer was not without complications. Forest fires plagued the area and air quality was at times poor for outdoor theatre productions. We ran 23 shows and served 1,245 patrons before closing down due to smoke and ongoing Covid-19 concerns.

We are all excited for 2022 and look forward to showing off the new restaurant and patio which offers covered seating for 150. Check our website for opening dates and volunteer opportunities.

Norma Harisch, President

So now, we have 23 new ambassadors in our community.

From February 21-26, 2022, we celebrate Heritage Week. The theme for Heritage Week explores the many ways heritage can bring us together. Although the event will look slightly different from past Heritage Weeks, we are still hosting many of the community's favourite activities bringing us together following our Covid-19 Safety Plan, Public Health Orders and protocols.



In 2021, we pivoted the silent auction to an online format, and you helped us raise over \$8500.00! We will be keeping the same format in 2022 using Bidding Owl. It is fun and easy. Register as a bidder, and the online platform allows instant updates if you've been outbid, ensuring you don't miss out on the item you want to win! To register, copy and paste or click on the following link www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=24392 and then once you are on the Bidding Owl page, click on the word register on the top right of the page and fill in the form. That's it. You will be ready to start bidding when the online auction goes live on February 21 at 9 a.m. Winning bidders can pick up their items at the Village from March 1st-4th, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. We will be offering curbside pickup. Follow the signs when you enter the Village.

Check out our website at www.salmonarmmuseum.org for online contests, updates and announcements as Heritage Week approaches.

I want to thank the Haney staff, volunteers, donors and funders for sticking with us through Covid-19. We could not have made it this far without your trust and support. I am looking forward to welcoming you back to the Village next season. You are in for some surprises!





Hold that Position!

Lingford and Honey have a new photography studio at R.J. Haney Heritage Village and Museum thanks to the City of Salmon Arm's [Grants-in-Aid Program](#) and the Province of BC and the

Ministry of Tourism, Arts Culture and Sport [CERIP Program](#). The studio is the seventh diorama completed in the Montebello building. Combined, the exhibits tell the commercial story of our town's development.

Contractor Wayne Peace has been working on the project all fall, except for a week in the bush, communing with nature.

Wayne worked on several historic buildings in the Yukon before settling in Salmon Arm as a building contractor. He knows how to match historic construction methods while carefully working with the current building code.



A skilled trades person, Wayne has also worked on many projects at the Village including the recent quilt storage rack, the Haney House kitchen cabinetry, the collections area's work stations, and the telephone exchange switchboard. When we wondered how we'd install the tin on exteriors of the Pharmacy and Barbershop & Pool Hall buildings in 2017, Wayne stepped up to offer his services. He had worked with the stuff before.

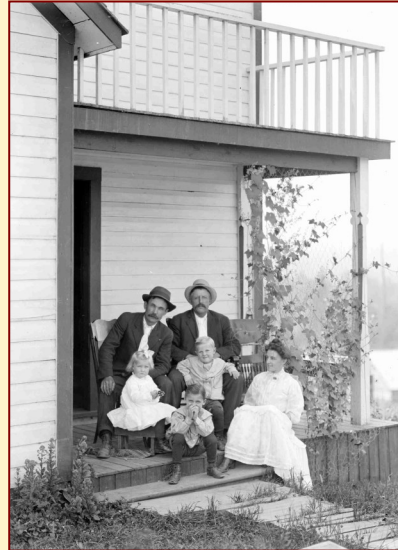
When it came time to install the tin ceiling in the Studio and Pharmacy, Wayne was just as confident. He needed the pattern created by Brian Greer's Tin company, but then it was off to the races. It warmed this picky curator's heart when Wayne wasn't happy until the hand screw heads that he used to install the ceiling matched the powder coated tin. It took three attempts, but a match was made!

It was obvious we were dealing with a pro.

Wayne met with designer Cuyler Page and they discussed details. The display is an old school explanation of the

magic of photography. The darkroom studio is painted black, at Wayne's thoughtful suggestion. His dad had a darkroom and Wayne knew that a flat black was preferred. Wayne found a sink at the ReStore and custom built a counter to hold the developer, stop bath, and fixer trays.

In the mean time, President and Haney resident artist Norma Harisch painted the backdrop for the studio based on archival examples. Norma spent hours and hours at home perfecting the greenery, column, and landscape on her eight



-foot-wide canvas and her efforts have paid off. Her mural-sized backdrop is stunning.

Join us next spring for a photo opportunity in The Studio. Bring your cell phone to document the experience, but please convert your camera to black and white!

Deborah Chapman, Curator

W.J. Honey (left) with his father-in-law, Asahel Bond, and Agnes Lucy Honey. The children are: Nellie, Jack, and Max.

Photo credit: Rex Lingford circa 1913



Some of the best memories are made at R.J. Haney Heritage Village. See you in 2022!



Caring for the collection

I have been working with Haney's textile collection a lot lately. Spending time carefully laying quilts out flat, examining them for damage, rolling them around inert tubes, and wrapping the exterior in washed cotton. They will all be hung on the

new custom-built rolled textile rack. Wayne Peace built it this summer not long after my arrival at Haney. The rack is mounted to the wall and measures 13 by 8 feet. It really is a thing of beauty in itself. For more on this, see the Curator's Corner Blog on our website.

Why all of this effort for some old quilts?

Practically speaking, it was a storage solution. Quilts and other flat textiles like tablecloths and rugs are large when unfolded and having them hung from a wall saves a great amount of shelf space. That space can now be used for boxes and objects that need structural support from the bottom. Moreover, the rack sits relatively close to the wall, still allowing a workspace on the bank of desks underneath it. Very practical indeed.

More than practical storage, however, the rack better preserves the quilts from creases and handling. As any quilter will tell you, a quilt cannot stay folded the same way for too long, lest the fold become permanent. To mitigate this, quilters open up and fold quilts the opposite way from time to time. This practice is done in museum settings, too, but it means handling often very fragile textiles more frequently. It's a trade-off: reduced risk of creasing but increased risk from handling. In an ideal setting, all flat textiles would be rolled rather than folded.

But really. Why all of this for some old quilts?

You could ask this question about many of the artefacts museums collect and preserve. Asking this question really means asking why museums exist at all. What is all that *stuff* museums keep good for? An interesting thing to ponder, especially as a recent graduate into the museum field, and an important one. It is something I find I keep coming back to ask myself and I think the checking in helps me stay on track. Why am I doing the work I do?



Part of it goes back to the 15th century job description of a European curator. Although curating is Deborah Chapman's department, I think the original description fits my job equally. A curator was a guardian and a custodian. It was a position of care and responsibility for the greater good. It was a position of service. "Curator" has come to mean many more things, like appraising, storytelling, and knowledge-keeping, among others. All very worthy activities! But the idea of the curator, and more broadly, the museum profession, being the guardian is one that strikes a chord with me. Our history needs a guardian, doesn't it?

There are many ways to be a custodian of history, and many people are doing it very well by researching, recording, telling, transferring, and remembering stories. European tradition has passed on its way of being a custodian of objects.

And I hope that with every object in the collection I take care of, there is a potential to tell the histories of Salmon Arm. This is the other part of why I do the work I do: telling our stories. Objects are a powerful tool for storytelling. A

scythe tells a part of the story of growing and harvesting crops on the land and the people in the fields doing the labour. A quilt helps tell the story of early settlers in the Shuswap who made functional art out of scraps of fabric. It

can also help tell the story of the early relationships of trade and tension and power between settlers and Secwepemc nations. These stories, made more powerful by objects we can see

(and sometimes touch and smell!) remind us to reflect on our past and what we can learn from a long line of smart and brave people in the Shuswap.



Erin Stodola, Registrar of Collections

Editor's note: Thank you Liz Murdoch for making this project possible!



R.J. Haney Heritage Village and Museum wishes to thank Canada Summer Jobs for helping provide the many workers that are needed to make our facility such a welcoming and special place.

Ted and Mary really retire!



R.J. Haney Heritage Village caretaker Ted McTaggart and bookkeeper Mary McTaggart are packing up and moving back to their birth province. COVID-19 has got them thinking and they want to be closer to family.



This big announcement comes with consequences. Who is going to plow the streets? Cut the grass? Keep everyone paid? The Salmon Arm Museum and Heritage Association will have to fill some shoes!

Ted began working for this organization after a 10-year stint operating a fly-in fishing lodge that he co-owned. Mary was the cook. The two spent summers in northern Alberta and the experience made their marriage stronger. They only had each other. Don't ask Ted about the pranks he pulled on Mary, though. Those memories could be made into a good mini-series.

The couple eventually moved to the interior. The two got involved with Ducks Unlimited and knew how to raise funds. Ted had a short career in real estate in the 1980s, took business training, and volunteered with SABNES. Mary, of course, was the SABNES book keeper. About that time the museum association was looking for a manager, and the fit seemed perfect!

Ted spent the next decade helping the village grow as the operations and construction manager. He eventually stepped back when the job got too big, telling President Norma Harisch that "I just want to pound nails."

Ted's second career at the Village involved moving more buildings, building more buildings, restoring more buildings, roofing more buildings, installing more services to buildings and on and on.

Although he readily admits that his museum experience was limited and he dated everything as 1908 or really old, Ted was willing to learn. Eventually his critical eye was honed and Ted paid attention to the details that made exhibits authentic.

When he retired from his position as construction manager Ted continued to train a succession of replacements while taking care of the grounds and roads, writing reports to Gaming, and entertaining tourists.

Ted's most enduring contribution in his retirement has been talking to tourists. He is the Haney Greeter, much like a Walmart greeter but with more time to engage. He would, like any good performer, go into entertainment mode when he caught the eye of groups of people. The Village was his own back yard and he took pride in sharing it. He taught himself how to run the trip hammer and treated hundreds of people to his own brand of interpretation each summer, slipping behind barricades to make the village come to life with sound. Ted always took the time to explain how the line shaft ran the drill press too.

Since his retirement, Ted has been the eyes and ears of the Village, reporting in to Susan Mackie, the General Manager, when things were not quite right. She always appreciated having his boots on the ground or on the gas pedal because, since moving into the Montebello, she has been just a bit further away from the crowds.

Over the years Ted expanded his teaching role to include helping the curatorial department. He personally accepted multiple donations of farm equipment, making sure he had fair idea of how to run them. Then he watched people gather around pieces of equipment and would wander over with an explanation. Ted became the outdoor museum docent.

We will miss Ted's voice, easily heard from afar. We will miss his explanation of how antique tools were used. We'll even miss the visits that are always pre-announced by his heavy footwear.

Best of luck Ted and Mary! Happy trails to your new home.

Deborah Chapman, Curator

Volunteers are the backbone of our operations; we would not be able to do our job without their hard work, positive energy and dedication.

Join our team of volunteers and make someone's visit to the Village a memorable one!

Email volunteer@salmonarmmuseum.com or call 250.832.5243



The 2021 Stats are in!

Although it was a smoke-filled summer and we had gathering restrictions, activities at the Village were on the rise!

- ◆ Visitors totaled: 4,781
- ◆ Children’s Museum patrons: 449
- ◆ Dinner Theatre meals served: 1,245
- ◆ Collections processed: 31
- ◆ New artefacts in the database: 245
- ◆ New Fonds: 3
- ◆ Researchers served: 170
- ◆ Volunteers donated 3,094 hours
- ◆ And Operations purchased a lot of hand sanitizer!



Season’s Greetings to you and your family from the Board and Staff
R.J. Haney Heritage Village & Museum

To a joyful present and a well – remembered past.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2022!

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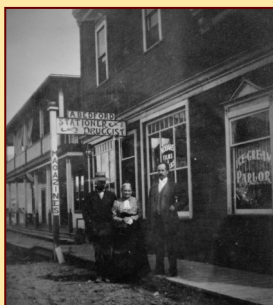
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New to the Village! Dioramas completed in 2021

- ◆ The Observer
- ◆ The Club—Pool hall and Barbershop
- ◆ Mah Yick Hand Laundry

Open for 2022—The Lingford & Honey Studio
What else are we working on?
Bedford’s Pharmacy of course!



***Join us for Heritage Week February 21-27!
For details see “From the desk of the GM” pages 1-2.***

Heritage Commission Update

A little recognized museum-related committee is the City of Salmon Arm's [Community Heritage Commission](#) (CHC). A group of six members and the fearless leader, City of Salmon Arm Councillor Debbie Cannon, are all corralled by City Planner Evan Chorlton. The six members are made up of three members of the public, two members of the museum association and one member representative from the [Salmon Arm Branch of the Okanagan Historical Society](#).

Over the years the group has accomplished a lot. There's the [Heritage Strategy](#) and [Register](#), street names project, heritage plaques, a tea or two, and, last but not least, the heritage awards recognized during Heritage Week.

The Commission was formed thanks to (Salmon Arm Branch) Okanagan Historical Society President Rosemary Wilson, OHS Past President Dorothy Rolin, and current CHC member Mary Landers. Landers and Rolin went to City Council to pitch the idea of a Commission. Their pitch was a success and the Heritage Strategy and Register came into being.

Landers, it turns out, was also keen on acknowledging building owners who go above and beyond restoring and

using their historic buildings in sometimes new and innovative ways. They do their part to keep our landfills from filling up. They also maintain the community's character.

In February 2019 there was a lovely reception at City Hall to honour the people caring for the Old Post Office (Shuswap District Arts Council), the Bank Manager's House (the Hays Family), and Sinclair House (Bernd Hermanski). Maureen Shafer arranged catered delicacies on vintage plates with flowers and cloth napkins. Tea never tasted so good!

In 2021, COVID was a concern, so we watched the presentation remotely. Heart's Haven/the Ball House (M. Shaffer), the Leech House (Hostman Family), the old Court House (Bernd Hermanski, Doug Hearn, & John Drew) and Salmon Arm Consolidated School (Kulwinder & Parmjit Chahal) received accolades for their loving care of their buildings.

Who will win in 2022? Where will the event be held? Stay tuned....maybe there will be tea and crumpets again!

Deborah Chapman, Curator

Photograph courtesy: Salmon Arm Observer



To donate or become a member of SAMHA

please fill out the information below and return it with your cheque payable to **R.J. Haney Heritage Village and Museum** Box 1642 Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P7

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Membership Fee: \$10.00 Donation: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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Thank you for your generous support!

