

Museum Newsletter

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FUNDING CONFIRMED TO MOVE THE SCHOOL & JOHN ARN CABIN

BIG PLANS FOR THE LITTLE MUSEUM

Staff received an email in late March from Heritage Canada confirming funding of \$67,000 for the Pemberton Station school and John Arn cabin project. Despite the news coming so close to April Fools Day, it really was true!

The project will see the creation of much needed programming, exhibit and collection storage space at the Pemberton Museum, which is the only cultural space in Pemberton & District. The project sees the renovation of two historic buildings at the museum site. The Pemberton Station School was built in 1929 and is a one room school. The John Arn cabin was built in 1907 and is a pioneer homestead. Both buildings were "gifted" to the museum in 2013 by School Board No. 48 (Howe Sound) who wrote that "the cabin and schoolhouse form an integral part of the history of Pemberton & District and should be preserved and located where they can be appreciated by everyone".

The school will provide year round educational, social and art programming and exhibit space for use by the museum and community groups. The John Arn cabin will display the history of agriculture and ensure preservation of these artifacts. see pg. 2



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SCHOOL AND JOHN ARN CABIN PROJECT CONT'D

The museum will relocate the buildings to the site and sought Heritage Canada support to renovate them to ensure they meet public safety and exhibit/collection management requirements. This project results in cultural space for heritage, arts and community group use into the future, completing the Pioneer Village originally conceived in 1982 by the museum founders.

This initiative has been a long time in the making and there has been great community support for the project. Strong letters of support were received from the Pemberton Women's Institute, the Pemberton Arts Council, The Village of Pemberton and the SLRD and these were forwarded with the museum's application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.

The PVUS Committee which oversees VOP and SLRD funding of the museum through an annual requisition has also contributed a matching component to the project valued at \$35,000.

The project will occur over two years. This year will see the moving of the buildings to the site and any necessary repairs required to make them structurally sound. Next year will see the finishing of the buildings, creating new program and exhibit spaces at the museum.

The museum will continue to fundraise through this year for the project and will be applying for more grants for the second phase of the project. We will provide more information about the unique histories of these buildings and project updates throughout the season.

MUSEUM OPENING MAY 15TH

The Museum will open to the public on May 15th this season and will be open on Saturday and Sunday for the May long weekend. Staff will be busy this month getting the site organized and raking up another year of tree debris.

The site wintered well despite the snow load on the old buildings this winter. Staff were unable to access the site until mid-March this season due to the snow. Earlier attempts turned into an arctic expedition under the trees, the snow was bum deep in places. There were multiple signs of wildlife including a resident house cat that hibernated under the Sam Jim house according to the tracks.

Staff inspected the buildings and storage areas and have found no illegal residents or startled hibernators so the museum had an uneventful rest this winter.

The outdoor washrooms didn't suffer any ill effects from the deep freeze and staff will organize getting the water on as soon as possible.

Like every spring, there seems to be an endless list of tasks to complete before the site is ready for public so the first priority will be hiring some students and a Supervisor to help ready the site for opening day.

AGM

Don't miss the AGM **Wed May 8th at 7pm.**

We will elect 4 trustees this year for a 2 year term. If you are interested in becoming a director please contact us or come to the AGM. Memberships are due at the AGM. Current Directors are: President Brenda McLeod, VP Judy McNolty, Treasurer Monique Midgley, Carmen Praine, Betty Mercer, Fran Cuthbert and Rolande Midgley. Tea & Treats will be served and staff will provide a report on operations in 2018 along with a look at the year ahead.



MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Annual memberships are now due. Individual memberships are \$15, families are \$20. Keep up to date with historical happenings and contribute to the preservation of Pemberton and District history by becoming a member. We can provide charitable receipts for cash and in-kind donations.

If you did not receive a membership renewal form with this newsletter, you are already paid up for 2019

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PEMBERTON'S LONGEST RUNNING COMMUNITY PROJECT

In the past few years the museum has been fortunate to have the assistance of Carol Morphy in processing and describing items in the museum collection. Whether it's cleaning wagon wheels or farming equipment, scanning and uploading photographs to website, confirming that donor names are spelled correctly in all registers or laboring over technical descriptions for the archive register, Carol has had a hand in it. We also never see her. Carol really likes really early morning shifts. She is usually gone before staff arrive at 9am, cooling her heels in the heat of the day. Though there are often signs of her presence including cryptic notes and emails about the mysteries she puzzles through. Last year, Carol spent the season dealing with a backlog of materials associated with the museum society—things like meeting minutes, correspondence, membership lists, visitor books, pamphlets, newsletters and the like. We've asked Carol to write a series of articles about the museum this year and to take us on a journey of how the little museum came to be. We also wanted to share some of the items we discovered last year.

* * *

We here at the good ship PDMAS (Pemberton and District Museum and Archives) are all about history so it came as no surprise when we reviewed the office files there was a whole whack of material that should be archived. In the process we came across the *Original* list of attendees of the very first Annual General Meeting of the Pemberton and District Museum and Archives Society dated October 4th, 1983. The museum society was incorporated under the Society Act Nov 25th, 1982. which made 2018 our 36th anniversary. We thought that was worth Celebrating!!!!

The attendees to that first meeting were: Gunnar and Marjory Gimse, Len and Dorothy Hickinbottom, Pat Priest, Frank Rollert, Jack Mc Grade, John Cosulich, Slim and Margaret Fougberg, June Perkins, Michael Dennison, Martin and Sharon Thevarge, Mark Thevarge, and Elsie O Miller. The statement of purpose and the collecting policy was presented and adopted at this meeting.

Considering all that has been accomplished over the years with volunteer (and yes, sometimes not so volunteer) labor, the support of our community and village officials not to mention that every dollar was begged, borrowed (or found) from somewhere we are pretty proud of what has been accomplished here and ready to toot our own horn.

Seeing as it was late in the year when the archiving was completed and were dealing with other anniversaries of local organizations we thought it best to wait a bit.

This year, we will be providing an overview of the development of the museum and sharing materials from this little community organization that had big plans and small budgets.

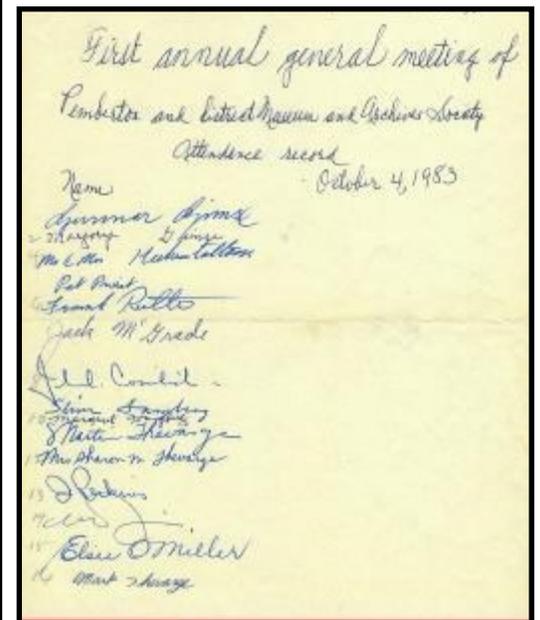
So strap on yer spurs boys and girls and get ready to ride along. This year's Newsletters will feature pictures, newspaper clippings, stories, biographies and all sorts of other stuff about P.D.M.A.S. and how we got Here from There; Pemberton's longest running community project.



The Shantz house 1982



The old museum site 1984
(Fougberg Park)



The old museum site



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CURRENTLY SEEKING MUSEUM SUPERVISOR

The position will assist the Curator with museum operations, promotions and visitor services from May-Nov 2019.

Successful candidates will have:

- Previous museum or supervisory experience
- Outstanding visitor service skills
- Administration and computer skills

This is a seasonal full-time position May 01-Nov 09th, 2019. (\$18/hr, 28 weeks, 1040hrs)

THANKS LOUIS!

The museum received a \$15,000 cash donation from Louis Potvin in March and were one of several organizations who received a donation from Mr. Potvin.

Louis has been a long term museum member and presented his fascinating life story at Tea & Tales in 2012. Louis was born in Port Coquitlam and started his first radio business "Potvin's Radio Service" when he was 16 years old. He also had the contract to set up the P.A. systems for the P.N.E. in Victoria and Vancouver. He joined the Canadian Air Force at the age of eighteen and was involved in the installation of a VHF radio system along the coast of B.C. After his service he joined a radio company who were developing VHF radio systems in North and Latin America. After a busy business career that involved international travel, Louis arrived in Pemberton in 1958 and moved here permanently in 1965. He developed Lillooet Lake Estates, a subdivision along Lillooet Lake road. He is most well known for his local accomplishment of developing and installing the Sea to Sky's first radio station - Mountain FM.

The board of trustees were thrilled with the donation and there were many ideas bandied about for how to best use the funds. In the end, the museum's Top Chef, Betty, convinced the trustees and staff that now was the time to invest in a commercial kitchen for the site. This will provide the museum with revenue opportunities for the museum's programs and events. The museum would also be in a better position to host private events like weddings, reunions, memorials etc... The lack of a kitchen on the site has been an ongoing issue and building a small facility has been a long term dream for the site. \$10,000 of Louis' donation will be reserved and used for this project and staff will begin seeking matching grants for the project this year.

Staff requested that \$5000 of the donation be reserved for computer and website upgrades beginning in 2020. The website was first launched in 2009 and new computers and a server were installed in 2013. The website now sees more visits annually than the actual site so this is a worthy investment for connecting with people near and far. The computer system has greatly improved staff's ability to digitize items and make them accessible through the website. The board of trustees agreed with this initiative and \$5000 is reserved for this use in the future.

Thanks to Louis for his generosity and continued support of the museum.

FINANCES

The museum's finances are in good shape for the 2019 season and 2018 saw an increase in revenues earned from memberships and donations again this season. The extended season has helped to draw more visitors.

The books have been sent to the accountant for finalization and the statements will be available at the AGM.

The museum's operating budget was approved by PVUS in March and will receive \$117,407 for operations in 2019 and \$17,500 for capital works planned.

Local government investment in the museum is a key factor when requesting matching funding for capital projects. The museum received its first requisition in 2006 of \$64,000 after a campaign to establish a museum service was successful.

The museum's operating season was June-Sept in 2006. Today the museum operates 9 months a year and employees a Curator, a Museum Supervisor, a Collection/Archive assistant, 3 After School Workers and 3 Summer Students.

The Pemberton Museum is thankful for all the local support over the years.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

Do you like what is going on at your community museum? Buy a membership for yourself and a friend. We'll send you all the latest news from the historical front and your membership directly supports your local museum society.

Single \$15, Family \$20 (per year).

From the Archives

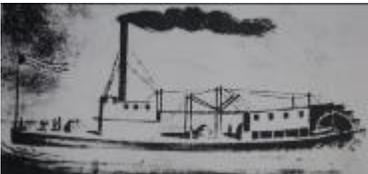
The museum received a copy of a gold rush journal last season and wanted to share some excerpts with our readers. The copy was donated by Bruce Jackson and Susan Bittin from Washington USA. The journal's author was Lucius Samuel Edelblute, the great grandfather of Susan. The original journal was donated to BC Archives. Note that the spelling and grammar is original from the journal. [and you thought today's youth couldn't spell!]

Excerpts from "Highlights in the Life of Lucius Samuel Edelbute from 1849 to 1863".

"I went on. I got to Lillooet of the Fraser River. Thay wuz a man thar running a farry boat, thar I went up to him and sed frend, I want to cross here. I am hard up. Well you look like a man that wooz hord up. Whar have you bin? I am cariboo edd from the mines. Is that so, well you can just crozz any time. Lillooet was a little village on the Fraser river. I waz shamed to wok past those fin drezt men so I took the middle of the road. I looked up a man holler out and sed hello fellow, how are you. Behold it was Mister Baly, the man that I got aquainted with at the Rengold house in Victoria. He sed you are the hardest looken man that I ever seen in my life. Well you must had a ofel time, yez you no that foolz goes ahead and openz the way and wize men followz and picks up the prize.

...Every stich of clothin that I had at that time was a patch, pair of pants and the body of a hevvy blankit shirt and the sleavz woren off it and a old bur hat and my bootz soltz tide to my feet with stringz nade out uve lagz. I thot I had betwv recruit up for a fu daiz. Went and got a dolar for one plug of tobacco. I had fifteen dollarz left. I borded that out with a man and got rested up and went on. Thay waz 3 lakz on this nue route and nue botz on the lakz. Lillooet lake was the furzt I cum to and the man charge me five dollars to cross. I wonted to work for my fare to cross. I went to him and asked him and he sed no I couldn't cross. There waz severl men hurd our conversation. Thay told me to cum a bord. I din so and the man that ond the boat cum to poot me off. I told hime to keep his handz off me. He grab a holt of me. I nock him down. He cold for hiz handz then these passengerv inter feard and I went a cross. They waz three miles to the next lake. It waz called Setenz lake. The boat just cum in az I got thar. I sed nuthin to no one but went to work helpen unload the boat and when the boat waz unload I stepped up to the Capten and sed Capten I am hurd up and want to cross with him. He sed well ol rite you help to unload the boat didn't you. I sed Yez Sur I did. Well you needn't to dun that. The lake waz 20 miles across. We landed on the other side of the lake just after dark. Thay waz a new log house bilt thar for the comidationz of travelrz. A man and his wife from Californiz. I have forgotten their names but I think thar name was kitlarl [Ketterel was from Virginia and ran the Half-way House on the Pemberton Portage]. They rung the bell for super. Thay waz a big stump standing frunt the house. I went and got on the stump to set. I smelt the super and hurd the platz a ratlin. Seemd like a good super to me.

...the Capten sed that he hadn't got thru with me yet and for to wate a while. I dun so dreckly the bell rung for brexkfaz. They was sum nurchentz and shiperz that for brexfus trying to git thar goods over the road. The Capten sed to me cum we will have our brexfus. I went with him. He treted me to the hudzon bay rum. We set down to the table the lady come to wat on uz. The Capten sed hear iz a man from the cariboo mins and I wonder how those poor fellowz muzet have suferd. We hat had meny cum down this way this road hant bin open long. I sed that the shipperz dun rong in shipen thar good this way for thay wont git them thru this year. ...the Capten sed o eat your brexfuz you have in talking all the time. The lady came with a shurt and gave it to me and fixt up some etablez for me and haned them to me. The ladz husband was duing the cooken. He came and took a look at me. The Capten gave me \$5. I thanked them for their kindnuzz....



Prince of Wales steamship Lillooet Lake 1860

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The Village of Pemberton has requested that we share this information with our readers. If you have any questions please contact Jill Brooksbank at VOP 604-894-6135.



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March 18, 2019

Dear Crabapple Tree Recipient or Family Member,

The crabapple trees that line Portage Road in honour of our past and current community members have created a welcoming gateway to downtown, and more importantly, paid tribute to locals who have had a personal impact on the people who have lived here or who have contributed to the betterment of Pemberton.

The trees have also been the source of Stewardship Pemberton's Crabapple Project; an important fundraising initiative which greatly assisted the Village in the maintenance of the trees, while reducing the bear attractants in this very busy area.

Unfortunately, even with the success of the Crabapple Project and the continual efforts to keep up with the removal of crabapples, bear activity in this area has increased due to the habitual nature of our area bears. This in turn has resulted an increase in human wildlife conflicts and safety concerns for residents and students walking to and from school.

In October 2018, the Village of Pemberton received a 'Letter of Non-Compliance' (the Notice) from the Province of BC's Conservation Officer Service (the Service) stating that the Village must take immediate and appropriate action to ensure the Village does not continue to operate in contravention of the *BC Wildlife Act* by removing all ornamental and non-ornamental crabapple trees located along Portage Road, or by installing electric fencing around the trees.

The Notice (attached) states that the Service has received numerous complaints with respect to bears feeding on both the ornamental and non-ornamental trees, and that the bears pose a safety risk and could be destroyed if they continue to return to this area. Therefore regrettably, the Village must remove the trees.

However, to ensure those honoured with a memorial tree continue to be recognized and to preserve the aesthetics of Portage Street's streetscape, the Village will be planting new non-fruit bearing species, that, once grown, will provide a welcoming entrance to Pemberton's downtown. Additionally, the Village will erect site signage with the tree recipient names and will explore options for repurposing the wood from the trees that are removed.

The Village plans to undertake this project this Spring, with tree removal to commence in April. Tree replacement will commence shortly after removal in May. To offset the costs of the tree replacement, the Village applied for, and received funding from Tree Canada/BC Hydro Fund. Due to the nature of this project, we are making every effort to contact each tree recipient or their family to notify them of this project. We encourage you to share this letter with anyone you know who has a memorial tree, or has obtained one in honour of a family/community member. We greatly appreciate your assistance with sharing this information.