

Museum Newsletter

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MUSEUM STAFF 2020

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On a hot sunny day in mid August the museum organized a pizza lunch for the staff to thank them for their contributions to the museum during this strange season. Large salads and pizza were picked up from the Pemberton Valley Grocery Store with iced teas all around. We ate our lunch outside to maintain our physical distance and then played a game called “Artifact or Artificion.?” The curator arranged 10 objects on a table and activity sheets were handed out. Staff had to review the object and pick the correct description from the activity sheet. For each object there were two “fictitious” choices and one “true” description. All of the staff did really well with the activity and correctly identified the true descriptions of many of the weird and wonderful artifacts on display. In the end, Jessica Hill, who has been helping with artifacts for two seasons, got the most correct answers. Thanks to all for playing!

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RACCOON WARS

Early this season we reported that racoons had moved into the outdoor washroom attic space. The access point was blocked off and we assumed they moved on. Then during the month of July staff had a few close encounters with racoons on the site, usually when working around the buildings. It turns out they chewed through the wood again and were back into the outdoor washroom attic space. We threw a dish of moth balls into the opening to deter them.

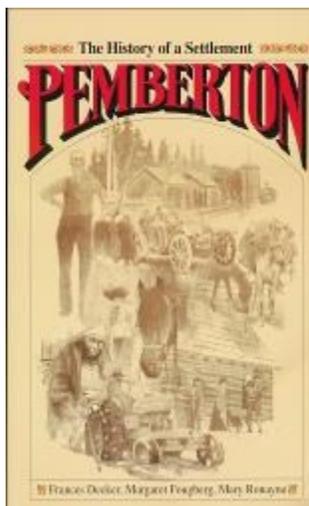
In the past we had the same issue with racoons in the Barney house attic however a smoky afternoon of burning brush debris in the fire pit sent them scurrying for a new dwelling. Staff decided to take a similar approach and lit some small smudge fires in metal pots near the building. The fire department was notified to ensure the neighbours weren't alarmed by the smoke curling down the Meadows Rd that afternoon.

Despite several hours of this smoky treatment, a radio blaring in the washroom and periodic banging on the ceiling with a broom, the racoons did not emerge. We didn't want to block off the opening with wire mesh until we were certain they had vacated. The screen was rolled up and shoved into the hole and sure enough it was on the ground the following day so the critters were still active up there.

So the war with the museum racoons continues as we move into October. We await a rainy day so we can have another long smoky fire and hopefully get them to move on to a nice abandoned cottonwood tree.

Looking for a **GOOD READ** over the long winter?

Pemberton: History of a Settlement by Fougberg, Decker and Ronayne.



**ONLY \$20 + \$10
Shipping within
Canada**

**If you are a local
resident we can
drop it off to you.**

**GET IT NOW
WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST!!!**



DITCH CLEARING

The museum coordinated the annual clearing of the ditches along the site. As per our lease with VOP we are to maintain the area inside the fence however we know how important it is to the neighbourhood that we coordinate this task if we can. The ditch along the Meadows Rd. is a MOTI Right-of-Way which could take a season (or two) of negotiating before it was cleared. We were connected with Ella, a landscaper with Ladybug Art + Garden who whipped things into shape in September. Thanks Ella!!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS MORE THAN EVER

Annual memberships demonstrate community support when we apply for grants. 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. **Pay by e-transfer to info@pembertonmuseum.org or by cheque to Box 267, Pemberton, BC**



From the Archives

AN INTERESTING THING . . . AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

Submitted by Carol Morphy

An article from the Chilliwack Progress dated 18 January 1911 reports that Francis Gravelle had just returned from an almost year long exploration through the B.C interior. On September 1 his travels brought him to Pemberton Meadows where he encountered several hot sulphur springs. It was reported to him then that at the time of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake the local hot springs dried up and did not run again for three months.

As someone who has experienced countless small earth tremors in my lifetime and never thought too much about them this was a bit of a wake-up call. Intellectually I have always understood the cause of earthquakes and that major earthquakes cause a lot of damage but it's always been surface stuff. I never really took a moment to consider the deeper implications and ramifications – that the surface stuff is just collateral to what's really going on.

It's not as though I'm not aware of the process of earth's evolution. I've spent a lifetime of watching Mt. Currie and Meager Creek slides, rock falls on the sea to sky and seen a fossilized clam shell that my uncle brought home from the top of one of the mountains running alongside Blackwater lake.

Somehow the idea that the San Francisco earthquake affected our valley – roughly 1,600 kilometers away is really hitting me in the "AWE" spot. That is some MAJOR STUFF!!!! For the very first time I REALLY understood the truly massive changes taking place beneath my feet. In my imaginings it would be like the whole of Mt. Currie sliding sideways. Just pondering the amount of built up stress that would cause that, and the explosion of energy it would create – well, it's just kinda blowing my mind.

We're grateful Carol is keen to pick through the museum archives for mind blowing historical facts! See below for an excerpt from an article about earthquakes on the coast that was donated by Paul Kroeger.

"Can it Happen Here?", by Catherine Hickson from "Geos" - a quarterly about the earth's resources published by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, Vol. 19 #1, Winter, 1990. (excerpt abridged for length)

A major volcanic eruption could occur in the Canadian Cordillera. It might significantly affect our environment. "Civilization exists by geological consent—subject to change without notice" said William Durant. This quote reminds us that we all tend to lose sight of the significance and consequences of natural phenomena. Most people are eternally optimistic often to their peril. Except for brief periods, during and - for a short while after - shocking natural disasters, we have a rather complacent attitude towards catastrophic events like earthquakes, mudslides, volcanoes and tidal waves. Volcanic eruptions are among the most spectacular natural events to be witnessed by man. In any given year, 50 to 60 volcanoes erupt throughout the world, but only a small number cause significant damage or loss of life.

The B.C. Columbia Cordillera is part of the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a circle of sporadically active volcanoes roughly surrounding the Pacific Ocean....Despite the historical record of volcano caused death and destruction, both government and the public are relatively unconcerned about volcanic eruptions. Studies have shown that except during, and immediately after, an eruption, most people in risk-prone areas ignore the potential effects of an eruption. This is especially true in Canada where many people are not even aware how close they live to recently active volcanoes.... The Garibaldi belt of volcanoes arises from subduction of the Juan de Fuca plate off the coast of Vancouver Island....These volcanoes are an extension of the Cascades volcanoes which run northward from California and of which Mt. St. Helens is a member. Other volcanoes in the chain include Mt. Garibaldi, Mt. Cayley and Meager Mountain. All of these volcanoes have been active in the last 2 million years

Which volcano is likely to erupt? The most likely candidates are volcanoes which have erupted frequently, erupted in the not so distant past and presently show signs of activity in the form of hot springs and fumeroles. The greatest threat to people living close to the Garibaldi belt of volcanoes is from landslides and debris flows. The slopes of these volcanoes are very steep, unstable and hydrothermally altered. Potentially the most damaging eruption may come from meager Mountain. It has a long history with many events, some of which have been highly explosive. The most recent eruption was 2350 years ago. Ash from this eruption has been found east of the rocky Mountains. The debris flows that have been generated in the vicinity of Meager...pose the greatest threat to the downstream communities of Pemberton and Mt. Currie. On the bright side, volcanoes can have beneficial effects...soils developed from volcanic ash are some of the richest in the world and even after the devastation by the Mt. St. Helens eruption, the environment is quick to rebound and new life soon appears.

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MUSEUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EMERGENCY FUNDING

The museum was successful in its application for emergency funding and received \$11,412 from the Museum Assistance Program that was awarded to assist the museum in carrying out its operations through the pandemic. This funding will be used for badly needed technology upgrades at the museum including computers, software and devices. The museum website will also be upgraded from Umbraco to Word Press and this will give us the ability to make design and function changes to the website into the future. Custom Fit Communication's Roy McClean, our webmaster, explains it like this. The current platform is like an exotic foreign vehicle and only specialized mechanics can work on it. Word Press is more like a domestic vehicle and anyone can work on it (and parts are readily available). We are making plans to migrate information from the old website to the new one and work will begin late this fall and through the winter. Staff will be researching hardware and software requirements to upgrade the office operations and to coordinate set up and installation over the winter and spring.

ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR SLRD/VOP

The board of trustees reviewed the annual budget that was prepared for review at the Sept 16th meeting. We have reimagined our daily operations for 2021 to ensure we can safely open to public and provide a safe and healthy workplace for museum staff.

The new staffing plan includes a Visitor Services Lead hand and additional hours for a Museum Supervisor to ensure daily visits are monitored, counted and that summer student workers have the guidance and support to be successful and safe in their roles. We will also hire two students as Museum Guides, a Collection Coord. and Program Coord. in the 2021 season through the summer student grants we can access.

Access to exhibits will be limited day by day dependent on visitor traffic. Historic houses that see 50 people will be closed for 72 hrs as the surfaces cannot be sanitized using chemicals, so the exhibits will be quarantined. We will encourage visitors to book appointments in advance but will also be able to manage walk-in traffic with the new staffing plan. This will ensure easy access to the site however the number of visitors on the site will be controlled at all times. All visitors will need to wear a mask to access the site.

In our forecasting the museum will continue operating from April to November in 2021-2022 providing a unique and authentic visitor experience for local residents and tourists. The museum will also offer more programs online and anticipate a hybrid approach to public programming and events where technology will provide access to those who cannot attend in person and/or if seats are limited and sold out for a particular program. We are thankful to all our members for their continued support as we plan for the future.

PEMBERTON STN SCHOOLHOUSE AND JOHN ARN CABIN PROJECT UPDATE

The Province of BC has released details for the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, which includes a funding stream for Unique Heritage Infrastructure. With a funding envelope of nearly \$20M, this is the single largest fund ever to be rolled out by the Province specifically to support heritage infrastructure in BC's communities. The museum will be preparing an application to this fund for the remaining monies required for the John Arn and School house project. We will likely not apply to the Rural and Northern Communities Fund as reported last month in light of this new grant as it has a specific Heritage stream. Staff are reviewing both programs to ensure our application's success. We will also be increasing the forecasted construction costs by 15% due to the increased material costs anticipated during the pandemic. The SLRD has confirmed assistance with contingency on expenses required by these provincial grants (\$20,600) and we're grateful for the support. We will begin excavation of the foundations next month.

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FLYBACK FRIDAYS

Flyback Friday's are back - a glimpse into Pemberton's past every Friday! This season we will bring you stories and videos from Tea & Tales and our video archives over the last decade that highlight Pioneer life and the resiliency of early settlers and First Nations. We will also share videos and stories that show how local residents have responded to emergencies and challenges in the past, illustrating the power of community ties through all kinds of difficulties - yesterday and today. Here's a list of the stories so far. Thanks to everyone for their likes and shares of this content!

Friday July 31st: we featured Bob Menzel who shows us how to pack a horse for travel.

Friday August 7th: a short excerpt from Anna Helmer's presentation about Modern Farming at Tea & Tales. Anna works on her family farm - Helmer's Organic Farm - and talks about old farming methods versus new. She also explains why everyone should grow their own lettuce.

Friday August 14th: Louis Potvin recalls how Mountain FM got started and explained the various technical issues that were solved in order to broadcast the radio station up and down the Sea to Sky. Louis also talks about the original CRTC application and how they got an antenna on the Lion's Gate bridge. The creation of Mountain FM was of great benefit to local residents in navigating the road conditions on the Sea to Sky highway and for the sharing of community information throughout the Sea to Sky region.

Friday August 21st: In this excerpt Chief Leonard Andrew shares some of his memories about the railroad, the long travel required by railroad to Ottawa by area Chiefs (Thevarge) and the changes that have come since the railroad was built in 1914.

Friday August 28th: We featured Roy Crowston's presentation "Memories of a Conductor" at Tea & Tales in 2014. He gave some insight on what types of jobs there were on the railway and what the conductor does and he talks about accidents, snowstorms and rock slides.

ARTIFACT OR ARTIFICECTION?



Which description is TRUE?

Which descriptions are FALSE?

- A) These are old fashioned nose pickers.
- B) These are for flipping sour dough pancakes.
- C) These are ox shoes from the 1860s.

ANSWER: C Ox Shoes, these were dug up by Walker & Reid at the site of Port Pemberton

From the Archives

In memory of Mayor Shirley Henry who recently passed away we wanted to share her notes from her 2009 Tea & Tale presentation about "Pemberton Town Development". This excerpt is from 1956 to 1980.

1956 - The first meeting Of the new Village Council was held on August 2, 1956 at 9:50 p.m. At the request of the Board of Trade, T.B.M. Fougberg visited Victoria in December 1955 to confer with Municipal Affairs to see if it was feasible to incorporate into a Village and let Commissioners take over the responsibilities of the Government and thus the numerous benefits. Francis Antonelli was appointed Clerk on Sept. 4, 1956 The first bylaws were - the Procedure Bylaw, Street Lighting Bylaw, Building Bylaw, Election Bylaw Curfew Bylaw. Collection bylaw and the first Building inspector was J. Nelson. There were discussions with the PGE regarding the water system, and Mr. Englund regarding road matters within the Village. There was contact made with the Fire Marshall in Vancouver regarding the installation of oil burners, space heaters etc. **1957**- Snow removal was done gratis by Northern Warehousing Ltd. The clerks salary was raised to \$100 per month. A fire pump was purchased for the Village. **1958**- It was decided a fire hydrant was badly needed for the Village. August 27, 1958 was declared an Official Holiday for the opening of the Health Centre. **1959** -Community groups asked to have representation on the Health Centre Committee. Village meetings were now to be held in the Health Centre instead of the Dyking District Building. **1960**-Mr. L. Fowler was appointed Building Inspector. There was discussion with the PGE regarding the water system. **1961**- Pop. 181. Council refused to accept title of the Cemetery. Drainage problems on Main Street were discussed. Village purchased the water system from the PGE. Corporal Spray was thanked for his services in Pemberton. **1962**- Dr. van Geyn set up practice in the Health Centre. Council bought a typewriter for \$50. D. Proudlock was sworn in as Clerk with duties to commence April 2, 1961 Fire Marshall was Fred Meen. The school Teacherage was built. The Dr. vacated the Health Centre as hospital use of the Health Centre was not permitted by the Health Dept. in Victoria. **1963**- Opening of new Signal Hill school. Engineer Dayton recommended retaining a divining device to locate leaks in the Village water system, water mains. **1964**- D. McEwan appointed building inspector. Lieutenant Governor visited Pemberton. Concern over water flowing into the Village from lands above. **1965**- Dept. Minister Brown visits Council to discuss problems of Village District Municipality. Health Centre Committee formed. Tentative zoning plans for village began. Three plastic water lines connected to the water tank. **1966**- Pop. 172. Purchase of first Fire Truck for \$3100. Request from Village to BC Hydro to keep their new lines out of Village limits (must have lost this one) **1967**- Centennial Gavel presented to acting Chairman P. Perkins by Kamloops Mayor P. Wing. From their provincial archives. The gavel travelled 4488 miles. Clearing for the Firehall. **1968**- Fire Hall built. Upper storey built for Municipal Offices. Named the Municipal Building. Elected persons now called Mayor and Aldermen as of May 1968. Squamish Lillooet Regional District Established. **1969**- Village street paved. Dr. Moody arrived in Pemberton for full time service. Old Fire bell donated to Anglican Church. **1970**- formation of Health Auxiliary to the Health Centre. Sidewalk constructed on Main Street. Discussion with Mr. Jawanda re planning for Village. Discussions re boundary expansion of DL 8097 (Hill property) **1971**- Pop. 157. Fire Dept sold old 1947 IHC Van used as an auxiliary vehicle for \$210 to Ms. Karen Westlake. An avalanche at joint intake - Jan. 18, 1971. Tisdall Garbage dump selected. Evans Mill opened. **1972**- Fire Truck purchased. Resuscitator purchased for Health Centre for use by Fire Dept. Construction of condominiums. Pemberton Valley Contractors Condominiums & Rutland Engineering Townhousing Development. **1973** - Winter freeze -ups. Need better water system. A visit to Victoria re Flood plain legislation. Clerks salary raised to \$600 per month. A land freeze of the ALR. Fire Hydrants installed in the Village. Road built to the water intake so a drag line could be taken in. Village streets were named and signs place. A study of forming a District Municipality. Ski Hill constructed in adjacent land by the Legion [Lions]. Two modulars brought into Signal Hill for Classrooms. A meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding forming a District Municipality. **1974**- Public Meeting re - District Municipality. Work on water works. New 100,000 gal water tank constructed. Ald. G. Underhill & many other volunteers built this tank. New roof on Municipal building. Evans Mill closes **1975**- First Canada Week Celebrations. Village agrees to participate with SLRD on maintenance & operation of garbage dumps, boundary expansion request on hold because of Mill situation, request to have the airport reserve held by SLRD transferred to village, Provincial Museum train visits Pemberton, Info Centre operated by Betty Talbot next to teacherages, Chamber provided \$300 towards rent of building, Blockade of Duffy Lake Road at Mount Currie, Land swap of Health Centre Property (now library) for ex-Don Cedar Mill property. Discussion of lagoon versus sewage treatment plant. Library considered - suggest old kitchen at Community Hall be used after booths removed and lockable shelves installed, **1976**- Pop. 197. Sent first Miss Pemberton (Sandra Rivett) to Miss Canada Pageant, SLRD moved to their portion of the building Evans Mill closed. Pemberton Valley Labour Force Development Committee (PVLDD) formed - with Dr. Bill Wedley. as a result of mill closure. Pemberton Plaza (Chelsea) for sale for \$28,000 a unit. Building permits issued totaled \$363,674.98 Continued sewage discussions. **1977** - Pop. 364. DL 8097 becomes part of Village (hill property) March 14 moved to go with Sewage treatment plant to serve 500. Pemberton sign carved through winter works project by Mike Smyth. Clerk D.Proudlock resigns June 30. **1978**- Pop. 339. Capt. Cook bi-Centennial celebrations, Shake & Shingle Mill built by Tisdall Lumber. Sewer grant of \$362,500 and loan of \$487,500 Village gets lease for airport property. First maintenance man hired. **1979**- Pop. 318. Village Logo contest, reconstruction of Public Works building, purchase of dump truck, plow & sander, completion of sewage treatment plant, paving of two more village streets. \$15,000 grant to do Official Community Plan, \$10,000 grant for survey of Airport, sister city - Deer Lake Newfoundland, Provincial Parks prepare rough design plan for One Mile Lake., BC Development Corp. purchases Evan's Mill site for Industrial Park. **1980**- Pop. 308. OCP adopted, \$15,000 grant for Zoning & subdivision bylaws. Social Economic Study from \$10,000 grant, Ministry Of Economic Development, Contour Mapping of uplands by Min. of Lands Parks & Housing, 7 acres of crown land sold in uplands for residential subdivision, Village develops Lot 26 (Poplar Street), 33 hectares of land granted to VOP for Airport, Premier visits and presents \$13,000 lottery grant for purchase of Mini Bus, purchased pagers for Fire Dept. paving of front street in co-operation with BC Rail, airport signs posted, coating of Village water tank. Community Hall burns - in December . Dec. 26 flood.