

Museum Newsletter

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SCHOOL & CABIN PROJECT UPDATE

The work continues to progress on the Schoolhouse and Arn Cabin Project. In the schoolhouse, the electrical service was laid out and the insulation and drywalling were completed by the end of the month. The roofers were in and the tiles were laid. Staff are pleased with the “weathered wood” tile match to the colour of the existing roofs on the site (which really are ‘weathered wood’). The accessible door was installed and the flooring was laid in early October.

Progress on the Cabin continued this month and roofing tiles were installed. The upper sides of the building were sheathed in cedar shake (real ones) which really dress up the old building. The crew have been working on some interior details like the stairs and installation of the old windows. The old windows were not a typical window installation and required some good old fashioned jimmy rigging to get them into the newly revived building. The crew has done a fine job respecting the character defining elements of the old cabin while ensuring it is a safe and strong building for the museum’s future use, which will include providing public access.

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CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS CONT'D

The museum has an urgent need to upgrade the main hydro service feed for the site which is required to meet safety requirements and to ensure the electrical service is adequate for the number of buildings and activities planned for the site. The estimated cost of this upgrade is \$50,000 and any deferred funds from the capital project or operations in 2021 beyond monies required for operating (Jan-Aug 2022) will be designated to this important safety upgrade.



CLOCKWISE: JOHN ARN CABIN, SCHOOL HOUSE INTERIOR, CABIN INTERIOR

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POETRY READING WITH LINDA K. THOMPSON SEPT 25TH WAS A SUCCESS

Thank you to Linda K. Thompson for choosing the museum as the venue for her book launch of **“Black Bears in the Carrot Field”**. Linda has been published across Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain and this is her debut book. Friends, family and some curious locals gathered at the museum to hear Linda read from her new book and gathered afterwards to reminisce about times gone by and to share some stories Linda hasn’t written about....yet. We personally got a kick out of the “About the Author” statement at the back of the book, “Linda is based on the West Coast, right atop the Juan de Fuca fault line. In the event of a quake, her base will likely move several meters westward into the Pacific”. Books are now for sale at the museum, \$20.

Events & Programs

MUSEUM EDUCATION NEWS — FROM THE DESK OF ISABEL PETERS

Isabel put together a great little pencil and paper activity for Gr. 7-8 age groups. Perhaps you would like to try to “Pack Your Bags” during a rainy fall day and imagine you’re setting out on the trail.

- 1) You have 6 pack horses, each of them is able to carry 181Kg (400lbs). So you can ONLY pack up to 1,086Kg (2,400lbs). If you pack too much it can injure or kill your animals, bring only what is most important!
- 2) When you are packing, think about what would bother you the most:
 - being hungry?
 - being cold and wet?
 - not having your favorite things?
 - not feeling safe?
 - being stranded or lost?

Having considered all the factors pick your items from the list below.

Do your belongings weigh under 1,086Kg (2,400lbs)?

If YES, Great! You’re all set for the journey!

If NO, you will need to look over your list again and choose something to leave behind!

Supply Choices:

FOOD:

Item:	Weight:	Weight packed:
Apple Vinegar	11Kg (25lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Bacon	181Kg (400lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Beans	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Coffee	36Kg (80lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Dried Apples	36Kg (80lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Flour	220Kg (500lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
HardTack	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Lard	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Sugar	18Kg (40lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Salt	22Kg (50lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Rice	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Water	43Kg (100lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Whiskey	18Kg(40lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
TOTAL FOOD WEIGHT:	_____Kg(lbs)	

PERSONAL ITEMS:

Item:	Weight:	Weight packed:
Bedroll	6Kg (15lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Blacksmithing Tools	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Books	34Kg (75lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Medicine	4Kg (10lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Cast Iron Stove	136Kg (300lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Chair	9Kg (20lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Cookware & Utensils	34Kg (75lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Granny’s Clock	6Kg (15lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Gun Making Tools	90Kg (200lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Keepsakes	18Kg (40lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Lead Shot	11Kg (25lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Mirror	6Kg (15lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Gunpowder	36Kg(80lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Tent & Gear	68Kg(150lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Tools	22Kg(50lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)
Toys	6Kg(15lbs)	_____Kg(lbs)

TOTAL GOODS WEIGHT: _____Kg(lbs) 4

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QUIET DAYS AT THE MUSEUM

As the temperatures drop and old man Currie pulls on his cloak of snow, the tourists flee after the geese flying south. In these persnickety pandemic times, the disappearance of tourists has been even more dramatic. Thankfully, being a museum, we have 1000s of details that can be attended to as we move through the fall period and do not have as many visitors to the site.

The historic houses were closed on Sept 24th prior to the rain moving in for a good long sprinkle over Pemberton & District. Staff packed up textiles, books and photographs for another season. The items are moved into heated storage for the winter months.

Jessica Hill continues to process accessions received this year and is busy working through a large donation of items that were painted by Teresa Summerskill (nee Lokken), along with tools and textiles that were dropped off by her daughter in-law.



Kaitlyn Pierre has been working through miles of files of security camera footage to find the best footage that documents the construction project. There are many video clips of crows, squirrels, moths, and spiders to weed out of the mix. She has begun to put together a video of the school house project from July to October. She took on the role of Operations Lead this month and ensures the site is safe and clean on a daily basis.

Abi Ronayne continues to work through the fall via some after school shifts and on Saturdays. Because we have seen few visitors she has been helping with yard and garden work as we prep the site for winter. She has been a great help through the fall period.

Ally Catacutan came to the museum to request a volunteer position this fall and has been helping for four hours on Saturdays. Ally has helped at the museum before and we're thrilled to have her involved again.

Best wishes to Shyanne, Midhun, Savannah, and Teresa who finished up their seasons in August/September and have moved on to new adventures.

HALLOWEEN HIATUS

Sadly the museum is unable to put on the Halloween event this season due to the ongoing hazards associated with the construction project and the lack of workable firepit. Without a warm place to gather outside it would be impossible to maintain COVID protocols as there are only two heated buildings open at this time (General Store & Exhibit Hall). No matter how we sliced it we couldn't figure out the logistics for this event at this time but are confident next year will be great and will be well worth the wait.

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FUNDING REQUEST 2022-2023

The museum submitted the funding request to the PVUS Committee for the 2022-2023 cycle. With the completion of the long standing capital developments on the site the museum will be requesting an increase in operating expenses to leverage the museum assets for the benefit of the community. In the explanatory letter we wrote that museums and their role in community are often hidden or misunderstood. The Canadian Museum Association provides the following summary of what museums are and what they can do in these challenging times.

“Museums are transformative. They are windows on our past, our present and future. They provide people with safe places to reflect and bring us together while celebrating our differences. They stimulate creativity, spur discovery, and help make our communities more attractive places to live, work, and visit.

From the awakening of a national consciousness based on Indigenous truths rather than colonial myths, to the need to reinvent an economy and lifestyle fueled by plentiful carbon, the shifting sands of change challenge our sense of what it means to be Canadian and demand reconciliation not only between peoples, but with our own sense of being.

In the midst of this uncertainty and upheaval, museums – among the institutions most trusted by Canadians – provide the solid ground from which, together, we can map a way forward.

The pandemic demonstrated the economic vulnerability of many Canadian museums. The pandemic served to highlight the need to build resiliency and adaptability of the sector, if it is to fulfil its unique and important role. The world museums help explain is changing every more rapidly”. We would add that we think museums are way-finders in times of change, with many paths yet to be discovered.

In 2010 the museum had assets of \$169,000 and operated six months of the year on \$88,000. In 2019 (pre-pandemic) the museum had assets of \$513,000 and operated on \$126,000. The museum has increased assets 200% since 2010 while operating expenses only increased 30% in same time period.

The requisition request for operating from Aug 01, 2022 to July 31, 2023 is anticipated to be \$150,833 which will cover operations and includes a new staffing plan to leverage the site and its assets for the benefit of the community. The wages will be supported by youth employment grants and graduate/intern grants. Anticipated deferred revenues from the Aug 2021 requisition of \$78,000 will cover the costs associated with this new operating plan from Jan 01-Aug 01, 2022.



DATE NIGHT A HIT!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Date Night program. We'll try it again in the spring. Judy & Stew McNolty and Terry Watt [& Irma] enjoyed their evening at the museum. Special Thanks to Mile One Eating House for the most excellent food.

From the Archives

Susan Cosulich donated her personal copy of the "PSS Literary Magazine" published 1965 to 1970 and featuring stories by local PSS students. We are re-publishing some of the stories in the newsletter this season for your reading enjoyment.

Third 1965

Margaret Mitchell

THE LAST HILL

"Come on, Jenny! I know what you're thinking. You think it's time to return to the fort for the winter, don't you? Yes, I know it too—but just over this last hill. This will be it! We'll strike it rich, Jenny. I know, Jenny, I've got that feeling in my bones. There will be gold lying all over. All we will have to do is pick it up. We'll be rich, Jenny!". The rising pitch of the old miner's voice caused Jenny, the mule, to flick her long ears and follow the old man up the steep slope.

It had been a tough climb for the old man and his mule, but now as they walked along the floor of the peaceful valley and neared their destination there was a spring in their steps.

Reaching the creek the miner dropped his pack and snatched the gold pan before it reached the ground. Into the ice cold water he waded, swirling in the pan of sand, ever watching for the yellow gleam.

Dejected and cold the old man slowly waded out of the stream.

"Well, Jenny, looks as if there isn't any here. I was sure there would be gold here."

Slowly the long ears of Jenny wiggled. She understood how it was—but now, how about making camp.

In search of firewood early the next morning, the old man rounded the bend of the creek and a pale glitter caught his eye. Running forward he clawed wildly at the object. As he pulled his hand from the freezing creek he stared in amazement at the large nugget which lay in his palm.

"Jenny, it's here. The gold! I've found it. Gold. We're rich!".

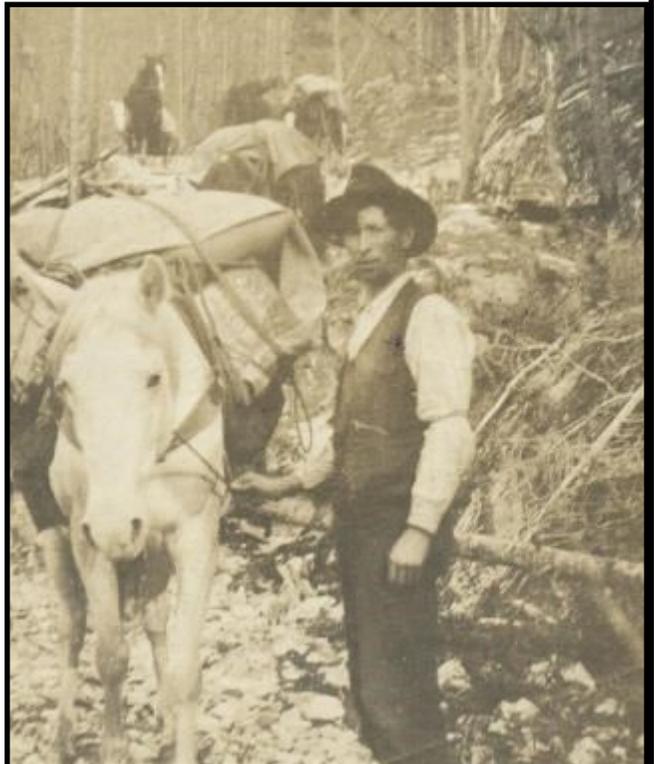
As if she understood everything Jenny twitched her ears triumphantly and turned in the direction of the fort.

But the old miner wasn't just going to leave the gold. He toiled all day and by nightfall he had enough gold to keep him living in comfort the rest of his life.

The next day the pair toiled slowly along the trail to the fort. Unnoticed by them huge black clouds billowed in over the mountains. Obscuring the sky and rumbling ominously. Then the first snowflakes drifted down and caught in the old man's beard he realized his position. He was only two days from the fort but had a high pass to cross. Would he make it? Already the ground was covered with a white blanket.

As the old man climbed higher and higher, the snow came down more steadily and soon was up the old man's knees. As he trudged along he mumbled to Jenny, who was plodding faithfully behind, "Why didn't we leave sooner? Why did we go over that hill? Jenny, will we make it? With all this gold, we've got to make it. Jenny we'll have to stop and make a shelter before the snow gets too deep." but the old man kept plodding and stumbling toward the fort.

"Jenny, we've got to get to the fort! To the fort." With these last words the old miner closed his eyes and drifted into the warm world of endless sleep.



Ray Elliot on the Pemberton Trail
P251.3