

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At this time of year, it is pertinent to pause and reflect on the Summerland Museum and Archives Society’s achievements over the past 12 months. 2023 saw a growth in museum visitor numbers, increased revenue from gift shop sales, and an expansion of educational and community outreach programs.

2023 started with the first temporary exhibit of the year “Select Works from the Doreen Tait Art Collection.” This exhibit featured the works of several local artists in a diversity of media but united in depicting the Okanagan landscape.

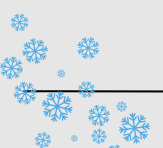
In February, BC Heritage Week was celebrated with daily events organised by the museum staff, such as the popular trivia night at Giant’s Head Brewing. Additionally, the museum’s strong links with the local business community were celebrated with the placing of historic photos and short histories of local buildings in the windows of various businesses. The week was kick-started with Family Day which was celebrated with the introduction of our wonderful Children’s Discovery Passports and museum scavenger hunt.



We had cause for celebration in March as our curator Petra was awarded the Business Excellence Award in the Arts and Culture category from the Chamber of Commerce for the outstanding work she does promoting the history and culture of our community. Programming continued apace in March and April with Pro-D camps, school visits, Lunchtime Lectures, and a film screening of Unarchived. With the arrival of warmer weather, outdoor activities could also be restarted, including one of our most popular events; the Geology Fieldtrip led by board member Andrew Holder and local historian David Gregory.

Our AGM in April welcomed the re-election of Pat McCutcheon and Kay Fenwick Treadgold and the election of two great additions to the board Bob McDonald and Judy Bood, and a presentation by our Curator – “Growing Access to Heritage”.

In May we were very pleased to hear that our application to the BC Arts Council for \$25,00 towards our proposed addition was approved. This funding allowed us to continue to develop, alongside our architect Cal Meiklejohn, the design of our proposed addition and renovations to the museum facility. This design work is now completed, and an application has been made to the District of Summerland for development approval. We also have since applied for further funding to employ the consulting team to prepare construction and tender documents.





The summer saw new exhibits being installed at the museum and at the Summerland District Hall. A new and very pertinent temporary exhibit “Living with Fire” was mounted in the museum by Petra, augmented by donations from the local community and loans from the Westbank, Kelowna, and Penticton Museums. The exhibition will be on display until January 2024, so if you haven’t had a chance to see it yet, don’t delay! At the invitation of Mayor Holmes, Petra also curated a well-received exhibit for the Council Chambers with artwork from the Dorothy Tait Collection, plus an “Agricultural Heritage” display on the main level of the District Hall. Both installations are available for the public to view.

Early in the year, Petra applied for and received approval for the funding of two important positions in the museum: the Young Canada Works Summer Student position and a 6-month Archives Internship. This funding came to fruition in the summer when we were very fortunate to be able to hire our wonderful summer student Erika Vandersluys. Erika is a Summerland local and proved to be a credit to the museum; leading five very successful pop-up museum events at local locations as well as managing our booth at the Summerland Rotary Sunday Market on those hot summer days.

Another two very successful events were held in the Fall with our participation in the Fall Fair and our second very own Haunted Museum event in October which was enjoyed by all. Megan, our Collections Intern started her term at the museum, where she will be working on a collections documentation project supervised by Petra. We also hired another Summerland local student, Gunnar, as a temporary Visitor Services Assistant.

We closed off the year with the ever-popular Photos with Santa Fundraiser and celebrated Summerland’s Festival of Lights, welcoming 277 visitors to the museum - many for the first time.

It’s been another great year, and kudos to our fantastic staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors all of whom contributed and participated in our museum’s important role in the District of Summerland to foster interest and promote the unique history of our community.

We now look forward to 2024 with great aspirations for the ongoing success of the museum’s heritage offerings and its programs in the community.

All the best for the Holiday Season and the coming New Year.

Greg Richardson, President



*Happy
Holidays*



News from the Board



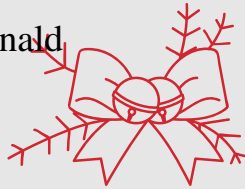
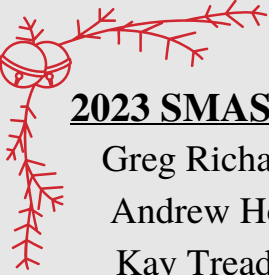
Lighting Upgrade

We are very pleased to announce that the long-planned lighting upgrade by the District of Summerland is now completed and has made a significant contribution to the presentation of our exhibits. Items are now wonderfully highlighted and the museum, in general, has become an even more welcoming venue.

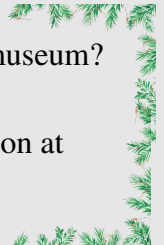
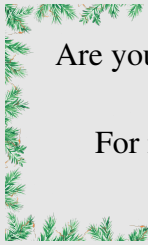
Thank you to the District of Summerland for overseeing these upgrades.

2023 SMAS Board Members

- Greg Richardson (President)
- Andrew Holder (Treasurer)
- Kay Treadgold (Secretary)
- Pat McCutcheon
- Sandy Nicolson
- Judy Bood
- Bob Macdonald



Are you interested in getting more involved with the museum?
 Why not join the Board of Directors?
 For more information please contact Greg Richardson at
president.summerlandmuseum@gmail.com



Opening times

Wed-Sun; 10am til
4pm

Closed

24th December to
17th January 2024



Holiday Hours



The museum will be closed to give staff and volunteers a well-deserved Christmas break from 24th December to 2nd January.

The museum will remain closed to the public until 17th January to allow staff to conduct archival work and programming.

See you in the New Year!



FALL EVENTS
Roundup

HALLOWEEN!



HAUNTED MUSEUM



In October the museum celebrated Halloween with a Haunted Museum event. This was our second year of holding this event, and thanks to an anonymous donation from a Halloween-lover, we were able to make it bigger and better than ever! This free event is our way of giving back to the community so we were thrilled that 540 people visited us and we handed out a staggering 1,800 pieces of candy within 2 hours!

Thank you to all our volunteers and to our sponsors Nesters Market who provided over 800 pieces of candy.



The Halloween theme was continued with guided tours of the Peach Orchard and Anglican Cemeteries, led by our curator Petra and local historian David Gregory. The initial tours sold out so quickly that we had to put on extra tours to meet the demand! Look out for the cemetery tours again next October if you missed them this year.

SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES



Local historian David Gregory has been back with his ever-popular lectures. David has been kind enough to run this Fall Lecture Series on Sundays, allowing those who work or have mid-week commitments the opportunity to hear his fascinating talks. So far, topics have covered the Fur Brigade Trail, Summerland Schools, and Millionaires Row. Watch out for more of David's lectures in the new year.

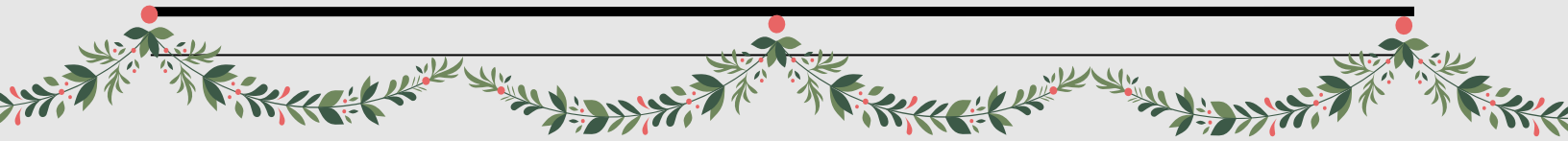


Summerland Festival of Lights

Summerland's Festival of Lights is one of the biggest events on the town's calendar. We opened the museum until 9pm and welcomed almost 300 festive people through the doors. We also celebrated this special occasion with a Photos with Santa fundraiser. 47 families came to the museum to capture their special moment with Santa Ross.



We were delighted to welcome 7 school classes from Giant's Head School to the museum in the run-up to Christmas. That was a total of 175 students and supervisors! The youngsters came to learn a bit about life in Summerland in the 1920s as preparation for their Christmas concert which was themed on "Summerland 100 years ago". We had lots of fun finding out about 1920s Summerland, making 1920s-inspired Christmas decorations, and finding the miniature Santas on the KVR model railway. We hope they'll come back and visit us again soon!



Don't miss our current temporary exhibit!

— CLOSING IN JANUARY 2024! —

To mark the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park Fire, we have opened up a special, temporary exhibit called "Living with Fire". This exhibit looks back at that historic fire, as well as the Garnet Fire in Penticton (1994) and the Giant's Head Mountain Fire in Summerland (1996). We are also pleased to showcase a display put together by local ecologist Don Gayton on fire history and changing approaches to fire management.

Thank you very much to Lieutenant Colonel Denis Cyr, Don Gayton, the Westbank Museum & Visitor Centre, Kelowna Museums, and the Penticton Museum & Archives for their generous assistance in putting together this exhibit!



HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE SMAS GIFT SHOP



Don't forget that we have lots of unique gift ideas for all your last-minute Christmas shopping. From puzzles to books, mugs to historic photographs, and stocking stuffers like magnets, there's something for everyone!

Check out our range of locally-themed books, including some beautiful indigenous children's books.

Peruse our exclusive Summerland apple box label range of goods.

We also have just a few 2024 Historic Summerland Calendars still available to purchase.

**Call in to the museum gift shop
Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm
until 24th December.**





SM&A

Online Auction Fundraiser

Antiques, collectibles, & great gift ideas from local businesses

Get your bids in December 1-15

www.summerlandmuseum.org

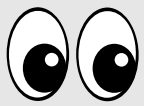
Last Day to Bid!

Don't miss our 2023 Online Auction Fundraiser!

We have 29 fantastic lots to bid on - just in time for Christmas! Featuring a range of unique antiques and collectible items, plus gift baskets from several local businesses, there really is something for everyone!

Treat yourself or a loved one to a one-of-a-kind gift this Christmas!

We are so thankful for the support shown to us by our local business community, including: The Beanery Cafe, Bella Vita Flowers, Frilly Lilly Home, Giant's Head Brewing, Home Hardware Summerland, Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup, Poplar Grove Winery, Rolston & Associates Accounting Services, Rustic & Refined, and SASS BOUTIQUE. Please support these great businesses and shop local this holiday season!



Keep an eye out for upcoming events in the new year!



SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES

Following on from his popular Fall Lecture Series, David Gregory will be back in the new year with more talks for the Sunday Lecture Series. Keep an eye on our website, social media, and community posters for updates on lecture topics and dates

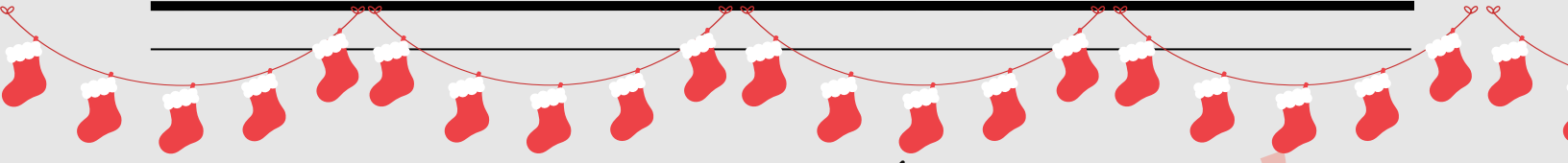
NEW temporary exhibit

Our current Tait Room temporary exhibit "Living with Fire" will be coming to an end in January. It will be replaced with an exciting new exhibit! Our lips are sealed for the moment... keep tuned for more information on the theme of the exhibit and the opening date.

Family Day & Heritage Week 2024

Watch out for a week of fun community events in celebration of Family Day and Heritage Week, 19th - 25th February





FUNDRAISING



We have been hard at work raising funds so that we can continue in our mission to conserve and promote our community's history



Thank you to everyone who has supported us by buying a Historic Summerland 2024 Calendar! There are a couple of calendars left if you still haven't purchased one. We would love to sell them all so please help us reach our goal and treat yourself (or a loved one) to this special, one-of-a-kind wall calendar!



This year's *Photos with Santa* fundraiser was a fantastic success. We had 47 families attend and some memorable photos were taken. We raised almost \$600 from the event and welcomed lots of new faces to the museum. Many thanks go to Santa Ross and our volunteer "elves" for generously donating their time.



Our pre-loved children's book sale has raised over \$100 so far. We still have some fabulous children's books left - perfect last-minute gifts (particularly for those hard-to-buy-for pre-teens!)

Our Online Auction Fundraiser is currently underway! To date, we have raised \$980- that's 65% of our auction target. Today is the last day to get your bids in and help us achieve our goal!



Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to our Holiday Fundraising Wishlist! This annual tradition is vital to raise funds for the day-to-day operational costs of the museum and archives. There is still time to donate to this fundraiser. Big or small, every donation helps to keep our beloved museum serving the community! Any donations over \$20 are eligible for a Charitable Tax Receipt. Donations can be made in person, online or over the phone at 250-494-9395.

MEET MEGAN!

our Collections Intern

"Hello, my name is Megan Grey! I am the 2023-2024 Collections Intern at the Summerland Museum & Archives. I have recently moved to the Okanagan after completing my Master of Public History program at Royal Holloway, University of London. Prior to my graduate degree, I completed my Bachelor of Arts in History (Honours) at Dalhousie University. I grew up in Edmonton, AB, but have always visited family and friends in the Okanagan area.



My Master of Arts program has given me a solid foundation in the principles of archive collections as well as public engagement, but working at Summerland Museum has helped me apply these skills in a professional museum setting. This position has made me passionate about Summerland's rich history! I look forward to continuing to learn the intricacies of handling and preserving collections, along with engaging with the Summerland community. I am very excited and grateful to be working at Summerland Museum!"

Megan has been busy behind-the-scenes of the museum data cleaning the artifact catalogue records in our database. She is making sure that all of the information from these paper records is transferred to the digital database completely and accurately while also adding newly accessioned artifacts. This work is vital in ensuring our archives are accurate and up-to-date.

Megan is usually kept busy in the office but we do let her out into the museum from time to time! If you haven't already met her, do pop by to say "hi".

Megan has also been responsible for the museum's new Tiktok account. You can check out her fun video clips and reels on our social media accounts.

- This position has been made possible by funding from the Government of Canada.

Have you heard about the "bread mystery"?

On renovating the kitchen exhibit, our curator, Petra, discovered that a display loaf of bread was in fact a real loaf of bread - not a model as we had assumed. We have lots of questions about this bread, most notably, how long had it been there, and how had it survived for so long??

Megan made an Instagram reel about the bread that has since gone viral. To date it has been watched 1.7mil times, it has reached 728,000 different people, and it has been 'liked' almost 92,000 times!

Well done Megan - that's fantastic publicity for our little museum!





Volunteer NEWS



*Volunteers facepainting at our Haunted
Museum event*

Our hardworking team of volunteers has been busy this Fall.

In addition to the weekly archival and administration tasks undertaken by some of our volunteers, we have had an action-packed itinerary of special events.

Volunteers took on face-painting, decorating the museum, and handing out candy at our Haunted Museum event.

The museum was turned into a festive wonderland with lights, garlands, and not one but four Christmas trees by a volunteer decorating group!

Even the model railway was decorated for the festive season. The Giant's Head Model Railway Club members purchased tiny Santas and placed them around the railway. Prizes to anyone who can spot all three Santas!

Other volunteers welcomed visitors to the museum during the Summerland Festival of Lights, while a team of volunteer 'elves' assisted with the Photos with Santa Fundraiser.

Thank you to all our volunteers for all your support!

Volunteer opportunities



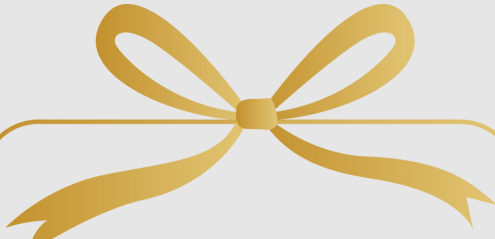
Are you interested in getting more involved with the museum?

We are always looking for volunteers to help us in a variety of roles, from front of house, to research and programming, to social event coordinators.

If you would like to learn more about how you could become part of the museum community please drop in and fill out a volunteer application form or call Hannah on 250-494-9395




Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, sponsors, donors, and members for your continued support!



The Giant's Head Model Railway Club
 Bob Calhoun, Harry Hutchinson, Ron Rosher, Dave Smith and Neil Trainer

Thank you for taking such good care of our model railway and continuing to improve and expand this popular exhibit!

Weekly Volunteers
 Judy Bood, Thea Scholefield, Ruth Stevens, Dorthea Atwater & Peter Hay, Michaelleen O'Connor, Andrew & Mavis Holder, and David Gregory

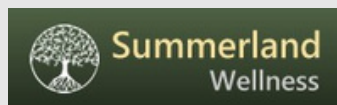
Thank you for all your help cataloging, filing, researching, and the endless admin tasks you do for us every week!

Thank You

To everyone who generously donated to our 2023 Holiday Fundraising Wishlist



Thank you to our Corporate Members!



We are thankful for the support of the District of Summerland, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada



✧ HAPPY HOLIDAYS ✧

*from all the staff at the Summerland Museum and
Archives Society*