



SUMMERLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR

I hope you all had a wonderful, safe, and healthy winter here in Summerland - or wherever you may find yourself! Personally, I am eagerly welcoming the warmth and new life of spring after what felt like a particularly long and grey winter. It was a rough cold and flu season, and while we had a great end of year here at the Museum, I unfortunately spent the majority of it off sick until mid-January. I sincerely hope you all enjoyed better health than I did over the snowy months!

Over the winter months, our wonderful Collections Intern, Megan Grey, has continued to work away at improving our artifact collection documentation. This has included maintaining our physical paper records (ie. catalogue records and donor forms), data cleaning in our database, and helping deaccession and transfer items that don't meet our collections mandate. She has also done a fantastic job enlivening our social media with her behind-the-scenes videos. The final part of Megan's work project has been a complete physical inventory of the Museum's artifact collections. While the inventory won't be complete before Megan's time is done with us (her last day is March 28th!) she has done a great job training up volunteers to continue on throughout April. Megan has already lined up a new job at the Fort Edmonton Heritage Park. We are so grateful for all of the hard work she has put in during her time at the Summerland Museum and wish her all the best in her future career!



Photo by Rick Gray

While we are saying good-bye to Megan, we are happy to have had Shaughnessy Barker join our team as Visitor Services Assistant back in February. Shaughnessy grew up in Vernon but often visited Summerland due to family ties here. She has now called Summerland home for the last few years and has a lot of enthusiasm for expanding her knowledge of our community's history. Shaughnessy is currently planning an exciting calendar of weekend events for this year at the Museum which we hope to share with you soon. If you haven't already, we hope that you will stop in to meet Shaughnessy and welcome her to our museum!

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Another exciting development this winter was the launch of our Online Artifact Database in early March. This important initiative was made possible by funding from the Government of Canada through the Museum Assistance Program’s Digital Access to Heritage stream. Through this project we digitized 1,317 artifacts and uploaded an initial 6,919 for public enjoyment to the online database. We will continue to update the site as we digitize more items.

We are also approaching the conclusion of our Community Services Recovery Fund project titled “Creating a Safe and Efficient Museum Workspace”, also funded by the Government of Canada. This project has focused on the people aspect of the Museum: updating our policies and procedures, providing extra training opportunities, and improving our volunteer program. This has prompted some great security and safety improvements at the Museum, including more thorough incident recording and staff fire extinguisher training amongst many others. We will still be holding some volunteer training workshops in the next little while, so please watch out for those.

With all of these positive advancements happening, we do still continue to be faced with challenges in our aging facility. The biggest concern at this time is the collapse of some of our archival storage shelves in February. Thankfully, no collections material was damaged, and staff were able to evacuate materials from the compromised shelves to other storage areas of the Museum. However, this remains a major safety concerns for both the collection and our personnel. We are very grateful to two generous SMAS members who have come forward to help us with this replacement project. Hopefully, the replacement shelving will be installed in April. As we prepare for construction, the Tait Room has been converted into temporary storage for all contents of the archival storage room. As such, our next temporary exhibit will be delayed until after construction is completed. We apologize for this interruption to our programming and hope that you will understand the importance of the temporary Tait Room closure.

Once the Tait Room reopens, we look forward to welcoming back our members and visitors for new programs, such as Museum Socials for adults 50+, kids drop-in activities, lectures, and workshops. Soon enough, summer will be upon us - which means more Pop-Up Museums around the community and the return of the Summerland Rotary Sunday Market as well. We will be hiring in the coming weeks for our summer Programming Assistant position to assist with these initiatives, thanks to funding provided by the Young Canada Works program. If you know of a student looking for a fun and enriching work placement this summer, please consider sending them our way! The job posting will be shared publicly soon, but interested candidates are welcome to reach out to me directly in the meantime at curator@summerlandmuseum.org.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our members, volunteers, community partners, and enthusiastic visitors for your continued support of the Summerland Museum and Archives. Your passion and interest in our community’s history fuels our work. I would also like to thank our fantastic Administrator, Hannah, for all of her hard work behind the scenes – including putting together this wonderful newsletter!

With best wishes and gratitude,

Petra Höller

Curator





News from the Board

2024 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?

We're looking for enthusiastic new board members with a passion for history and a desire to preserve and promote Summerland's unique heritage.

For more information please contact us at info@summerlandmuseum.org



The Summerland Museum and Archives
 2024 AGM is coming up on
Saturday 25th May
 at the
George Ryga Arts & Cultural Centre

More details will be shared soon!



WANTED

AWESOME BOARD MEMBERS

Join community leaders who bring vision, dedication and energy to making a difference in their community of Summerland today and into the future.

The Nominating/Board Development Committee of the Summerland Museum and Archives Society is accepting expressions of interest for prospective Directors.

Accountable for the operation of the Museum, within the parameters established by the British Columbia Societies Act, the Board of Directors responsibility is that of Governance.

This includes providing leadership, setting direction, establishing policies and ensuring sound management.

Directors act in a position of trust for the community with responsibilities including:

- Regular attendance at Board meetings.
- Serving on one or more committees.
- Participate/embrace the ambassador role of promoting the museum.
- Be willing to participate Fund Raising.

Being reasonably computer literate and aware of Social Media, Drop Box, and online Meeting Software would be an asset.

Please submit your application/resume via email to info@summerlandmuseum.org highlighting your skills and community experience, plus a statement regarding how you may be able further the goals of the Summerland Museum by April 12, 2024 at 4 pm.

The Nominating Committee will review all applications and advise the Board of the recommended slate of Candidates for Election which will take place at the Annual General Meeting, May 25, 2024.

The Nominating/Board Development Committee is a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors of the Summerland Museum and Archives Society.



MEET SHAUGHNESSY!

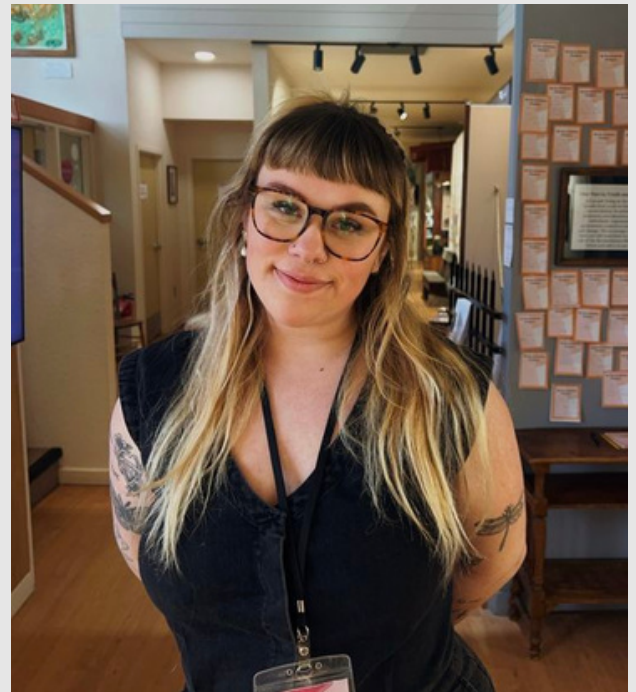
our new Visitor Services Assistant

Hello! My name is Shaughnessy Barker and I am the new weekend Visitor Services Assistant for the Summerland Museum & Archives!

I grew up in Vernon, British Columbia, but have always considered Summerland as my second home. I would regularly visit my family in this town through my teen years and was always so drawn in by the charm, history, and love that this community had. After graduating three years ago from the Communications, Culture and Journalism program at Okanagan College, I decided to make Summerland my permanent home.

With an interest in history, a background in Cultural Studies, and a love for the people of Summerland, when I saw the position open at the Museum, I couldn't wait to work here.

I'm excited to meet all the weekend museum-goers this year!



Spring has sprung and the Easter Bunny has been busy hiding Easter eggs around the Museum! We need your help to find all the eggs. Come down to the Museum, **find the eggs, and win a prize!**



Looking for something to do this Spring Break?

Kids 12 and under are invited to take part in our **Spring Break Colouring Contest**. Celebrate the historic Kettle Valley Steam Railway and a new season by getting as creative as possible and bringing your completed art to the museum- we will even proudly display it on our wall!

We will choose a winner on March 31st at 12 PM.

Please drop your art off by March 30th and remember to have an adult write a phone number on the back so we can call you if you win! (pick-up only for the prize basket.)

Colouring sheets are available to pick-up in person at the Museum or can be downloaded from our website. **Happy colouring!**





NEW!

ONLINE ARTIFACT COLLECTION!

Want to browse through the artifacts in our collection? You can now access our artifacts from the comfort of your own home!



The Summerland Museum and Archives has recently wrapped up a significant digitization project. Titled “Growing Community Access to Heritage”, the effort was aimed at getting the organization’s extensive artifact collection online.

This project was made possible by funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Museum Assistance Program. Funds went towards the extensive staff time required to digitize artifacts lacking documentation, as well as translation services and web hosting fees. Altogether, 1,317 individual artifacts were photographed and had their catalogue records updated.

During the digitization process, Museum staff shared some of the interesting artifacts on social media in “Artifact Story” posts. Items featured included a piece of trench art brought back from World War I by Summerland veteran Robert Atkinson, and a Japanese tea set called a Chabako. These Artifact Stories are still available to view on our social media platforms and our website.

The grand finale of the project is the launch of the publicly accessible online artifact database. An initial 6,919 artifacts have been uploaded, with more to be made available in the coming months. The database is keyword searchable and features photographs and descriptions of the artifacts.

At the same time, the Museum’s online photo database was also updated with over 1,000 additional photographs, including stunning photos of early Summerland from the J.M. Robinson Family Collection.

To browse the artifact and photo databases, the public is invited to visit www.summerlandmuseum.org.



Keep an eye out for upcoming events this Spring!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Museum will be open on
Good Friday from 10am - 2pm
and Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st
April, from 10am - 4pm

Come along to enjoy the free exhibits,
find the hidden Easter eggs, and take
part in our kids colouring contest.



Colouring Contest!

Entries close end of the day 30th March

For our younger visitors (or those just young at heart!) we have a Spring Break Colouring Contest. Collect your colouring sheet from the museum or download it from our website. All entries 12yrs and under will be entered to win an Easter basket. Winner will be chosen 31st March

DOCENT 101

When: Saturday, April 6th from 11am to 12pm

Where: Summerland Museum and Archives

Cost: FREE for SMAS members and volunteers

What: This workshop is for anyone interested in becoming a museum docent or tour guide. Learn the essentials of being a docent at the Summerland Museum, including effective storytelling, adapting tours to different age groups (ie. school tours!), and handling tough questions.

Docent 101

06 April 2024
11 am - 12 pm

Free for SMAS Members and Volunteers



GEOLOGY TOURS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Our resident geologist, Andrew, is currently masterminding another geology tour for this spring. We are still confirming the date, but if you are interested in attending, please call the museum at 250-494-9395 or email info@summerlandmuseum.org to put your name on the waitlist. These popular tours always sell out so don't delay!

The tour will follow the same format as before (self driving), with lunch and conversation to follow.



We will be celebrating Earth Day on **Sunday 21st April**. More details to follow!



COMING SOON...

The Tait Room will feature a new temporary exhibit for the spring. More details to follow!





Puzzle Exchange

In January we held a very successful puzzle exchange. We were overwhelmed by the number of puzzles that were generously donated to the event, and lots of happy puzzlers were able to get new puzzles to see them through those dark winter days.



HERITAGE WEEK 19th-25th Feb 2024

Heritage Week was an action-packed week at the museum.

We kick-started the week with family-friendly activities for Family Day. Visitors of all ages enjoyed the teddy bear scavenger hunt and prize bags, while the face-painting was a hit with our younger guests. Tuesday was more of an adult affair, where teams pitted their wits against each other in our Trivia night at Detonate Brewing. On Wednesday we had a group of seniors drop in to enjoy tea and cake at our Over 50s Social, while on Thursday, guests learned all about conducting interviews in an Oral History 101 Workshop led by our curator Petra. The week was wrapped up with a Volunteer Open House on Friday, which showcased some of the fantastic work undertaken by our team of volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for these events!



New Membership Options!

With the rising prices of running the museum, we have increased our Senior/Student and Adult membership rates. This is the first price increase in 5 years. We have tried to offset some of these increases by adding 2 NEW membership options. We now have FAMILY memberships and SENIOR COUPLE memberships available. Thank you for your support!



Adult	\$30
Senior/Student	\$20
Senior Couple	\$35
Family	\$55
Corporate	\$100
Non-profit	\$50
Life	\$200





Volunteer NEWS



We ♥ our
Volunteers

Our volunteers have been busy behind the scenes working on several important projects.

Our Collections Intern, Megan, has had a wonderful team of volunteers helping complete a full inventory of all the artifacts in the Museum's collections. This has been fascinating work, resulting in our volunteers unboxing and cataloging everything from exquisite artwork to weird and wonderful curiosities! A huge thank you to **Michael Warkotsch, Carol Stathers, Ruth Stevens, Dianne Hildebrand, Greg Richardson, Thea Scholefield, and Janice Arnold** for all your hard work with this huge project!

Volunteers **Carol Stathers** and **Michael Warkotsch** have also been busy researching some of the artists whose art we hold in our Tait Art Collection. They are using their research to augment our information files with biographic profiles for each artist. This important work is extremely valuable in helping to put each of the Museum's artworks into context.

Archival volunteer, **Michaeleen O'Connor**, continues with her ongoing work in the Museum's archives. Michaeleen has extensive knowledge and experience of working with archival documents, and uses her skills to update and organize our archives.

We also have a wonderful team of volunteers who give their time at the weekend to cover the front desk so that Visitor Services Assistant, Shaughnessy, can have a lunch break. Thank you to **Ruthie Charles, Barbara Baker, Carol Stathers, Greg Richardson, and Neil Trainer** for giving your time to welcome our visitors so warmly!

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

Do you have 45min to spare at the weekend?

We are looking for more people to cover the front desk to give our VSA a lunch break. Please email admin@summerlandmuseum.org for more info.

Thank you



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

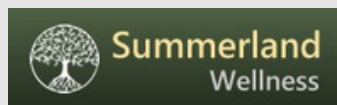
Thank you for taking such good care of our model railway and continuing to improve and expand this popular exhibit!

Weekly Volunteers

Janice Arnold, Dorthea Atwater & Peter Hay, David Gregory, Andrew & Mavis Holder, Michaeleen O'Connor, Thea Scholefield, Ruth Stevens, Carol Stathers, and Michael Warkotsch

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

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

From all of us to



HAPPY
EASTER

