

2017 STAFF REPORT
TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SUMMERLAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES SOCIETY
March 10th, 2018

We are pleased to advise that we had 1821 visitors attend the Museum in 2017. Notably, the fires and smoke impacted the amount of visitors we had in the summer months. The Festival of Lights was a great success, with over 320 people enjoying the Museum that evening.

We were busy with staff changes this year. Amy McCroy went to Ireland to pursue a doctorate in June. Alex Wells was the Interim Curator from June 12, 2017 to the end of October, 2017, and Claire Macdonald stepped-in as the new Museum Administrator on November 1, 2017. Our Archives Registrar, Stephanie Normandeau, started working full-time in November, 2017.

Through grants from the Young Canada Works program, we were able to hire two summer students: Caitlin Shaw, Summer Program Coordinator, and Shannon Holmes-Slattery, Archival Assistant. We applied for grants again to hire a Summer Program Coordinator student and an Archivist Intern to assist in the backlog completion project for 2018.

Throughout the year, we provided educational programs to over 300 students on a wide range of topics, including Syilx history, immigration, and early pioneers. We also ran several Summer History Programs, and our Geology Tours were so popular that extra tours had to be added!

The Museum hosted a team from the University of British Columbia's Digitization Project. A total of 517 pages/images from our archives were digitized, including 108 pages from the 1914-1918 West Summerland's Women's Institute Minute Book and hundreds of photos of the area taken before 1949. These are now publicly available through the UBC website, but the Museum retains the copyrights and reproduction requests will still be directed to us.

We had Summerland Review issues from 1908 to 1929 and 2006 to 2014 digitized. This will make these issues more accessible and research easier. We are also in the process of creating a library of our reference and local history books for researchers and the public to consult.

The Archives Registrar made significant progress on the backlog project and has been tirelessly working to improve how the museum's collection is managed. Over 327 artifacts and 88 photos were accessioned and digitized. The Women's Institute collection, which is contained in 54 boxes, was also reorganized.

Staff and volunteers worked hard on the exhibit "*Who Will Mind the Baby?:' Commemorating 100 Years of (Some) Women's Suffrage in British Columbia.*" Other temporary exhibits included the School Room Exhibit and the Japanese Exhibit, which were created to coincide with our educational programs.


Staff and the Board of Directors spent a significant amount of time on drafting new bylaws and becoming familiar with the *Societies Act* to prepare for the transition. We have also been active in revising our collections policies and developing a Strategic Plan for the Museum, which should be completed in 2018.


Redesigning and improving our website, as well as developing more online content, was a large undertaking, but we think it has been worth it! Updating our online presence enables us to extend our mission by helping users find what they are looking for, while also promoting deeper engagement and learning. Check out the website to be updated on museum events, view minutes from Board meetings, and peruse our continually growing online photo gallery.

We would like to thank the Corporation of Summerland for their continued support through our annual operating grant and in-kind services. We would also like to thank the community for their donations to our collection, the members of the Society, the support of our local media, and our dedicated volunteers.

Staff are enthusiastic about the next year and have been discussing many ways to bring more patrons into the Museum and increase our presence in the community. Volunteers and fresh ideas are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Museum Administrator, Claire Macdonald  _____

Archives Registrar, Stephanie Normandeau  _____