



SUMMERLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we all know it has been quite a summer with the heat, lack of rain, forest fires and slides, and the concurrent road closures affecting the Okanagan. Our sympathies go out to those who have had to deal with evacuation and to those who have lost their homes, as well as local businesses that have suffered financially from the lack of tourist visits.

The success of the recent Summerland Fall Fair, on the grounds of the Museum and the Ryga Art Centre, shows that the community is maintaining its connections and the spirit of celebration. Kudos to all who organised, participated, and volunteered to set up and run the event.



It was a great day at the Museum with 265 plus visitors – many for the first time - enjoying the Museum exhibits, the model railway, the “Living with Fire” exhibit, and perusing and purchasing the many items in our gift shop. The generous contributions to our donations box were also much appreciated.

Our curator Petra, administrator Hannah, and our wonderful summer student Erika are to be congratulated for the organization and running of another great Summer Program. During July and August, we had 514 and 477 visitors respectively. Our Outreach Program with pop-up museums at Summerland Seniors Village, Summerland Heritage Cidery, Dirty Laundry Winery, Millionaire’s Row Cidery, and the Waterfront Resort Hotel was a real success in bringing awareness of the Museum to tourists and locals alike and supporting our local businesses.

As well as manning the pop-up museums, Erika, with the help of our volunteers, also ran a booth at the Rotary Sunday Market through those long, hot Sundays in July and August. We also must not forget the very successful Yard Sale which was run for a second year – again thanks to all those who donated, priced, set up, and manned another great fundraising event for the Museum.

Again, many thanks to our staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors for their ongoing dedication and support of the Summerland Museum and Archives Society.

Greg Richardson, President





MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR

Happy Autumn to you all! I hope that you had an enjoyable and safe summer despite the slides and smoke. We certainly had a wonderful summer at the Museum with continued growth in visitorship and many engaging public programs – and we look forward to even more outreach opportunities this fall!

As Greg notes in his message, we had a great summer with many great outreach initiatives. I would like to particularly recognize the efforts of our fantastic summer student, Erika Vandersluys, for the success of these events. Erika did a fantastic job, notably taking the lead on our summer “Pop-Up Museums” in various locations around town. Erika has now gone back to University to continue her degree in Linguistics and Anthropology. We wish her all the best!

This August we installed our new temporary exhibit, “Living with Fire,” to mark the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park Fire. I knew that the topic would be timely - however, it ended up being timelier than I would have liked. Seeing the photos of onlookers gazing at the raging fires in West Kelowna this summer felt like history repeating itself. It is clear that extreme fires are here to stay, but we can all do our part by learning more about emergency preparedness and fire prevention. FireSmart BC offers many resources that can be accessed online at firesmartbc.ca. We have some of their print-outs available for you to take when you visit our exhibit.



Photo by Rick Gray



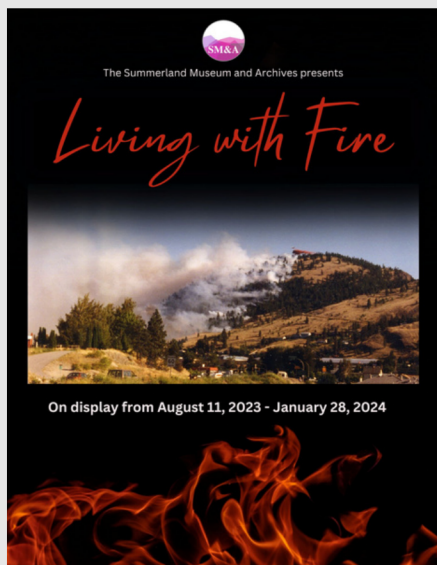
The summer ended with a notable bit of excitement when the Vancouver Police Department posted a photo of a century-old scrapbook that had been turned into their detachment. The scrapbook’s cover read “Lona Washington, W. Summerland.” Museum staff, volunteers, and members jumped into action tracking down as much information as we could to reach the descendants of Lona and reunite them with this special piece of family history. Kudos to our awesome Museum community (you know who you are!) who helped make this happen. The family is very thankful for the efforts!

In early October, we will be welcoming Megan Gray as our Collections Intern, thanks to funding from the Young Canada Works Program. Megan has just completed a Master’s degree in Public History at the Royal Holloway University of London, UK. Megan will be helping us with a very important Collections Documentation project over a 25-week work term, concluding with a full physical inventory of the SMAS artifact collection. Look for updates on our social media!

As you can see throughout this newsletter, we have tons of great programs coming up this fall, and more to be announced later, too. Thanks very much to our Administrator, Hannah, for doing a great job of designing this newsletter!

See you at the Museum!

Petra Höller, Curator



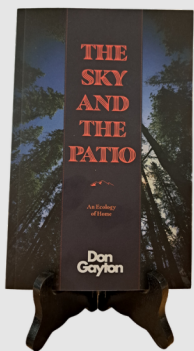
Don't miss our current temporary exhibit!

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.

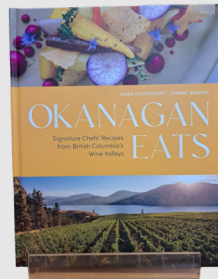
Thank you very much to Lieutenant Colonel Denis Cyr, Don Gayton, the Westbank Museum & Visitor Centre, Kelowna Museums, and the Penticton Museum & Archives for their generous assistance in putting together this exhibit!

New book releases!

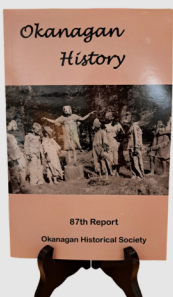
New books now available in the SMAS gift shop



The Sky and the Patio is a collection of 25 essays that explore "the complex histories and relationships that we have with the natural world." In a time when climate change threatens our environment and mankind is dealing with challenges from wildfires, floods, and drought, understanding how we impact the natural world seems more crucial than ever. Don is an ecologist and an author of five books. His career, spanning five decades, includes working for the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, the BC Ministry of Environment, and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. Don draws upon this experience and expertise to hold a microscope to the Okanagan Valley.



Okanagan Eats is more than a cookbook, it's an exploration of the changing seasons and flavours of the Okanagan, told by some of the top chefs in the region. Celebrating locality, seasonality, and heritage, Okanagan Eats presents over 70 signature recipes from the valley's top chefs, restaurants, cafés, and wineries—all designed with home cooks in mind. Each recipe is accompanied by an introduction from the chef and beautifully curated photographs.



We're pleased to announce that we now have the **87th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society** in stock in our gift shop. The Okanagan Historical Society (OHS) is one of the oldest societies in British Columbia dedicated to the preservation of local history. Incorporated in 1925, the society published twelve reports with articles about various historical topics and, after the Second World War, has published a report every year. The first volume was a mere thirty pages; the present volume is over 240 pages.



Help us create our



Cabinet of Curiosity

CABINET OF CURIOSITY

For many years, the Summerland Museum has had this beautiful, antique cabinet tucked away in our back room. We would like to give the cabinet new life as an interactive display in our permanent exhibits. We envision it as a "**Cabinet of Curiosity**" - a fun, interactive display piece where visitors can open drawers to discover the intriguing artifacts stored inside. Many of the artifacts that will be shown in the drawers rarely get the chance to be displayed. This is an incredible opportunity to showcase more of our collections and let visitors see these beautiful objects up close.

The name "Cabinet of Curiosity" is a play on "cabinet of curiosities" or "cabinet of wonders", which was a style of collecting that emerged in 16th-century Europe. These collections featured a wide range of objects, from natural history specimens to works of art and archaeological material. But rather than emphasizing the objects as curious, we want to emphasize the act of being curious and inquisitive. Each drawer will be labelled with the collection that it displays inside - for example: pocket watches, hat pins, baby shoes, pipes, match holders, and trinket boxes. QR codes in the corner of each drawer will link to a webpage where interested viewers can find out more information.

The project entails restoration and maintenance of the cabinet (which was once used in Summerland's first Municipal Hall), then the installation of plexiglass covers on each drawer to protect the artifacts being displayed. Then, each drawer will need to be fitted with display cushions for the artifacts. After that, each artifact will be carefully installed, the drawers secured, and the labels installed. Once complete, the cabinet will be installed in a new Lowertown Mercantile exhibit, where visitors can browse through the drawers to discover the treasures inside!

The costs of the project are as follows:

- \$900 for restoration of the cabinet and installation of the plexiglass covers
- \$150 for archival polyester batting and cotton muslin fabric to create the drawer cushions
- \$125 for a step stool to help younger children see the top drawers
- \$25 for printing signage and labels
- \$300 for staff time to conduct research, design labels, install the artifacts, and create the info webpages

For a grand total of \$1,500.



This exciting, new display piece will be a great asset to the Museum's permanent exhibits that visitors of all ages can enjoy. Could you help us bring this project to life?

Please visit our GoFundMe page at gofund.me/b2736de7 or call us at 250-494-9395

UPCOMING

EVENTS



GEOLOGY TOURS



Back by popular demand - our Geology Field Trips!

Learn about why Summerland is called a "geologic wonderland" from our local experts: geologist Andrew Holder and historian David Gregory.

The contingent meets at the Summerland Museum. From there, participants drive their own cars or carpool with others, meeting in designated locations for short talks by the experts. There is minimal to no walking.

At 1pm the group convenes at Haywire Winery for lunch and discussion. Included in the registration fee is pizza, charcuterie, and a glass of wine plus coffee or soft drink.

The last few tours have been **SOLD OUT** but we are hoping to run more tours in the fall. Please contact us if you would like to have your name added to a waitlist for these extremely popular tours.

Call 250-494-9395 or email info@summerlandmuseum.org

When: Dates to be confirmed

Where: Summerland Museum

COLLECTIONS 101

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at the Museum? Join us for a crash course on working with the collections! This one-hour, hands-on workshop will cover the basics of the SMAS collections, including handling of photographs and artifacts.

To register, please email curator@summerlandmuseum.org, call 250-494-9395, or sign up in person at the Summerland Museum (9521 Wharton Street). Attendance is limited, so register as soon as possible to save your spot!

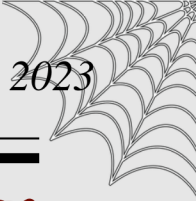
This workshop is funded by the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund



When: Wednesday, October 4th: 3pm

Where: Summerland Museum





HAUNTED MUSEUM!



Mark your calendars for the Summerland Museum's second annual HAUNTED MUSEUM trick-or-treating event!

The Museum will be transformed with creepy crawlies, spooky decorations, and ghoulish characters. Dress up in your Halloween costume and come wander our haunted halls . . . Your bravery will be rewarded with candy along the way! (Don't forget your treat bag!!)

New this year - we will also have FACE PAINTING by donation

This event is FREE! Donations to the Museum are greatly appreciated if possible.

Thank you very much to our generous sponsors, Nesters Market, for providing treats for this event! Please shop local and support this great business

DECORATIONS WANTED!

The Museum is looking for donations of Halloween Decorations for our Haunted Museum event. If you have any decorations that you could either donate to us or loan for the day we would love to hear from you! We can even ensure that your prized decorations are returned to you in time for Halloween itself if you so wish. Please contact us at admin@summerlandmuseum.org

When: Saturday, October 28th: 3-5pm
Where: Summerland Museum
Who: Best for kids 10 and under

Cemetery Tours



This spooktober we will be holding guided tours in Summerland's historic cemeteries! Do you dare join us?

On **October 30th**, join local historian David Gregory and curator Petra Höller for a walk through the Anglican Cemetery. Participants will hear fascinating stories of the notable people laid to rest there and the history of the site.

On **October 31st**, our curator Petra will be hosting a very special Halloween walk through Peach Orchard Cemetery. This tour will be a bit spookier, with haunting and paranormal stories from the early years.

Tickets for either tour are \$15/person or \$10/person for SMAS members. Reserve your spot by visiting the Museum or calling 250-494-9395.

SUMMERLAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
and
OKANAGAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
present

CEMETERY TOURS

<p>OCTOBER 30 3:00 PM</p> <p>Anglican Cemetery 10005 Giants Head Road</p>	<p>OCTOBER 31 3:00 PM</p> <p>Peach Orchard Cemetery 6300 Ramsay Street</p>
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Join us for a guided stroll through Summerland's historic cemeteries

Tickets: \$15/person or \$10/person for SMAS Members
Available at 9521 Wharton Street or call 250-494-9395

www.summerlandmuseum.org

Light Up
Summerland

MARK YOUR DIARY FOR
The 36th Annual
Summerland
FESTIVAL OF
LIGHTS

NOVEMBER 24TH, 2023

SUMMERLAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Photos with Santa

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24 3-5PM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 1-3PM

BY DONATION
Bookings begin October 25th

AT THE SUMMERLAND MUSEUM
9521 WHARTON STREET
www.summerlandmuseum.org

Celebrate the festive season with
PHOTOS WITH SANTA
presented by
Summerland Museum and
Archives

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 24
3-5PM

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 25
1-3PM

Photo session by donation
Bookings begin Oct. 25th



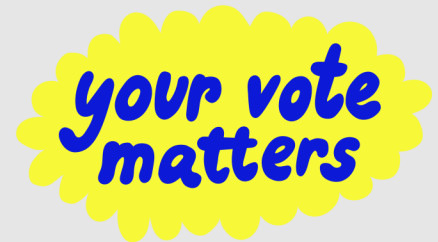
News from the Board



2023 SMAS Board Members

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

The Museum Board is very pleased to announce that the next phase of design for our planned renovations and additions to the Museum is well underway with our Architect, Cal Meiklejohn. It is intended that the Design Development Report and Budgeting will be completed in October for inclusion in two major Capital Infrastructure funding applications. With capital funds that have been accrued and, hopefully, some success in funding applications a major fundraising campaign will still be required, with the support of the Summerland community, to move forward with our much-needed Museum improvements. A comprehensive multi-faceted fund-raising plan is intended to be developed, anticipating that this campaign will be launched in the New Year.



On November 4, 2023, eligible voters in Summerland (including residents and non-resident property owners) will be asked if they are in favour of the District borrowing funds up to \$50 million for the purpose of developing the proposed Summerland Recreation Centre – a new multi-purpose indoor recreation facility.

There are several in-person opportunities for you to visit staff and ask questions:

- Sunday, September 24** – Pop Up Info Booth at the Farmer’s Market on Main Street (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)
- Wednesday, October 11** – Open House at the Arena Banquet Room (4:00 – 7:00 pm)
- Wednesday, October 18** – Drop-In Information Session at the Aquatic Centre (3:00 – 5:00 pm)
- Thursday, October 19** – Drop-In Information Session at the Aquatic Centre (9:00 – 11:00 am)

For more information visit the interactive webpage at www.summerland.ca/recreationcentre



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

Spooky Volunteers!

Do you love Halloween? Get a thrill from spooky decor? Delight in dressing up? Well, Spooky Season is fast approaching and the Museum is looking for some Halloween enthusiasts to join our Halloween Committee to help plan this year's Haunted Museum.

If you are interested in getting involved please join us at the museum for an informal committee meeting at 11am on Wednesday 27th Sept, or contact Hannah on admin@summerlandmuseum.org or 250-494-9395 🦋



Volunteer Thanksgiving Appreciation Tea Party

The museum staff and board members would like to show their heartfelt appreciation for all our hardworking volunteers by holding a Thanksgiving Appreciation Tea Party.
All volunteers are welcome to attend for tea, pies, cakes, and goodies.

When - Wednesday 11th October; 2pm

Where - Summerland Museum





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



Thank you
to everyone who donated to this beautiful bench in memory of our friend and supporter Linda Holman

Weekly Volunteers

Judy Bood
Thea Scholefield
Ruth Stevens
Dorthea Atwater & Peter Hay
Michaelleen O'Connor
Andrew & Mavis Holder
David Gregory
Thank you for all your help cataloging, filing, researching, and the endless admin tasks you do for us every week!

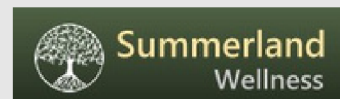
Pop-Up Museum Hosts

Action Fest
NeighbourLink
Summerland Seniors Village
Dirty Laundry Winery
Summerland Heritage Cidery
Millionaires' Row Cidery
Waterfront Resort Hotel
and all the pop-up volunteers
Thank you for welcoming us and supporting our outreach program!

The Giant's Head Model

Railway Club
Bob Calhoun
Harry Hutchinson
Ron Rosher
Dave Smith
Neil Trainer
Thank you for taking such good care of our model railway and continuing to improve and expand this popular exhibit!

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