



SUMMERLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A recent article in the Penticton Herald “*Small museums do local best*” by the Manager and Curator of the Penticton Museum and Archives sums up very well, the importance of small, local community museums.

“Every small community museum exists because a unique community grew up around it. That museum is there to interpret that community’s history and none other. No one else will collect and preserve the artifacts, tell the stories, and put together the exhibits that tell the story of your town.”



The heart of any local museum is community support combined with a hard-working staff and the many hours which are contributed by volunteers and museum boards. At this time all local community museums in British Columbia face similar challenges with regard to ongoing funding for museum operations, artifact maintenance, inflationary pressures, and volunteer and board member attrition.

In order to successfully maintain and grow the museum and its mandate to preserve and promote Summerland’s unique shared heritage, our board has identified three current priorities;

1. **We need at least three new directors to augment our board by the time of our AGM in April, 2023.**
2. **We need to ensure we have sufficient operating funds for the coming fiscal year.**
3. **We continue to focus on securing sufficient funds for our renovation and expansion plans for additional gallery space, secure storage, improved working conditions, and an enhanced visitor experience.**

We are working hard on these priorities, while at the same time ensuring a high standard of service to the Summerland community through our spring and summer programs (see pages 4 and 5 for more info).

We look forward to welcoming you to the museum and hope to see you at some of the exciting upcoming events we have planned.

Greg Richardson, President

MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR

Happy spring to you all! It finally feels like winter may be drawing to an end. With warmer weather comes the tourist season and we are gearing up for what we hope will be another record-breaking year in terms of attendance and community outreach.

If you haven't seen it yet, I strongly encourage you to swing by and see our current temporary exhibit, *Select Works from the Doreen Tait Art Collection*. This exhibit features 15 artworks in a range of media by local artists or depicting the local landscape. It provides just a small taste of the exquisite collection gifted to the Summerland Museum by longtime supporter Doreen Tait for the enjoyment of future generations.

We are also looking forward to our summer exhibit, *Living with Fire*, which will look at our community's changing relationship with wildfires. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire, an event that changed how many of us perceive our safety and the extent to which we have control (or don't) of the natural world around us. This exhibit will open on Saturday, July 1st 2023 and be on view for the remainder of the year.

If you have any stories, photographs, or objects relating to the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire, the Giant's Head Mountain Fire of 1996, or other wildfires that have impacted our community, I would love to speak with you about them. Please reach out to me at curator@summerlandmuseum.org or by calling 250-494-9395.



Photo by Rick Gray

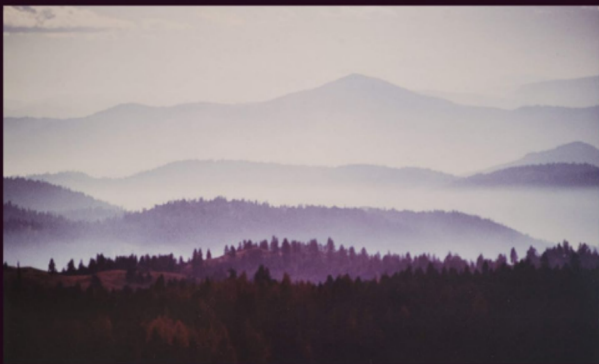
Petra Höller, Curator



On display in the Tait Room

Select Works from the Doreen Tait Art Collection

February 10th to June 25th 2023



Don't miss our current temporary exhibit!

Doreen Tait (1921-2006) was a longtime Summerland resident and the daughter of pioneers Magnus and Alice Tait.

Doreen began collecting art as a young adult in the mid-1950s. She would later say “There are so many people in Summerland who are damned good artists . . . I thought, Summerland should have an art collection – for generations to come.”

Doreen Tait bequeathed her art collection to the Summerland Museum after her passing in 2006.

Artists featured are Irvine Adams, Michael Beulah, Robert Brinton, Bruce Crawford, Marjorie Croil, Jack Davis, Les Hill, Mollie Hunter, Irene Scott, and Percy Thornber.

Growing Community Access to Heritage

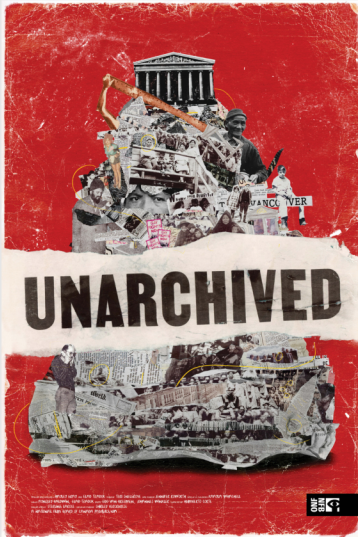
Our artifact digitization project is ongoing with artifacts being photographed each week. Many of these items have never been photographed before -or, if they have, the photo on file was of poor quality. Having photos of our collections items greatly helps our staff and volunteers identify, locate, study, and exhibit artifacts. Later this year we will be moving on to the next phase of our project, which includes integrating a public and searchable artifact database onto our website (much like our online photo database). To learn more, visit <https://www.summerlandmuseum.org/artifact-stories>



UPCOMING

EVENTS

EXCLUSIVE FILM SCREENING!



We are very excited to be able to offer the Summerland community an exclusive opportunity to see the National Film Board of Canada production, "Unarchived".

In this new feature documentary, co-directors Hayley Gray and Elad Tzadok highlight community archives across British Columbia to reveal some of what has been erased from the official record.

Through a collage of personal interviews, archival footage, and deeply rooted memories, the past, present and future come together, fighting for a space where everyone is seen and everyone belongs. History is what we all make of it.

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE - PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please contact the museum on 250-494-9395 or admin@summerlandmuseum.org to reserve seats. *Entry by donation.*

When: Thursday 13th April, 7 pm
(Doors will open at 6:45pm)

Where: Summerland Museum



GEOLOGY TOUR

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

The contingent will meet at the Summerland Museum at 10 am and a map of the local meeting spots will be provided. Participants will drive their own cars or carpool with others, meeting in designated locations for short talks by the experts. There will be minimal to no walking.

At 1pm the group will convene at Shaughnessy's Cove Restaurant for lunch and discussion. Included in the registration fee is a 1/2 BLT with salad, plus coffee or soft drink.

Registration fee: \$40/Regular OR \$35/SMAS Member

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Register online at <https://summerlandmuseumandarchives.square.site> or in-person at the Summerland Museum.

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



When: Saturday 22nd April, 10 am
Where: Meet at Summerland Museum,
then driving to various locations
around Summerland



Summerland Museum
Pro-D Day Kids Camps
NATURE ALL AROUND US
 Monday, April 24th, 2023

Ages 6 - 12
 9am - 3pm
 \$45/non-members
 \$40/members



PRO-D DAY CAMP

Monday 24th April, 9am-3pm

Our final Pro-D Day camp of the school year is fast approaching. Entitled *Nature All Around Us*, the focus of this day will be on the natural environment in and around Summerland, tying in with Earth Week the previous week.

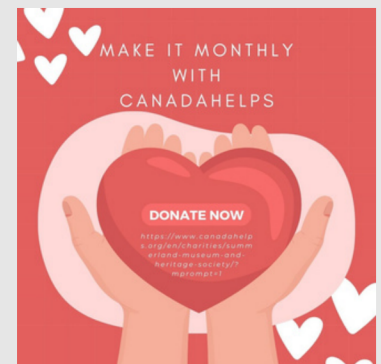
Pre-registration and payment are required. Please call the museum at 250-494-9395 or email info@summerlandmuseum.org to register.

"Make it Monthly" and support the museum with CanadaHelps

This March, CanadaHelps is pledging to donate an additional \$20 for every monthly scheduled donation of \$20 (or more) to a registered charity through CanadaHelps.org

All you have to do is go to the CanadaHelps website and schedule a monthly donation of \$20 for at least 3 months, starting in March. They will then match that \$20, thereby doubling your donation! It is easy to cancel the monthly schedule once you've set it up, so you don't have to worry about over-committing yourself.

That equates to just 65c per day for you, but would make a huge difference to our museum!



We are looking for volunteers to cover the front desk for an hour on weekend days. This is a fun role, requiring you to greet and assist museum visitors. If you are free to spare an hour over lunchtime on a Saturday or Sunday in April or May please contact Hannah at admin@summerlandmuseum.org

Volunteer opportunities

With the weather warming up, our thoughts are turning to our yards and gardens. With this in mind, we are planning a fundraising sale of seedlings and seeds, to be held at the end of May. We will, of course, need seedlings to sell, and so while you begin to sow your flower and vegetable seeds, we would be very grateful if you could sow a few extra, so that the resulting seedlings can be sold at our sale. We would be extremely thankful for donations of any seedlings and seeds.





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

2023 SMAS Board Members

- Greg Richardson (President)
- Andrew Holder (Treasurer)
- Kay Treadgold (Past President)
- Pat McCutcheon
- Marty Newstead
- Sandy Nicolson



We are looking for new members to join our Board of Directors! If you are interested in getting involved please get in touch.

2023 Donors

Juergen Kahl, Patrick Murphy, Dave Smith, and Geoff Solly
Thank you for your generous donations!

Donations in memory of Linda Holman

With thanks to:

- Ginny Braddick, Sandra Croyle, Rob and Donna Ferguson, Joann Johnson Booth, Valerie McGowan, Marg Peschau, Bernice Shiosaki, Silver Birch Social Committee, Robert Stuart, John Topham



Weekly Volunteers

- Judy Bood
- Thea Scholefield
- Riley Hanon
- Ruth Stevens
- Dorthea Atwater & Peter Hay
- Michaeleen 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!

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