

# **Annual Report**

## **Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society**

### **2013**



**Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society / Lake Country Museum and Archives**  
11255 Okanagan Centre Road west  
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7  
[\*\*www.lakecountrymuseum.com\*\*](http://www.lakecountrymuseum.com)



## President's Report to the AGM April 10, 2014

We have had another very good year at the Lake Country Museum and Archives. The Museum is fortunate in employing Dan Bruce as Curator and Shannon Jorgenson as Manager, who both achieve great results while working part-time. We also boast of an active Board and a large cadre of committed and hardworking volunteers. Without Board leadership and tremendous support from our volunteers, we could not accomplish everything that we do.

This year saw the culmination of three years of effort designed to honour the Japanese-Canadian pioneers in Lake Country. The *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community* exhibition was a great success, largely due to the collaboration of the Japanese-Canadian community. The community lecture by Dr. Audrey Kobayashi was very well received and the book, *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community*, which is being launched today, is a credit to all who participated in its production.

On the archival side, the large Rainbow Ranche Collection and numerous other small collections are being steadily processed. Interviews with pioneers and with Lake Country artists are adding significantly to our archival collection.

The website content has increased with the addition of elements of the *Living Landscapes* website. We substantially altered the home page of the website to make it more interactive. The website blog and Facebook page are increasing in readership and interest.

The Museum visibility in the community is enhanced by exhibits at the municipal building and George Elliot Secondary School, our public lectures, historical markers, and Centrepiece. We recently agreed to collaborate with the Oyama Community Club to plan a centenary celebration of the building of the hall.

This year we have undertaken to rewrite our constitution to better conform to the BC Society's Act and to reflect the way in which the Museum operates. The constitution committee will place its proposed constitution before the Board at this AGM for approval.

The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society is generously supported by the District of Lake Country. We share Council's interest in "branding" our community as a wonderful place in which to work and live and an interesting place to visit.

Thank you for making 2013 a great year at the Lake Country Museum and Archives.



Duane Thomson  
President  
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society





# The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

## Lake Country Museum and Archives

### 2013 Highlights

In 2013, the Lake Country Museum celebrated twenty-eight years as a community museum and archives. The Museum, located at the shore of Lake Okanagan, houses artefacts, archival photographs, and collections from the District of Lake Country's earliest days. The main building of the Museum is a historic two-room schoolhouse, where students were taught from 1932 to the mid-1980s. The museum also includes the Annex, an outdoor exhibit area, and the Wentworth Cabin, built by Cyril and Joseph Wentworth in 1906 and relocated to the Museum grounds in 1998. The Lake Country Museum and Archives are open year round. Admission is by donation.

#### Staff/Volunteers

The LCMA currently has two part-time staff, Curator, Dan Bruce, (2 days/month) and Manager, Shannon Jorgenson (16 hours/week). The LCMA employed two summer students in 2013, with wages partially paid through HRDC Canada Summer Jobs funding, and from January through April 2013, an intern through Okanagan College.

In 2014, the LCMA plans to have two full-time summer students and, over the year, two interns. Shea McMartin, a 4<sup>th</sup> year Art History major at UBCO, is doing a Directed Study internship with us from January through March 2014 (100 hours), to work with the interview portion of the Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists project. A second, 30 hour internship position is planned for a student at the Centre for Arts and Technology, specializing in digital film-making.

The LCMA has an active, working Board of 13 and an additional 16 regular volunteers, without whom the Museum could not operate.

Volunteer hours for 2013 = 3029.5 hours

Volunteer hours for 2012 = 2294 hours

Volunteer hours for 2011 = 1905 hours

The Lake Country Museum opened seven days a week through the summer of 2013 (mid-May through Labour Day). During the spring, January to mid-May, the Museum was able to open four days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Fall/winter hours were Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The Museum also opened additional days on request for school tours, researchers, and UBCO student teachers.

*The Ok Patio Café*, operated by a lessee, was open seven days a week, weather permitting, from mid-May through Labour Day.



One of the LCMA's ongoing goals is to continue to increase visitorship to the Museum. This is being accomplished through special exhibitions, community workshops and public lectures, partnerships, and increasing community awareness through our website, Facebook page, and print media.

Total recorded visitors to the Museum in 2013 were 2436

Visitors in 2012 = 1849

Visitors in 2011 = 1533

Visitors in 2010 = 1459



## Collections & Archives

Through its exhibits and archives, the Museum tells the story of the District of Lake Country and its four wards of Winfield, Oyama, Carr's Landing, and Okanagan Centre. The Museum's artefacts include items relative to the Okanagan First nations, histories of the orchard, wine, and ranching industries, turn of the century living, and collections from the early Japanese community. The outdoor exhibits include an antique pleasure boat, farm wagons, ploughs, and the 1906 Wentworth Cabin. The Archives currently house over 3500 photographs, a large collection of manuscripts, ledgers, maps, library books, and a full collection of the Lake Country *Calendar*. The Museum's collection of over 4000 artefacts is either on display or in storage and rotated on exhibit. The majority of items in the collection has been donated by local residents.



The LCMA collection continues to grow, with donations of primary documents, photographs, and objects important to Lake Country's history and development. These include the original ledgers and documents of the Rainbow Ranche, the Winfield Farmer's Institute, the letters of Dorothea Allison and photo albums of George Goulding, an Oyama pioneer.

## Exhibits

Ongoing work and exhibit rotation took place throughout the year. The Museum's permanent exhibits in 2013 featured The Store exhibit, the Harvey Insect Collection, a First Nations showcase, pioneer Northcote Henry Caesar, Sigh Kobayashi, and tools and equipment of the early ranching and orchard industries.

### *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community Exhibition*

The special exhibition of the first Japanese Canadian pioneers of Lake Country and their experiences during the period from 1899 to pre-World War II (1939) was on display at the Museum from August 10<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. The exhibition showcased the efforts by Japanese pioneers to blend the old and new to end up with a new way of life in their Canadian home. A collection of original artefacts, photographs and personal documents to supplement the stories of these courageous people was displayed, with the majority of items on loan from the descendants of the early pioneers. The exhibition had 1080 visitors.



### Virtual Museum of Canada Permanent Exhibition

In June 2012, the Museum launched a permanent, online exhibition at the Virtual Museum of Canada. **The Japanese Canadian Pioneers of Lake Country, BC 1899-1939** tells the story of the first Japanese Canadian pioneers of this community and their experiences during the pre-World War II. The exhibition includes the stories of nine pioneer families, 145 photographs, and 23 video or audio clips. The online exhibition can be viewed at: [www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca](http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca).

## Satellite Exhibits

The LCMA featured rotating satellite exhibits at the Municipal Building through 2013. Exhibits included *General Store*, *Old Timers* (clocks and watches), *Woodworking Tools*, *Tennis Anyone?*, *Kakonosedai*, *WWI/ Remembrance Day*, *Flags*, and *Smile for 100 Years of Cameras*,





The LCMA launched a permanent satellite exhibition at George Elliot Secondary School in May 2013. *The George Elliot Story* features photographs and personal items belonging to George Elliot, donated by his son Alan.

A community satellite exhibit opened at the Lake Country Community Complex in November 2013, featuring a display of general museum collections. This exhibit case is a partnership with George Elliot Secondary School, providing students the opportunity to work with the LCMA Curator to learn about museums and exhibit design as part of their Career Planning and volunteer hours.



A temporary exhibit was on display at the Museum during June and July 2013, recognizing the contributions of the Arnold family of Lake Country.

In 2014, the LCMA is working with the Oyama Community Hall Association to install two permanent exhibit cases and photo panels of archival photographs in the upstairs hall. The initial launch is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup> (Oyama Fun Day) to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oyama Hall and Community Club, with legacy exhibits installed through the summer and fall of 2014. The LCMA will also present a free, public lecture on the history of Oyama and the hall at the Centennial.

## Curator's Report

We have been able to continue the program of hosting special exhibitions, even in our limited space. 2013 saw the presentation of "Kakonosedai", a celebration of the long-standing Japanese presence in our area. About 95% of the items exhibited were loaned by members of the local Japanese community, which meant that the material had not been exhibited before. A very special 'thank you' to Addie Maehara for coordinating the gathering of the exhibits.

The special exhibit, "Goldfinger" is a much smaller scale presentation on the life of Charles Sydney Goldman, the founder of Nicola Ranch in Merritt, and on of the lesser known yet significant contributors to the development of British Columbia. There will be opportunities in the future to enlarge on his career as more details and connections are uncovered.

We have received three very detailed model sailing ships, a donation from Mrs. Marilee Trask, which we intend to use in a planned exhibition on the exploration of the North Pacific, and the interactions between B.C. and Hawai'i. For the same purpose we have acquired a James Gillray cartoon showing a somewhat unfriendly encounter between Captain Vancouver and one of his crew members in the streets of London. Gillray produced hundreds of political and social cartoon sketches in the second half of the 18th century. They are the forerunners of the familiar comic strips of today.

Our potential exhibit space has been increased by the installation of a secure showcase in the foyer of the Lake Country Community Centre/Creekside Theatre. This is in addition to the permanent exhibit featuring George Elliot in the school part of the building.

While our collections continue to grow, both in scope and in quality, our most pressing concern is the lack of adequate storage space. We have made imaginative use of every part of the existing building, but we do urgently need to solve this issue. In order to be able to develop and deliver service to our public.

**Dan Bruce, Curator**



## Archives Report for Lake Country Heritage Society AGM, 2014

The past year has been one of consolidation for the Archives. A number of donations that had been received in previous years were accessioned, and a number of new donations were incorporated and added to the record of holdings. Some of the highlights are listed below.

### **Rainbow Ranche Collection:**

This significant collection of correspondence, account books, ranch diaries, land and property documentation, and photographs was the donation of Roger MacDonnell, a grandson of the Ranche Manager and his wife, James and Isabel Goldie. The records are extensive and a tribute to James Goldie's organizational skills, and his habit of recording and keeping detailed records. The donation fills over three filing cabinet drawers. Records extend, with some breaks, from 1907 to the late 1940s. The collection is a rich source of information on fruit farming and production in the Okanagan Valley. The photographs add to our record of the area.

Accessioning involves the cataloguing of items in order to aid in retrieval and encourage use. At the same time, items have been placed in acid free, clear envelopes. This aids in preservation and means that they do not need to be handled as frequently. Given the volume and level of detail, this project is taking some time to complete. The photographs have been digitized, and most are being retained in the albums in which they were donated. Copies are filed in the photographic file under subject headings.

### **Goulding Family Photograph Albums:**

George Goulding lived with his wife and three children on the Rainsford Ranche in Oyama from the early 1900s to 1928. In 2013, His grand-daughter, Margot Maclaren, donated several family albums from that period. A number of the photographs are remarkable, recording panoramic pictures of the area as well as photos of ranch life. After selling the ranch, the Gouldings bought Iris Point in Oyama (now Kaloya Park.) We have digitized a number of the photos and are now preserving, accessioning and storing them.

### **Dorothea Allison Collection:**

The Allisons lived in Oyama, on the far side of Wood Lake, from the early 1900's onward. The collection of letters, mementos and photographs that are being catalogued and preserved, form a remarkable and detailed legacy. Dorothea Allison kept up a lively correspondence up through the years, one that provides a remarkable glimpse into a life and times that has vanished. In later years, between 1945 and 1950, Dorothea published several illustrated children's books on B.C. flowers. The Archives has copies of some of the proofs and drafts, as well as original copies of illustrations by the local artist Holly Middleton.

### **Farmer's Institute Records:**

There were a number of Farmer's Institutes that formed in the area in the 1900's, persisting in one form or another into the 1960s. Minutes, membership lists and correspondence were deposited with the archives some years ago. However, only in the past year have these been accessioned in PastPerfect in a way that allows information to be retrieved by subject, name and key word.

### **Lake Country Heritage Society Records:**

With the formation of the Society in the 1980's, correspondence, minutes, other records and photographs have accumulated. In the last few months we have been moving the older records to Archives. This means accessioning, indexing for key word retrieval etc. This process is now completed, providing retrievable records about the formation and early days of the Society.

### **Swiss Village Resort:**

Tina Monod, daughter of the original owners of the Swiss Village Resort in Oyama donated a digital copy of an illustrated memoir of the Resort. This was written by her mother Alys Monod and titled *The Swiss Village Resort and a biography of its creator Gerry Monod*. Much of the memoir and accompanying photos have been made available on our website. There will also be digital copies available for purchase.

**Laura Neame**  
*Archivist*



## Public and Community Programming

### Community Memories Interviews

The LCMA staff and volunteers conduct video and/or audio interviews to preserve Lake Country's history. We have 49 completed interviews in the Archives, which include local history interviews and Community Builders interviews. In 2014, the LCMA will add a third set of interviews, under the project *Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists*, in partnership with the Lake Country Art Gallery.

### Kakonosedai Project

The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society (LCHCS) launched four events through the summer and fall of 2013 to celebrate the history of the Japanese Canadian community of this region and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Redress. The project included the publishing and printing of 350 copies of a commemorative book (March 2014), the *Kakonosedai* exhibition, the lecture by Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, and added events and displays at Centrepiece. Each of the project components is partially or fully digitized and mounted on the LCMA website or YouTube channel as a permanent legacy and to provide public accessibility. This project was funded by The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation.



### Tours and School Groups

The Museum hosted a number of guided tours and programs during 2013, including retirement homes from Kelowna and Vernon, Connect Lake Country, the Lake Country Boys and Girls Club, and a program at the Winfield library Summer Reading Club.

The LCMA offered a genealogy workshop in 2013, in partnership with The Kelowna and District Genealogy Society. The 2013 workshop did not attract enough participation, and the workshop will be offered again in the spring of 2014 with a new title and increased advertising.

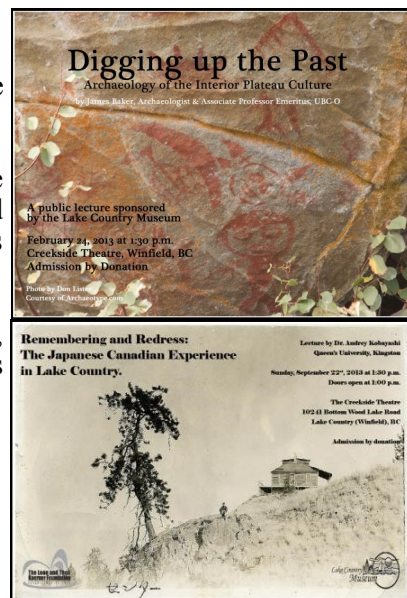
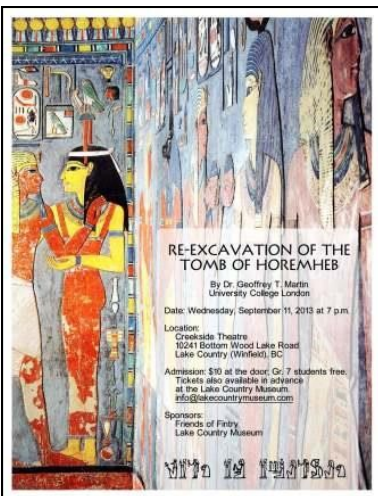
### LCMA Lecture Series

The LCMA continued its public lecture series at the Creekside Theatre through 2013. This program has been very well-received by the community and the LCMA plans to continue offering free, public lectures.

*Digging up the Past. Archaeological sites — Pelmewash & others*, presented by Lake Country Mayor James Baker on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Creekside Theatre.

*Re-excavation of the Tomb of Horemheb*, by Dr. Geoffrey Martin at the Creekside Theatre on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This lecture was the first of the LCMA Distinguished Speaker Series and was presented jointly by the Lake Country Museum & Archives and The Friends of Fintry.

*Remembering and Redress: The Japanese Canadian experience in Lake Country*, by Dr. Audrey Kobayashi September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Creekside Theatre. A DVD of this lecture is available for purchase at the LCMA.



Upcoming lectures planned to date for 2014 are:

*From Eagles to Hummingbirds: A Year of Okanagan Birds*, by Pam Laing  
Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 1:30pm at the Creekside Theatre

September 2014 (Distinguished Speaker Series) - Dr. Chris Naunton, Director of the Egypt Exploration Society, date to be determined.



## CentrePiece

CentrePiece is the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society's annual community picnic and takes the form of a 1920's garden party. The event includes activities for the whole family to enjoy, such as a Devonshire tea, children's games, and musical performances. Centrepiece 2013 took place August 25th, and included a Japanese theme with performances by the Yamabiko Taiko Drummers, artist Hiromoto Ida, local musician Becca Mabbett, and displays by members of the Kelowna Kasugai Sister City Association. Attendance was approximately 300.



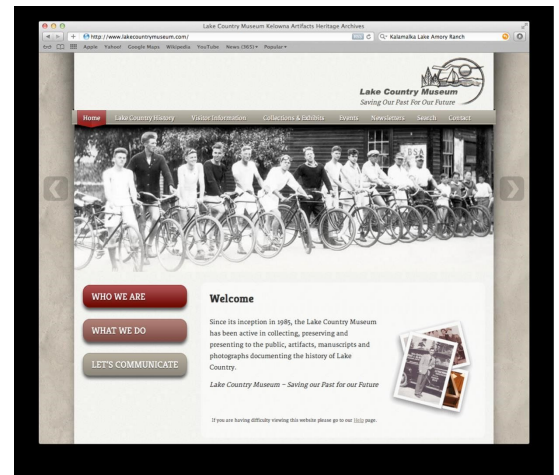
## Website

The redesigned website was launched in March 2012 and the addition of the CMS (content management system) has made the site simple to update and edit independently. The website includes text-searchable files, such as the Life Histories Manuscripts and the LCMA online history files, an RSS feed, and links to the Museum's Blog, Facebook Page, and YouTube Channel. Important additions to the LCMA website in 2013 were *The Wildflower Project* and *The Kokanee Salmon Heritage Project*, transferred from the Royal BC Museum's Living Landscapes website. With limited physical space at the Museum, the website allows the LCMA to bring our exhibits and archives into the community and provides access for researchers of Lake Country's history.

## WEBSITE STATISTICS

Daily Average number of Hits on the *Lake Country Museum* website:  
April 2010 to March 2011 was 772;  
April 2011 to March 2012 Daily Average Hit rate increased to 1,247;  
April 2012 to March 2013 Daily Average Hit rate increased to 5,383;  
April 2013 to March 2014 Daily Average Hit rate increased to 7,102.

(NB: March 2014 includes incomplete data as the report was produced on March 26, 2014, rather than at the end of March.)



## 2013 – 2014 GOALS MET

The goals for 2013 – 2014 that were set at the Annual General Meeting in April 2013 have been met for the most part. These goals were:

### Transferring portions of the Royal BC Museum's Living Landscapes project

The *Fieldguide to Wildflowers* and the *Kokanee Salmon Heritage Project* were transferred to the Museum's website.

### Maintaining and updating the website

Regular and frequent maintenance is necessary for the social media portion of the website – *Facebook*, *YouTube*, the *RSS*, and the *Blog*. The *YouTube* account was not kept current but the other social media accounts were. Good feedback was received from our *Facebook* and *Blog* readers.

Certain modifications and enhancements were made to the website:

- the logo was changed from Lake Country Museum to *Lake Country Museum and Archives*;
- an area to feature (rotating) Sponsors was added to the Home Page;
- the social media icons were made more visible by the addition of a second set of icons further up the page under *Let's Communicate*;

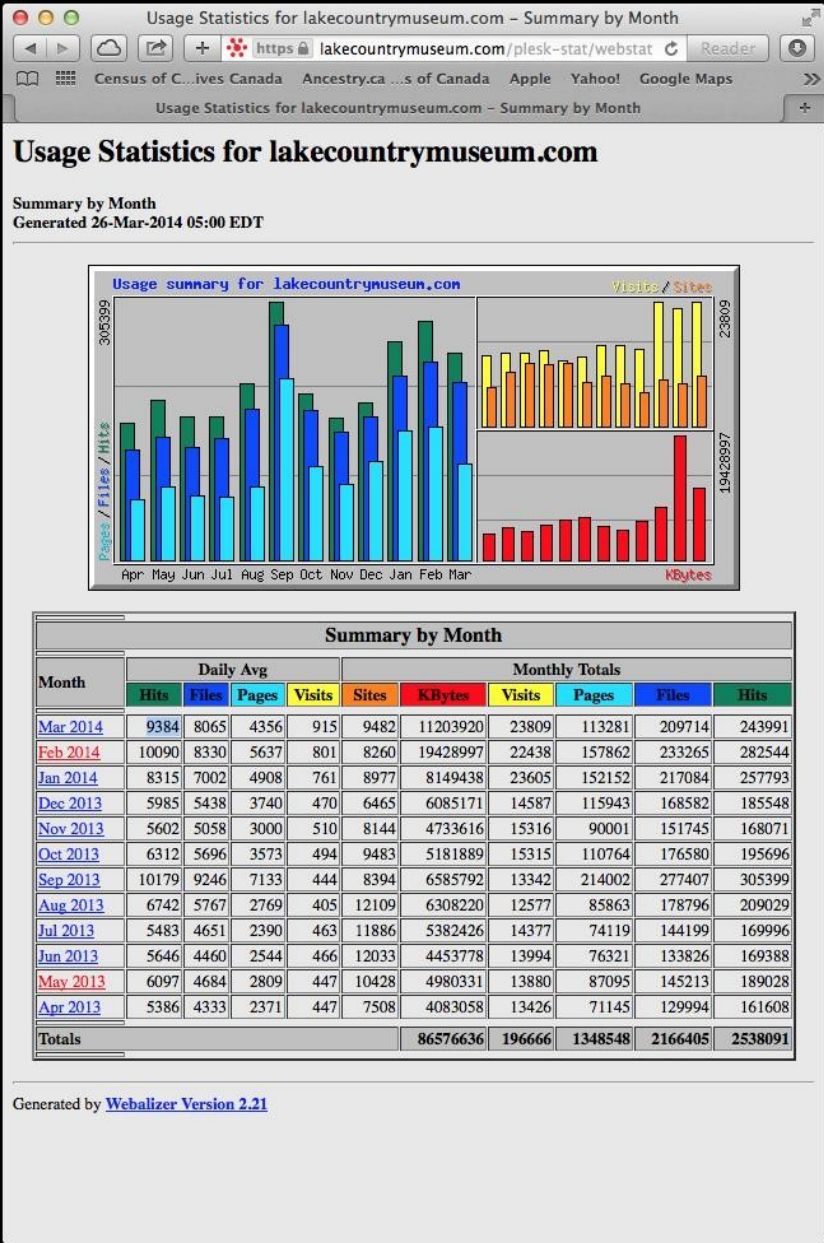


the banner photographs on the Home Page now rotate, in an attempt to make the HP more “active”.

We did not make it possible for readers to make Donations online, but will discuss this issue at the Board level.

2013 – 2014 GOALS

- Complete the editing and updating of the *Wildflowers* and *Kokanee Salmon* projects;
- transfer the *Letters of Dorothea Allison* from the *Living Landscapes* website to the *LCMA* website if funding is available;
- continue to compile and update the Users’ Manual;
- continue to maintain the website so that it is an interesting, attractive and current outreach for the Museum.



## Community Projects and Partnerships

### UBC-O Education Department Partnership

In the fall of 2013 (Sept-Nov) we again partnered with the UBC-O Education Department students. The thirteen students working with the LCMA completed short movies on aspects Lake Country's history, collected oral interviews, and created artefact-based big books as part of their classroom assignments. The completed movies can be viewed online at:



UBC O 2013 GREEN EDUC 417 - Winfield Packinghouse - Alyssa Parfitt  
by LyssLP • 3 months ago • 27 views  
An informational video for BC Grade 1 Social Studies.

**YouTube.com**     **UBC 2013 GREEN EDUC 417**

### Heritage Week

The LCMA worked with the Central Okanagan Heritage Society and other organizations to plan events for Heritage Week, February 17-23, 2014. LCMA staff and volunteers assisted with planning, media releases, the kick-off breakfast, and activities throughout the week including a special exhibit and talk at the Museum February 19<sup>th</sup> on Charles Sydney Goldman and the Boer War. To celebrate Heritage Week, the LCMA created a seven minute movie featuring the 2014 theme *Heritage Afloat*.

### BC Arts Council: Oral Histories of Lake Country's Artists

The 2014 project consists of recording the history of twelve of Lake Country's artists to document their life and work for the Archives and to engage the greater community by presenting the recorded histories through public programming activities. The LCMA is partnering with the Lake Country Art Gallery (LCAG) and is in consultation with the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan (ARTSCO) and the Lake Country ArtWalk and Public Art committees. The project is led by Vicky Mulholland, and assisted by Shea McMartin, UBCO intern, and Elaine Pybus, LCMA Director. The project includes a second internship opportunity for a student in digital filmmaking, to assist with the short video clips and feature compilation of the twelve artists. The community and residents of Lake Country are encouraged to participate and provide input into the project and selection of artists; interviews will continue as an ongoing LCMA project.



### History Pins

Research and work began in 2012 to select historical sites in Lake Country, where History Pins will eventually be located. History Pins are a collection of photographic images, videos, audio clips and descriptive and narrative text, which are 'pinned' to a site. Visitors to the site can access the collection on-site through the Smartphone App. Collections can also be viewed online at [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com).

### LCMA Arnold Award

The Lake Country Museum's COBSS Arnold Award of \$500 was presented to Rebecca Watson, George Elliott Secondary School, in May 2013.



### Central Okanagan Heritage Society Award

In 2013, Rosemary Carter received the *Distinguished Community Service Award* for her community and volunteer work in heritage. Rosemary, who has made extensive contributions to heritage preservation throughout the Okanagan, was presented with the award by the Central Okanagan Heritage Society at their Annual General Meeting in February 2013.





### **Communities in Bloom**

Museum staff and volunteers worked with the District of Lake Country's Communities in Bloom program again in 2013, and congratulate Lake Country on the Five Bloom Award received in 2013.



### **COHS Presentation**

Staff and volunteers presented at the COHS Fall Speaker Series October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 on the topic *Kakonosedai: A Century of Community*.

### **District of Lake Country Heritage Planning**

The LCHCS/LCMA worked with the District of Lake Country through 2012 to initiate a heritage survey of Lake Country. The LCHCS continues to work with the District on heritage issues, heritage planning and the placement of Historical markers throughout the community.

### **Building and Grounds**

The District of Lake Country has supported the Museum in numerous day-to-day operations and maintenance, including installing hand rails at the front entrance and steps, rebuilding the gateway entrance with a new roof, building hand rails for the stairs into the furnace room, painting signage for handicapped parking, and assisting with Annex cleanup and garbage removal. A set of seven chairs were donated for use in the Archives. The District also worked with the Museum to assist the LCMA in obtaining full funding through BC Hydro to install LED lighting throughout the building, a value of over \$2400.

### **Insurance**

The museum contents are now covered on an annual basis through Marsh Canada, under our CMA member rate of \$1000/year. Coverage includes permanent collections, items on loan, temporary exhibitions, and items in transit.

### **Professional Memberships**

The Canadian Heritage Information Network /CHIN

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA)

The BC Museums Association (BCMA)

The Archives Association of BC (AABC), Associate Member

Okanagan Historical Society

Central Okanagan Heritage Society

The LCMA is registered with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship Cultural Access Pass program for new immigrants.

## Lake Country Museum History

The Lake Country Museum has seen many changes over the past twenty-seven years, from the first vision of a community museum and parkland to the extensive artifacts and local history collections today.

The Okanagan Centre Elementary School was built in 1932, replacing the first school of 1911, and a second classroom was added as the community grew. The school population fluctuated over the years as other areas of the District of Lake Country developed, and the school closed permanently in 1984. As a school district trustee, Helen Gatzke knew about the closure. She, along with other members of the local Ratepayers Association, thought that the school property should be kept intact and used for the benefit of the community. On June 18, 1984 the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society was formed, with Helen Gatzke elected as the first president, Ron Carter the treasurer, and Jane Arnold the secretary. In June 1985, School District #23 advertised for bids to purchase the property. The Central Okanagan Regional District was prepared to bid \$1000 for it, and over 500 members of the community signed a petition expressing support for the CORD bid. In September, CORD agreed to grant the Heritage Society a long term lease and to maintain the grounds if the School District would turn over the property to them. At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the members voted unanimously to turn over the building and property to the Regional District for the sum of one dollar. It has housed the museum ever since.

