

# **Annual Report**

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

### **2016**



**Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society / Lake Country Museum and Archives**  
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## President's Report to the AGM

The past year has been another year of progress for the Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society (LCHCS) and its major project, the operation of the Lake Country Museum and Archives.

The Museum rotates exhibits at the Museum and at satellite exhibits at the Municipal Hall, George Elliot Secondary School, the Lake Country Community Complex and the Oyama Community Hall. Because the Museum is not located centrally in Lake Country, our outreach program is significant in serving our community. We maintain an active internet presence through our website, Blog, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Other elements of the Museum's outreach program are the *Lake Country: Origins in Time and Place Teaching Guide and Student Book*, the *Heritage Driving Tour*, and the ongoing History Pins project and community lectures. We have applied for a Canada 150 grant from the provincial government to erect five two-sided heritage markers at major intersections along the rail trail. The Okanagan Indian Band will collaborate on three of these panels if the application is successful.

In September we launched the *Applebox Belles* online exhibition through the Virtual Museum of Canada, a wonderful project featuring the workingwomen of Lake Country. See <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/virtual-exhibits/exhibit/applebox-belles-the-women-of-lake-countrys-packinghouses/>. This coming year we will partner with UBC Library Digital Initiatives in digitizing our extensive Rainbow Ranche collection. The project is spearheaded by Laura Neame and is funded by the Central Okanagan Foundation and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

This year we have completed building the shelving in the storage room in the basement of the Okanagan Centre Community Hall and are in the process of moving many of our stored artifacts to that facility. The new space allows our curator to store items individually rather than in plastic bins where they are much less accessible.

The Museum hours have been reduced this year. Part of the reason is that our part-time manager reduced her hours of employment in order to accommodate a second job, but also the reality is that we get few visitors during the winter months. It is a disappointment that Shannon Jorgenson has since resigned as Manager of the Lake Country Museum effective May 1, 2017. Shannon is our first manager and has made a major contribution to developing our outstanding little community museum. We owe her our deep appreciation.

The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society continues to be generously supported by the District of Lake Country and for this support we are appreciative.



Duane Thomson  
President  
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society  
April 6th, 2017



# The Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

## Lake Country Museum and Archives

### 2016 Highlights

The Museum, located at the shore of Lake Okanagan, houses artifacts, 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. The Lake Country Museum and Archives are open year round. Admission is by donation.

#### Staff/Volunteers

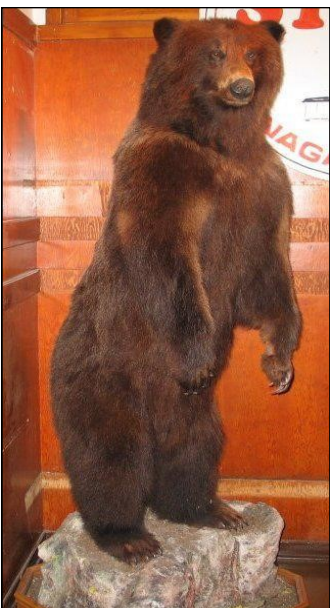
The LCMA currently has two part-time contractors, Curator, Dan Bruce, (3 days/month) and Manager, Shannon Jorgenson (12 hours/week). The LCMA filled two summer student positions in 2016, with wages partially paid through HRDC Canada Summer Jobs funding for 10 weeks, from mid-May to August. Lucas Anderson and Jaclyn Salter continued on a part time basis from August to Labour Day weekend.

The LCMA has an active, working Board of 13 and an additional 12 regular volunteers, without whom the Museum could not operate. Volunteers contributed 2233 hours in 2016.

The Lake Country Museum opened seven days a week through the summer of 2016 (May 24th to Labour Day). During the winter months, the Museum was open two days a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and also opened additional days on request for tour groups and researchers.

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

During 2016, 1704 people visited the Museum. Museum programming and outreach audience was an additional 550 people, totalling 2254 public audience. 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.



#### Membership

In 2015 the LCHCS completed a review of its membership in an effort to ensure that the list of members and their contact information is current and that members are apprised of the benefits of membership. Members now are those who, because they have made a contribution to the Society, have been offered membership. There are currently 175 members.



## 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 artifacts 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 4000 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 4500 artifacts is either on display or in storage and rotated on exhibit. The majority of items in the collection have been donated by local residents. The LCMA's permanent exhibits include gallery areas featuring Ranching and Blacksmithing, Tools, Orchards and Packinghouses, Irrigation, the Harvey Insect Collection, Lake Country's Schools, and the General Store.

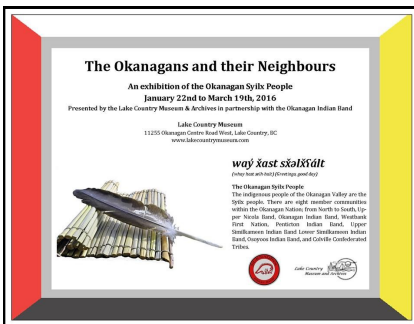
The LCMA collection continues to grow, with donations of primary documents, photographs, and objects important to Lake Country's history and development.



## Exhibits

### Exhibition: The Okanagans and Their Neighbours

This feature exhibition, in partnership with the Okanagan Indian Band, was on exhibit at the Museum from January to March 2016. Exhibit items included a buckskin dress hand painted by Barb P. Marchand, a hammerstone found on Okanagan Centre beach by Herb Fallow, dentalium shells, traditional Okanagan food and materials, and a modern-day stick game.



### Satellite Exhibits

The LCMA featured four satellite exhibits at the Municipal building through 2016, developed and installed by volunteer Karen Gibbons. Pictured below are The Okanagans, Knickknacks and Curios, Heritage Driving Tour, and Applebox Belles. The LCMA also maintains satellite exhibits at George Elliot Secondary School and at the Lake Country Community Complex.



## Oyama Legacy Exhibit

The LCHCS continues to work with the Oyama Community Hall Association to complete the permanent, legacy exhibition commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oyama Hall and Community Club. The Legacy Project features exhibits of artifacts and an eventual series of thirteen wall-mounted heritage panels which recognize and celebrate various aspects of Oyama's history.

The project also included hall upgrades and audio-visual equipment to expand the community's use of the hall to public presentations, history talks, and community events.





## Canadian Museum of History Virtual Museum of Canada Exhibit: *Applebox Belles*

The online exhibit, *Applebox Belles: The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses*, presents the experiences of the women working in Lake Country's early packinghouses from the early 1900s through to the 1950s. The Community Memories exhibition showcases the personal experiences of the apple wrapper flappers, the summer girls, and the orchard wives and includes first-hand accounts and interviews with these women and their descendants.

The orchard industry and packinghouses are an integral part of Lake Country's history, from the plantings of the first seedlings in 1907 to the present day. In 1909, the Okanagan Valley Land Company and the Wood Lake Fruitlands Company planted extensive apple orchards, alongside the smaller, independent orchards, and the community became established as a fruit growing center of the Okanagan. During the period 1909 through to today, at least twenty packinghouses have operated in Lake Country, employing primarily women who worked as packers, sorters, or stampers. Today, the Lake Country packinghouse is one of the major packinghouses in the Okanagan, still employing many women as packers. As an historic exhibition, *Applebox Belles* presents the story of the early years, prior to the changes in packinghouse operations.

The exhibit launched live September 2016 on the Virtual Museum of Canada's website at <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/virtual-exhibits/exhibit/applebox-belles-the-women-of-lake-countrys-packinghouses/>. This project was funded through the Canadian Museum of History and is the Lake Country Museum's second exhibit at the Virtual Museum of Canada.

**COMMUNITY MEMORIES**  *Applebox Belles: The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses*, an exhibit produced by the Lake Country Museum & Archives  [virtualmuseum.ca](http://virtualmuseum.ca)

Home Stories Gallery Français Search this site

**Applebox Belles**  
The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses

Women have been the backbone of this community's apple packing houses for over a century.

The applebox belles who worked in Lake Country's packinghouses from the early years to the 1950s bring you to the heart of the role of women in the early fruit industry. The orchard industry and packinghouses are an integral part of Lake Country's history, from the plantings of the first seedlings in 1907 to the present day. These determined women quickly became the workforce of the packinghouses, sorting, wrapping, packing, and stamping, and they transformed a routine job into a highly skilled profession for half a century until technological changes altered their roles.

Applebox Belles presents the stories of the pioneers, the Summer Girls, and the champion Apple Wrapper Flappers through vintage photographs, interviews, and personal recollections. Meet the belles and discover their legacy in this compelling exhibition by the Lake Country Museum and Archives.

*Start reading the story*

Staff of the Okanagan Valley Land Company packinghouse, Okanagan Centre, October 1931, 1948

Nora Carter, 1936



## Collections Storage

The off-site collections storage at the Okanagan Centre Hall was completed in 2016. The storage site is a secure, enclosed 200 square foot room in the basement of the hall. Three rows of compact shelving were built, allowing raised storage of artifacts and easy access. This storage room is significant in that the space has a consistent temperature for storage of less stable artifacts such as fabrics, baskets, and items containing liquids or other substances. The museum's Costume Booth and accessories are also stored at this location.



## Curator's Report

From the curatorial point of view, there is no doubt that the most important development over the past year has been the creation of collection storage space. Located in the basement of the Okanagan Centre Community Hall, this enables us to house and arrange parts of the collection that are not currently on exhibit. We have in the past, had to store items packed in boxes. This creates a problem in that the collection is subjected to a great deal of unnecessary handling when a specific item is required. Having the collection visible on open shelves enables us to select easily objects when needed to create new exhibitions, or provide access for those doing research.

Our collection has continued to grow, and there have been several important donations of artifacts in recent months. Shirley Galenkamp has presented us with the remaining items in her collection of Navajo silver and turquoise jewellery. These, a group of necklaces, now join the jewellery and ceramic pieces that she and Randy Nagel donated previously.

Anne Land continues her supply of interesting items of local interest, this time a large enamel kettle used to make tea for the members of the Okanagan Centre Tennis Club. Jim and Gretchen Dawson have been generous to the museum in the past, and in the process of moving house, have now added significantly to our collection of patent medicine packaging, and some interesting memorabilia of Jim's working career overseas. The west wall of the Anne Land Room houses the "General Store" collection, which has now become impressive in scope and content. We would like to encourage local producers of various commodities to donate examples of their packaging to the Museum, which sounds very simple and easy, but in fact, collecting the local and contemporary takes a great deal of effort.

As Curator of the Lake Country Museum, I was asked to be a guest lecturer for the "Society for Learning in Retirement" in Kelowna. To date, I have given two lecture series, the first, "Columbus and the Taino Indians" was a four part session, looking at the indigenous people of the Caribbean, and their interaction with the Spanish invaders. This was attended by 11 people. The second was also a four part session, entitled "The Aztecs of Mexico, Life and Culture". Attendance rose to 22 for this one. In October I was the guest speaker at Castle Coole, Northern Ireland, and at the request of the Earl of Belmore spoke to an audience of 32 on "Governing Jamaica, with special reference to the term of office of the Second Earl of Belmore, 1829 – 1832". On November 4th, I spoke to the Calgary Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. The title was "In the Footsteps of Amelia Edwards, a modern day tour through Ancient Egypt".

To end on an interesting note, we have just had a communication from Ms. Akiko Kuno, a great granddaughter of Iwao Oyama, for whom our community is named. We very much look forward to learning more about Prince Oyama and extending our involvement with the Japanese facet of our history.

*Dan Bruce, Curator*



## Archives Report

In the past year we have added to our collection of photographs of the early days of Lake Country, and made many more available to the public. One of the most notable was the final additions of the George Goulding albums. Most of the photos in this collection were taken in the Oyama area, starting in 1907 up to the late 1920s. Many are landscape views of the area, as well as many of Iris point (now Kaloya Park). The Gouldings bought this property from the Trasks in the early 1920s.

The James Gleed glass negative collection was finally entered into our PastPerfect database in its entirety. While many prints from these negatives have circulated, they had not been accessioned. Most of the photos were of Okanagan Centre and environs between 1909 and 1914. They include interior and exterior shots of houses built by Teddy Hare, including Gibson House, now a part of Kopje Park. James Gleed, in addition to acting as Postmaster and grocer for the community of Okanagan Centre, was a mason, and was responsible for the fireplaces and other stone and brick features of these pre-world war one houses and outbuildings.

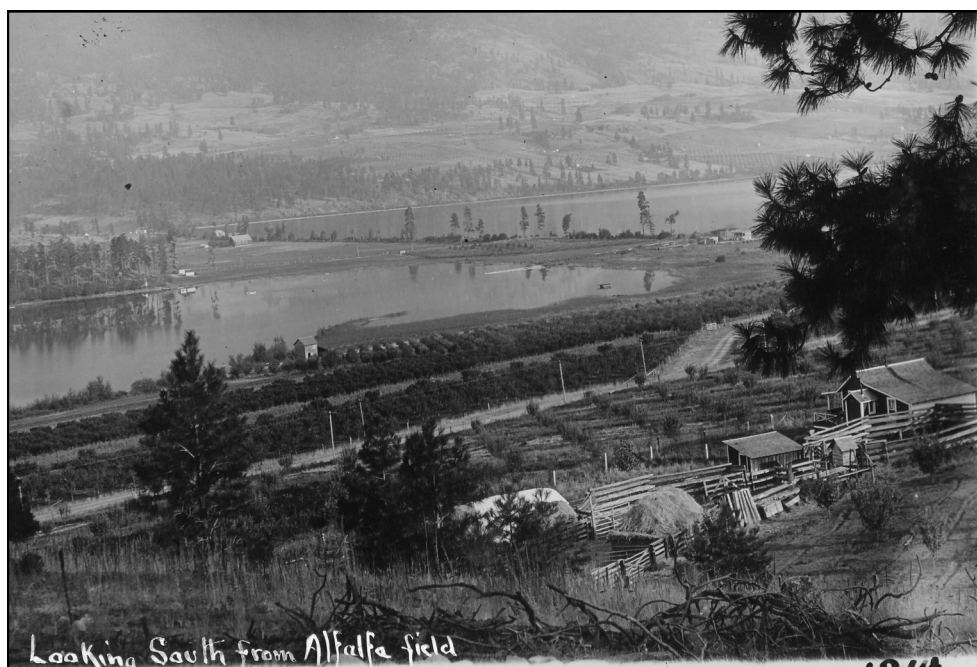
A donation of photographs and artifacts from the Canadian cowboy Slim Haugen, were added to the collection. Slim Haugen worked as a cowboy on the Eldorado Ranch (now, in part, the Kelowna Airport), and settled in Winfield on his retirement, although his working life was mostly in the mountains of Alberta and B.C. Many thanks to the original donors, Randy Nagel and his wife Shirley Gallenkamp (and Dan Bruce for arranging) for stopping by the museum and putting us straight on the origin of many of the photos.



We received a significant donation of six boxes from Rolly Hein, former Mayor of Lake Country. This is thanks to Rosemary Carter, who contacted me to let me know about the material. Chiefly from the 1970s and 1980s, the files deal, among other things, with business arising from the Regional District before Lake Country's incorporation. The material has been moved to acid free containers for preservation, but have not yet been entered into the collection.

As a result of a successful grant application, we now have the opportunity to preserve the Rainbow Ranche material digitally. This is dealt with elsewhere in the report. Much of the work for this project will take place over the next few months and into the fall.

*Laura Neame*  
*Archivist*





## Rainbow Ranche Collection Digitization

In 2016, The Lake Country Museum and Archives received project approval to digitize a major collection of records and correspondence pertaining to the Rainbow Ranche.

The Rainbow Ranche Collection was donated to the Lake Country Museum in 2013 by the family of the late James Goldie. After review, conservation, and preservation of the collection, the LCMA determined that providing public access while limiting handling of the material was essential. The digitization will be done by the UBC Library, who specialize in high quality scanning of archival documents. The Rainbow Ranche Digitization project is partnered with UBC Library Digital Initiatives, Vancouver Campus and will be fully available on the UBC Library Open Collections website at <https://open.library.ubc.ca> late 2017. The project is funded by the Central Okanagan Foundation and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.



## B.C. HISTORY DIGITIZATION PROGRAM

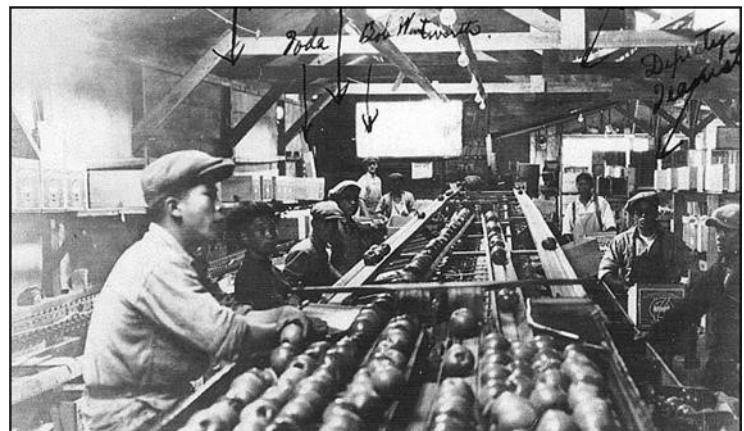
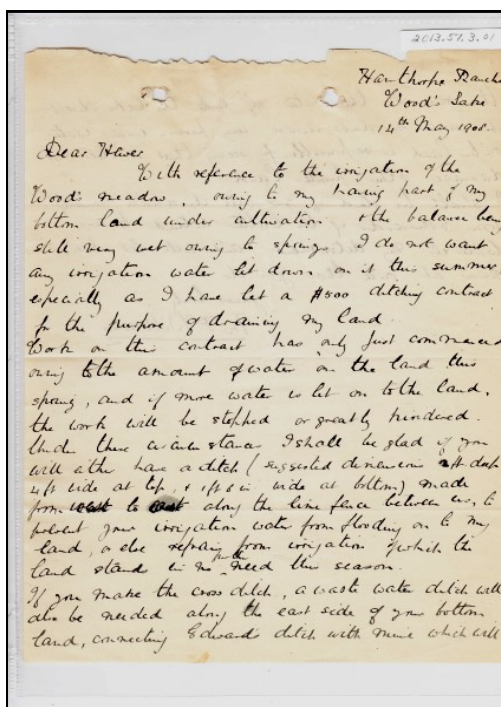
Application: Lake Country Museum and Archives

Rainbow Ranche Collection Digitization



Frank Hewer at the Rainbow Ranche orchards, 1910.

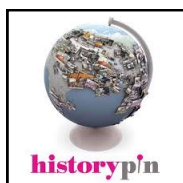
The Rainbow Ranche was one of the first independent fruit ranches in the Okanagan, owned by several partners and managed by onsite partner James Goldie. The partners maintained a comprehensive correspondence and set of ledgers detailing the first plantings and orchard operations over twenty-seven years. Ledgers and payroll records show that the Rainbow's orchards and packinghouse employed a crew of Japanese workers under a Japanese foreman and a crew of European immigrants with a second foreman. The two crews worked side by side and many of the workers lived in bunkhouses at the Rainbow. The correspondence also provides an insight into work and life in the Okanagan in the early 1900s. The project will digitize the Rainbow's correspondence and records from 1906 to 1933. Some additional records and ledgers from 1934 to the 1940s will also be included for consistency. Material dating after the scope of this project, up to 1974, will be a later project.



## Public and Community Programming

### Community Memories Interviews

The LCMA staff and volunteers conduct video and/or audio interviews to preserve Lake Country's history. The Museum has 84 interviews in the Archives, which include local history interviews, Community Builders interviews, and local artists. Also included in the Oral Histories collection are three tracks of *CKOV Radio Oldtimer's Microphone* and fourteen episodes of *Pioneers and Places*.



### History Pins

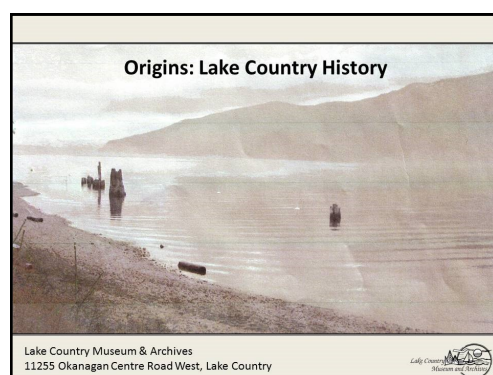
Research and work began in 2012 to select historical sites in Lake Country, where History Pins have been placed by the LCMA. We currently have 195 sites pinned, with five grouped collections and one tour. The sites can be viewed online at [www.historypin.org](http://www.historypin.org).

## Public Programming

The Museum presented a number of guided tours and outreach programs during 2016, including the Lake Country Boys and Girls Club, the Winfield and Oyama library Summer Reading Clubs, the Westbank First Nation Elders Group, and retirement homes. The Museum worked with the District of Lake Country to bring the old-time costume photo booth to a number of events, including the Lake Country Indoor Children's Festival, Centrepiece, Oyama Fun Day and outdoor concerts. The History of Lake Country presentation and Discovery Kit was presented to several classrooms and also as community presentations in May and November, featured through the Activity Guide. Curator Dan Bruce presented a lecture series at The Society for Learning in Retirement, and presented locally, nationally, and internationally on various topics.

### Costume Booth

The Costume Booth has been very popular and is now a regular feature at museum and community events. The costumes and accessories fit adults and children of all sizes and have been designed or remade for easy dressing. Participants are invited to take self photos or, in some cases, the Museum takes digital photos to email.





## Heritage Week

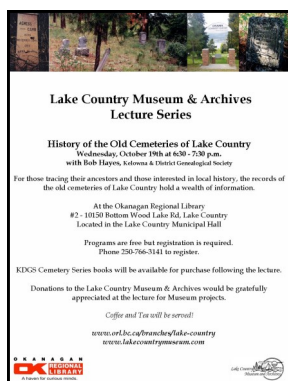
Heritage Week 2016 featured the theme *Distinctive Destinations*. The LCMA worked with museums and heritage organizations throughout the Central Okanagan to present a series of events and a photo exhibits.

## LCMA Lecture Series

The LCMA offered two public lectures at the Winfield Library in 2016. The LCMA plans to continue offering free, public lectures and presentations at various venues.

*Pioneer Families of Lake Country*, presented by Laura Neame October 5th, 2016.

*History of the Old Cemeteries of Lake Country*, Presented by Bob Hayes October 19th, 2016.



## Community Projects and Partnerships

### UBC Partnership

The Museum continues to work with the University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus in historical research and internships.

### The Okanagan Indian Band

We are pleased to have worked with the Okanagan Indian Band in 2015 and 2016 and hope to further develop this partnership.

### LCMA Arnold Award

The Lake Country Museum's COBSS Arnold Award of \$500 was presented to Alexandra Ireland, George Elliott Secondary School, in May 2016.

### *Paved with Good Intentions: The Roads of Lake Country*

Museum volunteer Margaret Carruthers published *Paved With Good Intentions*. Copies are available at the Museum Gift Shop.

### Heritage Planning

The LCHCS/LCMA maintains working partnerships with the Central Okanagan Heritage Society and Heritage BC and continues to work with the District of Lake Country on heritage issues and the placement of heritage markers throughout the community.





## Website Report

The face of the Lake Country Museum and Archives is its website and through it, connections through *Facebook*, *YouTube* and the Blog.

### Website Statistics

During 2015 the website statistic-gathering software was changed from *Webalizer* to *Google Analytics*. Unfortunately *Google Analytics* was inadvertently disabled during one of the site updates, therefore our statistics for 2016 are not complete. However, in the time period for which we have data for 2016, it is noted that over half of the traffic on our site came from mobile devices: Apple iPhones (30.46%) and Apple iPads (21.03%) so it is comforting to know that our site is now fully functional with mobile devices. Demographic statistics indicate that more women than men access our site, and the major age range of users are in the upper age brackets.

### Social Media

The Manager maintains the *Facebook* presence in the winter months and summer students maintain it during May through August. In addition to historical vignettes and photographs, *Facebook* provides announcements that alert the Lake Country community of heritage and community events throughout the Valley. The *Facebook* page has been quite active during 2016; our Manager, Shannon, has done an admirable job on keeping this interface current.

The Manager also maintains the Museum's *YouTube* channel. On *YouTube* one is connected to Heritage Week videos and interviews of Lake Country residents (e.g. the Applebox Belles, Kakonosedai, Oral history of Lake Country Artists series) as well as student-produced videos from the UBCO Education students.

The *Blog*, maintained by Webmaster Carol Thomson, provides historical vignettes and photographs on a weekly basis and a limited number of announcements when appropriate. There have been 388 posts (as of 2017-03-12) since the Blog's inception. Although the number of subscribers is relatively low (161 as of 2017-03-12) there is substantial, and very interesting, feedback and appreciation from readers.

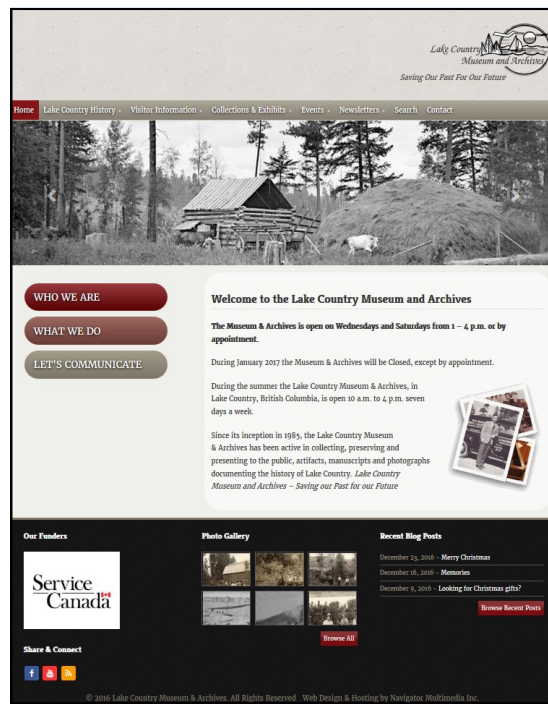
### 2016 Goals

- upload to our site, or link to the Canadian History Museum, new projects such as the *Applebox Belles*, *The Women of Lake Country's Packinghouses*;
- continue to maintain the website – adding monthly displays, events, documents, collections, exhibits and major exhibitions;
- increase the number of blog posts about the Museum's artifact collection;
- have the website made fully functional on all mobile devices;
- review the workings of the website and make improvements to accessibility when funds are available.
- These goals have been met, although the Archival blog posts still outnumber the posts about Artifacts. The fact that the website is now fully functional on mobile devices has been extremely important. Although some old features were lost, the fact that our content is fully available on a cellphone or tablet has more than compensated for those losses.

### 2017 Goals

- upload to our site any new projects, e.g. digitized Rainbow Rancho records, photograph collections, etc.
- continue to maintain the website, adding monthly displays, events, documents, collections, exhibits and major exhibitions;
- increase the number of blog posts about the Museum's artifact collection;
- review the workings of the website and make improvements to accessibility when funds are available.

*Carol Thomson, Webmaster*



## Building and Grounds

The District of Lake Country supports the Museum in numerous day-to-day operations and maintenance.

Of particular importance, is the restoration and rebuild of the Museum's east wall in 2016, an intensive and necessary project by the District of Lake Country and a restoration company.

### Insurance

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



### Professional Memberships

The Canadian Heritage Information Network / Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC)

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.

### The Lake Country Museum thanks our donors, supporters, sponsors, and funders, including:

- The District of Lake Country
- Central Okanagan Foundation
- The Canadian Museum of History
- Irving K. Barber Foundation
- BC History Digitization Program
- HRSDC—Canada Summer Jobs

## Lake Country Museum History

The Lake Country Museum has seen many changes over the past thirty 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.

