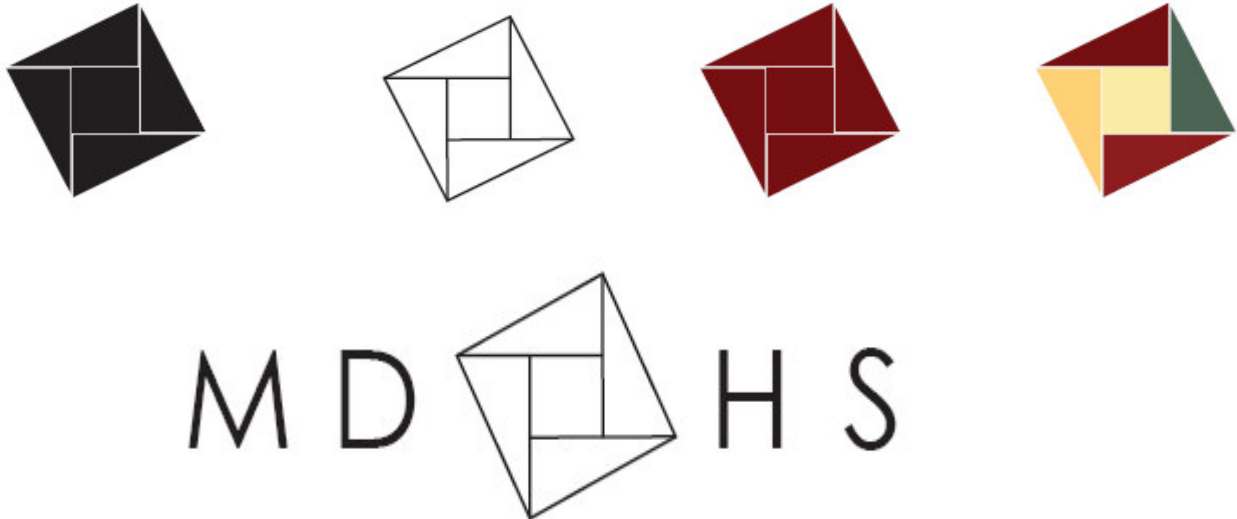


MISSION DISTRICT  HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Our Past in Perpetuity

Summer 2009 Newsletter



The above designs reflect our chosen logo to represent our Society. The logo is based upon the Pythagorean Theorem which has been stylized to represent the four departments of the society. The four sides are linked and within the square are four triangles, when linked together form the letter "P" in every direction. The tag line *Our Past in Perpetuity* reinforces the intent of the logo; and the colors chosen are in the tonal range associated with Heritage.

Fred Granzow of LoGos image2print who designed the logo in consultation with members of the Society stated:

"my guiding principals in developing the icon was simplicity, the ability to reproduce clearly at small and large size and the ability to be equally effective in black and white as well as color, with directionality forward and/or upward."

Canada Day at
Fraser River
Heritage Park
July 1st



Join Heritage Places volunteers for a day of fun and history!
Meet characters from Mission's unique past, find out more about the new
downtown mural.

Food Fun Music
Volunteers are needed
Help bring Mission's history to life!
Contact Sharon at 604 832-4236

HOURS OF OPERATION

MISSION COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

mca@missionarchives.com

Thursday 9am to 5pm and 7pm to 9pm
Friday 9am to 4pm
Closed both days 12 to 1pm. School groups by appointment.
Val Billesberger, Archivist & Records Manager @ 604-820-2621

MISSION MUSEUM

www.mission.museum.bc.ca

Thursday 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm
Friday 1pm to 4pm
First Saturday of the month 10am to 12pm

Joanna Karczmarek, Curator @ 604-826-1011

MISSION DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

missiondhs@yahoo.ca

Thursday 12 to 5pm Friday 1 to 4pm
Jill Holgate, Administrative Assistant @ 604-820-2621

2009 Board of Directors

President

Andrew Hornidge

Vice President

Treasurer

Ann Senae

Secretary

Sheryl McKamey

Trustee

Lori-Anne Malone

HPB Co-Chairs

Mildred Vollick
Sharon Syrette

Staff

Archivist.....Val Billesberger
Curator.....Joanna Karczmarek
Admin. Assistant.....Jill Holgate
Council Rep.....Mike Scudder

Pictured here with Cathie Marcellus, Dorothy Crosby (right) received a certificate of recognition for her outstanding volunteer service and contributions towards fostering community awareness and preservation of Heritage resources.



A resident of Mission since 1962, Dorothy was an active member of the Mission District Historical Society for many years, serving as the first curator of the present day museum. During the 21 years she held this volunteer position, Dorothy played an integral role in the preservation and management of the community's irreplaceable heritage resources. Through her exceptional dedication and diligence, she built the collection of local artifacts and archives to ensure the community's history would not be lost; developed exhibits, special events, and educational programs on local history; kept the museum open seven days a week with the assistance of her volunteer staff; and researched and wrote numerous articles to promote and educate others about the community's history.

News from Heritage Places Branch



Local History Tours

Looking for low-cost activities to enjoy during the next few months. Pack up a lunch, fill the car with family and friends, and embark on a 'local history tour'. It's a good idea to start first with a visit to our new website www.missiondhs.com/heritageplaces to do select some places to visit, and to learn about the past.

Starting from the west, you'll find information about St. Anthony's Church, the Allan/Ruddick residence, and communities of Stave Falls and Steelhead.

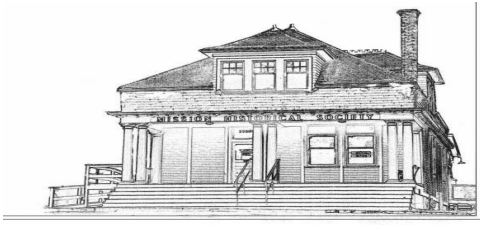
Closer to Mission, the Silver Creek Wetlands and Conservation area is worth a visit. This piece of natural history has been added to the local parks system; volunteers from the Stave River Salmonid Enhancement Society work with the District and other partners to preserve essential wetlands, and the many species that rely on it. You'll see lots of changes, as new walking paths and channels are being built.

East of Mission, the historic communities of Dewdney, Nicomen Island, Deroche and Lake Errock are worth a visit. The website will give you lots of information about the early settlers and some of the buildings which remain. The area attracted many farmers, as well as merchants and loggers. Men who were first attracted to the 1858 Gold Rush often purchased land, settled in the area, and raised their families. Along the way, they built schools, churches, general stores, and community halls.

Volunteers from Heritage Places branch continue to research local historic sites; new information is being posted regularly, so check our website every few weeks. And while you are there, add your own memories, stories or questions about any of the 16 sites already on-line.

A local self-guided Walking Tour of the many historic buildings in our downtown area is available at the Museum, Leisure Centre and some local merchants. Take it along as you stroll through town, and find out about the colorful merchants and developers from the past. Volunteer guides will be available for Saturday morning tours during the summer.

If you love local history and would like to get involved, Heritage Places branch welcomes new volunteers – research a historic site that isn't yet on-line, or join us at the many special events and celebrations during the summer. Contact Sharon at 604 832-4236 or email heritage.places@gmail.com.



News from Mission Museum

The Mission Museum held its Antiques Appraisal and Record Swap on Saturday May 30th 2009. We had fifteen people register. May 23 began our first Garden Growing program, and it was also a great success. We still have room in our planter, so any individuals looking to plant something are more than welcome to use our little plot. We want to wow this years "Communities in Bloom" judges, and we need your help to do it!

In the near future the new Mission Museum Community Garden will have a sign painted onto the planter box thanking our generous sponsors, Fraser Valley Building Supplies and unnamed members of the community who helped me shovel dirt into the planter box.

We have hired our summer students, and Nichole Thompson will be returning as our Youth Programs Coordinator, and Erin Pasternak will be our new Youth Programs Collections Facilitator. Nichole hopes to become a teacher, and Erin recently graduated from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design with a Major in Photography. With two skilled students working on the Kids Club this year, it is certain to be a great summer.

The Mission Museum has recently acquired a new laptop to help with our collections overhaul. We have one more software program to purchase online, and we will be ready to start entering data into our new collections computer system, Past Perfect. It will be a slow process, but we are getting closer and closer to trouble free researching and program enhancement.

The Mission Museum has a solid base of volunteers now, committed dedicated and reliable volunteers who I now consider to be part of the staff. We also continue to have new individuals interested in volunteering. This being said we still are looking for more people to help us on Fridays from one to three with our Kids Club program, and Sundays-Tuesdays we need people to water our new Community Garden. Please let anyone who you think would be interested know about the volunteer opportunities at the Mission Museum.

Joanna Karczmarek
Curator



Our Collective Memory

by Val Billesberger

In the 2008 Winter edition of the newsletter, this column featured an article titled "Battling the Backlog." It provided an overview on the status of unprocessed holdings in the Archives. Here is an update on what is being done to make the Archives holdings more accessible to the public along with news of some recent acquisitions by the Mission Community Archives.

BACKLOG STRATEGY APPROVED



On January 13th, the Archives Advisory Committee finalized a plan for reducing the archives backlog for submission to the Personnel Committee and the following month it was approved by the Executive.

The goal of the plan—titled Backlog Reduction Strategy: Phase 1—is to

increase and sustain public access to the resources in the Community Archives. This will be achieved by having the Archivist:

- catalogue unprocessed, inaccessible materials in the archives in accordance with Canadian Archival Standards; and
- develop a sustainable infrastructure (i.e., policy, procedures, staff recruitment and training program, resources) to reduce the backlog on an ongoing basis and prepare a blueprint for action for Phase II.

In March, the Archivist's hours of work were amended so she could work on the backlog without interruption 6 hours per week. Instead of Thursday and Friday mornings, she now works evenings and Saturdays on the backlog. This arrangement ensures the Archivist is still available to volunteers and the public in the afternoons when the Archives is open. Long-time volunteer Donna Rash was appointed by the Executive to maintain public hours and services during the Archivist's absence.

For the past several months, the Archivist has worked on processing new acquisitions which has included meeting with donors to obtain the information she needs to prepare finding aids. She has also spent time researching new trends in the archival community on how to effectively deal with backlogs. And last month, she attended an ICA-AtoM workshop at the Archives Association of British Columbia's (AABC) Annual Conference, held at the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies computer lab.

ICA-AtoM stands for *International Council on Archives - Access to Memory*. It is a web-based, free software application designed to support standards including the Canadian *Rules for Archival Description (RAD)*. This will enable the Archivist to put information about the Archives holdings on an online searchable database through the AABC's new <http://MemoryBC.ca> portal. Those who attended the training session will be the first set of users to contribute new archival descriptions following the MemoryBC 'soft' launch in June. There will be more information about this in future newsletters.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

During the first quarter of this year, the archives received 21 acquisitions. Listed below are a few of the most recent donations. A special thanks to all our donors!

- ✧ **Peter Albee**—A member of the 1946 graduating class of Mission High School, Mr. Albee donated his school annuals, graduation program, photographs, memorabilia, and newsletters—*News and Views*. The newsletters date from 1940 to 1947 and therefore provide an extensive record of school activities, sports, and special events during this time period.
- ✧ **Lorraine "Lorrie" Bennett (1908-2009)** For more than 60 years, Lorraine Bennett, a charter member of the Historical Society, kept scrapbooks. Upon her death, 23 of her scrapbooks were donated by Lorraine's son and daughter to the archives. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, cards, letters and memorabilia pertaining to her life, interests and Mission—"her home town."
- ✧ **Western Canadian Soapbox Derby Association**—Roger Hilliard, the last president, donated the records of the association which he had stored in his basement since the group's dissolution in 1974. The group was established in 1957 to manage Mission's original derby (1946-1973) founded by Jimmy Gunn. The records provide a comprehensive record of the association's activities and include the constitution & bylaws, agreements, minutes, financial records, rules and regulations, correspondence, lists, bulletins, press releases, newspaper clippings, photos, programs and memorabilia.
- ✧ **Hatzic Cemetery & OMI Cemetery CD-ROMs**—After visiting the Community Archives two members of the British Columbia Genealogical Society—Valerie Hooper and Linda Cunningham—prepared a searchable database of cemetery inscriptions for these local cemeteries. The database includes photographs of the cemeteries and some of the markers. These invaluable resources have been added to the Archives Reference Library Collection.

Mission District Historical Society

33215 Second Avenue, P.O. Box 3522

Mission, BC V2V 4L1

Phone: 604-820-2621

Email: missiondhs@yahoo.ca

Membership Renewal 2009

Date: _____

Name: _____
(Surname, given names (please print))

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone # (_____) _____ Cell # (_____) _____
(optional)

Email address: _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email? Yes _____ No _____

Do you authorize MDHS to use your personal information for purposes of notifying you about volunteer opportunities, professional development and special events? Yes _____ No _____

Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____ Special Rate \$ _____ Donation \$ _____

Clubs/Organizations \$25 _____ Businesses/Corporations \$50 _____

Privacy Statement: *The Mission District Historical Society collects and uses the personal information on this form to create the membership list which is not used for commercial distribution purposes. The Society retains all personal information for communications regarding membership activities, benefits and services.*

Benefits to becoming a member:

- Newsletter
- Free admission to the museum
- 10% off any gift shop item
- First opportunity to participate in special events
- Invitations to exhibit openings, special guest lecture series and public events
- Volunteers receive a reduced rate for membership
- Discounts on archival research, workshops, and reprographic services
- V.I.P. tours of the archives and museum by special arrangement.