

The Almanac



CHILLIWACK
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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ARCHIVED NEWSPAPERS GO DIGITAL

Two years after the idea was conceived, we are pleased to announce the digitization of 90 years of the *Chilliwack Progress* newspapers. The newspapers dating from 1891 to 1983 are now online and freely available to researchers around the world. Phase two is underway with a goal of digitizing up to 1991, totalling 100 years.

The Chilliwack Progress Digitization Project grew out of a desire to improve access to historic records for Chilliwack Museum and Archives' patrons. The project received the green light after funding was secured from a City of Chilliwack Community Development Initiatives grant (\$5,000), a Chilliwack Foundation grant (\$5,000), and the BC History Digitization Grant from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC (\$15,000) in March, 2013. Generous in-kind contributions from partners Black Press Media and the Chilliwack Progress made the high-end, searchable website possible.

The Chilliwack Progress historic newspapers are one of the largest and most used groups of records at the Archives. The long running and continuous printing of the publication means that it is a great source for glimpsing into everyday events, news, and daily life in Chilliwack since 1891. Researchers will find the ability to keyword search the newspapers incredibly time-saving as they will no longer need to spend many hours trolling the microfilmed issues. The advanced search engine now allows online visitors to browse years at a time, pinpoint dates and issues, and even clip and print relevant information. The newspapers can be accessed through a link on our website or directly at:

www.theprogress.newspapers.com

CONTENTS

Archived Newspapers go Digital
Great War Exhibit Opens
New Curator Jane Lemke
Heritage Award Recipients
Student Gurpreet Kang
What's New in Chambers Gallery
UFV's Great War Day
Announcement
Chilliwack Poppy Project

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GREAT WAR EXHIBIT OPENS

After months of preparation, our newest exhibit has opened to rave reviews: Chilliwack's Great War: At Home and Overseas. The exhibit's opening reception was held on August 4th, the date of the 100th anniversary of Britain entering the war and; therefore, Canada as part of the British Empire. Over 180 visitors attended the reception and reminisced about their loved ones who fought in the Great War. Thank you to all who came out!

The exhibit honours the memory of those from Chilliwack whose lives were impacted and changed forever by the Great War, now referred to as the First World War. The exhibit is the result of collaboration between staff, spanning years beginning with the research of former Curator, Paul Ferguson. Artifacts were selected to highlight the commemoration of the Great War. Of particular interest is a gothic-style stained glass window from St. Thomas Anglican Church, which was installed in December 1916 in commemoration of the Chilliwack soldiers who lost their lives. Staff also prepared a slideshow of the lives of all 99 soldiers whose names appear on the Cenotaph.



Chilliwack Museum and Archives Society Director Robin Lister at the Exhibit's opening reception, August 4th, 2014.

Many members of the community generously loaned artifacts for the exhibit including David and Mary Boulding, Myrtle Pedersen, Neil Grainger and the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society.

The exhibit will be on display until Fall 2015.

NEW CURATOR JANE LEMKE

In July the Museum welcomed new curator, Jane Lemke to the staff. Jane has acquired six years experience in the heritage field, most recently having covered a maternity leave contract at the Langley Centennial Museum as Arts and Heritage Curator and having worked as Curator at the Mission Museum. Jane holds an MA in history and is current working towards a Master of Museum Studies with the University of Leicester's (UK) distance education program.

Originally from New Westminster, Jane is knowledgeable about the history of the Fraser Valley and British Columbia, and is strong in exhibition development, artifact registration, volunteer management and

museum administration. As curator, Jane is becoming more familiar with the object collections and the community and is building relationships with members, donors and community partners. If you have an artifact question, donation, or just want to say hi, Jane is the person to ask for. Welcome Jane!



HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year at their Annual General Meeting, the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society recognizes individuals, community organizations, governments or businesses whose efforts have made important contributions to the culture, history and/or heritage of Chilliwack. This year, the Society honoured the following people and organizations: **Linda Phelps** for the Heritage designation of her home, the "Gervan House"; **Rob O'Brennan and Gwyneth Jones** for the Heritage designation of their home "Stonehurst"; **St. Thomas Anglican Church** for the publication: *St. Thomas Anglican Church 1873 – 2013*; **Ron Denman** for his career long contributions to many local history publications including the Chilliwack Historical Society's most recent book: *Memories of Sardis*. Ron Denman also received an Honourary Life Membership to the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society for his long service as Director of the Chilliwack Museum

and Archives; **Bea Mazurenko, Eleanore Reid, Diane Warner, DayIn Sexsmith and Mary McGhee** for installing a heritage plaque at Ryder Lake.



Troy Stevens and Deacon Jennifer Burgoyne from St. Thomas receive a heritage award from Society President Fred Feistmann.

STUDENT JIMMY MARKS

Last February, grade 12 student Jimmy Marks began his work experience at the Museum which saw him earn course credits while gaining valuable work experience. Jimmy chose the Museum and Archives as his interests lie in history and culture, particularly Roman history, the Dark Ages, the three Kingdoms of China, classical music and jazz.

Jimmy's work involves photographing artifact collections, scanning archival documents, returning artifacts to their proper storage locations and data entry. He has learned the importance of attention to detail and has found this new work has really helped him to be focussed. Jimmy's initial work experience concluded last April, but has now been extended for the month of August where he is working with curator Jane Lemke on more curatorial projects.



STUDENT GURPREET KANG

This June, the museum welcomed history student Gurpreet Kang to the team for the summer.

Gurpreet has been working hard, developing an online exhibit based on the Museum's past medical exhibit entitled: "May Health, Peace and Contentment be Yours". Gurpreet has also gained experience in answering reference questions, handling artifacts, working with our collections database, performing visitor services at the Museum and cataloguing archival photographs. Be sure to visit the online exhibit, being launched this fall. Best of wishes to Gurpreet in his future endeavours!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM'S CHAMBERS GALLERY...

HORSES FROM THE MISTS OF TIME, AUG 9- SEP 26: This photographic exhibit explores the evolution of horses in North America over 50 million years. On **September 13**, Margaret Evans will present a illustrated talk about the history of horses. Times to be announced.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS, OCT 4 - NOV 6: Presented by the Chilliwack Visual Artists Association. Opening reception is October 4th from 12:00 - 2:00pm.

UFV's GREAT WAR DAY

On Friday, October 3rd, the University of the Fraser Valley will be marking the Great War centenary with a special event taking place from 10:00am to 4:00pm in the small gym on UFV's Abbotsford Campus. The event will feature a memorabilia exhibition, inviting members of the community to share family photographs, military items, artifacts and ephemera. Other events will include displays from local museums, archives, private collectors and presentations by UFV history students, guest speakers and faculty.

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives will have an exhibition table at the event with photographs, research and other information available relating to the Great War. For more information or to register for the memorabilia exhibition, watch the UFV history department's website: www.ufv.ca/history or contact the University's department of history.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Deborah Hudson has left the position as the Director of the Museum and Archives to pursue other interests. Ron Denman will act as the Interim Director while a search is undertaken to find a new director.



CHILLIWACK POPPY PROJECT

Last winter, Molly Ungar, Associate Professor in the department of History at the University of the Fraser Valley contacted the Museum to host her UFV work study student working on a project called the "Chilliwack Poppy Project". The project entails finding the home addresses of all the sailors, soldiers and airmen commemorated on Chilliwack's War Memorial, and then plotting the findings on a map which will be made available online. Pierce Smith began research at the Archives in January.

Pierce began his research with the binders of information previously assembled by staff. He also consulted tax rolls, census' and community directories to find out where the soldiers lived. The research proved interesting as Pierce worked to determine whether soldiers lived at home with their families or lodged elsewhere. Pierce was able to gather helpful information from the resources available at the Archives. The project is expected to continue this fall.



UFV student Pierce Smith works on the Poppy Project at the Archives.



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