

# The Almanac



CHILLiwack  
museum & archives

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## PENNIES FOR OUR "AN-CENT-ORS"



In early May the last penny was minted at the Royal Canadian Mint's Winnipeg facility. The federal government will stop circulating pennies early as this fall when current inventories are depleted. It's an end of an era. No more penny candies, no more buying one item and getting the second one for a cent, and no more penny piggy banks.

Since 1908, the mint has produced 35 billion pennies, half of them in the last 20 years. The cost of producing a penny though exceeds the value of the actual coin and that is why the cent is being discontinued.

I suspect that a majority of these pennies are sitting in jars, being saved for some unknown future use. That's why the museum and archives are launching a penny drive called "Pennies for our An-cent-ors". We are collecting your remaining one-cent pieces and putting them to use in our Archives. Our goal is to collect enough pennies to replace our aging Archives microfilm reader/printer or our aging photocopier. Both of these machines receive heavy use from researchers and require replacing soon. We have set up penny collecting receptacles at both the museum and archives for those people who would like to donate their pennies.

So drop by the museum or archives. Bring your pennies. [Photo: Canadian Penny, 1919, "Large Cent", copper, with portrait of King George V on obverse. Chilliwack Museum collection. 2006.034.003]

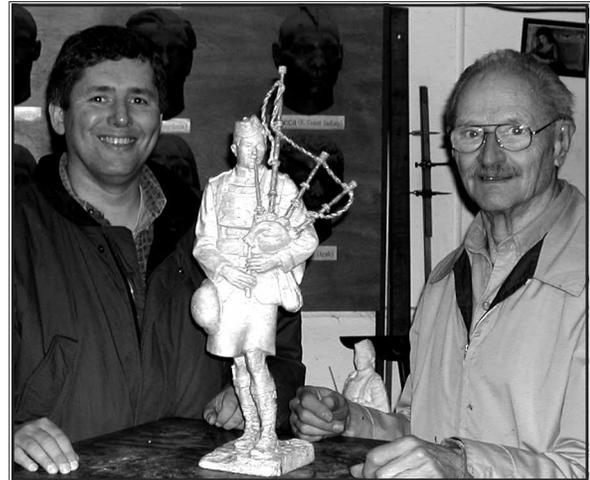
  
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SUMMER 2012

## JOHN WEAVER

We are saddened to hear about the sudden death of John Weaver on April 10. Mr. Weaver died at his home at Silver Creek just west of Hope. He was 92 years old.

For over 70 years he was devoted to his profession as a master sculpture. His medium of choice was bronze. Over 78 of his creations can be found in public spaces throughout the world. His work can be found in Washington, D.C., Montana, Calgary and Edmonton. Perhaps his most famous work is located outside Rexall Place, home of the Edmonton Oilers. It shows Wayne Gretzky holding aloft the Stanley Cup after the team had won their fourth successive championship. It still resonates with fans who flock to the statue for picture taking opportunities.



His last sculpture stands in front of the Chilliwack Museum. The Piper James Richardson statue stands as a testimony to the skill and artistic maturity of this accomplished man. Paul Ferguson, our Heritage Collections Manager, commented in an article for the Edmonton Journal (May 12, 2012), that “working with John [on the details for the Richardson statue] was an amazing gift. At one point I had to go to his place every two weeks and would have to clear three or four hours so I could listen to him talk about his life.”

At the time of his death Weaver was working on yet another monumental piece, a tribute to cowboys and rodeo clowns. His son, Henry, also an accomplished artist, plans to complete the work that his father began. *[photo: Curator Paul Ferguson poses with John Weaver and miniature statue of Piper James Richardson at Weaver's studio in 2003].*

## SARDIS HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

For the last three months a group of Sardis residents has been working diligently defining and writing a history of Sardis. The need for a book was brought to the Board of Director's attention by Board member Bea Mazurenko who noted that histories have been produced for other communities within the City of Chilliwack but Sardis has nothing.

The group, composed of long-time Sardis residents, has been meeting every two weeks at the museum. Identifying the topics that need to be covered and assigning research and writing tasks to committee members has been the job of museum director Ron Denman. Denman notes that it's too early to say what the final publication will look like since work will continue throughout the spring, fall and winter months. The goal though is to have a manuscript by next spring (2013) with a possible publication date by the middle of that year.

## CURATORIAL CORNER

Can you guess what this object is? Hint: it has something to do with a penny.  
(Answer is on back page)



## DISCOVERY DAYS

Discovery Days is an educational, fun and affordable way to immerse kids in a variety of activities that include scavenger hunts, fossil making, art projects, becoming an artifact detective, games and much more.

Deadline for registration for the program is July 17. For more information or to register, call the museum at 604-795-5210.



### DISCOVERY DAYS CAMP

July 24 - 27

Registration fee: \$50/child.  
Suitable for kids aged 6 to 10.  
Pre-registration is required.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE CHAMBERS GALLERY?

### Natural Reflections

June 9 – July 19

Helen Janas and Bev Beresh

### Exposing Wildlife Treasures

July 28 to September 6

George Sauve with Fred and  
Delphine Gornall

### Memories

September 15 to November 8

Chilliwack Visual Artists  
Association

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - SYLVIA BRAUN

Sylvia Braun, a second year University of the Fraser Valley history major was hired on May 15th to begin work as our summer student. Sylvia will be working on a variety of projects during the summer.

At the archives, Sylvia will be working with the map collection, re-housing and preparing the collection for online searching. She'll also be helping to catalogue a recent donation of history books for our archives library. The archives have amassed an impressive library over time that includes new and rare out-of-print books.

Working with curator Paul, Sylvia will be working with our textile collection. While construction was taking place for the addition to our archives building, the collection was boxed and moved off-site. The textiles remain in boxes and now must be moved to the textile storage racks. This new section allows for hanging storage. This simply means that padded hangers are used to properly hang the garments, which prevents permanent creasing of fabrics and enables superior accessibility to the collection.

Coming up in July is the museum's third annual summer camp. 'Discovery Days' combines museum activities with fun recreational activities for kids age 6-10. Sylvia brings with her a wealth of camp experience.



## UFV STUDENT KRISTIN GOSSEN

Recently the Archives hosted a practicum student from UFV's library and information technology program - Kristin Gossan. Kristin worked on a two week project arranging and inventorying records from the City of Chilliwack. We were very pleased with Kristin's work and wish her the best as she pursues a career in libraries.

## CURATORIAL CORNER ANSWER:

It's a commemorative medallion!



On June 9, 1949 medallions, like this one, were given out to each person attending the opening of the Paramount Theatre. "Keep Me and Never Go Broke", "Good Luck", "Don Lange Credit Jewellers, Paramount Chilliwack."

The grand opening of the Famous Players' Paramount Theatre was held on June 9, 1949 with the Canadian premiere of Damon Runyon's, "Sorrowful Jones" starring Bob Hope, Lucille Ball and William Demarest. The 900 seat Paramount Theater replaced the old Strand Theater.

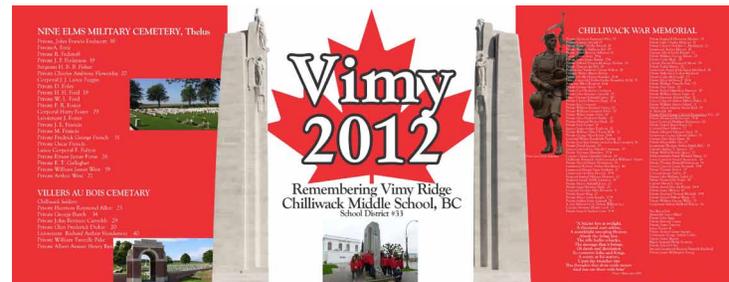
Claude G. Smith, the last manager of the old Strand Theatre, became the new manager of the Paramount. At the time it was thought of as Chilliwack's first skyscraper. The Paramount had a spectacular frontage with a large marquee, lit with synchronized lights and neon borders.

For a brief period the Paramount closed when it was faced with competition from new theaters in Abbotsford. Fortunately, the Paramount survived as a Landmark Cinema. The most noticeable reminder of when theaters owned the cinemas is the Paramount sign lighting the way to the motion pictures! [1988.041.001]

## THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

In early April a group of eleven students lead by Chilliwack Middle School teacher Janet Crawford travelled to the Vimy Memorial in France to participate in the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The memorial is dedicated to those Canadian soldiers who fought and died in this important World War I battle. It's the battle that is recognized as pivotal in Canadian history since it was the first time that all four Canadian infantry divisions fought together as a unit. Vimy Ridge was Canada's battle to win but the number of Canadian soldiers killed soared into the thousands.

Our resident military expert, Paul Ferguson, was only too pleased to meet with the students prior to their trip. Paul was able to provide the students with a Chilliwack perspective of that April, 1917 battle. With



this knowledge the students completed a 9 x 3.5 foot remembrance banner that features Chilliwack's history in the war. This banner accompanied the students to the Vimy ceremonies.

This is only one example where staff assists groups who need help researching various topics.



Patrimoine  
canadien

Canadian  
Heritage



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