

The Almanac



CHILLiwack
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE EDUCATION DEPT?

In November and December 2011, over 575 students and approximately 100 parents and teachers attended our *Chilliwack Family Christmas* program. Twelve wonderful volunteers helped students with crafts and the now famous mashed potato candy was again a hit! Thanks to our educator Brenda and her team, our Museum Christmas program has become a tradition for Chilliwack teachers.



Our programs are also very popular amongst other groups such as ESL classes, senior groups and home-schoolers. The Community Services' *English as a Second Language (ESL)* classes are made up of adults and new

Canadians who are practicing their English. During the Christmas program our volunteers have a unique opportunity to engage the ESL students and learn of the traditions of their homelands while the students practice conversational skills. The ESL instructors from Community Services have adapted our question sheet geared for grade 3-5 students, to their adult audience. Answering the questions as they move through the gallery improves writing and comprehension skills. Did you know that Chilliwack Community Services offer interpretation and translation services in more than fifteen languages? [Photo: Display of general goods from *A Chilliwack Family Christmas* exhibition, 2011.]

BUSY YEAR AHEAD

Members might be interested to know about our projects planned for 2012 - 2013.

Staff have already begun work on a new exhibit called *Healing Chilliwack*, which will look at a variety of topics connected with the healing professions. The focus is local and is placed within the context of breakthroughs in medicine and healing. This exhibit is scheduled to open in January 2013.

In other exhibit news, Paul Ferguson, our curator and resident expert on all things military, will lead a project about Chilliwack and the war years. Since 1994, Paul has assembled all kinds of information about Chilliwack's responses to World Wars One and Two.

He has personally travelled to Europe on many occasions photographing these places of conflict and locating gravesites of fallen soldiers, including those from Chilliwack. He has willingly contributed his discoveries and Chilliwack-related photographs to our knowledge base about these conflicts.

In addition to an exhibit, we plan on producing a one or two volume book about Chilliwack's place within the framework of two world wars, providing both an overseas and homefront perspective.

Preliminary planning for a publication on the history of Sardis is also underway. Over the next few months, the scope and feasibility of the project will be defined. Sardis is the only community in Chilliwack that has not had a history book produced yet.



CHILLIWACK HERITAGE AWARD HONOUREES 2012

This year four awards will be presented at our annual general meeting on March 24. The awards recipients are:

- **Dr. Chad Reimer**, author of *Chilliwack's Chinatowns*
- **Andrea, Sheila and Robin Lister** researchers and authors of *Committment to Caring; Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary 100 years.*
- Former City of Chilliwack fire chiefs **Tom Beer, Bill Chambers, Wayne Green**, researcher **Grant Ullyot** and current chief **Rick Ryall**, authors and contributors to *Chilliwack Fire Department: 1906 - 2006 The First 100.*
- There will be one additional recipient whose name will be revealed at the AGM.



CHAMBERS GALLERY EVENTS

March 3 – April 12, **Chilliwack Visual Artists Association show: Something New – Something Special.**
Opening reception: Saturday March 3, noon -2:00pm.

April 21 – May 31, **Olga Zakharova, Iryna Nikitinska, Sophie St. Pierre, Roxsane Tiernan: People and Places That Inspire Us.** Opening reception: Saturday, April 21, noon -2:00pm.

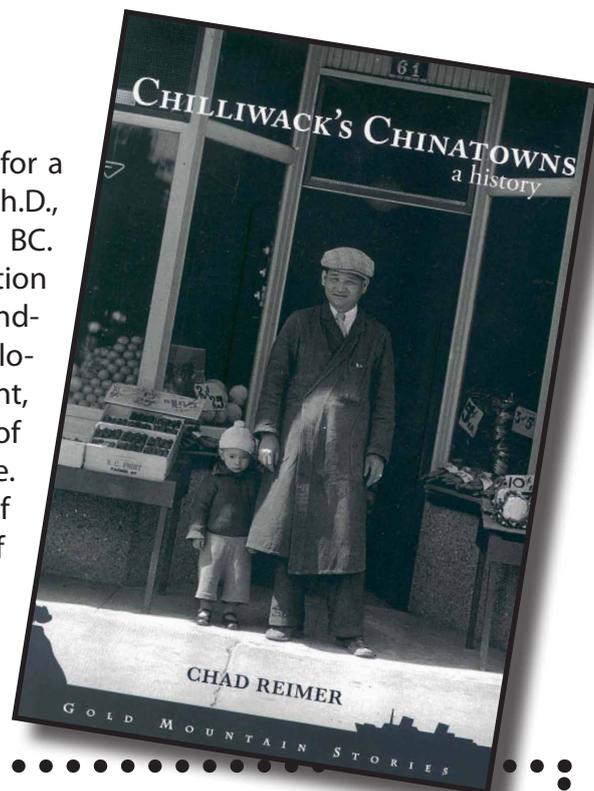
CURATORIAL CORNER

Can you guess what the rest of this picture is?
(Answer is on back page)



CHILLIWACK'S CHINATOWNS

Last November, a launch was held at the Chilliwack Museum for a new book: *Chilliwack's Chinatowns* written by Chad Reimer, Ph.D., and published by the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC. At the book launch there was a reading by the author, a question and answer period, book sales and signing. Ninety people attended the event which was recorded by Shaw TV and covered by local, Vancouver and Chinese language newspapers. At the event, many people commented on the lack of collective memory of Chilliwack's Chinatowns due to the loss of its physical presence. Many in attendance expressed a desire to have the former site of Chinatown honoured or remembered in some way. The City of Chilliwack, with advice from Dr. Reimer, has since made plans to erect a sign at the site of the second Chinatown. The date of the marker's unveiling has not been confirmed but we will notify members when to expect to see the sign up.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - JOAN DONALDSON

On August 17, 2007 Joan Donaldson began volunteering at the Chilliwack Archives. Today, you will find her at the Archives on Wednesday afternoons where she works on a variety of scanning and cataloguing projects. In her time with us, Joan has played a big part in scanning the Chilliwack Progress Press photographs.



Joan comes to the Archives having acquired a lifetime of impressive skills and worldly experiences. Did you know that she was an early television interviewer on CBC? From time to time, we can get Joan to talk about herself (she is far more interested in other people), and when she does, she shares the most interesting stories of what it was like to live in places like Papua New Guinea, Jamaica and Italy. Needless to say, my favourite part of Wednesdays is tea time, where Archives staff chat with Joan about everything from worms to world peace.

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives would like to thank Joan Donaldson for her five years of service with us, and we look forward to the next five. [photo: Joan Donaldson with doll, photo taken by her father C. Frank Munton, c.1930s]

UFV STUDENT WWII HISTORY WEBSITES

Last fall, students from the University of the Fraser Valley spent time at the Chilliwack Archives as part of their course called History 440: Local History and the Web. You can find their websites at: <http://app.ufv.ca/fvhistory/>.

Annual General Meeting

Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
Chilliwack Museum, Chambers Gallery
Saturday, March 24, 1:00 pm



CURATORIAL CORNER ANSWER:

Wittnauer Automatic presentation wristwatch engraved: "To Ed Hohn In Appreciation From Country Freight Lines For 5 Years Safediving 1947-52". [2011.040.001]

Ed Hohn worked for Country Freight Lines for 42 years and retired in 1980. He drove a van between Chilliwack and Vancouver twice a day, starting work at 5:30 AM and occasionally working as late as 11:00 PM. On his return trips from Vancouver he brought back the Vancouver Province and Vancouver Sun newspapers.

In 1980 the company went bankrupt. Jack Fleming was the owner. The business was originally located at the site of the post office then moved to Cheam Avenue and then to Yale Road where Kal-Tire is currently located.

IT'S TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew, please mail this form and payment to:
Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society • 45820
Spadina Avenue • Chilliwack, BC • V2P 1T3

- Individual Museum Membership (\$15)
- Family/Group Museum Membership (\$25)
- Corporate Museum Membership (\$100)
- Lifetime Museum Membership (\$125)

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____ Email _____
City _____
Postal Code _____

- Individual Cultural Coalition* Membership (\$25)
- Family/Group Cultural Coalition* Membership (\$40)
- Corporate Cultural Coalition* Membership (\$175)
- Lifetime Cultural Coalition* Membership (\$225)

Yes, I would like my newsletter delivered via email instead of mail.

*Cultural Coalition is a joint membership between the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society and the Chilliwack Arts Council.



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Chilliwack Visual Artists Association
PO Box # 312 Chilliwack, BC, V2P 6L4



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