

# CHILLIWACK

The Chilliwack Museum & Archives is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw and Pelólhxw communities of the Stó:lō. We are thankful for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.

# Vision Statement

Connecting you with Chilliwack's history.

## Mission Statement

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives is dedicated to inspiring, engaging, and fostering a sense of place through sharing the diverse history of Chilliwack and its surrounding communities.

### Values

Relevance - Diversity - Collaboration - Accessibility - Education

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Over the past year, the Board of Directors and Executive Director have undertaken several initiatives to strengthen and update the structure of our organization.

The pandemic did not slow us down in the work that we do. We pivoted to Zoom board meetings and smaller committee meetings to accomplish many initiatives over the last year. This included creating and approving two new policies, a Board Diversity Policy and a Human Resources Policy. Through the implementation of these policies, we have designated a new standing committee, called the Nominations Committee.

The guiding document for major undertakings is our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The Board received quarterly updates on the action items, and we are pleased to note staff are on track with the goals for 2020/2021.

Approval of our Annual Operating Budget addressed minor increases in operating costs, the expenses associated with an additional exhibit and the hopes of some rental income. The only Capital Budget expenditure this year will be for accessibility upgrades to the front door and ground floor washroom of the Museum.

In closing, we are proud of the work done by staff and their successes in adapting the Society's operations in a pandemic era. As always, we greatly appreciate the funding and support provided by the City of Chilliwack and its staff, it is a solid partnership which we value. To our volunteers and members, a heartfelt thank you, for your continued support and engagement with the Chilliwack Museum & Archive. We look forward to getting back to a new normal and the road which lies ahead.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



January 2020 started out much like any year at the Museum & Archives. Our galleries were bustling with visitors, education programs were booked and carried out, researchers perused the archives, and rentals filled the Chambers Gallery. However, on March 16, 2020, we closed our doors to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19

While at first, we worried about the length of the closure and how it would affect our overall operations, we quickly adapted to our new normal and continued to operate behind the scenes. We engaged with our community through a series of online, social media initiatives that also allowed us to also connect with other organizations in the industry. Work continued on the development of exhibitions and programs. Research requests were completed via email and phone. Our gift shop moved to an online platform to allow the community to continue to shop for our unique and local merchandise. Work continued on the development of our Strategic Plan and the development of our new website, both of which were implemented in the Fall.

On July 6, 2020, the Museum opened under strict protocols with a COVID-19 safety plan. We were again able to welcome visitors into our space! Under reduced capacities, we also engaged in a major renovation. The permanent gallery space which had been unaltered for over a decade was dismantled, the space is now divided into a second rotating exhibition space and a dedicated education/programming space. The renovation project was made possible in part by the Government of Canada and the City of Chilliwack. On October 13, 2020, the Museum & Archives was able to return to full operation with both facilities open regular hours, under an updated COVID-19 safety plan.

We are thankful for the COVID relief grants that were made available to our industry by the provincial and federal governments in 2020. In addition to these grants, we are thankful for the continued financial support from our dedicated members, personal and corporate donors, and various granting agencies. We are especially grateful for the continued support of the City of Chilliwack,

We are grateful for our volunteer base of 19 dedicated, inspiring, and passionate volunteers who continue to help us operate at both the Museum and the Archives. Throughout 2020, their resilience and commitment to our organization have been instrumental to our continued success. We also wish to express our thanks to you, our members, who have shown patience and continued support as we navigated through a challenging, but successful year. Thank you for your continued support. We are all looking forward to a bright future.

## Chilliwack Museum and Archives Staff



**Sarah Belley**Education & Engagement
Coordinator



**Matthew Cook**Archives Technician



**Tristan Evans**Archivist



**Kate Feltren**Curator



**Sydney Laiss**Collections Technician



**Shawna Maurice** Executive Director



**Cari Moore**Coordinator of Volunteers &
Administration



**Jordan Sheffield**Museum Attendant

Kristin Finch, Museum Attendant

# **Board of Directors**

Pat Clark, President
Dave Clark, Vice-President
Alison Kaye, Secretary
Merlin Bunt, Treasurer
Charlie Fortin, Past President

Aleeta Sepass, Director Bradley Gionet, Director Jennifer Feinberg, Director Kaitlyn Janzen, Director

Ryan Mulligan, Director of Recreation and Culture, City of Chilliwack Liaison



#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Support the Chilliwack Museum and Archives by becoming a Member!

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives is committed to connecting you with Chilliwack's history through a series of exhibitions, programs, and events, but to do this we need your support!

Senior Memberships: 11 Lifetime Members: 42

Individual Memberships: 12

Family Memberships: 3 Corporate Membership: 1

Not for Profit Memberships: 2

Total Memberships: 71







#### ADMISSIONS

Child: 231

Student: 60 Adult: 676

Senior: 256

Total: 1223



2020 was an unprecedented year for the Chilliwack Archives. The year began with a record number of visitors. Then, like every institution, the Archives had to close to researchers as we all worked to keep safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chilliwack Archives was able to safely open to in-person researchers in July with a number of safety restrictions.

While the pandemic created many challenges, it also changed the goals and focus of archival work. Staff and volunteers put an emphasis on processing the archival backlog and getting descriptions available online. Large donations that lay unprocessed for years were addressed. Descriptions were updated and unique donations, particularly photographic donations, were digitized and made available to researchers online. Our online database now includes 4,247 archival descriptions; 16,122 photographs with descriptions; 1,169 library books; and 10,090 objects.

Archival, Artifact, and Library Donations: 50

Visitors: 231

Visitor Hours: 307.5 Research Emails: 143

Research Phone Calls: 232 Volunteer Hours: 191.45

Online Collections Database Searchers: 9251





#### Conservation

Deterioration is a natural process that occurs to all objects, with some items occasionally needing special treatment to slow this process. In 2020, staff completed the cleaning and treatment of a 3D topographical map. The map – handmade by George Bramhall—illustrates the topography of the Chilliwack area, and was on display at the Museum for many years. Through consultation with conservator Rebecca Pavitt, staff carefully reattached paper and wood layers where embrittlement was noted. Its treatment will ensure that visitors can continue to enjoy this unique piece for years to come.

#### 2020 Acquisition Highlights

- 2020.003 Chilliwack Outdoor Club Patches
- 2020.007 "Hello-Goodbye Vedder Bridge" Memorabilia
- 2020.008 Farm Tools and Sock Stretchers brought to Chilliwack in 1883
- 2020.015 Monophone from Elk Creek Waterworks Company Limited (1905-1981)
- 2020.016 Safety Deposit Box from site of the former Bank of Nova Scotia on Yale Road East.
- 2020.024 Light Fixture and Decorative Bracket from B.C. Golding Hop Farms (John I. Haas Company Ltd.)
- 2020.037 Trophy 1st Prize for Businessmen, Chilliwack Plowing Society (1983-1998)
- 2020.042 Smoker's Stand Purchased in Chilliwack in 1970s
- 2020.044 Photographic Print Witch Head Nebula, taken by Astronomer Rick Burke from Chilliwack



The year started optimistically with nineteen education programs booked from January through March. Of these bookings, we had the pleasure to host The Early Years program through Chilliwack Community Services, which saw parents with children under five get acquainted with the museum. During the subsequent restrictions and closures from the COVID-19, the department re-directed its time to education and events development. This included the History of Candy Outreach display, Camp-X history kit, and Skow:wech white sturgeon program. Particular focus was accorded to the preparations for Project of Heart, working in partnership with SD33, SD71, and the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Center. In September, we welcomed the Legacy Lightbox in connection with this meaningful project, which opened on September 30th, 2020 to coincide with Orange Shirt Day.

School Programs Booked: 20 Education Kits Booked: 2 Children Attended: 498 Parents Attended: 38 Teachers Attended: 27









#### **Contours: The Shape of our City**

The Museum's exhibition space underwent a major transformation this year, with the division of the former permanent gallery into a rotating exhibition space. *Contours: The Shape of our City* was the first exhibition featured in this newly repurposed space, opening on September 8, 2020. *Contours* explored the technical aspects of mapping processes, and examined the impacts on our daily lives, living on and within S'olh Téméxw.

#### **Creative in Quarantine**

In conjunction with Culture Days, the *Creative in Quarantine* art exhibit was developed as a community engagement project in response to the global pandemic. The exhibit was highly successful, featuring fifty-five local artists and two Chilliwack middle schools. As a result of this participation, the museum welcomed its first cohort visit of eighty students from A.D. Rundle in October.







#### **GEOCACHE PROJECT**

#### NAVIGATING HISTORY THROUGH GEOGRAPHY

On October 13, 2020 the Museum & Archives was able to return to full operation with both facilities open regular hours, under an updated COVID-19 safety plan. At this time, we also launched our Geocache Project: Navigating History through Geography. Three unique geocaches were placed throughout the community for you to find! Each Geocache features newspaper articles, photographs and other interesting archival information about the neighbourhood they have been placed in.

YOU, ME, AND THE FAMILY TREE

FUNDED IN PART BY THE BCMA

Visitors had an opportunity to do crafts, complete a scavenger hunt, and watch the acclaimed family film "Stick Man".

> Attendance Adults - 26 Children - 17 Total - 43





During the COVID shut down – the gift shop received a fresh coat of paint; the counter was upgraded, and a reto glass window was installed to create a barrier between the volunteers and the public. Shelves were replaced in the western window to add more display space.

We were able to launch a new online store relatively easily, using the Square app. Customers can purchase items online and have either local delivery, curbside pickup, or in-store pickup.

Shop online at shop.chilliwackmuseum.ca

#### Total # of Gift Shop Sales: 662







#### **SUPPORTERS**

Thank you to all the individuals, companies, and organizations who contributed financially to the continued success of the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2020.













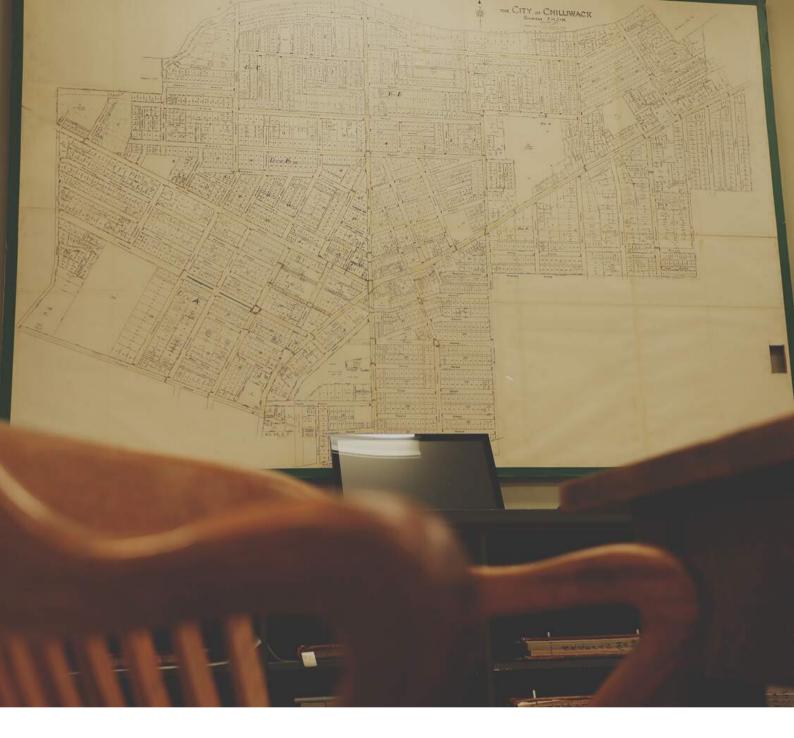
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to our 17 dedicated volunteers who contributed 850 hours to the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2020.

Wayne Bowes
Richard Delamar
Lawrie Edwards
Kristen Finch
Chris Gillespie
Vicki Grieve

Karen Klassen Sharon Lawrence Kerstin Legler Ev Parker Ashley Parshyn Marilyn Ricker Bryan Stokes Willa TerHaar Larisa Thom Lisa Gustafson Aleeta Sepass



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