

CHILLiwack

museuM & archives

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credit: Don Young Photography

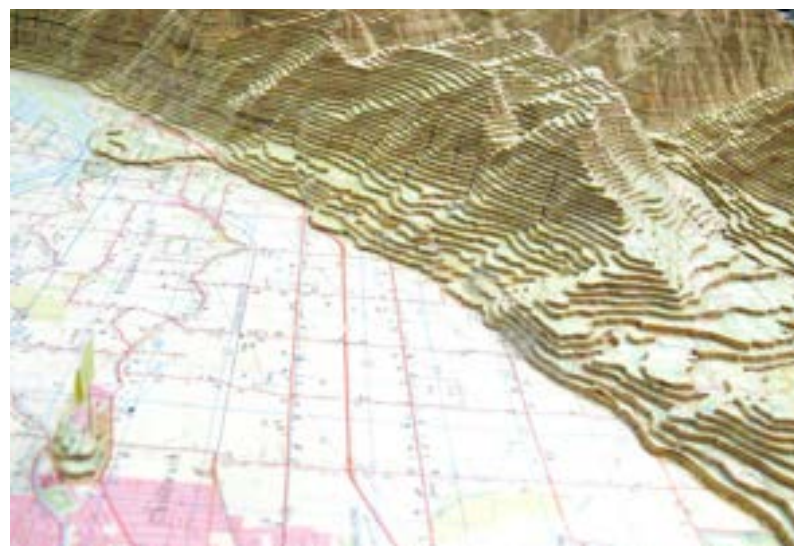


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Photo Credit: Around Chilliwack

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a pleasure to be contemplating an AGM where we can again meet in person. The gradual relaxation of COVID related rules has been uplifting for both Board and staff as we continue to see increased attendance at the museum, archives and in our programs.

We welcomed four new Directors at the 2021 AGM, their perspectives have been shared across our committees as well as at Board meetings. Directors and staff created a one day “summer school” for the newcomers to help launch them into Board business. Over the past year all four standing committees, Finance, Human Resources, Governance and Nominating, have formalized their terms of reference. They have worked on a variety of topics, including collaborating with the Executive Director in creating the annual budget and policies. A highlight of 2021 was gathering staff and Directors together for a facilitated planning session in October. With new Directors and new staff members arriving in the past couple of years it was a delight to learn about each other and affirm our common goals. The primary focus of the session was to review the Society’s purposes and mandate, but we gained so much more by sharing ideas and inspirations.

COVID relief and reopening grants continue to be important to our organization. Our Executive Director is a skillful grant writer, and she has found resources in a variety of places. We’ve not needed our line of credit this year and revenue from gift shop sales continues to climb. Our annual operating budget is complemented by a cash flow projection and a modest capital budget. You will note a review engagement on the financial statements this year instead of an audit. Neither the City of Chilliwack nor our grant sources require audited statements, and a review engagement is a less expensive undertaking.

Last autumn Shawna and I updated Mayor and Council on the activities of the Society. Councillors were inquisitive and appreciative of the Society’s accomplishments. Our staff are increasingly involved in community engagement and partnership activities. Examples include the UFV History Department, service clubs, other non profit societies and the Stó:lō Research & Resource Management Centre. Direct consultation with teachers and our educator’s ability to tailor programming to specific curriculum has resulted in more relevant and satisfying visits for school groups.

The City installed gates at the top of the Museum stairs to improve building security. We invested in a customized wall of cabinets in the education room, enabling the consolidation of program resources.

As we continue to plan and implement additional ways to connect with the public, we are thankful for the continued support from the City of Chilliwack, in all its forms. Our staff are a committed, passionate, and highly knowledgeable group that support each other when big jobs need doing. Thank you to one and all.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Clark, President



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While 2021 opened with the same level of uncertainty that plagued 2020 and COVID restrictions still shadowed our operations, we were determined to make the most out of our circumstances and have an engaging and exciting year. Indeed, some of our greatest successes to date happened in 2021!

As we witnessed a steady increase to our museum admissions, archives visitors, and gift shop sales, we also saw increased participation in events and program bookings. A positive and rewarding sign for all! We branched out in our exhibition portfolio, hosting two travelling exhibitions *Our Living Languages* from the Royal BC Museum and *Tell me a Story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust* from the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Our goal is to bring awareness to larger social issues that have affected our past and present, tie them into the community, and encourage dialogue and positive future. We also hosted our second *Community Art Show* and our first participatory exhibition, *I remember....*

The Hops Connection: From Industry Gold to Lasting Legacy, an agricultural exhibit exploring the lasting impact of hops farming in Chilliwack, and examining the resurgence of the craft brewing industry in recent years. This exhibition ran alongside our annual Hops & Heritage Fundraiser. Hops & Heritage is primarily an awareness and engagement campaign that aims to connect the Chilliwack Museum & Archives with the community, and to support local businesses at the same time. Over 50 community members purchased a passbook and travelled to participating local breweries to earn stamps and win prizes from local businesses!

Hops & Heritage wasn't our only successful event of the year! In August, the Education & Engagement department hosted the family event "Sweet Summer Fun" which explored the history of confections in Chilliwack and around the world. The event recorded 150 guests, and due to the positive response, "Sweet Summer Fun" will be repeated in August 2022. As the Gift Shop continues to branch into more local products and artists, we also launched our Snowflake Market, which consisted of three evening shopping events with 4-6 local vendors each night.

The Archives and Curatorial departments continued to actively collect documents and objects of significance to the community. A call was put out to the community for items related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the relaxing of restrictions in the Fall of 2021, the Archives resumed monthly behind the scenes tours of the archives and object storage.

We are thankful for the COVID relief grants that were made available to our industry by the provincial and federal governments in 2021. 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 18 dedicated, inspiring, and passionate volunteers who continue to help us operate at both the Museum and the Archives. Throughout 2021, their resilience and commitment to our organization has been instrumental to our continued success.

Ch'ithométsel (I thank you),
Shawna Maurice, Executive Director



WHO WE ARE

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

Ey kw'ese xwe' imekw'ewat

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



Project of Heart

CHILLIWACK MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES STAFF



Sarah Belley

Education & Engagement
Coordinator



Matthew Cook

Archives Technician



Tristan Evans

Archivist



Kate Feltren

Curator



Shelby Friesen

Museum Attendant



Sydney Laiss

Collections Technician



Shawna Maurice

Executive Director



Cari Moore

Coordinator of Volunteers
& Administration



Calista Thirsk

Indigenous Arts & Culture
Programmer

Not Pictured: Kristin Finch, Museum Attendant

CMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Pat Clark

President



Dave Clarke

Vice-President



Merlin Bunt

Treasurer



Alison Kaye

Secretary



Charlie Fortin

Director, Past-President



Aleeta Sepass

Director



Bradley Gionet

Director



Jennifer Feinberg

Director



Kaitlyn Janzen

Director

Not Pictured: Director of Recreation and Culture, City of Chilliwack Liaison

HERITAGE AWARDS

Each year the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society presents awards to individuals, businesses, governments, and groups whose efforts have made important contributions to the culture, history, and/or heritage of Chilliwack.

Heritage Award Recipients 2022

Algra Bros. Developments Ltd. in recognition of their inspirational redevelopment of downtown Chilliwack (District 1881) while demonstrating a dedication to excellence and a respect for Chilliwack's history.

Merlin Bunt in recognition of his dedicated effort to keep history alive and relevant through the Chilliwack History Perspectives Facebook page.

ADMISSION & MEMBERSHIP



Membership

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: 18

Lifetime Members: 38

Individual Memberships: 15

Family Memberships: 2

Corporate Membership: 8

Not for Profit Memberships: 3

Total Memberships: 84

ADMISSIONS

Child | 162

Student | 1017

Adult | 1254

Senior | 33

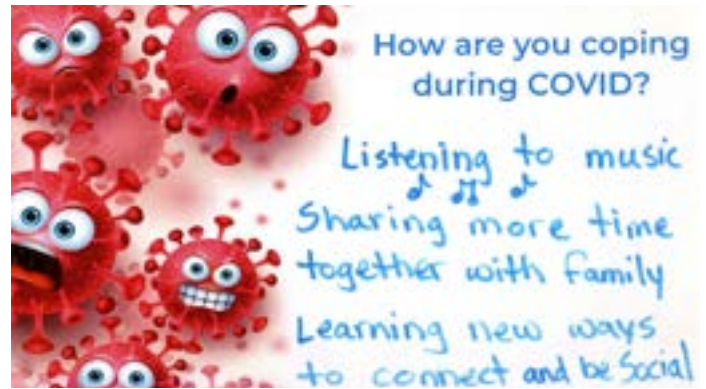
TOTAL | 2466

ARCHIVES

No exception to the rule, the Chilliwack Archives suffered its share of ups and downs in 2021. While staff, researchers, donors, and members negotiated our changing world, one constant remained. Throughout the change in recommendations and polices, archival volunteers adapted to any new requirements and continued to devote their precious time towards the preservation and description of this communities' historical records. In 2021, volunteers spent a combined 487.7 hours at the Archives scanning, researching, and describing various collections. The next time you are searching our online database and come across the exact photo you need, keep in mind that a volunteer is likely the reason that photo has a description and context.

Comment Cards used during exhibition: Creative in Quarantine

2016.006.01



Black and white photograph depicting road construction along Yale Road.

2021.045



Archival, Artifact, and Library Donations: 46

Visitors: 221

Visitor Hours: 261.65

Research Emails: 163

Research Phone Calls: 340

Volunteer Hours: 487.7

Online Collections Database Searchers: 10,981



CURATORIAL

It was a busy year in the curatorial department, as staff commenced a massive collections storage re-organization project, which continues into coming years. In 2021, staff completed inventory of 18 units of objects; the cleaning of 28 oversized objects in storage according to museum best practices; and the identification and mitigation of numerous collections risks, including rehousing the glassware collection into custom-made storage enclosures, the relocation of sensitive objects away from humidity sources, and the addition of protective barriers to all silverware items. These activities help to safeguard the museum's collections so that the community can continue to access its heritage for years to come.



2021 Acquisition Highlights

- 2021.013 World War I Medal belonging to Carolyn Whittle, found by metal detecting hobbyists in Chilliwack
- 2021.014 Chilliwack Progress instructional linotype manuals used by printers and linesman
- 2021.015 Miniature tooled leather saddle, handmade at Coqualeetza Hospital in the 1960s
- 2021.017 Promotional button from Krafty Raft Race, Cultus Lake, July 25, 1981
- 2021.020 Pack saddle used by Edgar Absalom Bell to deliver supplies to Red Mountain Mine from 1912-1940s
- 2021.034 Portable typewriter used by Walter Schmur to write The Rejection Slip-up, published by the Progress
- 2021.037 Business signs from Wellington Jewelers and Custom Upholstery found while renovating on Wellington Ave
- 2021.039 Flag from Branch 4 of Royal Canadian Legion, which closed on September 10, 2021
- 2021.044 Knitting Machine brought from Germany to Chilliwack by Adolf Lange following World War II

EDUCATION

While the ongoing pandemic affected previous trends in educational programming at the Chilliwack Museum, there were a number of interesting developments. 2021 saw the highest amount of middle school participation in three years (142 students). The adoption of individual cohorts enabled teachers to have increased flexibility within their timetables to plan excursions, as well as welcoming larger groups of students to the museum - 40-60 per visit! We adapted to this change effectively, and even managed to include personalized curriculum goals (i.e. the study of ancient museums). Additionally, the department made a purposeful shift to increase programming time from 1hr to 2hrs, and offering supplemental activities such as outdoor scavenger hunts, watercolour painting, memory jar making, and chalk drawing to promote the museum as a diverse, relevant, and multi-disciplinary place to learn. Also new to the museum's programs is our partnership with Advanced Microscopy Lab at The University of Victoria. Three high school classes took advantage of the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Program Partnership offered through Dr. Elaine Humphries (75 students).

Our proudest achievement this year is the partnership established through the Chilliwack Parks Society, which led to the Museum participating in full day outdoor educational programming at Lexw Qwò:m Park. This was a relevant way to offer museum programming to the community that was both safe and engaging. The museum contributed by offering the skwo:wech education program alongside the excellent programming developed by the Parks Society Educators which included: a story walk of "The Great While Fish" (sturgeon), flora and fauna scavenger hunt, learning the water cycle, and environmental awareness. As a result of this partnership, the program successfully reached over 300 students (grades 3-6), as well as numerous parents and educators. This partnership will continue into 2022.

Student projects completed during "Tell me a Story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust" education programming.



ENGAGEMENT



The Chilliwack Museum made thoughtful efforts to connect with the community during the pandemic through its second *Community Arts Show*, and first participatory exhibit- *I remember*.

I remember collected over 170 “memory jars” made by the community across all ages and demographics.

In August, the department planned a free event for families called “Sweet Summer Fun” which explored the history of confections in Chilliwack and around the world. The event recorded 150 guests, and due to the positive response, “Sweet Summer Fun” will be repeated in August 2022.



Photo Credit: Around Chilliwack

EVENTS

Hops & Heritage

June 24 to September 11, 2021

Hops & Heritage focuses on the local craft brewing and hops industry in Chilliwack, and how this industry has played an important role in the development of our economy, identity, and heritage.

Grand Prize Sponsors



Event Partners



EXHIBITIONS

Following the transformation of the Museum's exhibition space in 2020, staff developed a new exhibition calendar, as outlined in the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. This plan features original exhibitions curated in-house on a range of dynamic topics, travelling exhibitions from across the country, and community art installations. This year's exhibitions were the first expression of this exciting new direction.

Our Living Languages, a travelling exhibition from the RBCM

January 16, 2021 - May 24, 2021

Through interactive audio and video components, Our Living Languages highlights what the Indigenous communities throughout British Columbia are doing to help 34 different languages survive and flourish.

The Hops Connection: From Industry Gold to Lasting Legacy

June 24, 2021 - September 11, 2021

An agricultural exhibit exploring the lasting impact of hops farming in Chilliwack, and examining the resurgence of the craft brewing industry in recent years. Produced in support of the Hops and Heritage annual fundraiser, the exhibit is a revival of the travelling exhibit produced by the Museum in 2003, entitled Brewer's Gold.

Tell me a Story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust

November 4, 2021 - January 22, 2022

This feature exhibition from the Montreal Holocaust Museum introduces the history of the Holocaust and World War II to children eight years and older, focusing on values and themes central to childhood. The exhibit was enhanced with objects and archival material from our collections, highlighting stories from Chilliwack and the Fraser Valley.



GIFT SHOP



The Gift Shop continued to expand in 2021. Several new local vendor options have contributed to the Shop's success in 2021.



**Total # of Gift
Shop Sales:
1051**

Snowflake Market

The Chilliwack Museum hosted its inaugural Snowflake Market in the Chambers Gallery in 2021. The Market consisted of three evening shopping events with 4-6 local vendors each night.

SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the individuals, companies, and organizations who contributed financially to the continued success of the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2021.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

***Thank you to our 18 dedicated volunteers
who contributed 1713 hours to the
Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2021.***

Naya Phung
Chris Gillespie
Ev Parker
Kristin Finch
Bryan Stokes
Maryam Zareei

Lawrie Edwards
Richard Delamar
Wayne Bowes
Ashley Parshyn
Fredelle Copeland
Vicki Grieve

Kade Fraser
Karen Klassen
Kerstin Legler
Lisa Gustafson
Marilyn Ricker
Willa Ter Haar

We would also like to express our gratitude to our two Young Canada Works Students, Cate & Rain, who contributed greatly to the success of the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2021.



Photo Credit: Around Chilliwack



Photo Credit: Around Chilliwack





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