

CHILLIWACK MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



PHOTO CREDIT: AROUND CHILLIWACK

CHILLIWACK
museum & archives

THE CHILLIWACK MUSEUM AND 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.



PHOTO CREDIT: DON YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY

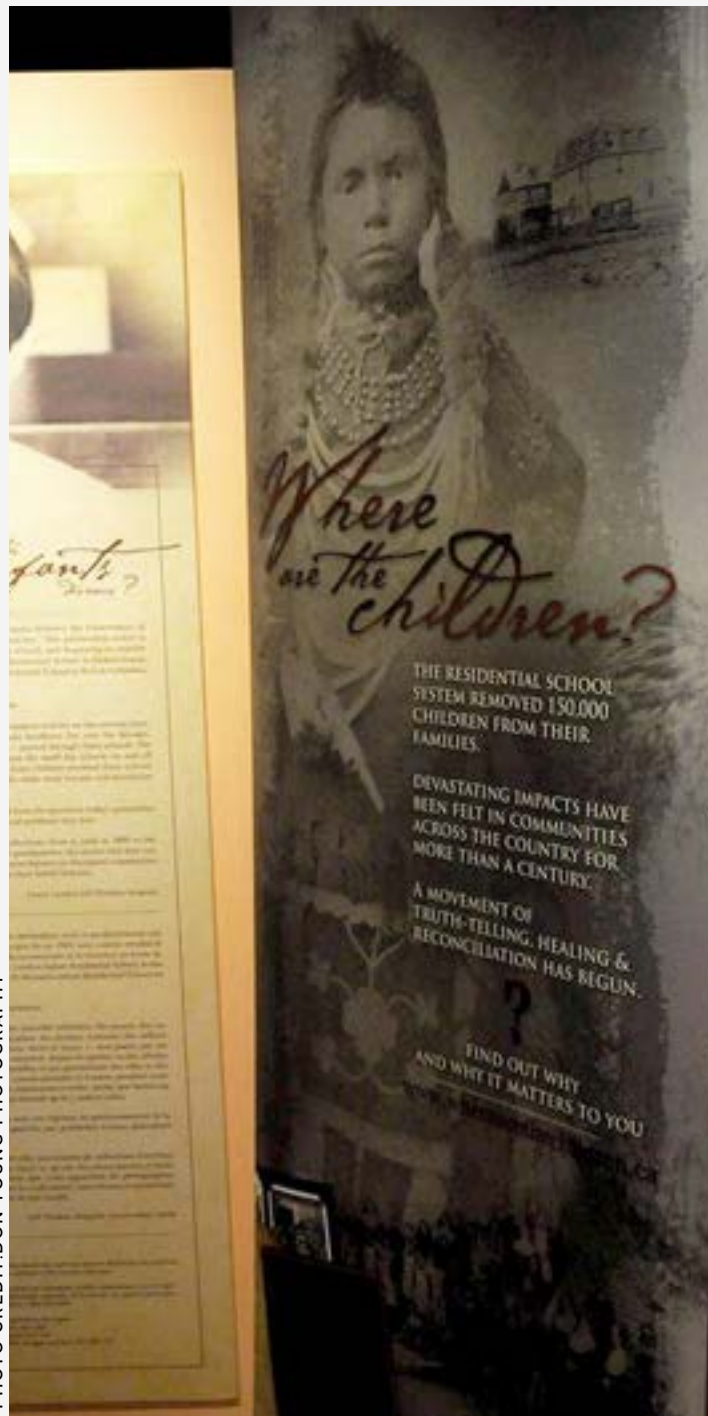




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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Guided by the mandate and purposes approved at the 2022 AGM we are working to ensure our organization continues to be collaborative, innovative, and inclusive. Chilliwack has many stories to tell, and we have an ambitious, multi year schedule of exhibits and activities planned to share those stories with our guests. It's been a pleasure to see strong attendance at exhibit opening receptions and increased numbers of school groups throughout the past year.

Over the past couple of years Archives staff and volunteers have focused on digitizing photographs and enhancing descriptions of archival and object records. This has significantly boosted our online presence through our data base PastPerfect Online. Searches of our records have doubled in the last five years to 17,000 in 2022. This year we were pleased to liaise with a local organization supporting adult students with disabilities. Our gift shop and Archives have welcomed students and their support workers, providing venues for increasing workplace skills.

Our Executive Director, Shawna Dwyer, continues to provide the organization with strong leadership balanced with a collaborative work environment. She is innovative with funding sources and is always looking for ways to keep us current. Our new Museum Coordinator, Laura Bergen, has streamlined the gift shop, added new volunteers to our roster and made mutually beneficial connections with local businesses and the Cultural Centre. The Collections Technician position was changed from a contract position to a full time permanent in response to the increased number of exhibits plus additional curatorial work required with our collection.

The Society changed its insurance provider after a review process. We now deal with HUB International and their local employees rather than a company in Eastern Canada. We also approved a new provider for employee benefits and established a matching RRSP plan for employees. Thanks to the Human Resources Committee and our Executive Director we now have a comprehensive and current set of Human Resources Policies. These and other policies have review dates and will be refreshed as required.

Our main entrance door and ground floor washroom had their accessibility upgrades done in the summer of 2022.

Our Hops and Heritage kick off event last June was held on the Museum lawn and had the feel of a relaxed garden party. It was exciting to return to the Chilliwack Christmas Craft Market last November. Sales from our booth were brisk and it was a great chance to connect with the public.

We continue to be grateful for the support and cooperation we receive from the City of Chilliwack, it means a lot. Our wonderful crew of staff and volunteers are passionate about their work and we appreciate their commitment to the success of our Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Clark, President

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Chilliwack Museum & Archives team entered 2022 full of new inspiration and filled with excitement! While the COVID-19 pandemic posed many challenges to the heritage sector, our organization included, it also provided an opportunity for rejuvenation. With a new direction, and a new mandate, we are committed to being an innovative, responsive, and inclusive organization that connects people with the past, present, and future.

Throughout the pages of this report you will see the successes that we experienced throughout 2022. All areas of operations experienced an increase of attendance and engagement, not only in comparison to 2021, but also in comparison to pre-COVID numbers.

It was our privilege to receive funding through the Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills Employment Training (SASET) program for an Indigenous Arts & Culture Programmer. Calista was responsible for developing initiatives that take into consideration UNDRIP Recommendations, DRIPA legislation, and the TRC Calls to Action to promote Indigenous culture, history, and reconciliation.

In addition to the COVID relief grants that continued to be available to our industry, we are thankful for the continued financial support from our dedicated members, personal and corporate donors, and various granting agencies including the Chilliwack Foundation, Canadian Museums Association, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Province of British Columbia. Most importantly, for the continued support of the City of Chilliwack and wish to express our sincerest thanks.

We are grateful for our volunteer base of 20 dedicated, inspiring, and passionate volunteers who continue to help us operate at both the Museum and the Archives. We would not succeed without your continued commitment and passion for our organization.

Finally, we also wish to express our thanks to you, our members, who have enthusiastically supported us throughout our continued development. Thank you for your continued support.

Ch'ithométsel (I thank you),



WHO WE ARE

ÉY KW'ES EMI TE XAXA TEMEXWS TE STÓ:LÖ



PHOTO CREDIT: DON YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY

PURPOSES

- a) Create experiences with local and global significance that encourage dialogue and inspire action.
- b) Collaborate with the community to ensure that the Society operates in a representative, participatory, and inclusive manner.
- c) Develop relevant programming that is creatively and intellectually stimulating, modelled to promote life-long learning.
- d) Make Chilliwack's diverse histories accessible with the enhancement and exploration of the Museum and Archives Collection.

**THE CHILLIWACK MUSEUM
AND ARCHIVES IS AN
INNOVATIVE, RESPONSIVE,
AND INCLUSIVE
ORGANIZATION THAT
CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH
THE PAST, PRESENT, AND
FUTURE.**

CMA TEAM



SARAH BELLEY
EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR



LAURA BERGEN
MUSEUM COORDINATOR



MATTHEW COOK
ARCHIVES TECHNICIAN



SHAWNA DWYER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TRISTAN EVANS
ARCHIVIST



KATE FELTREN
CURATOR



JESSICA HRYCYK
EDUCATION PROGRAMMER



SYDNEY LAISS
COLLECTIONS TECHNICIAN

NOT PICTURED

ERIN CASKEY
MUSEUM ATTENDANT

EMERSON SIMMS
MUSEUM ATTENDANT

CMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PAT CLARK
PRESIDENT



DAVID CLARKE
VICE PRESIDENT



MERLIN BUNT
TREASURER



ALISON KAYE
SECRETARY



ALEETA SEPASS
DIRECTOR



BRADLEY GIONET
DIRECTOR



JENNIFER FEINBERG
DIRECTOR



KAITLYN JANZEN
DIRECTOR

NOT PICTURED

DARRELL LINDHOUT
SUPERINTENDENT OF CIVIC
FACILITIES, 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 RECIPIENT 2023 LAURA REID

Laura Reid has contributed much to building a greater understanding of Chilliwack's past while bringing/presenting new ideas and innovations to keep it alive. Laura, who cofounded the Chilliwack Heritage Society is also a member of the City of Chilliwack's first Heritage Advisory Committee.



ADMISSIONS + MEMBERSHIPS

Admissions

CHILD	849
STUDENT	509
ADULT	2724
SENIOR	1004

GRAND TOTAL	5086
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Memberships

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP	20
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	35
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	10
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	3
VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP	20
NOT FOR PROFIT MEMBERSHIP	2

GRAND TOTAL:	90
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ARCHIVES

Archives staff and volunteers entered 2022 in full swing! The team was ready to bounce back from closures in 2020 and a weary research crowd in 2021. The Archives recorded a 54.3% increase in visitors going from 221 visitors in 2021 to 341 visitors in 2022. Correspondingly, visitor hours increased 35.1% from 261.65 hours in 2021 to 353.5 hours in 2022. The emphasis that staff and volunteers placed on digitizing photographs and adding more descriptive records online started to show. The online database saw an increase in search requests from 10,951 in 2021 to 17,038 in 2022. The teams goal is to continue to increase these numbers in 2023.

Visitor numbers, hours, and search requests did not happen in a bubble. While there are many contributing factors, in 2022 staff and volunteers stressed the importance of collaboration and outreach. Working with local universities, high schools, regional archives, genealogy and heritage groups, community organizations, and special interest groups, the archives worked hard to build rapport and relevancy within the larger community. Hosting tours, presenting lectures, supervising archival job training, digitizing records, and building specific inventories for relevant topics all helped improve relations with other organizations and the community of Chilliwack.

STATS

Archival, Artifact, and Library Donations: 66
Visitors: 341
Visitor Hours: 353.5
Research Emails: 162
Research Phone Calls: 209
Volunteer Hours: 471.85
Online Collections Database Searches: 17,038
Archival Tour Participants: 75



2022.035.003.001 | CHERRY ORCHARD IN PROMONTORY
HEIGHTS SILVER THAW SILVER THAW



2022.018.002 | CHWK
EMERGENCY BULLETIN, 1935
SILVER THAW

CURATORIAL

With the onset of recent climate disasters in the Fraser Valley, the focus for the Curatorial Department in 2022 was emergency planning. Staff participated in professional development opportunities, which provided hands-on training for collections salvage techniques and building an emergency response plan. There was excellent progress made on the Collections Storage Re-organization Project, which aids in disaster mitigation by improving storage conditions and reducing hazards.

In total, 43 collections storage units (3,588 objects) were inventoried; 8 units of oversized objects were cleaned; more than 20 custom storage boxes and mounts were fabricated; and the taxidermy collection was cleaned, rehoused, and isolated for safety purposes.

By the end of the year, 40% of the ongoing inventory project was complete. As a result, only 469 out of 11,025 (4.3%) objects in the collection are unphotographed, which contributes to improved accessibility online. At the end of 2020, there were over a thousand unphotographed objects in the collections database. Moving forward, staff continues to prioritize storage re-organization to improve the longevity and accessibility of the collection.

2022 ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

- 2022.006 Decorative pillowcase commemorating #112 Canadian Army (Basic) Training Centre
- 2022.024 Chilliwack Commemorative Plates; Community Arts Centre and Post Office
- 2022.027 Chester Chadsey's writing desk
- 2022.036 Cast iron heater and electrical items from 1925 house built by Newby family
- 2022.035 Peter Pirie's (WWI and WWII veteran and former Major with Westminster "D" Regiment) military medals
- 2022.042 Framed Set of Pins from 2006 Continental Cup Curling Tournament
- 2022.043 Stamp album, formerly belonging to Grace Thornton, the first postmistress in Sardis
- 2022.056 X̱a:yxeleq Há:kw'eles Swáyeł Ribbon from Stó:lō Veterans Remembrance Day 2022
- 2022.057 COVID-19 antigen rapid testing kit and N95 mask
- 2022.060 Promontory Women's Institute Items, including a plaque, banner, cash box, and ribbons



EDUCATION + ENGAGEMENT



PROGRAMS DELIVERED:

- Tell Me A Story: Youth Literature And The Holocaust
- Techno-Quilt
- Ts'elxwéyeqw: Then and Now
- Skow:wech: The Great White Sturgeon
- Where Are The Children: Healing The Legacy Of Residential Schools

STUDENT VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS

- Elementary: 856 students
- Middle School: 868 students
- High School: 323 students

TOTAL STUDENT
PARTICIPANTS:
2047

This year saw a pivotal shift in Educational Programming. While the newly dedicated Education Space was completed in 2021, it was not until the beginning of 2022 that classes began returning to the Museum. The addition of the new cabinetry in March has improved access to the education collection and programming materials.

Tell Me A Story: Youth Literature And The Holocaust saw 292 middle school visitors in the month of January. This program debuted our new immersive exhibit program offering which aims to promote student agency, curiosity and expression. **Where Are The Children: Healing The Legacy Of Residential Schools** has been the highest attended exhibit to date with 61 tours and 1245 students in attendance from grade 1-12. This increase is largely due to the strong curricular connections, as well as the timely and relevant messages that these exhibits provide.

EVENTS

OPENING RECEPTION: QOQO: | HIGH WATER + DAY AFTER DAY

February 24, 2022 | Attendance: 40

Our first opening reception post pandemic was well attended and an exciting moment for all!

The evening featured remarks from Kate, Curator and an artist talk by Krista Kilvert on her installation **Day after day after day after day....**

OPENING RECEPTION: COMMUNITY ART SHOW + FROM THE ARCHIVES: JAMES BOOEN

October 27, 2022 | Attendance: 165

A special evening for artists participating in the art show to see their pieces and share them with their friends and family, while also receiving an exclusive first look at **From the Archives: James Booen.**

CLOSING RECEPTION WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN? HEALING THE IMPACTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS + #HOPEANDHEALINGCANADA

October 6, 2022 | Attendance: 65

The reception featured a performance by the Éy St'élmexw St'elt'ílém (Good Medicine Songs) band. The group is a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members who have come together to share culturally inviting songs in the traditional Stó:lō language, Halq'emeyem, as well as English.

Tracey-Mae Chambers provided an artist talk on her her installation **#hopeandhealingcanada.**

HOPS & HERITAGE

The third annual *Hops & Heritage Fundraiser* was held on June 25, 2022 at the Chilliwack Museum! This was the first year we were able to host the event in person since the pandemic.

The event featured a beer garden with five local breweries, Bricklayer Brewing Co., Farmhouse Brewing Co., Field House Brewing Co., Flashback Brewing Co., and Old Yale Brewing Co. live music from The Maybelles and Jada McKenzie-Moore, food from Becky's Grill2Go, select panels from **The Hops Connection: From Industry Gold to Lasting Legacy** and more!

Over 150 community members attended the event! The feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive, with more than 50% of those in attendance having never visited the Museum before.





EXHIBITIONS

Six new exhibitions were launched in 2022, aimed to encourage reflection on a variety of relevant topics. With the increased turnover of exhibits, as part of the newly created seasonal exhibit calendar, there was a significant increase in visitation. Exhibit admissions totalled 5,086, which is more than double pre-pandemic admissions. This dynamic shift will continue to drive exhibition development in coming years.

QOQO: | HIGH WATER

FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TO JUNE 4, 2022

This exhibition examined the vast expanse of Semá:th Xó:tsa (Sumas Lake) that once existed on what is now Sumas Prairie, while reflecting on the environmental and cultural impacts of European settlement, including the draining of the lake.

DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY....BY KRISTA KILVERT

FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TO JUNE 24, 2022

Chilliwack artist Krista Kilvert's installation featured a series of photographic panels printed on transparent fabric, with images captured at Baily Sanitary Landfill in Chilliwack. The installation was intended to encourage dialogue on rapid consumption and the lingering effects on the planet.

#HOPEANDHEALINGCANADA BY TRACEY-MAE CHAMBERS

JUNE 1, 2022 TO OCTOBER 15, 2022

Tracey-Mae Chambers created a site-specific art installation on the Chilliwack Museum's exterior, as part of her Canada-wide project broaching the subject of decolonization and reconciliation. Each installation is crafted out of woven red yarn, intended to physically intervene on colonial spaces and symbolize the resilience of Indigenous communities.

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN? HEALING THE IMPACTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS; A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION FROM LEGACY OF HOPE FOUNDATION

JUNE 30, 2022 TO OCTOBER 15, 2022

This exhibition is the first to be developed in Canada on Residential Schools, produced by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, an Indigenous-led charitable organization whose goal is to educate/promote healing and reconciliation. The exhibition uses archival photographs and documents to tell the story of the Residential School System, and spans over 125 years.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: JAMES BOOEN

OCTOBER 27, 2022 TO JANUARY 21, 2023

A highly visual exhibition featuring the works of Chilliwack's first professional photographer, James Orville Booen. The collection illustrates Chilliwack in the early post-contact era, and creates a diverse historical record with the representation of immigrant and Indigenous community members, providing clues about social and historical contexts during this period.

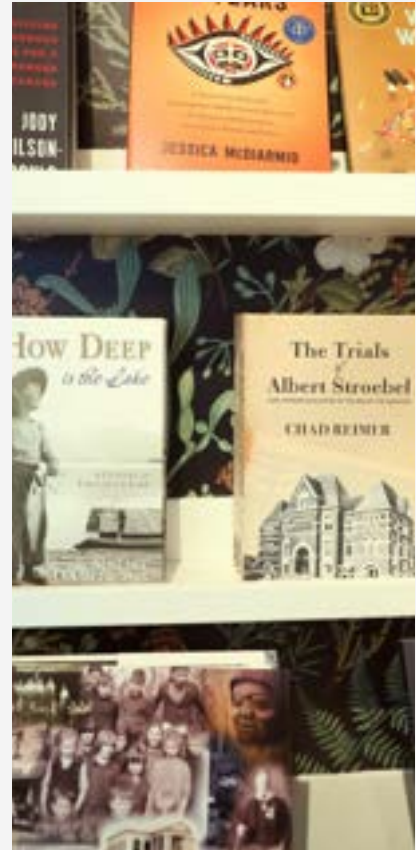
COMMUNITY ART SHOW

OCTOBER 27, 2022 TO JANUARY 28, 2023

Produced in support of Culture Days, the third annual Community Art Show included works from more than 50 Chilliwack artists in a variety of mediums, including photography, painting, drawing, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, and collage.



GIFT SHOP



The gift shop was redesigned in 2022 to be more accessible while showcasing the diverse range of merchandise in an eye-catching manner. We also continued to expand our inventory of locally made items, as we welcomed a beautiful laser cut collection from Chilliwack Laser Cutting & Design.

Of the total sales, \$1,340.37 was earned at the 2022 Christmas Craft Fair at Heritage Park in December. The sale highlighted many of the local and handmade products that we carry, and it helped to build awareness of the shop within the community.

**TOTAL # OF SALES:
1340**

**TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:
\$13,929.09**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you to all the individuals, companies, and organizations who contributed financially to the continued success of the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2022.



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

VOLUNTEERS

The museum would not have been operational without the 20 dedicated volunteers who contributed a total of 1510 hours to the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2022.

Fredelle Copeland, Karen Klassen, Marilyn Ricker, Vicki Grieve, Wanda Stevenson, Olivia Tuck, Kylie Dallas-Norton, Ev Parker, Lawrie Edwards, Shannon Shortridge, Jazmin Hughes, Madeleine Avery, Vivian Walker, Betty Balzer, Bryan Stokes, Timea Szekely, Ken Nice, Willa Ter Haar, Carol Moon, Lisa Gustafson

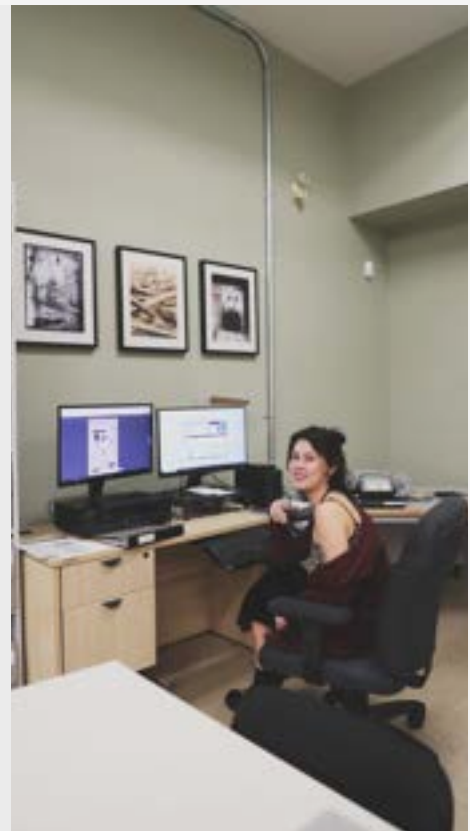
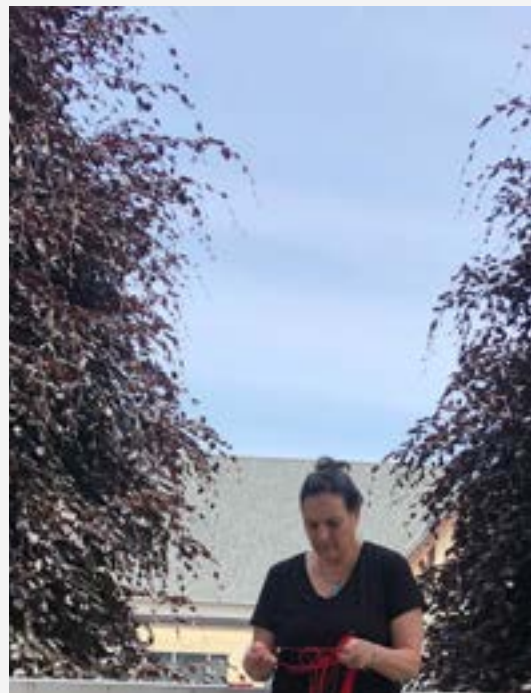


PHOTO CREDIT: AROUND CHILLIWACK



PHOTO CREDIT:DON YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY





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CHILLIWACK
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