

oliver & district

The

Lamplighter



Fall & Winter 2023 Edition

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Welcome!

The Oliver and District Heritage Society is located on the traditional unceded and ancestral territory of the sylix Okanagan First Nation in beautiful Oliver, BC.

We're so happy to present the Fall and Winter 2023 edition of the Lamplighter Newsletter. We've been very busy over the summer months and it's time for our quarterly update...the last one until the New Year. Keep reading to learn about the accomplishments of our small and mighty team!

Fun Fact

Laurie Smith was one of the first teachers to work at the one-room school house at the Fairview Townsite. She moved to the small mining town from Enderby, BC and rented a room from the Fairview Hotel. Laurie would have taught a variety of children and subjects. Unfortunately, she died in the tragic fire at the hotel in 1902. This photo was taken c. late 1890s. ODHS archives 2014.01.19



Staff and Volunteer News

Director's Message

Darren is proud to report the many exciting updates related to large projects the ODHS is spearheading.

The ODHS is working on a Heritage Signage Project which will enhance the history of the Oliver community in terms of telling the stories of local heritage buildings and landmarks around town. Currently, we are awaiting grant funding to assist with fabrication and installation of the heritage plaque signs.

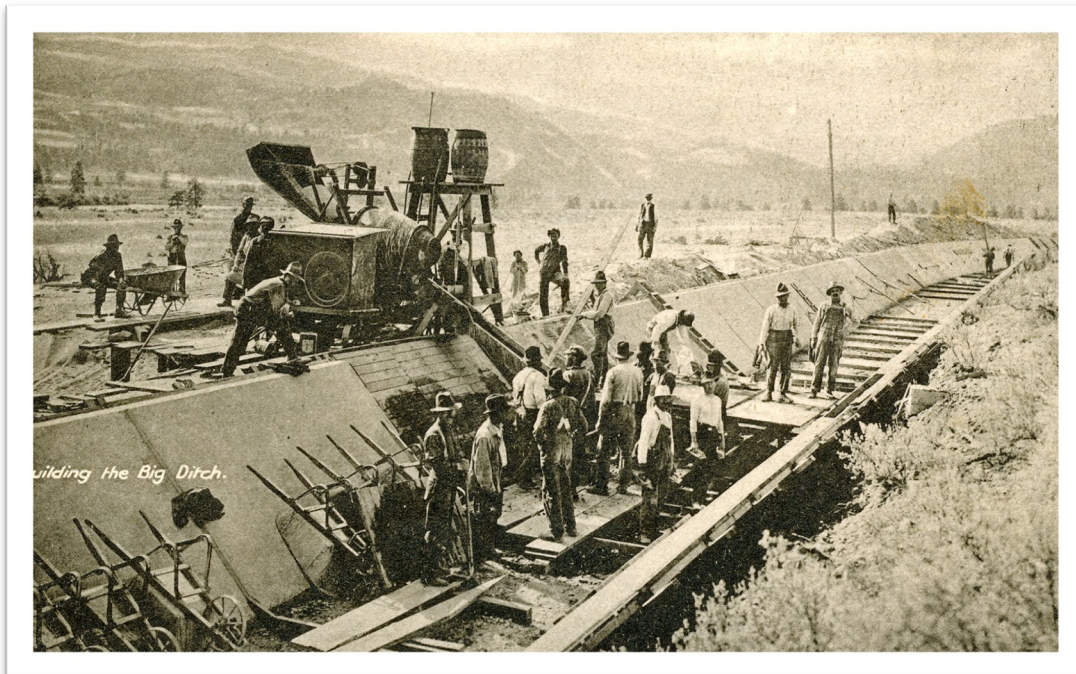
The Fairview Townsite is another project we are proud to be a part of, for the ODHS is officially a signatory to a five-year Heritage Services Agreement with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS). The management plan involves preserving the natural landscape, plants and environment of Fairview, as well as improving the storytelling of this important heritage site with interpretive signage, enhanced walking trails and interactive imagery using QR codes. When complete, the public will be able to learn about the Indigenous Peoples of the area, the growth of mining in Fairview, ranching and early Oliver.

The ODHS are working with several partners on this project, including the Osoyoos Indian Band, the RDOS, environmental and consulting organizations, including Delve Landscape Design and other community groups.



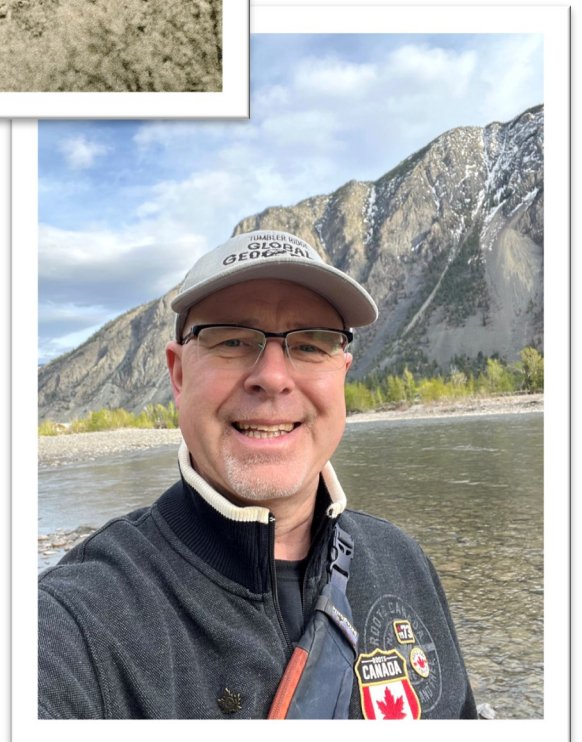
Director's Message

Telling the story of Oliver's irrigation canal system (nicknamed the "Ditch") is central to the town's history and the research aspect of the project is coming to a close with the final report on the canal. The research involved combing through the ODHS archives as well as other archives in BC, libraries and conducting oral history interviews. Phase two of the project encompasses awarding a contract for the creation of detailed drone video footage of the canal with voiceover narration overlaid with historic archival images.



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Darren continues to establish partnerships and work with various community groups, the RDOS, First Nations and the Town of Oliver to further and promote ODHS projects.

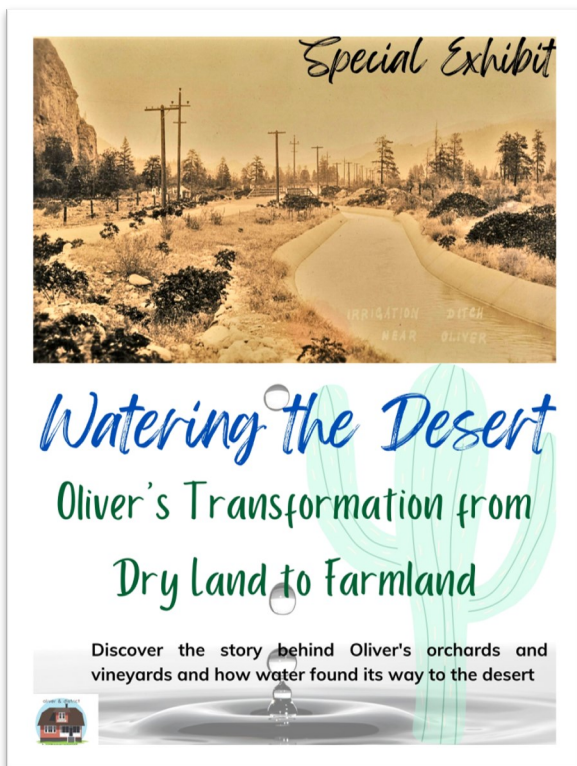


Curator's Corner

The ODHS Curator, Janell has been working on several projects over the summer months and a few highlights are detailed below.

Our special temporary exhibit, *Watering the Desert—Oliver's transformation from Dry Land to Farmland* officially opened in July. The exhibit tells the broad story of the construction of the Canal irrigation project, and how it led to the development and growth of orchards and vineyards in the Oliver region. There's lots of interesting archival material and artefacts on display that enhance the storytelling, spark curiosity, and inspire you to learn more about Oliver's rich history. This was the first major exhibit Janell completed since joining the ODHS and the staff and board are proud of the end result. We invite you to visit, explore and ask questions!

Janell is continuing to improve the organization of the ODHS permanent collection to enhance accessibility, preservation, historic interpretation and exhibition of the Society's artefacts and archival materials. Janell recently completed a detailed index of the entire permanent artefact collection housed in the museum storage rooms and is working on indexing the permanent archive holdings. This will significantly enhance the ODHS' collection management system.



Curator's Corner

Janell created and implemented a plan to deal with the ODHS collection backlog or unprocessed donations. The project will allow the collection to grow and enhance ODHS staff's ability to interpret and exhibit the fascinating stories of the people, places and events throughout Oliver's history and the community as a whole. Archives Assistant Alec, is taking the lead on organizing, cataloging and accessioning the backlog into the permanent collection under Janell's guidance and training.

In the fall, Janell had the opportunity to attend the BC Museum Association Conference in Haida Gwaii. It was an amazing learning and networking occasion, as Janell made connections with other museum and cultural professionals and gained further insight into Indigenous teachings and their connection to the heritage sector. Janell returned to the ODHS invigorated with new ideas and ambitions on how to improve the ODHS.

Janell is excited for the advancement of these projects and to see the ODHS become a stronger organization in the Oliver community.



Archival Assistant's Review

The beginning of September marked an exciting conclusion for Alec at the Oliver and District Heritage Society, but thankfully not an end regarding his employment. Alec completed the important project of digitizing the Oliver Chronicle Newspaper from 1937-2010. When he first started scanning the Chronicle in September of 2021, Alec had to manage and organize an impressive collection of newspapers spanning almost four decades. This amounted to digitizing thousands of newspapers over the course of two years. While the work was often challenging, Alec will miss watching the fashion trends change throughout the years and witnessing the reporting of the town's grow as a community.

You can read past articles of the Oliver Chronicle on the British Columbia Regional Digitized History site, <https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/search/oliver%20chronicle?type=dismax>. You can also visit the ODHS Archives page on our website and follow the link there.



Archival Assistant's Review

Even though Alec's work of digitizing is complete, an exciting new project begins, for he will be more involved in the care of our artefact and archival collections. Alec was presented with the formidable (but essential) task of filtering and organizing material out of the collection backlog rooms and cataloguing and accessioning the items into the permanent collection. For several years donations have been kept safe in ODHS backlog storage rooms, but remained unprocessed. However, the backlog is currently being managed and will be properly preserved into the future on account of this project. Alec has found several curious items in the backlog telling fascinating stories about Oliver's history. He looks forward to discovering more about the town's past.

The ODHS has partnered with the University of British Columbia on a different digital archive project, which allows our archival photographs to be uploaded onto a searchable database via the UBC site. This will improve the accessibility of our holdings and allow the public to learn more about Oliver's history.



ODHS Volunteers

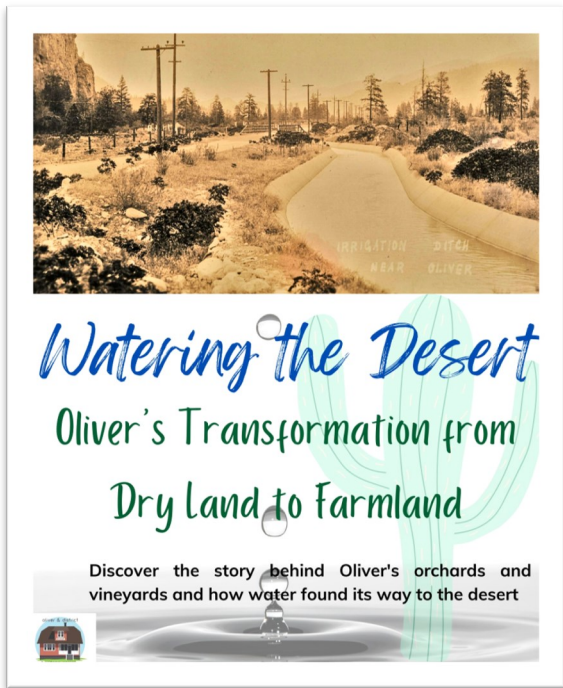
Our volunteers are super important to the ODHS and they help staff with many projects related to researching, programming, events, weeding and caring for our Heritage Garden and more. Our current volunteer group is small and mighty and we thank you for your amazing support.

ODHS volunteers have recently helped with research related to the Heritage Signage project, data entry and filing, Heritage Garden maintenance and re-developing the museum back yard into a programming area.

We've had people come and go as Society volunteers, so to all those past helpers, thank you so much for your important contributions!



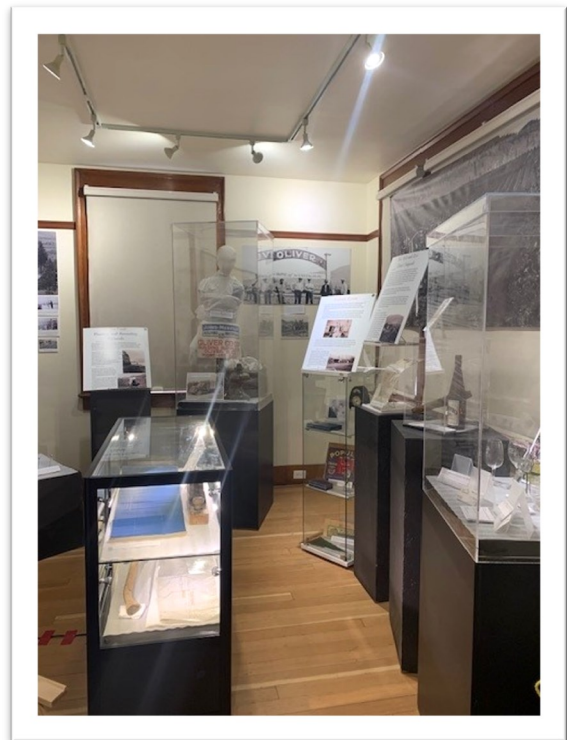
Exhibits



Over the summer, the ODHS opened a special temporary exhibit that tells the story of the irrigation canal and the orchards and vineyards in the area.

Discover and learn about this important piece of Oliver's history!

The ODHS Curator is planning on **creating mini community exhibits** starting in the new year. We'll be using space at the Community Hall at the Oliver Parks and Rec Centre. Thank you to the OPR staff for letting us use the space.



Educational Programming

ODHS Curator, Janell with staff support is continuing to create and plan educational programmes for schools. They will centre around a variety of topics related to Oliver's diverse history.

The ODHS has partnered with Forager Education to develop online educational programmes that will be available to schools and teachers all over BC and elsewhere.

We have re-developed the backyard area of the museum to be an outdoor programming space during the spring and summer months, which will enrich the quality and experience of our educational offerings. The space includes a covered gazebo and an improved patio space and pathway.



The ODHS ED and Curator would like to say thank you to Mark Daigle who led the project as well as Board Members, Bruce Hamilton, Dave Janzen and Society staff Alec Wolff for your support and volunteering your time in developing this project.

The museum backyard under construction



Educational Programming



Pouring and setting the concrete. Thank you Hebig Brothers for your work

The finished product looks great and we're excited for our programme space to be used in the spring



Events and Outreach

The ODHS participated in several community events over the summer and fall months. The Society set-up our Heritage Booth at the Music in the Park events, Roots and Fruits Festival and the Festival of the Grape. We strive to be part of the community so be sure to stop by our booth at future events.

In regard to the Heritage Management Plan for the Fairview townsite, the ODHS is looking for community feedback and opinions on the project. We invite you to submit your thoughts, so join the public consultation.

What do you know about Oliver's Historic

FAIRVIEW TOWNSITE?

The Oliver and District Heritage Society is developing a Heritage Management Plan and needs your help!

**Do you ever visit?
What would you like to see there?
What does Fairview mean to you?**

Please **give us your feedback** so we can make your Fairview experience better! All submissions will be entered in a draw for ODHS merch.

scan the QR code with your smartphone camera
web: www.tinyurl.com/4fff4put
email: Info@oliverheritage.ca

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to share your thoughts. Thank you!

The Fairview Townsite is within the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the sylix Okanagan Nation



Opportunities with the ODHS

Volunteer

at the ODHS and be part
of a vibrant heritage
community!

**Projects you can help
with include**

Researching
Programmes
Events

No deadline to apply

email info@oliverheritage.ca






Do you like history?

Become a Board Member with the Oliver and District Heritage Society and join a team of history enthusiasts!

Make valuable contributions to the local heritage community!

Duties include



Attending monthly meetings
Estimated 6 hrs per month of ODHS meeting prep work and attendance
Occasional volunteering at events

Interested? Want more info?

Email info@oliverheritage.ca

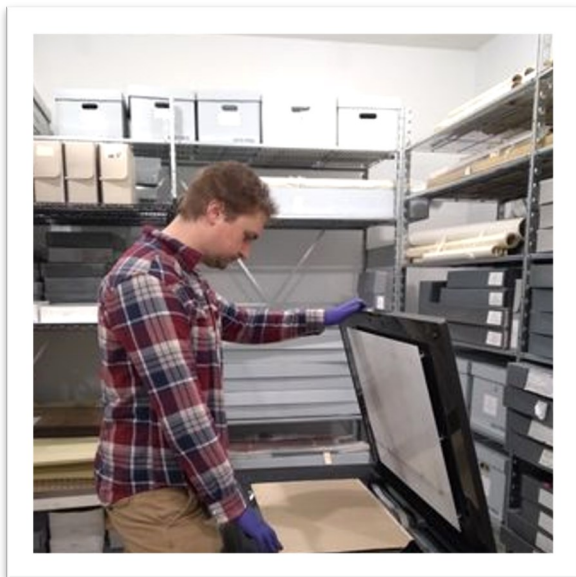




Last Notes



Until next time, that's our fall and winter update and we hope you enjoyed learning about the many projects ODHS staff are involved in. Whether you're a long-time resident of Oliver or new to the region, we welcome visitors from all demographics to explore the interesting heritage exhibits at the museum or research in the archive. We take pride in our work interpreting and preserving the history of Oliver and the surrounding region for everyone to enjoy, so please visit. Our staff are happy to help you, and answer your history questions.





Museum Winter Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 1pm-4pm

Location/Contact:

PO Box. 847

474 School Ave, Oliver, BC

250-689-6655

curator@oliverheritage.ca

Membership

Become a member of the ODHS and purchase an annual membership via our website (www.oliverheritage.ca) or in person at the Museum or Archives buildings. Memberships start at \$10 per year. Visit our website for complete membership prices.

Members will be added to our mailing list, which will keep you updated on important local and regional heritage information.



Archive Hours

Open year-round

Tuesday– Friday 10am-1pm

Location/Contact:

PO Box. 847

430 Fairview Rd, Oliver, BC

250-689-6677

Gift Shop

The ‘World’s Smallest Gift Shop’ at the Museum has lots of merchandise available

Services

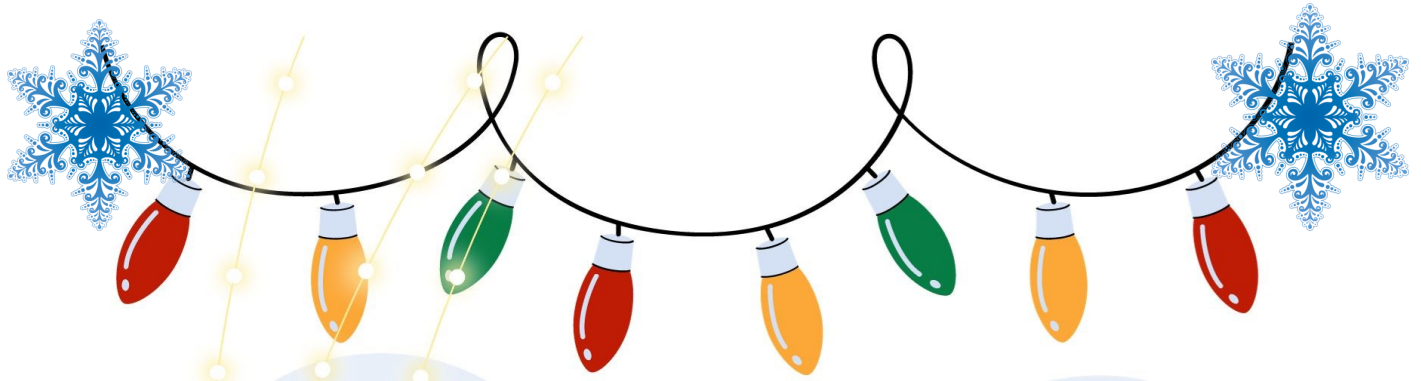
The ODHS offers archival research services by expert staff to help you find answers

The Oliver and District Heritage Society is generously supported by:



Visit oliverheritage.ca for the latest news, updates, and heritage resources





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*The ODS wishes everyone a happy
and joyful holiday season
and good tidings in 2024!*



**The museum and archives will be closed over the holiday
break from December 23, 2023 to January 1, 2024**

We reopen on January 2

