



Welcome to the Lamplighter!

Read on to learn about the interesting projects happening at the ODHS!

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Staff and Board Updates

The Oliver and District Heritage Society is proud to introduce our new Executive Director, Darren Halsted!

Originally from Northern England Darren worked as a criminal defense lawyer, but he and his wife, Ann decided to move to Tumbler Ridge, BC in 2019. They were already familiar with BC having travelled here in the past to see family and the move was an exciting opportunity.

Darren worked in Tumbler Ridge as General Manager to the trails organization, and Project Manager at the UNESCO GeoPark which allowed him to work very closely with the cultural heritage sector.

Darren has been at the ODHS Museum & Archives since May 2022 and fits right in with our museum family.



Another new staff member is our Curator, Janell Lancaster! Originally from Ottawa she has a B.A in History and Religious Studies and a Museum/Archives Degree.

Janell carries forward a lot of experience within the BC Heritage sector, working at museums, archives and National Historic Sites on the Coast and Interior of BC. Her professional interest lies within collections management, interpretation and exhibition.

Janell and Darren are excited to implement exciting new plans for the ODHS, get to know and be part of the community and share and preserve the history of Oliver.

The ODHS is thrilled that Darren and Janell have joined our team!



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ODHS Heritage Assistant Calissa Stewart has been hard at work doing research on the Ditch canal system for a new project that the museum is working on.

She is looking through the museum archives and collections to learn more about the Ditch project that began in 1918 as a rehabilitation project for the returning WWI veterans. The ditch has many fascinating stories attached to it that she is excited to share once her research is complete.

Here's one interesting fact Calissa uncovered....

Did you know that the provincial government paid \$350,000 to purchase the 22,000 acres of land from McIntyre Bluff to the US-Canada Border that the ditch was built on? Today that same amount of land would cost more than \$140 million in British Columbia.

The ODHS is happy to have Calissa as part of our team and we thank her for her important research contributions!



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Another ODHS staff member is Alec Wolff, who's been with us for just over a year. He's finishing our digitization project of the Oliver Chronicle as well as other projects for the ODHS. To date, Alec scanned and edited over 27 years' worth of newspapers; back of the napkin math estimates that at over 30,000 individual pages placed into a scanner and later cropped and saved onto the computer. It can be tedious work, but Alec's excited to see the light is creeping to the end of this project. This November, Alec is expected to have given UBC a sample of what will be the finished digitized product. By the time you read this, the hope is you will be able to view this sample on their website. The six-year sampling will be free to access online and the text in the newspapers will be fully searchable. This will allow the community to reconnect with their local history.

Digitization is Alec's primary duty, but he does lots of other things too. In addition to satisfying a number of research requests given to the archives, Alec created a small Remembrance Day themed exhibit in November of 2021. It showcased the amazing accomplishments of our Oliver veterans. Alec worked on achieving a grant to fund a joint event with the Heritage Society, the South Okanagan Flying Club, and the Osoyoos Model Airplane Club for Family Day 2022. We gave out free model airplane crafting kits to children in the community, which included information on how planes can fly and the history of the Oliver.

Thank you, Alec for all of your work, the ODHS is happy to have you as a team member!



The ODHS would like to give a warm welcome to our newest Board Member, Jenna Bower! Jenna comes to the Board with a diverse set of skills and experiences being the current Manager of the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre.

Finally, a massive thank you to all of our amazing, dedicated volunteers who help us with so many of our projects. There's too many to name here, but you know how you are. Thanks for helping with collections and archival work, events, research and everything else the ODHS is involved in. We appreciate you.



Event Highlights

During the summer and fall months the Oliver and District Heritage Society participated in a number of local events. You may recall 'Archie the Apple' who went along with us, posing in various promo photos that were very successful in drawing attention and awareness to the museum and archives. You probably noticed Archie at other popular local haunts as well.

The ODHS were at the Music in the Park event, Roots and Fruits Festival, the Wine Village Night Market and Festival of the Grape. We were successful in selling our book, *100x100: A Celebration of the People of Oliver and the Osoyoos Indian Band* as well as our other merchandise. If you happened to miss us at the festivals, the book (among other merchandise) is still available at the 'World's Smallest Gift Shop' at the museum.

We also participated in the Oliver Amazing Race event, where the museum was a stop for teams to gather clues. It was lots of fun and congrats to all the teams.

Our AGM was held in October, with special guest Larry Shannon, who gave a presentation on Fairview. It was a good turnout and thanks to everyone who came out.

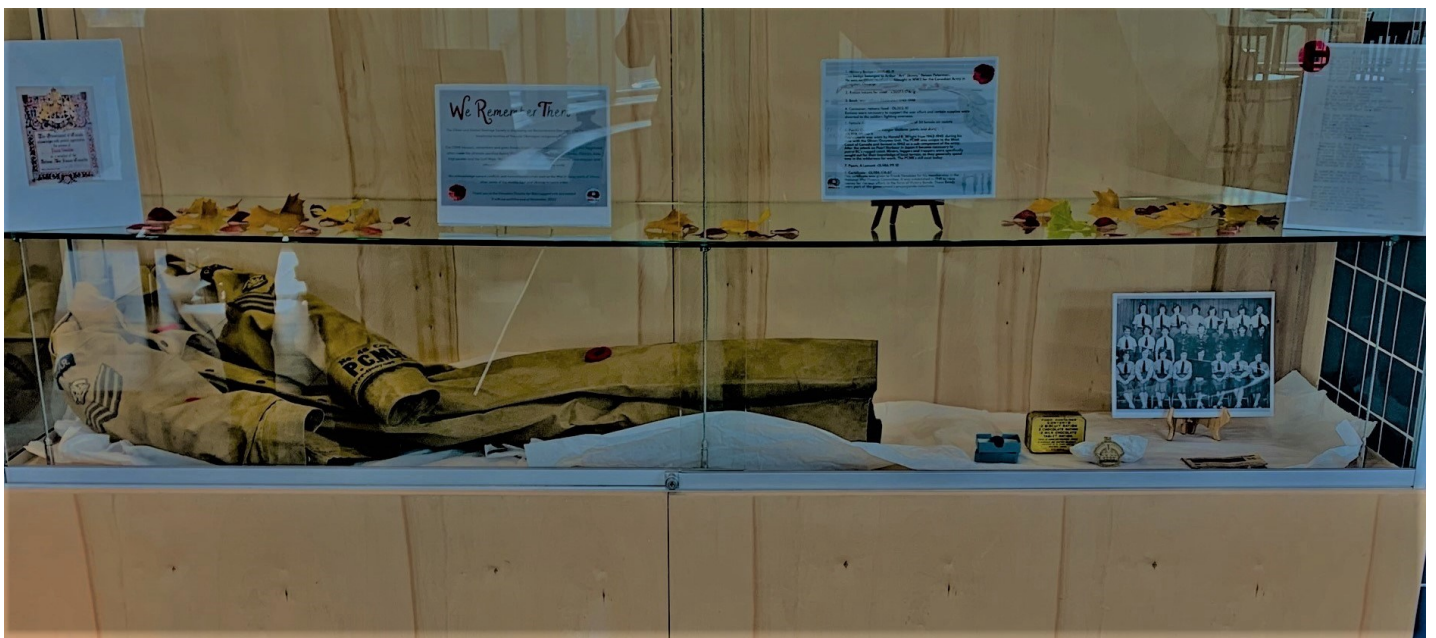
The ODHS plans to be involved again in these community events (plus more) so keep an eye on our social media and website for updates on what we're doing!



Another project we're proud of is our recent Remembrance Day exhibit at the Venables Theatre. It was on for the whole month of November. Did you get a chance to see it?

The Oliver and District Heritage Society will maintain this relationship with the Theatre and rotate our display area throughout the year with different exhibit themes and topics related to Oliver and the surrounding area. This allows us to share our artefacts and archival collections with the public on a larger scale.

Stay tuned for more future mini exhibits!



The Remembrance Day exhibit featured a variety of items from our collection:

Pacific Coast Militia Ranger uniform, ration book and ration food tin, ration tokens for meat, *A Lament* poem, membership certificate for Frank Venables, military badge and a photo of female Air Cadets



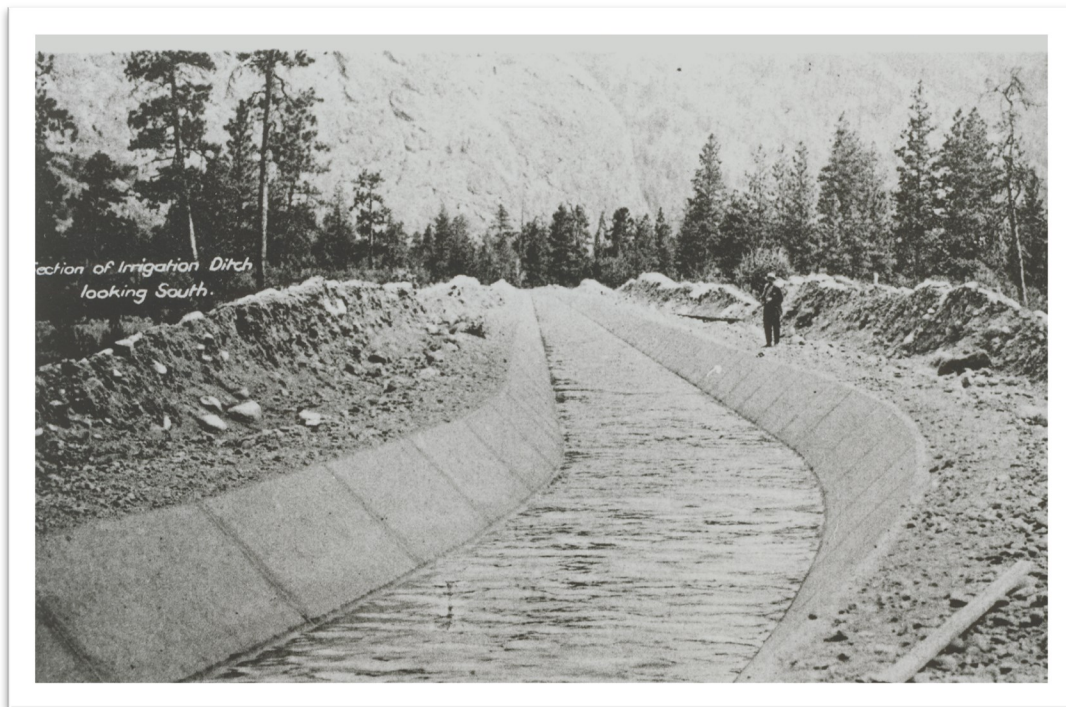
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Current Projects

We have lots of exciting projects the ODHS staff are working on and we can't wait to share them!

One of our projects relates to Oliver's Canal Irrigation System or "Ditch". We are creating a heritage video detailing the history of the project from initial conception to present day. We'll be working with a videographer/artist who will develop fly-over imagery of the entire canal system using a drone that will be juxtaposed with archival photos as well as voice-over commentary. The commentary will explain how and why the Ditch was created, the workers involved and the importance the Ditch has to agricultural throughout Oliver's history. Once this project is complete it will be available on the ODHS website as well as other places around the community.

Our Curator is working on creating virtual programming in collaboration with Forager Education to develop curriculum programmes for their VR Online Learning Portal. This digital platform will make our programmes more accessible to classrooms throughout BC and across Canada.



ODHS Archive: OLP982.78.12



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Upcoming Projects

The ODHS has several upcoming projects as well! We're a small, ambitious team and we're looking forward to showcasing all our future plans.

Our Curator is working to create new educational, curriculum based in-person programmes for schools to be implemented in the fall of 2023. We'll have a variety of local history, scientific, art and STEAM programmes to choose from. Additionally, we plan to increase community outreach by connecting with local organizations and senior groups to collaborate in programming.

Another initiative is to develop a new temporary exhibit to open sometime in 2023. Our Curator plans on getting back to a regular, yearly rotation of new exhibits in our temporary gallery.



See our 100x100 exhibit before it closes!

The ODHS will be updating our Heritage Walking Tour for the summer of 2023. It will be delivered in-person and be available as a self-guided programme as well, to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to engage and learn more about Oliver's history.

Finally, we are working on a potential project to enhance and improve historic interpretation of the Fairview Townsite in order to make the story more accessible to locals and visitors to Oliver.



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Last Things...



Museum Fall/ Winter Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 1pm-4pm

Location/Contact:

PO Box. 847

474 School Ave, Oliver, BC

250-689-6655

curator@oliverheritage.ca

Memberships

You can become a member of the ODHS by purchasing an annual membership (\$10 per person) on our website (www.oliverheritage.ca) or in person at the Museum or Archives.

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



Archives Fall/ Winter Hours:

Tuesday- Friday 10am-1pm

Location/Contact:

PO Box. 847

430 Fairview Rd, Oliver, BC

250-689-6677

info@oliverheritage.ca

Gift Shop

Stop by the 'World's Smallest Gift Shop' at the Museum! We have lots of merchandise available!

Services

The ODHS offers archival research services by expert staff members to help you find answers to your questions!

The Oliver and District Heritage Society is generously supported by:



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Thanks for reading
our newsletter!

We'll see you next time for more updates



The ODHS wishes everyone a lovely
holiday season, Merry Christmas and
happy New Year!



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