



# The Lamplighter

June 2, 2020

## Museum Features Local Scouting History

As camping season gets underway, a new exhibit on Scouting history is brightening up the Museum's temporary exhibit gallery. 2020 marks the 110th year of Boy Scouts/Scouts Canada in the South Okanagan, and from June to September the Museum will be offering the exhibit "Scouting in Oliver," a look back at Scouting and some of the men, women, children and teens who were involved in local Scout troops. It's a little-known fact that numerous Oliver residents rose through the ranks of Scouting to achieve impressive standing in the organization both as youth members and adult leaders. The ODHS collection contains a number of mementos and objects from these high-achieving indi-



*Uniforms, badges, and more in the new exhibit on Oliver's Scouting history.*

viduals, and these materials form the basis for the display. Information about Camporees and Jamborees, badges, uniforms, and a miniature campsite complete with a tent round out the exhibit. Reminiscences from former local Scouts bring life and color to the artifacts and photos on display.

So before you start your outdoor activities this year, feel free to book a visit, enjoy the display, and be sure to share your Scouting memories with us.

### New safety plan guides Museum and Archives reopening

After over two months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum and Archives have reopened for bookings and research appointments with new, stricter safety protocols in place in accordance with provincial guidelines.

To protect visitors, our new COVID-19 safety plan includes measures such as increased cleaning and sanitizing between visitors, enforcement of physical distancing, restrictions on visitor numbers, contactless payment, and a new online booking system for Museum visits which can be found on our website. To maintain safety, all Museum and Archives visits must now be booked in advance.

Staff will use masks when assisting the public, and visitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own masks to wear inside the buildings. Anyone who is ill, has recently

*—cont'd. on p. 2*

## Summer Hours

June 2nd—July 4th, the Museum will be open Tuesday - Saturday: 12 pm—4 pm.

July 6th to Aug. 28th, the Museum will be open Tuesday - Saturday: 10 am—4 pm.

Archives hours remain Tuesday—Friday: 10 am—1 pm.

## Meet our Staff: Our Executive Director

Hi, I'm Julianna Weisgarber, Executive Director for the ODHS. Before starting in January 2019, I worked with the Heritage Society as Collections Manager from 2014 -2018. During that time, I helped the Society through impressive growth in its exhibits, public programming, visitor numbers, documentation, and artifact care. My background includes 8 years of experience in museums and research libraries in both B.C. and Australia. I am a graduate of both the University of Northern British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and the University of Sydney with a Master of Museum Studies degree. I am originally from chilly Prince George, British Columbia, where I lived before coming to Oliver.



Julianna Weisgarber

Since joining the ODHS, my focus has been twofold: to improve the organization and accessibility of our documents and artifacts, and to build our presence in the community through programs, events, and partnerships. It's been a very busy and enjoyable past year, and we have many exciting plans for the future and for Oliver's 100th birthday next year. While the pandemic has brought new challenges, I am more grateful than ever for the support of our members, volunteers, and the local community. With your continued support, we can weather this storm and emerge with increased services, more accessible collections, and a strengthened community presence for local heritage.

Visit us at [www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca) for the latest news, updates, and heritage resources!

*Safety Plan cont'd.*— traveled, or has been in contact with a sick person in the last 14 days will be asked to stay home and to reschedule their booking.

These measures, developed following WorkSafe BC's recommendations for museums and galleries, are up to date at the time of writing and will be adapted to fit new criteria as needed over the next few months. The health and safety of our visitors, volunteers, and staff is our highest priority.

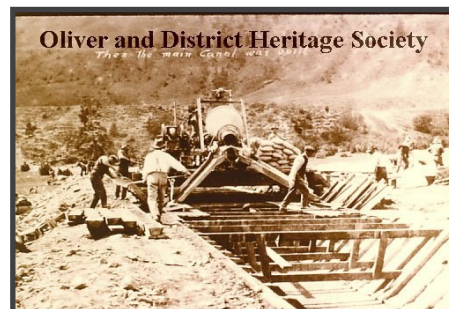
The Museum will have limited open hours in June as we start using these guidelines, with increased open hours planned for July and August. The Archives will maintain its usual hours.

Museum visits may be booked on our website or by phone at 778-439-3100. Archives appointments can be made by calling 250-498-4027 or by emailing [info@oliverheritage.ca](mailto:info@oliverheritage.ca).

We look forward to welcoming back our treasured researchers and visitors as we continue to present and preserve Oliver's colorful past.

## Sharing the wealth – of photos!

At the end of March we joined forces with the Oliver Tourism Association to create a greater online presence and bring more of Oliver's history to the community. The ODHS shared a collection of historic photos with the Oliver Tourism Association, accompanied by information explaining why the photographs are significant to the history of the town. The OTA will be posting these photos twice a month on their social media accounts and tagging the Oliver & District



*Do you have a photo to share? Contact the Archives at [info@oliverheritage.ca](mailto:info@oliverheritage.ca). Your photos help make history!*

Heritage Society. Be sure to keep an eye out for their posts to learn more about Oliver history!

## 1920s Items Displayed at Venables Theatre

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, a mini-exhibit entitled “At Home in the 1920s” was installed by our curator Veronica Parkes and our intern Rachael in the display case in the Venables Theatre lobby. The exhibit consisted of 16 items from the ODHS collections that could have been found around the house in the 1920s.

Along with an introduction to domestic life in the Roaring ‘20s, each item in the display was accompanied by a brief description explaining why it was significant to the decade. Many of the items were also displayed alongside vintage ads. This lively little exhibit remained at the theatre until the end of May, and is part of our efforts to bring our artifacts to the broader Oliver community for all to learn from and enjoy.



*“At Home in the 1920s” was displayed in the Venables Theatre lobby from January until May.*

## Textiles Move to New Storage at Museum

We were sad to see our intern Rachael Moore’s contract end in March. However, while she was here she put in an enormous amount of work and helped us with some wonderful projects. Thank you, Rachael!

As one of her tasks, Rachael helped complete phase one of a multi-step textile reorganization project at the Museum. Over the winter, we’ve been organizing our textile collection to make it more accessible for staff and

more usable for exhibits and research.

The goal of this phase was to start putting all of the textiles in the collection (anything made from fabrics, leath-



*The textile storage project in progress*

ers, or feathers) into one storage area. We started by removing the artifacts from one of our storage rooms and replacing them with the textiles from our other storage areas. During the move, all locations have to be constantly updated in our artifact database to ensure that nothing gets lost in the process.

With this done and the move documented, we will continue to fill the designated textile storage room with textiles currently housed in other areas of the Museum and Archives.

Once all of the textiles have been moved there will be more room to group our other artifacts by type, creating better access to the whole collection.

Throughout the process, artifacts will have their information updated in our database. This means that we will be taking pictures of every item (if needed) and updating its description and location. This will ensure that we can find all of our artifacts easily in the future and that staff have more complete knowledge of the more than 12,000 items in our keeping.

## Old-Fashioned Family Fun

This year the Museum's Family Day event took place on Sunday, February 16th from 1-4pm. At the event, guests were invited to participate in 4 different crafts and to play board games. The crafts available were: popsicle stick catapult building with a target and testing area, family tree building, crafting leather bracelets by braiding or hot stamping, and weaving on a loom. In addition to the crafts and board games, snacks and juice boxes were provided free. While some activities took place in the main gallery, there was still room for visitors to explore the Museum and the Selfie Station was up and running. The event was mainly attended by families with younger children, but kids and adults alike enjoyed the activities. At the end of the day, the crafts provided a great souvenir to take home.



*Learning hand loom weaving at the Museum's Old-Fashioned Family Fun Day.*

Visit us at [www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca) for the latest news, updates, and heritage resources!

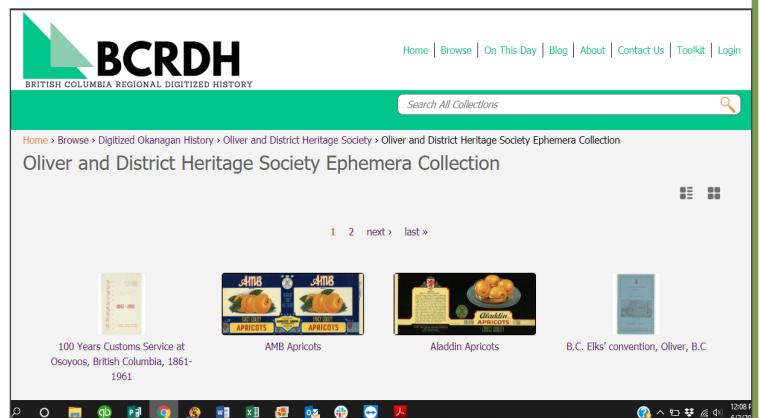
## Archives Ephemera Collection Now Available Online

In the summer of 2019 we were approached by the organizers of the Digitized Okanagan History project (part of the British Columbia Regional Digitized History project) a history preservation and public access initiative run by the staff at UBC Okanagan's Library. We were invited to participate in the project, which involved 26 museums around the Okanagan and the B.C. Interior providing items from their collection to be digitized (scanned) and posted online for public viewing and research use. The digitized items are hosted on ARCA, a freely accessible online search portal and database used by universities and organizations around the province. We provided a number of items from our ephemera collection to be scanned and digitized by project staff.

Ephemera are materials that are made to be discarded or to be used for a short period of time. Some examples are playbills, pamphlets, receipts, event programs, and movie tickets. These items are important to an archival collection because they show what an average day was like in the past, what people were doing for entertainment, and what was being promoted to whom. They are also fun to look at. They tell us who was involved in community efforts such as the

Oliver International Horse Show or Oliver Elks conventions.

These digitized ephemera items are now accessible on the British Columbia Regional Digitized History (BCRDH) website along with the collections of many other museums from the Okanagan and around the province. You can view our digitized collection at the [bcrdh.ca](http://bcrdh.ca) website or by visiting the ODHS website and clicking on the "Digitized Collections" button on the Archives webpage. Thank you to UBC, the Digitized Okanagan History project, and the BCRDH for their support with this project.



*A screenshot of our newly digitized ephemera collection, available for viewing at [bcrdh.ca](http://bcrdh.ca).*

# ODHS Healthcare Display at WOW Trade Show



On February 8th, the ODHS joined dozens of vendors and community organizations in hosting a booth and display at the Women of Oliver for Women (WOW) Mainly for Women Trade Show. The ODHS

booth, which offered a display on the history of health care and women's health in the area, saw visitor traffic all day.

Gift shop items like our new souvenir museum socks, ODHS information, and an activity in which visitors could guess the use of a variety of intimidating-looking obstetrics kit tools rounded out the display. It was wonderful to see so many interested visitors stop by and share their memories of historic health care, including their experiences receiving care from St. Martin's Hospital. It was especially nice to have so many nurses, midwives, and retired health care professionals stop by and answer the activity questions in a jiffy.

Talking with Oliver residents about local history is one of our favorite activities. We look forward to seeing you at the next trade show!

## Oliver Chronicle Issues Digitized

The ODHS is being awarded a BC History Digitization Program (BCHDP) grant of \$7,947.50 to help us start digitizing our holdings of the Oliver Chronicle community newspaper. The grant, which comes from UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, assists organizations with the costs of digitizing materials in their collections. For the ODHS, it funds the purchase of a large-format flatbed scanner and digital storage materials to scan and preserve the 70 years of community history documented in 4,417 Oliver Chronicle newspaper issues stored in the Oliver Archives. The project will protect the fragile newspapers from frequent handling and will result in a free, searchable online newspaper database for researchers and the general public. The entire project is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete with assistance from the staff of the Digitized Okanagan History project at UBCO. Volunteers will complete the bulk of the scanning.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to make these newspapers more accessible. Thank you to the BCHDP for its generous support with this project.



### Fire destroys historic Oliver hotel

Blair Barback from Oliver said he watched the whole top facade of the hotel come crashing down to the street where people lined up to watch the spectacle. The fire started in the building when the fire started on the night of approximately 7 a.m., said Oliver Fire Chief... The fire chief had to make two decisions to demolish the hotel, including the Honour Mill Bar & Grill. As a result, most if not all of the evidence was destroyed. "If left standing, we would not have been able to save the office building, and that from wall of the hotel was extremely hazardous to public safety," Janzen said. He noted the fire did start on the top floor, but a cause has not yet been determined. When asked if the fire was suspicious in nature, Janzen said he couldn't comment on that. He stated the fire department is working with the insurance adjuster and the fire commissioner's office, while the Oliver RCMP is interviewing witnesses. Janzen said the fire caused approximately \$1.1 million in damages (the cost of replacing the hotel). The fire chief gave heartfelt thanks to Okanagan Falls and Osoyoos fire departments, and all the members whom who provided food and drinks.

*These papers will be better preserved and accessible online thanks to the BC History Digitization Program.*



**THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Irving K. Barber Learning Centre**



## Window Work Ongoing

You may notice some work happening around the outside of the Museum building this spring and summer. That work will be part of the ongoing Museum windows restoration project the ODHS is completing. Gerry Plante's Carpentry Ltd. of Oliver is completing the sanding, repainting, weather-stripping, and repair of all of our original 1924 wood-frame windows to make the building more energy-efficient and to better preserve these original building elements for the future. The project is generously supported by funding from Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund, and should be completed by late fall.

## A 2019 Light Up Review

The Museum and Archives saw a good turnout at the 2019 Oliver Town Light Up on Nov. 22nd. While the Museum offered coloring, crafts, and hot apple cider, the Archives hosted snacks, letter to Santa-writing, a photo slideshow, and kids' face-painting. The brownies and cookies were a hit (thank you, Ruth)! We received help from several dedicated ODHS volunteers for this event and several wonderful new student volunteers from SOSS as well. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make the event a success. We look forward to making it an even more special occasion next year!

[www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca)

### Museum



**Location:** 474 School Avenue

**Mail:** PO Box 847 Oliver BC

**Email:** [curator@oliverheritage.ca](mailto:curator@oliverheritage.ca)

**Phone:** (778) 439-3100

**Summer hours :** See website for details.

### MEMBERSHIPS

You can become a member of the Oliver and District Heritage Society by purchasing an annual membership (\$10 per person) conveniently on our website ([www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca)) or in person at either the Museum or the Archives.

Members will be added to our mailing list, which will keep you updated on important local and regional heritage information. Members also enjoy discounts for archival services, copying, and special pricing in our gift shop.

### Archives



**Location:** 430 Fairview Road

**Mail:** PO Box 847 Oliver BC

**Email:** [info@oliverheritage.ca](mailto:info@oliverheritage.ca)

**Phone:** (250) 498-4027

**Hours year-round:** Tues-Fri 10am-1pm

**Looking for a MUSEUM VISIT or ARCHIVAL SERVICES? Please call or email to book!**

Support for the Oliver and District Heritage Society generously provided by:

