



oliver & district

heritage society

# The Lamplighter

Nov. 18, 2019

## Museum Windows Project Underway

The Oliver & District Heritage Society has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from Heritage BC to help restore all of the original wood windows on the Oliver Museum.

The 1924-era building's windows are in sore need of repair, as missing putty, cracked panes, and chipped and flaking paint are causing temperature fluctuations inside the building. Upstairs temperatures in particular are often extreme, which places artifacts at risk of damage.

The grant funding, which comes from Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund, will be used along with a donation from the late Carolyn Cope to repair wood and glass and install missing trim and weather-stripping on all of the Museum's remaining windows. Five windows on the building's front and west side were restored this spring. The remainder will be completed in April 2020. Gerry Plante's Carpentry Ltd. is completing the work following the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, a document with guidelines for restoring heritage buildings. The guide specifies among other things that there should be minimal change to original materials.

The grant will help to preserve the heritage building for future generations. It will also produce a better environment for artifacts, helping the ODHS to better serve Oliver and preserve its history.



Five original 1924 wood windows were restored, primed, and repainted this spring, and the rest will follow next year.

### Light Up Activities at Museum and Archives

The Oliver Town Light Up is Friday, Nov. 22nd, and the Museum and Archives will both be hosting activities this year. At the Museum (474 School Ave.), enjoy crafts, coloring, cookies and hot apple cider, while at the Archives (430 Fairview Rd.), delight the whole family with face-painting, letter to Santa-writing, hot drinks, brownies, and a slideshow of archival photos. Activities run from 4 to 7 pm, while lights go on at 6:15. We'll see you there!

### Winter Holiday Closure

Monday, Dec. 23rd to Thursday, Jan. 2nd, the Museum and Archives will be closed for the winter holidays.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!



## Meet our Staff: Introducing our Intern!

*The Oliver & District Heritage Society recently received funding support for an intern from the Young Canada Works program. In this issue, we'll get to know Rachael Moores, the Collections Assistant who is currently assisting us at the Museum.*



*Intern Rachael Moores*

Hi! I'm Rachael, the Collections Assistant for this winter season. This summer I completed the Museum and Gallery Studies Post Graduate Program at Georgian College in Ontario, and I've also done a Specialization in Classical Studies in French Immersion at the University of Ottawa. I decided to study history because it is something I learned to cherish. Hindsight is truly 20/20 and I often see clearer when looking back in time than I do through my smudged glasses lenses. It helps to know that my past shapes me daily and if it can do that to me, I can imagine what fascinating things it does to others, to groups of people and the world.

Coming to Oliver was quite the journey for me because my home is in Ontario, but school brought me to Newfoundland for a summer internship at The Rooms in St. John's and now I'm a Collections Assistant here in Oliver! My personal motto has since become "East to West," reflecting Canada's motto "A Mari usque ad Mare" (or "From Sea to Sea"). Since arriving in September, I've fallen in love with the uniqueness and beauty of Oliver. Thank you for your warm welcome. I already feel well integrated into your community and I am glad to be here!

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

### New Remembrance Day Initiatives at Museum

The Heritage Society commemorated Remembrance Day in a special way this year, hosting a Tree of Remembrance. Visitors wrote messages in memory of military personnel and those affected by war on felt poppies and placed them on a tree outside. Over two weeks, the tree gradually filled up with visitor thoughts and reasons to



remember. The week before Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, two classes from Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary and numerous individuals came to contribute. The high level of participation was wonderful to see and reflects our community's connection to those who served or experienced wartime.

Our second project was "Remembering: A Look into Wartime Oliver," a booklet created by our Collections Assistant, Rachael Moores. It features information about

selected veterans who came to Oliver after the First World War and some of the individuals from Oliver who served or contributed during World War II. The booklet is a way to remember Oliver's past and the sacrifices previous generations made. Copies of "Remembering" are available at the Oliver Museum, the Oliver Legion, and the Library during November. They are also on our website at [www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca). We are pleased to be able to share these projects and encouraged by how well they've been received by the community.



*Left: Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School students make poppies to hang on the Tree of Remembrance (above).*

## Ditch Centennial Display at Museum until 2020

This year marks the centennial of the Ditch, the massive irrigation project that transformed the South Okanagan from semi-arid desert and grassland into agricultural land for fruit growing. This history is alive and ongoing, as the system is still relied on by farms and vineyards throughout the area, and has led to the Town of Oliver's current title as Canada's Wine Capital. To acknowledge this significant anniversary, the Museum is hosting a temporary exhibit about the origin of the Ditch and what preceded it. The display discusses the South Okanagan Lands Project that started the irrigation project and includes a brief look at the history of irrigation.

Then, venture into our exhibit Deep Roots, where you'll learn more about local agriculture and the BC politician who started the irrigation project,

John Oliver. The "100 Years of the Ditch" display will be open for viewing until the spring of 2020.



*A display details irrigation history in the Oliver area*

## Halloween Event a Hit



*Guests pose in the Jail for Halloween photos*

This year for Halloween, the Museum took guests back in time to 1924. Based on a 1924 "Bogie Book", the 1920s-era building was decorated with vintage wall-hangings, streamers, and lots of black and orange. On Oct. 27th, guests enjoyed paper hat-making, fortune-telling, carnival-style games, Halloween treats, a scavenger hunt, and costume photography in the Fairview Jail. There was also a door prize awarded to one lucky guest containing passes to the Oliver Theatre. The event was well-attended with 40 - 50 guests and almost everyone showing up

in costume. Thank you to everyone who came out and joined in the fun. We look forward to seeing you all again for our 2020 Halloween party!

## Cataloguing Progress

This summer the Heritage Society received funding for two fantastic summer students, Taylor and Cyrah. During the summer they catalogued 585 objects while also assisting with creating and staffing special events. On Friday and Saturday mornings, they also led the public on guided downtown heritage walking tours.

The items catalogued this summer are part of a larger plan to reorganize artifacts stored at the Museum. Once objects have been catalogued they will be grouped by type in our temperature and humidity-controlled storage rooms. This means that artifact types that require different climates or environments will be grouped together so they are better preserved for the future. Eventually, all Museum artifacts will be grouped together in this way, thus providing better care and prolonging their ability to be used by staff and researchers.

## Roots & Fruits Festival Booth

This summer the Oliver & District Heritage Society staffed a large booth at the Roots & Fruits Festival at the Oliver Community Centre. The booth focused on the history of growing and packing cherries and apples and included a brief history of packinghouses in the Oliver area. The booth was filled with artifacts from the Oliver Museum for visitors to look at, including Lambert the Cherry, mascot of Oliver's successful bid to create the World's Largest Cherry Pie. For kids, there was the "Fruit Roll-Up" game, a skee-ball activity in which fake fruit was rolled up a ramp and into apple boxes. There was also the opportunity to try your hand at apple-wrapping just as it was done in the Oliver packinghouses. The booth was well-attended and the Society looks forward to participating in future years.



*Our booth included information about cherry and apple growing & packing, plus the chance to try wrapping fruit like Oliver's apple packers.*

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## Water Appreciation Day Makes a Big Splash

On July 27th, the Heritage Society held its first Water Appreciation Day at the Oliver Museum. There were many things for visitors to see and do, including displays inside the Museum and scheduled activities and events throughout the day. One exhibit provided information about the history of the Ditch, while the other focused on water conservation and how water affects Oliver today. Handouts and activities were available to take home, including information from Okanagan Water Wise. The day's scheduled activities included a guided tour of the Heritage Garden teaching visitors about the native riparian plants we planted and why they are important. We also offered an intro-



duction to gold panning, explaining how water was initially used for gold mining and how mining in Fairview developed, plus the chance to get your hands wet with panning for "gold." The third and final activity was an introduction to irrigation systems, with a talk about irrigation in the Oliver area and the opportunity for kids to form teams and attempt to build the best and most functional water wall. Thank you to everyone who braved the summer heat to attend this great event!



*Top: A Heritage Garden tour explores riparian plants*

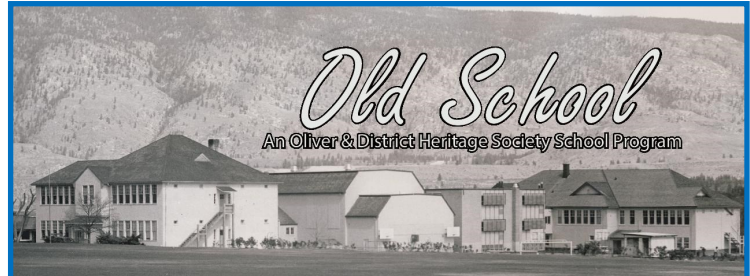
*Bottom: Kids battle to create the best water wall irrigation system*

# Programming Kit will Bring History into the Classroom

While the Oliver Museum provides school tours at the Museum building, we are branching out and offering an in-classroom kit for teachers to teach about schooling in Oliver's past. The "Old School" kit comes complete with a history of Oliver schools and information on what the school day was like in the 1920s. This is accompanied by photos from Oliver's past, written activities scaled for individual grades, a historic physical education activity, and objects used in classrooms in the past that students can touch and handle.

Teachers may rent the Old School kit from the Museum for a modest fee and return it when they are done. Best of all, the kit offers a ready-made lesson plan. This kit is the first in a series of educational classroom kits we are developing to bring history into the classroom. All programming kits in development will align with the new BC

school curriculum. With these resources, we hope to get more students interested in history and give local youth the opportunity to experience local heritage in a fun and hands-on way.



The Oliver & District Heritage Society is offering a new school program for grades 1-6. Students will learn about the evolution of schools in the Oliver area from the United Church basement in 1921 to the schools they attend today, as well as what school would have been like in the 1920s.

Grade 1 to 3 students will be provided with worksheets from 1928 to complete, while grades 4 to 6 will participate in either a cursive writing or roman numerals activity. All grades will interact with historic artifacts, engage in a Simon says-style exercise drill activity, and have the opportunity to write their own story from the perspective of a student from the 1920s.

*The "Old School" kit delves into school history*

## Oliver Library Mini-Exhibits



*A model of the Oliver cenotaph in a Library display*

Have you been to the Oliver branch of the Okanagan Regional Library recently? If you have, you might have noticed a miniature exhibit set up by Heritage Society staff that changes regularly. The displays started in September and will be continuing into the new year. Each exhibit has a theme: in September we focused on school days and our new "Old School" teaching kit, in October things got spooky with a Halloween display, in November our intern offered a look at some of the veterans and wartime contributors who made Oliver what it is today, and coming up in December there will be a festive display of vintage holiday cards and some information on their origin. Keep an eye out for these displays the next time you visit the library, you might just learn something!

## Archival Materials to be Digitized by UBCO

The Heritage Society has a new partnership on the go, and it promises big benefits to researchers. Recently we joined the Digitized Okanagan History project, an initiative of UBC Okanagan that provides small archives with help digitizing portions of their collections and making them publicly accessible online. The items we are digitizing, a portion of our ephemera collection (pamphlets, flyers, advertisements, and miscellaneous items from Oliver's past clubs and organizations), are currently being digitized by UBCO and will soon be accessible on the D.O.H. online repository at <https://doh.arcabc.ca/> and on the ODHS website at [www.oliverheritage.ca](http://www.oliverheritage.ca) for research use and public viewing. Stay tuned for more exciting developments as we work to digitize more portions of our archival collection!



**DIGITIZED OKANAGAN HISTORY**

*D.O.H. has digitized 105,594 items in 166 collections so far.*

## Need holiday gifts? We're on the BeadTrails!

As the holidays approach, you might be wondering what to buy for the person on your list who loves local history. The Museum gift shop has plenty of options! From the latest Okanagan Historical Society report to cheerful, hand-crafted "World's Smallest Cherry Pie" magnets, our gift shop is full of stocking stuffer ideas or gifts for under the tree. Check out our new toy RCMP handcuffs for the child who enjoys playing cops and robbers. They also make a great souvenir!

Plus, the Museum is now part of BeadTrails! Come find beautiful bracelets, attractive spacers, and our one-of-a-kind collectible Oliver & District

Heritage Society charms, only available at the Museum building.

Or maybe you know someone who wants to support local heritage. A membership to the ODHS is one way to do just that, and memberships are only \$10! Stop by the Archives or visit our website for more details.



[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

**Winter hours :** Tues-Fri 1pm-4pm

### 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 TOUR or ARCHIVAL SERVICES? Please call ahead so we can serve you better!**

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

