



Summer Endeavours

A Lesson to Be Shared

By Darryl Mackenzie, Curator

This year, I made a couple of Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGs) with respect to my biking. One was to try to participate in as many charity bike rides as possible, the other was to begin a multi-stage journey down the Pacific Coast from my home, ultimately ending at the Mexico border.



Biking on a very rainy day through Arlington, Washington.

I achieved both goals, by participating in six rides

(supporting cancer research, health awareness, hospices and bike infrastructure development), and by making my way from Surrey to Portland, Oregon. In total, I biked more than 3000 miles since January 1. I'm now making plans for 2013. I just wanted to share some of what I learned along the way.

1. Hills happen, learn to love them. They will make you stronger. Your capacity to do more will increase.
2. Ascents are usually followed by descents. Celebrate what you have overcome, but don't coast. Gather speed to carry you through the next ascent.

(continued on page 8)

KEEPSAKES

Operated by the Delta Museum and Archives Society

Keepsakes

By Stephanie Reczka, Gift Shop Attendant

This summer, we introduced a new expanded gift shop, named Keepsakes, at the Ladner Village Market. Our new product line features First Nations designs and items printed with historical photos from the Archives collection. New products include kitchen items, children's toys and books, scarves and ties, magnets, key tags and much



more. As Christmas approaches, we hope to offer a unique line of gift items perfect for holiday shopping. Stop by the Delta Museum today and see what's in store!



Above: Keepsakes booth at the Ladner Village Market. Left: "Dream Weaver" shawl, mug and tie by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Wade Baker. Bottom: Children's books and toys on display.

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A Good Catch!

Conserving the Records of the Brunswick Cannery for Future Generations

By Catherine McPherson, Assistant Archivist



Brunswick Cannery Day Book

In May of this year, Delta Museum and Archives Society's President, Angela Husvik generously donated approximately 60 cm of records from the former Brunswick Cannery site. These records were discovered by her cousin, Lloyd Wilson Jr., following the passing of his father, Lloyd Wilson Sr. Lloyd is a former fisherman whose family has had a long history of fishing on the Fraser and living near Brunswick Point.

Many Brunswick Cannery records were abandoned and later rescued by locals after the cannery buildings closed in 1967 and the

land was expropriated for the development of Roberts Bank Port in

1969. Obviously, the cannery management did not appear to see the value in many of these records since the records were left behind. This donation will now compliment other Brunswick Cannery records previously recovered from the site and provide further understanding of the day to day operations at this historic cannery.

Despite their important historical value, the majority of the records arrived in poor physical condition and were in dire



Fisherman's notebooks prepared for freezing.

need of conservation and long term preservation. Applying conservation techniques to records that are subject to water, mould,

rodent and insect

damage is no easy task, and since many of these records were suspect for insects and mould, they couldn't be brought into the archives building for fear of infecting other records in the holdings.

After some initial appraisal, it was decided to set up a conservation tent and prepare these records for freezing in order to kill any living insects that might still be residing within. A whole day was spent packaging and preparing the

records for the deep freeze.

After 5 days in the freezer, the records were finally transported to the archives in their freezer bags to thaw before cleaning could begin.

Many of the records were dirty and had to be cleaned of many years of accumulated dust and mould.

Fortunately, the mould was dry so it

could be cleaned off with a dry chemical sponge relatively easily. However, it was a time consuming task since every page from the 2 metre volume, required cleaning before re-housing, arranging and describing. On days when the weather cooperated, the conservation tent was again set up outside the archives and after more than 40 hrs of cleaning, records were re-housed and ready to be described.

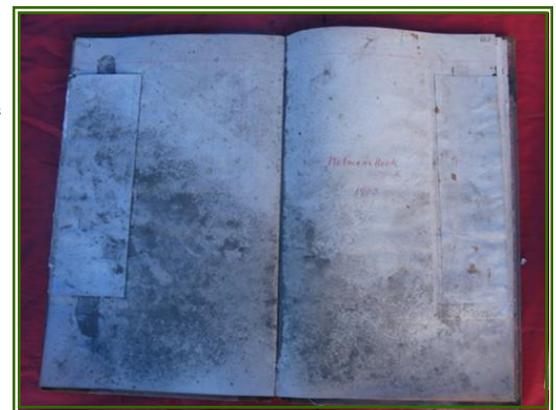
The records provide valuable historical information regarding cannery operations which include; fish tallies with the names of local fishermen, business transactions, cannery inventories, legal documents and correspondence. In particular, one document, dated 1901, was an interesting read. It indicates that the B.C. Cannery Association was in agreement to hire a fish scientist by the name of Mr. J.S. Babcock to help ensure the survival of the fishing industry in B.C. and especially since there appeared to be concern for the long term success of the B.C. Fishery years before the devastating Hells Gate slide in 1914. Perhaps these records not only document the past but also help shed some light on the future of this important and fragile industry.

Countless records like these disappear if not preserved

for generations to come, and it is unfortunate that many aren't recognized for their historical value before it is too late. The DMAS is grateful that many of The Brunswick Cannery records are now preserved, reunited and made accessible to the public, at our Archives, after years of neglect.



Bagging Brunswick Cannery Records for freezing.



The Life Behind the Object

By Darryl Mackenzie, Curator

Let's take a look behind the door of the curator's new office. What has been happening there the past summer months?

I can't overemphasize the need to make sure we have the paperwork correct for the items we bring in. Every time we bring something into the museum, we are making a commitment to the community. We are saying that the item is valuable enough to explaining the identity of the community; that we are going to invest the dollars to ensure a space for it where it will be cherished in perpetuity. If we don't have the documentation for the item, however, stories are going to get lost. Traditions pass away. Lifestyles change.

For example, I was fortunate enough to meet with Beverley Holbrook recently. She had a quilt that was a family heirloom that she wanted to donate to our collection. The quilt is stunning in its craftsmanship, with embroidered scenes throughout. It records important dates relative to the Mason family. Yes... that Mason family.. the ones who lived at the south end of 34th St. .. the ones who the street is still named after, but long since moved.



Mason Family Quilt

Why did they move? Beverley related her family story. She told of how the family patriarch was working in the fields, and met a tragic end. Her family ended up moving due to the grief. Looking back over her 80 plus years, she has never forgotten her early days in Ladner. She told of going to the beach on the other side of the dyke, and swimming in the Gulf. She recognized photos I shared with her of old barns, places she might remember. We laughed.

The quilt is more than a quilt. It is a record of her family. It is a record of survival. It is an example of deeply held cherished memories. She wanted it to have a home where people could enjoy it long into the future. Somewhere where not only the quilt, but the significance could resonate with others.

How tragic it would be if I didn't record the information she shared. Imagine twenty years from now. A curator sees a nice quilt, but do they see the connection? Do they know

the story, the life behind the object?

That is one of the almost sacred duties of a curator. An object can be just an object like any one of a number of others used across the continent. It is the story associated with the object that makes it valuable to helping define what it means to be from Delta. It is part of the ethics of the profession, to have a code of honour, a duty of care so people 20, 50 or 100 years from now can cherish the same piece and say: "Yes, this is what it is like to live in Delta".

So, this summer, we had a manual fog horn donated. We had a steam powered pump donated. We had a quilled set of doll house furniture. We have even received Benjamin Burr's walking stick that he received upon retirement from the BC Penitentiary. These things tell stories, all contributing to our understanding of Delta. I am so thankful for the people who have contributed these items. It is a cherished position to be the recipient of such generosity. It is my duty to make sure that generosity gets due credit.

To that end, I must give thanks for the student I had working with me this summer. Sarah Carlson took several projects under her wing, and we are further along in making sure our collection is properly handled. She took a donation of a collection offered by Norm Snihur on behalf of Gwen Szychter – you remember Gwen, don't you? – and made sure that it had a special place in our collection. These were items that all spoke to BC's Centennial. To me, these items told part of Gwen's story. She was a historian, and this was another way that she demonstrated her commitment to recording our history. You might see a tea set. I see the fingerprints of a local giant who helps us all to remember.



Gwen Szychter

It is one thing to collect objects, it's another to record the memory and make a museum: something that we can cherish as 'the memory of Delta'.

Congratulations to the Delta Heritage Commission 2012 Scholarship Winners

First Place: Aaron Meier for "*The Delta Princess, A Historical Analysis*"

Second Place: Alexander Gaio for "*Delta, A Vibrant Heritage*"

Honourable Mentions: Monica Nedrend, Adam Patterson, and Curtis Hacault

To view the winning entries, visit our Facebook page.

Engaging the Community

Despite the rainy day, many friends and families turned out to enjoy the Canada Day pancake breakfast and birthday cake.



It Takes A Lot To Support A Museum (And Archives)

Yes, it's true that the Delta Museum and Archives Society receives a significant amount of its funding from the Corporation of Delta, and we thank Mayor Jackson, Delta Council and senior staff for that. And it's also true that we receive a large contribution from the provincial government, and we thank Premier Clark, our MLAs Vicki Huntington and Guy Gentner for their support. But we can't overlook the support that we receive from the hundreds of local residents and businesses who contribute to and support the DMAS in so many ways.

Board Trustee, Guillermo Bustos, is on deck to welcome guests to the Canada Day celebrations.



Of course, there is the financial support, we so very much appreciate. Visitors to the museum and archives provide their cash donations; members pay their annual dues and many also write donation cheques; people support the Delta Heritage Classic Golf Tournament, Night For the Museum Fashion Show and Fraser River Paddlewheeler Cruises, either by registering, sponsoring or donating auction prizes; people support our educational programs; people donate artifacts, photographs and documents to our collection; and finally, but certainly not least, people provide thousands of volunteer hours.

Cruising the Fraser with DMAS friends on the Historical Paddlewheeler Cruise.



DMAS' museum and archives can't be compared to the Royal BC Museum, or the Canadian Museum of Civilization. We don't receive tens of thousands of visitors from around the world and, for the same reason, our gift shop can't generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in sales. Much of what we do is intended for, and supported by, Delta. Without you, there would literally be no DMAS museum, archives, or educational programming preserving Delta's history. What we do, and your efforts to support us, are inseparably intertwined.

We thank you for contributing to breathe life into the work we do—for your connection and support.

—From the DMAS Board & Staff

All Aboard? We're Off! The M.V. "Native" departs from Ladner.



The Grand Finale!

Holiday Bazaar

Fri. November 16 | 10:00 AM
Sat. November 17 | to 3:00 PM

Kin House
5050 47th Avenue, Ladner
(next to Ladner Library)

Gifts Jewelry Knitwear
Christmas Decorations

To Benefit the Delta Museum & Archives Society

Engaging the Community

A Tribute to the Guichon Family Pioneers

By Nancy Wilson, DMAS Trustee

We had the pleasure at this year's golf event evening banquet to have many of the Guichon family members present as either golfers or joining us for a tribute to their pioneer family. Present at the dinner were second generation Canadian born Guichons: Jack Guichon, Lorraine McKinnon, Marilyn Hall, Colleen Plain, Paul Guichon, and Mike Guichon, the direct descendants of the pioneers Laurent and Peronne Guichon, who settled at Port Guichon in the late 1800s. Also participating were third generation Canadian born Jerry McKinnon, Paul Guichon, John Guichon, and Peter Guichon with fourth generation Guichons Todd and Cory Gerrard.

Like their predecessors, our present day Guichon families are still involved with farming, growing vegetables and fruits. Many Delta families eat Guichon grown fresh fruits and vegetables at their meal tables all year round. Laurent and Peronne personified the necessities of becoming successful farmers: strength, courage, passion and labour of love. By those same values and commitment, they produced a close-knit family—the Laurent and Peronne Guichon Family *Tree*. From their 10 children who were lucky enough to survive came many great spouses and many small twigs. The twigs have grown to branches and many more twigs have added to the tree. The tree roots have strengthened as the years go by... the tree has now grown to be an orchard; our present day Guichon family community, all contributing to the life of Delta today. No doubt Laurent and Peronne would be very proud of their descendant families, with a sense of family and community, carrying on their legacy.

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors!

Canada Day at the DMAS

Corporation of Delta	Ladner Leisure Centre
The Boot & Sombrero	Lions Club of Delta
Envision Financial	RE/MAX
Ladner Legion	

Delta Heritage Golf Classic

Gold Sponsor



Delta Agricultural Society

Bates Farms
Guichon Farms
Rod Swenson Farms



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Quality First Maintenance

Delta Heritage
Golf Classic
2012.



Top:
Joan
Bennett and
Stephanie
Reczka sell
contest tickets
at the
registration
booth.

Middle: First up
to dinner, the
Guichon Family
members.

Winning team
members choose
their prizes.

Bottom: Councillor Bruce
McDonald, the
evening's MC.

Get Involved!

Become a Member of the Delta Museum & Archives Society (DMAS)

As the vital voice and link to the community the DMAS relies upon its members to survive and guide future directions. Membership is also an opportunity to meet other people who enjoy history and are looking to have some fun! *Join today!*

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission to the museum & archives
- Invitation to fun & free activities, including the Delta History Hunters
- Free admission to “admission by donation” programs and events
- 10% discount on program fees
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting

Membership Fees:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Senior/ Student	\$10
Corporate	\$50

Apply today by filling out the information below. Application forms are also available on the DMAS website at www.deltamuseum.ca or can be picked up at the museum or archives sites.

YES! I am interested in a membership.

New Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Category:

Individual Family
 Student/Senior Corporate

In addition to the membership fee, I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____

Total Fee Enclosed \$ _____

Payment Method: Cheque Credit Card

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp: _____ (mm/yy)

Please mail form and payment to:
Delta Museum & Archives Society
 4918 Delta Street
 Delta, BC V4K 2V2

The Delta History Hunters: An Activity Group of the Delta Museum & Archives Society

By Anne Murray, DMAS Board Trustee

This year Delta Museum and Archives Society members started something new: a program for everyone with an interest in their local community’s history and culture. The Delta History Hunters gather once monthly for a fun, friendly, history-oriented activity, exploring different aspects of Delta. Everyone is welcome to join in, there is no charge, and although we encourage membership in DMAS, it is not obligatory. Most events finish with the opportunity to go for coffee or a snack at a local café, and carpooling is available for those who want it.

The program began in early May, with “Fishy Tales”, a tour of the Ladner Harbour area with fourth-generation fisherman and DMAS Trustee, John Stevens. Despite heavy rain, sixteen participants turned out for this inaugural walk and had a very pleasant morning, winding up at Speed’s Pub for lunch. The next trip was on the fourth Thursday of the month, which has now become the regular time slot for Delta History Hunters’ events. This time, Kathy Bossort, retired archivist of the DMAS, led us on a walk to Port Guichon and back, as we explored the “Swans, Scows, and Floating Homes” of this early community. We were accompanied by Joan Bennett, DMAS Trustee, who was able to share her family stories about this area. The June event was also a very popular outing. This time we went to look at the heritage trees of Ladner, led by Kwantlen College instructor, Susan

Murray, author of “Our Sylvan Heritage”. The variety, size and history of our local trees came as a surprise to everyone who participated.

In July, with the weather now at its best, it was time to head over to Westham Island Herb Farm to look at how we can eat a 100 mile diet in Delta. Sharon Ellis gave us a wonderful tour of her organic farm and everyone took

advantage of being there to stock up at her open-every-day farmer’s market. August saw 18 participants tour the Kirkland House on Arthur Drive where we also saw the old Harris Barn under reconstruction. Colin Campbell and Matt Ellis were our guides for this trip and gave us a detailed, insider’s tour of the restored Kirkland family home. September’s trip was a walk down memory lane at the Old Wireless

Station on 72 St, East Ladner, with old timer, Bill Rogers, and that will conclude the summer, outdoor program. Our winter program for Delta History Hunters will begin in October with more indoor-oriented activities, such as a curatorial tour of the Delta Museum, a visit with the Tsawwassen First Nation, a session at the Delta Archives, and a tour in North Delta to hear stories of that part of

our community’s heritage. Please join us and tell your friends; everyone is welcome. Some events need pre-registration, but there is normally no charge. For more information, contact Anne at sanderling@uniserve.com or check the Delta History Hunters page on the DMAS website.



Delta's Natural History is Worth Commemorating

By Anne Murray, DMAS Trustee

Although we often think of history as being the stories of people, their activities and their buildings, there is also a natural history – the story of the landscape, plants and animals. The Delta Museum and Archives Society includes the study, interpretation and preservation of natural heritage as a key purpose in its constitution, and we have ample opportunity for this in our community. Delta is located in one of the most ecologically diverse parts of Canada, with a wealth of wildlife at all seasons of the year. Snow geese fly in from Russia every fall, sandpipers feed in huge flocks on Boundary Bay's mudflats, and ducks gather in the marshes. Even though we are surrounded by urban neighbourhoods, it is not uncommon to see bald eagles, great blue herons, coyotes and deer.



Delta is on the Pacific flyway bird migration route between the Arctic and Central and South America, and over three hundred bird species are regularly seen here. The Fraser River delta is recognized by many international designations. It is the top Important Bird Area (IBA) in Canada and together with Burns Bog has just been designated a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site). It is also a key hemispheric site in a shorebird habitat program in place throughout the Americas.

Delta is also rich in marine life, from tiny amphipods living in the eelgrass to the massive humpback whales that are making a comeback in the Strait of Georgia. Our shores are home to river otters, harbour seals, California sea lions, orcas and grey whales, to name just a few of the mammals. The Fraser river is famous for its salmon runs and huge white sturgeon, and the estuary supports a host of other fish and shellfish. These vast natural resources supported First Nations communities for millennia before Europeans mapped the coast in 1792. Since that time, there have been many changes to the ecology of the Delta. Marshes were drained and dyked, forests were logged, some wildlife were hunted and fished to local extinction. In recent years, efforts have been made to create parks and protected areas, including wildlife management areas around Delta's shores, the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, and regional parks. These sanctuaries from development may still be insufficient to maintain biological diversity, as people demand recreation space, non-native species invade, and urban pressures multiply.

Delta is a natural treasure for the beauty and variety of its wildlife and scenery. As a community we should work together to ensure this wealth is understood, recognized, celebrated and protected. Members of the Delta Museum and Archives Society can play a significant role in doing this.

Anne Murray is a Trustee of the Delta Museum and Archives Society and the author of two books on Delta: *Tracing Our Past ~ A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay*; and *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay*. They can be purchased at the Museum and local bookstores.

Like us on Facebook! Follow the DMAS on Facebook to get updates on upcoming exhibits, programs and events. Find us at www.facebook.com/DeltaMuseumAndArchivesSociety or visit www.deltamuseum.ca and click the Facebook icon.



Support Us!

Donations

The Delta Museum & Archives Society is a BC registered charitable society whose mission is to capture Delta's memories through research, stories, records and objects of Delta, and to facilitate access to these memories through education, exhibits and reference services for all present and future generations. Your donation can help us successfully accomplish this mission. Charitable registration no. 10701 2171 RR 0001

YES! I would like to contribute

\$ _____ (tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$25)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp: _____ (mm/yy)

Payment can be made by visa, MasterCard, or debit at the museum office, or make cheques payable to:

Delta Museum & Archives Society
4918 Delta Street, Delta, BC V4K 2V2

You can also donate online through Canada Helps. Visit www.canadahelps.org for details.



Another Way to Donate

Do you work for or are retired from a business or corporation that doubles charitable gifts made by their employees and retirees? If you do, and would like more information, call DMAS and speak to Gabrielle Martin, Associate Director, or ask your employer to call the Society to confirm its charitable status at 604 946-9315.

Discover Volunteering!

Help preserve Delta's History by volunteering for the Delta Museum and Archives Society! *Stop by the museum and pick up an application form today!*

Visit www.deltamuseum.ca to see a complete list of available opportunities.

Farewell to our 2012 Summer Students!



Sarah Carlson, our Curatorial Assistant heads to London to begin her Masters of Museum Studies at the University College of London.



Natalie Image, our Programs Assistant, returns to Toronto where she is working on her Bachelor of Music at the Glenn Gould School.



Arielle Lomness, our Archives Assistant, returns to Edmonton to finish her Masters of Library Information Services at the University of Alberta.



Jessie Tsai, our Fund Development and Marketing Assistant, returns to Simon Fraser University to complete her Bachelor of Business Administration.

A Lesson to Be Shared

(continued)

3. Direction counts more than speed. Have a clear goal of where you want to get to. Make note of the interesting side paths you encounter, but don't go down them. Save them for a time when you specifically want to take that route. Doing it now will only waste energy.
4. Pace counts more than power. By staying in an effective pedaling pace, you actually spend more time in the active cranking section of your stroke, making you go faster. Trying to do too much in a higher gear tires you out and decreases your effectiveness. Gear down – it seems counter-intuitive but you will go faster, especially on ascents. You will also be more refreshed at the end of the day.
5. Enjoy the scenery. You may never get to this spot again. There is beauty abounding to cherish.
6. Use all your senses. You are surrounded by danger, and you are exposed. You can save yourself a lot of heartache by staying focused and being aware of other's decisions.
7. Be reasonably prepared. Have a way to recover from potentially devastating events. Always carry a spare for those flats.
8. Recruit a support system. Having others on the route helps you gauge your progress, and you can cheer each other on.

9. Keep your head up. Your vision will enlarge. You can get a broader perspective. Looking at your feet or the asphalt is dull and mind numbing.

Of course, these same principles apply to any task we set our minds, including within organizations. Next year, my BHAGs include increasing my distance riding, and making my way down the Oregon Coast towards California.

British Columbia Genealogical Society Family History Book Award

The British Columbia Genealogical Society (BCGS) presents its annual book award to encourage family history research and writing in and about British Columbia, Canada.

Books considered must be written by a British Columbia author or relate to British Columbia family history and be published in 2012.

To submit a book for consideration for the BCGS Family History Book Award send one copy to BCGS, PO Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall, Richmond, BC V6X 3T6 clearly marked 'Book Award'. The deadline for submission is February 15th 2013.

For more information about the BCGS Family History Book Award or the BCGS, call Alice Marwood at 604-582-1548 or email amarwood@shaw.ca

Delta Museum and Archives Society

Vision

We are Delta's memory and the leading centre of our rich history and diverse culture for future, present and past generations.

Mission

The Delta Museum and Archives Society captures, researches and preserves stories, records and objects of Delta; promotes community identity; and facilitates access to history through education, exhibits and reference services to all people and future generations.

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 604-946-9322

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