



PAST TIMES

NEWS FROM THE PENDER ISLANDS MUSEUM

We appreciate your interest in the museum and hope you enjoy this latest edition of *PAST TIMES*. The newsletter is our way of keeping you updated on what's happening at the museum.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 29, 2018
1 to 4 pm, 2408 South Otter Bay Road

An Old Fashioned
Family Fun Day!
 contests! games! prizes!

tickets \$2 to enter games and contests **Raffle!** **storytelling**
music **FISH POND** *you could win a prize!*
museum tours **corn hole**

refreshments: adults \$5, kids \$2.50

Pender Islands Museum
 the most scenic museum location in the entire world
please bring a chair and sunshade

Sunday, July 29th, 1-4pm: Old-fashioned Family Fun Day

Remember the teas and game days that were once held on Pender? If not, that's okay. The museum is re-creating an afternoon of family fun inspired by much-loved traditions of a past generation.

Bring your family and friends for games for all ages - with prizes! We will also have refreshments, tours of the museum, a raffle, storytelling and music. Some of the activities will cost money, so please bring your loonies and toonies. You won't want to miss it!



Friday, August 10, 8-11pm: Nuit Blanche* with Parks Canada

Join Parks Canada to learn about bats, bioluminescence, and the constellations of the night sky. The museum will be open and serving hot chocolate to visitors late into the evening. The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve will have guest experts on hand to help visitors explore all things glow-in-the-dark.

* *Nuit Blanche* = Sleepless night

A Visit from Lieutenant Governor

The Honourable Janet Austin, newly-appointed Lieutenant Governor of BC, visited Pender Island on June 12-13. With her mandate to foster the celebration of heritage and culture, we were honoured that she made the museum a key stop on her Pender tour.

"It was easy to share our stories and talk about our priorities as a museum at such a friendly and informal event," said board member Sandy Auchterlonie.

The group included Her Honour's husband Ashley Chester, Green Party MLA Adam Olsen and trustees Dianne Barber and Derek Masselink. Also along was MacDuff, Her Honour's 8-year-old Westie terrier. They were met by museum volunteers and Parks Canada representatives for a tour of the historic Roe house.

The museum is grateful for the donation of several bouquets of flowers from Julie Moore-Keating—they added a lovely touch to the occasion.



(l-r) Museum board member Sandy Auchterlonie, summer student Natalie Dunsmuir, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve manager Darcy Gray, and museum board chair Simone Marler (mostly hidden) welcome BC's new Lieutenant Governor for a visit to the museum.

New Entryway to Museum

Repeat visitors and volunteers are noticing a few changes. The entry with host table, brochures and sales items is now by the main door where visitors arrive.

The Liliias Spalding loom was moved to the bay window where it's more visible, a change which also opens up the scenic view beyond.

Copper and brass artifacts were polished and the museum had a fairly thorough cleaning. Feed-back on the changes has been positive.



Summer Student Arrives



After a three-year gap, the museum applied for and received funding for a Young Canada Works' summer student.

We were pleased to recruit local student Natalie Dunsmuir, age 21, into the position of Museum Assistant. She is currently taking a degree in English at the University of Victoria and has come home to the island for the summer.

Natalie is supporting the organization of special events at the museum this summer. She is also working to bring youth groups to the museum. Another of her tasks is to continue researching and cataloguing artifacts and archival materials and updating exhibit labels. Board Chair Simone Marler volunteered to spend the summer at the museum as her supervisor and team member.

So far, Natalie has connected with island groups to improve outreach, helped rearrange displays, and cleaned away a lot of dust! She is looking forward to the rest of the summer at this beautiful museum (and especially to peeking into some of those old boxes of books).

Pender Old School

The museum recently created a Facebook group called "Pender Islands Old School". The idea was to use the interactive and immediate ability of social media to reconnect alumni and former teachers with a place to share memories and stories.

The museum provided online access to highlights of the islands' school-related archives, including photos and documents. Since start-up in mid-April, the group has been popular, attracting 149 members with 170 posts, comments and reactions.



Cubs, Brownies and "royalty" with plenty of flowers at this 1963 Pender School celebration. (Today's Nu-To-Yu steps.)

Visit this summer!

In July and August the museum is open **Saturdays and Sundays from 10am-4pm.**

We love it when islanders, weekenders and visitors make the museum a "must-see", often combining it with a picnic and a walk at Roesland.

If you have a family or group and would like to visit outside normal hours, email pendermuseum@shaw.ca. We'll be happy to open the museum and provide a guided tour.

Planning for the Future - The Museum's New Strategic Plan

On April 10-11, museum board members, along with several invited stakeholders, met for two days to discuss, debate and agree on a path for the future. Now under review by the Board, the Strategic Plan is expected to be formally adopted and shared by this fall.

The 2005 opening of the museum marked the culmination of years of dedicated effort to find a permanent home to preserve the history of our community. It was a huge achievement, and the process of a long-term plan honours that remarkable effort.

After 13 years in operation, the museum faces changing demographics, community and visitor expectations, and technologies that present challenges and opportunities.

The plan landed on five Strategic Goals to help guide our actions over the next five years.

Five Strategic Goals

1. Improve and enrich the visitor experience
2. Improve the care and knowledge of the collection
3. Strengthen the museum's sustainability
4. Increase awareness of the museum and what it offers
5. Improve the quality of the building and its site

Prioritizing the various actions to achieve each goal is not easy for our volunteer-led, donor-funded museum. Our facilitator Tim Willis got started by distilling "Ten Quick Wins". These are inexpensive, relatively simple actions that would make a difference short term.

For example, we started a cleaning and decluttering process. Things were moved around to create a more welcoming entry (see p.2).

To update our website and promotional materials, another quick win was to create an inventory of great pictures. Photographer Urs Boxler volunteered his talents to shoot beautiful images of the museum, its setting and most memorable artifacts. (Thanks, Urs!).

There's more to come and we will update you, our museum society members, on a regular basis.



The Board thanks general museum society members Gerry and Ann Richardson, Blaine Marler, Bea and Keith Valentine and Tim Hall for their participation in the two-day Strategic Planning workshop. A special shout-out goes to Sandy Auchterlonie for donating the use of her lovely oceanfront B&B as a meeting space. We also acknowledge the guidance, good humour and skill of Victoria-based museum consultant and facilitator, Tim Willis.

Museum Guests from Far and Wide!

Over the years, museum guests have filled pages of our guest books. Most hail from Pender, Vancouver Island or Vancouver, with a surprising number arriving by boat at the nearby dock. From there, the ripple extends to the rest of BC and Canada and into the US, particularly Washington and Oregon. Visitors from farther afield include: Romania, France, Switzerland, Chile, Venezuela, Hong Kong, China and Australia.

For many, a visit to the museum is a trip down memory lane. As one woman wrote, "I have great memories of visiting Roesland [Resort] as a child. My family came here for many years and stayed in the cabin that still stands, just beside the museum.



"Dave and Florence Davidson were such gracious hosts! My cousins and I used to spend hours exploring the beach and we all would take family walks out on Roe Islet to the point for family photos."

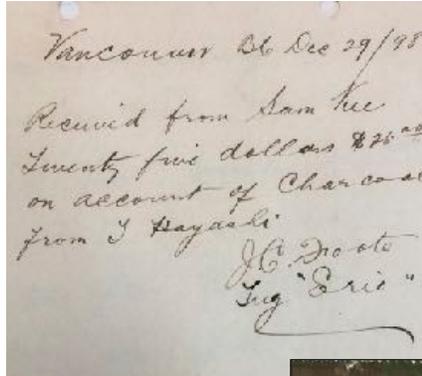
The great-great-great granddaughter of Robert Roe wrote, "Fantastic museum. Incredibly fascinating and especially neat to step where our ancestors did. My family was honoured just to be able to see everything you have collected, especially regarding the Roe family. We took pictures to share with the rest of the family. Thanks for the awesome opportunity."

Charcoal Kilns on Pender Island?

Dotting the Gulf Islands are abandoned charcoal kilns, a lost legacy of the thriving Japanese Canadian communities that existed here until WWII. Kiln ruins have been found on Galiano, Mayne and Salt Spring Islands, but none have been discovered on Pender—yet.

A clue was discovered that makes us want to keep looking. Salt Spring researcher, Brian Smallshaw, found an 1898 receipt between Pender’s Captain John Foote and a prominent Chinese importer who dealt in charcoal via a supplier named Hayashi, a familiar name on Pender. Smallshaw asked for our museum’s help in searching for kiln ruins, hoping to discover another piece of this missing legacy. Grandson John Foote, who lives on Pender, was pleased to get this piece of his family history.

A new booklet, *Island Forest Embers*, tells the story of the resourceful Japanese immigrants who brought the charcoal kiln technology to the area. The museum donated a copy of the book to the local library.



The receipt reads:
Vancouver BC Dec 29/98 [1898]
Received from Sam Kee
Twenty five dollars \$25⁰⁰
on account of Charcoal
from J(?) Hayashi
JC Foote
Tug "Erie"

Imagine these ruins of a charcoal kiln on Mayne Island overgrown with trees. That's what historians hope to find on Pender Island.



One More Reminder:
Family Fun Day is
Sunday, July 29th
from 1-4pm



Pender families have always loved picnics, games and get-togethers. We have old photos like this one to prove it! On July 29th, the museum is recreating this much-loved tradition.



202

That's the number of people who visited the museum during the second annual "Step Back in Time" event as part of the June 22-24 inter-Gulf Islands Tour des Iles festivities.

Visitors enjoyed hosts and historic characters, the vintage clothing trunk, washboard laundry and lemonade and cookies. Sunday's "big day" collaboration with Parks Canada's added a popular wood-burning craft (much like the signs Roesland Resort-goers made for their cabins many years ago). Ptarmigan Arts was the music sponsor, featuring live performances throughout the day. Thank-you to the many museum and community volunteers who made this a successful event!

Past Times is produced by the Pender Islands Museum Society by volunteers, Simone and Blaine Marler, and summer student Natalie Dunsmuir. We welcome your feedback!

If you didn't renew your Pender Islands Museum Society membership at the February AGM, contact Treasurer Rob England at pendermuseum@shaw.ca. \$10 for individuals, \$15 for a family