
BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM

THE VILLAGER

4900 DEER LAKE AVE. BURNABY BC V5G 3T6



SUMMER
1984

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well, here it is the middle of July and time for the second edition of "The Villager" to be printed in 1984. It also means that the holiday season is upon us and I do hope that each and every one of you are able to enjoy a good holiday during the year. Having just returned from three weeks away I am finding it hard to get started again.

However, time waits for no one and I am sure this is evident to anyone who has visited the Village lately as the staff have made very noticeable improvements to the various display areas, not the least of which is Elworth House itself. It is indeed a grand looking old place reminiscent of the period it represents, but now fully insulated and repaired to preserve it for many years to come.

I would also like to refer back to the training for volunteers that took place last spring and was given by our own staff personnel. I had the pleasure of sitting in on some of the sessions being conducted and I would commend both the staff instructors and the volunteers for the results derived from the training. It is my understanding that additional training of this nature will soon be taking place.

In passing I would also like to say that since the last edition of "The Villager" was published I had the pleasure of attending a four day seminar conducted by the National and Provincial Departments of Museums. It was attended by people from all over British Columbia and some from Washington and California. It was my opinion that our museum is second to none in our own field.

I had mentioned in my first report that I hoped to tell you the results of the transportation report and our plans for expansion, but I regret to say that while many meetings have been held and that all parties have largely agreed to the plans there are still a few small points to be settled with outside groups before we can claim complete acceptance by all concerned. But I can definitely assure you progress is being made and in a greater spirit of cooperation than was evident in the earlier stages.

Regarding the question I asked in the last "Villager" as to your preference in meetings held by C.P.M.A., there was no response from anyone to myself and Sandra Leonard only received one call so I am assuming you are happy with the status quo and shall carry on as in the past.

Do enjoy your holiday period and do enjoy your Village. There are many activities and new displays planned for you.

STAN FISHER
PRESIDENT
C.P.M.A.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the 1984 Spring issue of the Villager we attempted to provide all new members with a broad outline of the history of the museum's development, who is who on staff, the Board of Directors, what our current planning was etc.

I trust new members in particular found this outline interesting and informative.

We will now return to our more basic format which will tell of the events and progress since the Spring issue and what future planning will be. Other staff members will outline events in their area of expertise and concern, while I will relate mainly to future planning.

Probably the most dramatic new change is the change of the museum's name. This was described in the latest "Information Burnaby" and is reproduced here in case you did not receive a copy of that bulletin.

SUBJECT: MUSEUM NAME CHANGE

During 1983, there was a great deal of research compiled and in early 1984, a special committee was formed to look into the museum's name, for various reasons we will explain below.

Several outside consultants volunteered their time and expertise to assist us and we arrived at the following conclusions:

1. 99% of all museums across Canada carry the community's name in which it is located.
2. It identifies the museum with that community.
3. Local residents identify with a museum which carries the community name.
4. It makes it clear that the museum will not be confused with other tourist attractions which are located in other cities - i.e. there are other Heritage Villages.
5. It gives the location of the museum to tourists and also implies that the museum is about the area whose name it carries.

Therefore, the key words were found to be "Burnaby" to identify the location and the community, "Village" to provide continuity with the previous name and to convey the style of the museum, "Museum" to identify to the public that what they see is authentic and that they can trust the historical information presented to be correct.

To ensure an easier identification with the name change, the logo we use has been changed only to accommodate the new words and the word "Village" is shown in an outline style of lettering.

Following the end of the tourist season, the name change will be implemented and be totally complete by 1985.

We now have most items prepared such as signs, printing of letterhead, etc. and following Labour Day in September all signs, etc. will be changed.

The planning for the museum expansion is progressing slowly; this is due to the new road layout through Century Park which affects many other facilities and the neighbouring residential area. Hopefully all these matters will be resolved during the summer and then at last we will be able to proceed with the expansion plans.

During the last three months a great deal of maintenance work has been completed on many of our buildings; Elworth House has new paint in its original colours, and throughout the village five buildings also have had new paint. There is also a new display showing period silent movies, the vaudeville theatre is going back into operation on Sundays and there are special events organized which are described elsewhere in this issue of the Villager.

Please come and visit us again soon; I am sure you will enjoy the changes.

R.P. SCHOFIELD
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

CURATOR'S REPORT

May - September, 1984

Display Renovations

With the drier weather the technical staff were able to concentrate on exterior work; firstly the Chicken Coop was cleaned out and modified, providing easier access and a more efficient hen house. Mrs. Daphne Carr kindly bore the cost of the new chicks and broody hen which were bought in time for Easter.

Elworth House, the original property on the museum's site, built in 1920 for the Bateman family received some consolidation. Carpenter ants had nested in the west corner at ground level, and were actively eating away that part of the structure. Firstly the interior of the house was treated with pesticide, then the affected corner was restored, with the addition of drainage rocks at foundation level.

Further work included the replacement of almost half of the verandah floor; the re-pointing of all three chimneys; insulation of the house, and finally re-painting of the exterior in the original colours of cream, white and green.

New Displays

On July 22nd our latest display opened officially; The Electric Theatre, our c. 1903 version of a storefront movie-house, showing silent and early sound classic films.

Typical of the very earliest public cinemas in Vancouver and New Westminster, it will be spartan inside, reserving its glamour to the vestibule/foyer and exterior. Its continuous performances will be free to all, and will be run Tuesdays through Sundays.

This "store-front" theatre will be the only example of its type in the Lower Mainland, and we hope that it will prove to be entertaining, educational and restful for our visitors, providing sheltered seating when it rains.

Special thanks is given to the ladies of the Sewing Circle, who earlier in the year produced a large number of garment bags for use in textile storage, and who have just made up the sets of curtains for the Electric Theatre. Many thanks to: Rheta Skea, Doreen Kling, Edna Sutherland, Jo Ebert, Jill Wilson, and Joan Harbord-Harbord.

The museum also appreciates those Sewing Circle ladies and volunteers who helped make twenty new hats at the very enjoyable Hat Workshop on May 18th.

Statutory Holiday Displays

Queen Victoria's Birthday - May 21st, and Dominion Day - July 1st both occasioned special displays in the General Store window, beside much bunting on many of the buildings on Hill Street.

New Acquisitions

Highlights of the last two months' acquisitions include: several c. 1900 china dolls, one noteworthy donation of early 20th century household effects, and the c. 1907 Bavarian tuba, made by a Purveyor to the Royal Court, at Ulm - a purchase for the Music Shop.

We are actively seeking the donation of the following objects: Musical instruments, early film advertising, early clothing and accessories, Burnaby archival material and photographs pre - 1925. If you think you would like to donate any items to the museum please contact me: telephone 294-1231/4

Career Access Grant

Jim Wolf, a long-standing volunteer, is being employed as a temporary full-time Curatorial Assistant from April 24 - October 24 on this Federal Government grant. Jim will be gaining experience in several aspects of museum work; Curatorial, Education and Operations.

Future Display and Events

Seaforth School, built in 1922, only the second structure to be declared a heritage building in Burnaby, will be the next major display to be opened.

Exterior restoration work carried on last year was completed in the last few months, and now only the interior remains to be completed as a display, pending news of a grant application to Parks Canada for this work.

An official opening is eventually planned to re-unite persons affiliated to this early school of the Lozells area of Burnaby. We would generally welcome any enquiries regarding this event, and especially from the I.O.D.E., the Burnaby School Board, and all former students and teachers who attended the school up to 1958.

JENNIFER PRIDE
CURATOR

ALL ABOUT OPERATIONS

Summer is here and with it some of the activities that help to keep our village interesting and our patrons coming back year after year.

If you are in the village this summer on a sunny day you may be lucky enough to hear and see a new addition to Hill Street. His name is Mike Absalom and he most likely will be fiddling or playing his concertina. We, as well as the visitors are delighted to have him.

Burnaby Central Railway is now in full operation. Tuesday through Sunday until September 03. The steam railway was built and is operated as a hobby by members of the Society of B.C. Model Engineers. We are very lucky to have it so close to the museum and visitors who want to leave for a train ride and then return may have their hand stamped at our front gate. As this is a separate operation to the museum there is a charge of 75¢ per ride on the train.

ONGOING SUMMER EVENTS

Heritage Musical Theatre

July 01 - September 03 Sundays & holiday Mondays.
Brookfield Hall: Showtimes 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Admission: Adults \$1.00 Children 50¢

Gold Rush and Fire

A musical revue of the period
August 06 - 12:00 p.m. only
August 07 - 18th: Showtimes 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.
Admission: \$1.00

"Electric Theatre"

Our very own Silent Movie House
Official opening July 22nd
Admission: FREE

Summer Picnic Days

B.C. Day - August 06 will be a very busy weekend. This is the annual "Garden Party" craft market at the Arts Centre (Sunday August 05 and Monday August 06 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 298-7322). Parking is difficult but if you are prepared it can be relatively painless. There will be marked overflow parking areas on the Court House and Municipal grounds. If you're brave enough to come out I can guarantee you and your family will enjoy not only the museum, but all of Century Park.

Labor Day - September 03 - as well as our regular music, crafts and children's games we will be having a Square dancing demonstration by Burnaby Teenagers. Call our museum information line 294-1233 for the exact times.

Coming Fall Event

The 6th annual "Best Baby in Burnaby" contest will be held in our Ice Cream Parlour. Infants must be a Burnaby resident and no more than 12 months of age on September 16. Pre-registration is necessary and restricted to 50 entries. If you don't have a "star" in the family - come on down and watch - it's really fun!

GILDA HEATH
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

OFFICIAL OPENING ... Ivan Ackery, longtime Orpheum Theatre manager, opens Heritage Village's new storefront theatre at ceremonies held last week.



Photo by Nell J. Dewto

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

In a different form of volunteer activity, Heritage Musical Theatre opened its summer run of their vaudeville show for its seventh year in the museum. The cast of the Village Varieties show certainly adds colour and fun as they present their turn of the century entertainment on Sundays and Statutory holidays. Old fashioned prices prevail at \$1.00 per seat, with proceeds helping to defray production costs.

There was a lot to do lately. In June several volunteers as well as staff participated in a Hat Workshop given by Mrs. Del Kirk. She taught the group how to re-block hats, make silk flowers and many of the tricks in the millinery trade. The day went by far too quickly as new skills were tried. Mrs. Kirk also teaches sewing and pattern making. Hopefully we will be fortunate in asking her back to give another workshop in the future.

Also on the Volunteer agenda was the second offering of our in-depth training seminars from June 26 - 30. Three new workshops were given, 2 on Burnaby History and another on how to interpret a display to visitors. Many volunteers are now sporting a new "gold" badge that signifies their commitment to being well trained museum attendants. Congratulations to them all!

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS go to Miss Sharon Huntley, the 1984 winner of the Miss Burnaby Pageant. Despite a sprained ankle, Sharon's training and talent as a dancer shone through. She is a 17 year old strawberry blond who possesses a delightfully warm personality. She is also an honours student and recent graduate of Burnaby North Senior Secondary School.

Sharon is planning to attend Simon Fraser University and earn a degree in business administration. Between her various interests and studies Sharon is one of our Volunteers in the museum and a great public relations image. We are justly proud of her.



In closing we would like to mention our appreciation to the volunteers in the museum for their supreme efforts to get here during the trying time of the current transit strike.

JOY BUZZA
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Photo of Sharon Huntley
by
Basil King

EDUCATION IN THE MUSEUM

Our second offering of intensive training, which was held during the last week of June, went very well. We included new topics, these being "The History of Burnaby -I", "The History of Burnaby - II" and "The Art of Interpretation", which had not been offered during the last session in March, as well as courses, such as "Costuming, Grooming and Public Relations" and "Conservation" which, although previously offered, some people had been unable to attend. Thanks to all who were present this time round. We hope you enjoyed the courses and found them instructive and helpful.

Brian Kelly's lecture on the history of the Interurban Lines, which was given on Friday, June 22nd in Brookfield Hall was top notch, most informative. After a few technical problems with his "state of the art" projector, (ahhh - this new fangled machinery!) we were off and away into a wonderful presentation which included an expansive series of colour slides of the trams which we were honoured to be the first audience to see. Brian is certainly the man to talk to if you ever want to know anything about the interurbans and he is presently working very hard with the Expo '86 committee concerned with trams, and their part in our transportation history.

Our fun and popular summer programme "In The Good Old Summertime" is off to a roaring start with June's statistics just in and showing a 24% increase in participants over June of last year. We're seeing a number of familiar faces, who obviously enjoyed their visits with us last year, as well as a number of new ones who have been booking with us, it seems, as a result of a very large mailout which we sent out in May. Hill Street is alive with the sounds of the children apple-bobbing in the band-stand, rolling hoops and sticks along the street, dancing to the music of the player piano and marching up the school-house steps to the toll of the bell. Not only are they receiving a vivid impression of our early settlers' lives and community, they are also learning a very important lesson - that history can actually be a fun and lively study!

Speaking of our early settlers' lives I am in the process of ordering an excellent 15 volume reference set entitled "The Early Settler Life Series" published by Crabtree Publishing of Toronto. The titles include "Early Schools", "The Early Family Home", "Early Artisans", "Early Loggers and the Sawmill", and "Early Village Life". The books relate very well to our local history and museum and should provide an all round

reference for all of us working in and for the Museum. My thanks go to Pat Dale, my contact teacher at Nelson Elementary, for introducing me to the series, and to Jean Sumpton, one of our docents, for her diligent efforts and strong muscles, in actually acquiring and lending me a set to look through.

I have also been researching appropriate periodicals to add to those already being circulated on our periodicals shelf located in the lounge in Elworth House, where our information notice board is also located. Please take a look should you come round to visit.

As the bookings for July and August continue to roll in I am looking forward to continued busy and productive months, and hope to meet more of you during the summer. Perhaps you'd like to try your luck at apple-bobbing!

LYNDA PITT-BROOKE
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

by Sandra Leonard
Assistant to Director

New memberships as of July 30, 1984

87	Adults
53	Seniors
12	Students
<u>24</u>	Families
Total	176

Total memberships for 1984 = 230

THE VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF CANADA

The Vintage Car Club of Canada was formed in 1958. Presently the V.C.C.C. has 23 chapters throughout British Columbia. It is also a member of The National Association of Antique Automobile Clubs of Canada, a national body comprised of representatives from each member club across Canada!

The Vancouver Chapter of the V.C.C.C. meets the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Queens Park Centennial Pavilion. Guests are most welcome to attend.

The Chapter is at present involved in two major projects, one being our hosting the 1986 Vintage International Tour in conjunction with Expo '86. We hope to encourage some 1400 vintage car enthusiasts from around the world to participate in the largest indoor tour ever held!

The second and more importantly is our association with Burnaby Village Museum. As an affiliate member for the past 4 years we have been involved in discussions regarding the expansion of the Village and within that expansion the incorporation of an antique car display. It is envisioned that such a display would resemble a 1920's dealer showroom and could house 4 to 5 cars which can be rotated every 3 or 4 months.

F.I.V.A.: The International Federation of Ancient Motor Vehicles has declared 1986 as the 100th Anniversary of the Motor Car. This year commemorates the first automobile to be driven in public, by Carl Benz, in 1886. All being well we are looking forward to honouring this accomplishment with our first display in the Village in early 1986.

Should anyone have any questions regarding our club or its association with the Village please feel free to contact: Robert Groves, C.P.M.A. affiliate, phone number 434-3580.

ROBERT GROVES
VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF CANADA