

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

420 Fraser St., P.O. Box 640
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

2017 Issue #3

Unlocking Lytton's Past

Snippets

Check out prices of miscellaneous goods in Lytton in 1937.

See page 3 for more information about where these prices came from and other exciting things to purchase.

Electrifying News

This Spring, the Village funded the installation of electricity to the backyard's two small sheds and the outside display.

This will allow us to more easily use power tools and equipment while doing clean up or maintenance work. In the past, a very long extension cord, plugged into a kitchen receptacle, run across the floor, down the stairs, out the back door, and across the yard was the power source.

It also opens the possibility of using one of the sheds for another display - gold mining perhaps. This would remove some of the larger items, such as the rocker boxes and miner's plumb bob, presently housed in the museum, to be relocated.

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Members Annual Dinner



Our annual potluck was held on June 27. As usual, our members provided a variety of foods to share, and plenty of it, followed by an evening of banter and conversation.





Yard Clean Up Work Party

To prepare for tourist season in June, an outside work party was held in May to “spiffy up” the yard. Weeds were pulled, garden beds trimmed and dug over and display area vacuumed of leaves and winter debris.

With the recent painting of the window and door trims, corner boards and soffits, the Museum is looking good.

Then in June, Noni McCann oversaw students Kristen Justice, Koko Dunstan, Cassidy Pans, Skylar Munro, Preston Justice, and Marcus Abbott from Kumsheen Secondary, who weeded the whole of the backyard and north side pathway. They did a fantastic job and it was great to see them working so hard in their community.

Thanks for your help! (We hope you’ll do it again next year!)

An Evening Out

In June, local Lytton Museum members were treated to a free visit of the new Lytton Chinese History Museum



It is very well displayed and members who attended were impressed. Lorna Fandrich has certainly collected a variety of items related to the Chinese in Lytton.

My Summer at the Museum



Hello!

My name is Jaime Sam and I’ve had a great pleasure working in the museum this summer. Since I started work here, it amazed me how much history a small town like this could have. I’m glad I had this summer in the Museum to experience the information and stories others have had to share. I’m grateful to have increased my knowledge on this little town I’m growing up in. Although I’ve had a whole summer to learn, I still feel there is much more information I have yet to read about. It has been a great summer having the ability to exchange knowledge with people who come from various places around the world who share the same curiosity.

Thank you for the last couple of months!

Moving Ahead

With money received from the Canada 150 Grant, we are now in the process of having engineered structural and architectural drawings for the proposed Museum building addition done. We are getting closer to our goal.



You Just Never Know..

... what you will find tucked away in the most unexpected places.

Lorna Fandrich donated this rolled up 1937 16 page flyer from BR's store, found while the family was doing renovations to Meghan's house.

Note on the front cover, at the bottom of the page, it says "This May be a Winning Number" with No. 43239 stamped in the lower corner. 55 winners each received 2 lbs. of coffee, 2 lbs. of tea and 1 -16 oz. can baking powder.

Visit the Museum to see a copy of this flyer.

Sunset AUGUST, 1937
HOUSEHOLD NEWS

Vacation Number

FISHING RODS
No. V9—A very popular 5 piece steel rod, with cork guides, long top. Length 8 feet, unmodified grass. Put up in perforated bag. Each \$1.00

FISHING REELS
No. 400—Nickel plated, adjustable click, capacity 100 yds. Each 39c

LEADER BOXES
No. 875—Aluminum with thick, round, contains 2 thick pieces of 30% diameter 5 1/2 lbs. Each 25c

ASSORTED FLIES
Assorted variety of special grade flies on powder sized hooks. Dozen 33c

GUT LEADERS
No. 504—Arque Shot Kestrel Gut Leaders 7 and 6 ft. lengths. Each 5c

TRICYCLES
No. 720—20" of front wheel 17" \$8.85
No. 800—20" of front wheel 17" \$6.30
No. 810—20" of front wheel 17" \$5.45

Look for the "SATURDAY ONLY" SPECIALS on Page 4

B. REBAGLIATI
GENERAL **B.R.'s** MERCHANT
LYTTON BRITISH COLUMBIA No 13239
This May be a Winning Number



From Summer Visitors

Gary and I are from Wellington, New Zealand, and visited Lytton in June. We are interested in Lytton's history, especially in the 1910-1912 period which was the time when my Grandfather, Ernest Edward Dawson



AMICE, Civil Engineer, was working on the construction of the CNR railway. After getting nowhere searching Canada's likely museums to send my Grandfather's photos to, we were thrilled to get such a positive, friendly response from

Marie Heaster, Curator of the Lytton Museum. We have been honoured to have got to know Marie after much correspondence over the years. Marie inspired us to come to visit Lytton, to see the landscape, township and visit Lytton's delightful museum.

We enjoyed visiting the Lytton Museum. The friendly staff, Tom and Jaime, immediately greeted us and made us feel welcome. Tom told us about the many interesting objects in this tiny museum and related stories about them which made them more meaningful. We found the museum was nicely set out with displays grouped into indigenous objects, church items, gold rush maps, railway/ industrial items, rocks, and many more. As an art lover, I found the Indigenous objects were particularly well exhibited so that the superb skills needed to create the pieces could be appreciated. We were impressed with the three dimensional model map positioned in the central front area of the museum.

This enabled us to fully appreciate Lytton's situation in relation to the mighty river and towering mountains.

We felt our visit to the museum was well worth while as it enabled us to gain a good sense of what life was like when my grandfather was working around Lytton. We noted the photographic display which informed us about horses pulling carts, people going about their activities, bridges that were built, the style of dwellings and buildings which were being used. We spent a couple of hours in the museum and I got the feeling that we only scratched the surface!

We enjoyed spending the rest of the day visiting historical places of interest in Lytton which were suggested in the leaflet the museum hands out - a most helpful leaflet as it explains the history of Lytton also.

Thank you to Marie and all the staff for a very pleasant visit. We wish you well in your efforts to keep this museum going so that the important history of Lytton is preserved for future generations.

Carol and
Gary
Henderson



Editor's Note: Carol worked for 15 years at Te Papa Tongarewa, the National Museum of New Zealand, so her observations and kind comments about our tiny museum are appreciated.



Where is Tilton Creek?

This story starts in about 1800 at the then busy town of Yale, B.C. Andrew Onderdonk was given the contract to build a rail line from Yale north along the Fraser River. He had hired workers to get this done and one of his men was a fellow from England who had been employed as a sailor as a young man. His name was Walton Hugh Holmes. He would help move the steam powered Skuzzy up through Hell's Gate by running the winch on the bow of the Skuzzy while the engine ran full blast and two hundred or so miners pulled on ropes on both banks of the river. They managed to get it through there with just a little damage and the loss of it's bumpers set along the sides of the hull.

Still working out of Yale at this time, Holmes met and married a local woman, Lucy Clementine Lawrence. They were the first couple to be wed in Yale by Bishop Sillitoe.

This was a time of building roads, bridges, and rail lines for the C.P.R. While working on the #1 train tunnel just north of Yale one day, Holmes noticed some liquid seeping out of an oven being used to thaw out frozen dynamite. Nitro-glycerin was what the puddle was. They decided to get out of there fast, but the nitro blew up before they got very far away. Lucky no one was killed in this accident, although it took Walton a while to recover from the blast.

He was then busy moving equipment, people and supplies across the Fraser by boat. He got the idea to put in a cable crossing from the Keefers farm area on the west bank across to the east bank near a creek named after one of

Mr. Onderdonk's managers whose name was Tilton. A lot of freight goods, people, and rail equipment was moved using the cable.

The Wagon Road went along the edge of the Fraser, and much of it was lost to the building of the C.P.R. rail line, particularly at Tilton Creek. A trestle went across the creek for the rail line, a culvert put into Tilton Creek and a tunnel built to connect to the culvert. It was then covered with sand and rocks, then filled in with more gravel to bring it up to ground level.



Now it just seems like a dip in the road. And we don't see a creek, but you can still feel the coolness of the water as you drive through the area, about two miles before the bottom of Jackass mountain, as you are heading north, on Highway 1.

This story was the result of a question asked last spring. "Where is Tilton Creek?"

submitted by Tom Peglow

Editor's note - I asked this question of Tom when Carol & Gary (see above) were coming to visit, as Tilton Creek was noted on the back of one of the photos they donated to us.



Museums as Mediators

It is always stressed to summer employees and volunteers who act as hosts in the Museum, that personal views on any aspect of our history are not to be expressed to visitors. The Museum preserves and displays history; it neither condones or condemns the past. The following CBC article of 18 August 2017 addresses the issue of 'racist relics'.

As momentum builds to tear down monuments and rename buildings that are deemed racist relics of the past, some historians say offensive memorials should remain intact to deepen education and even bridge divides. Hundreds of statues remain across the U.S. in the wake of the Civil War, marking military figures or battle sites, and there is a growing push to remove what many regard as lingering symbols that glorify slavery and the oppression of black Americans.

Similar disputes have erupted in Canada over commemorative names and statues of historic figures who had a role in the cultural oppression of Indigenous peoples.

The trend to remove those memorials — many of which are displayed in prominent public places featuring figures in heroic poses, such as riding on horseback — has provoked strong emotions and violent clashes.

But leading historian and author Jack Granatstein said that rather than allowing these sites to become flashpoints for racial divisions, they should be displayed with contextual information to help people understand, interpret and learn from the past.situation," Granatstein said of the push to eliminate memorials. "I think we need to remember that history happened, and you don't simply change it by taking a name off a

building or taking down a statue.

"I think what is better than that is to have an explanation for why someone is being honoured for what he or she did in that time, and that explanation can go in to context of what they did."

Granatstein said taking down monuments allows the wrong people to seize control over the interpretation of history, referring to those who have staged demonstrations protesting their removal, including white supremacists.

"In the American context and to some extent the Canadian context, you give an opportunity to people whose views we don't particularly enjoy: fascists, Nazis, racists," he said. "I don't want them pretending to defend history. The history they are trying to create is not the history I would prefer to see memorialized, or honoured or understood by the public."

White nationalists protesting the planned removal of a statue memorializing Robert E. Lee, a Confederate top general, clashed violently with counter-demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va., last weekend. One woman was killed and another 20 people were injured.

It was the latest in a growing number of controversies that have erupted over plans to take down Confederate symbols in the U.S. and to change names of sites offensive to Indigenous people in Canada.

With a growing push to remove historical memorials and monikers, Granatstein asked where it would stop.

He noted that in Canada, CBC listeners called Tommy Douglas the greatest Canadian of all time, yet in the 1930s the former premier of Saskatchewan and father of



medicare held a then popular belief in eugenics and wanted to sterilize people with mental impairments.

"Attitudes change, and it seems to me that one of the tasks of historians and politicians is to remind people that today's values are different than past values, and the future's values will probably be different than ours," Granatstein said.

Ron Stagg, a history professor at Toronto's Ryerson University, said removing statues of Confederate heroes, which are now interpreted as symbols of slavery and oppression, draws the ire of a certain segment of the white population who see it as an erosion of their rights. Provocative statements from U.S. President Donald Trump have served to embolden these people, who may not have spoken out in the past.

Stagg sees the situation unfolding in the U.S. as different from that in Canada, where most disputes are not fraught with such deep divisions and "intense feelings" on both sides. In Canada, most of the controversies have been around Indigenous people in the context of reconciliation.

Conflict recently erupted in Nova Scotia over a plan to take down a statue of Edward Cornwallis, a British military officer and one of the founders of Halifax, who in his day had offered a bounty for the scalps of Mi'kmaq.

The federal government also recently removed the name of Hector Langevin from a government building, after Indigenous groups complained that it paid tribute to a man who played a role in the residential schools program.

Stagg called that name removal a "token" gesture by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and said it may open the floodgates to other

requests for change.

"I think we're going to try and be politically correct in terms of trying to erase aspects of the past that we find offensive," he said. "I think that's wrong in the broad sense. I think it's going to continue to happen and there's going to be a backlash just as there has been in the States."

Indigenous child welfare advocate Cindy Blackstock has successfully worked to revise wording on plaques commemorating certain people who had a role in the residential schools program. She said while in some cases symbols such as swastikas must be eliminated, she said most memorials should remain up in order to teach visitors about the past, provided they tell the full story.

"By erasing the monument you can erase the historical lessons, contributing even more to the rampant historical amnesia that feeds discrimination and immorality," said Blackstock, who is also a professor of social work at McGill University.

Donna Gabaccia, a history professor at the University of Toronto who organized a weekend demonstration in Toronto to protest white nationalism and the violence in Charlottesville, said memorials could be taken down and moved to museums where they could be understood in proper context.

"I see museums as important mediators of cultural controversies, where many voices can be and must be heard if the controversies are to be resolved," she said.

"Monuments become controversial when public opinion and historical context changes around them, which is inevitable. Contestation over the meaning of museums can only be resolved when all sides begin to understand the differences



between the past that created the monuments and the present that inevitably seeks new meaning in them."

Granatstein said context about the people being memorialized — including polarizing figures deemed by some to have been heroes in their day — is critical to understanding history.

"Every country has its heroes and most of those heroes have feet of clay or maybe a toe or two of clay. A country without heroes is a country without a past. I'd prefer to have heroes and a past," he said.

Well, what do you think? Do you agree with the writers? Or have a different point of view? Here's your chance to express your opinion. Write a 'Letter to the Editor', by snail mail or e-mail, for our December newsletter.

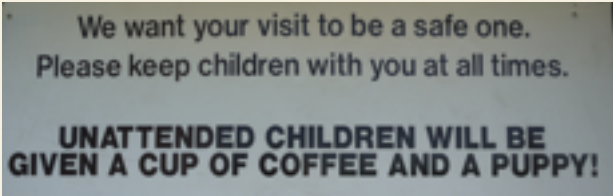
**Quarterly Museum Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of Jan. Apr. Sept & Nov.
7:00pm in the Museum.**

\$10 Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters.

Receive your newsletters by e-mail in pdf format saving you paper clutter and saving the Museum publication and postage costs.

Send a request to
museum@lyttonmuseum.ca

On a lighter note: here's part of a sign at the Alberta Railway Museum.



Do you have a family photograph album or the typical shoebox of old photos in your possession that relate to people of Lytton or Lytton events? Then you have a personal Archives in your home.

Speaking with people in the past about how valuable these would be to the Museum, often the reply was "Well, I don't want to give away family photos."

BUT.. with modern technology you no longer have to donate the actual photo. Simply bring your photographs to the Museum and we can scan them into digital format for the Museum Archives, and you can take your photos back home with you, safe to pass on to other family members.

Photographs do not have to be removed from the album if pasted in. No damage is done to them. A safe and sure way to help preserve Lytton's history.



Unlocking Lytton's Past

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

(a Village of Lytton Commission) is a member of:



& the BC Historical Federation