

Donations

Bequests, donations and memorials are wonderful gifts for small, volunteer-operated historical associations like the Bowen Historians. Since the founding in 1967, the Historians' work has been funded by raffles, bake sales, auctions and bazaars. In the last few years, the People, Plants and Places Tour plus Direct Access grants have replaced the original auctions and bazaars. Nevertheless, raising the money to operate a Museum and Archives is an on-going challenge.

The Community Museum and Archives acknowledges with thanks the recent donations from these members:

Anne Angus
M. Armstrong
Cy Burrill
Dorothy Lawson
Cec and Wes Magee
L. Meyers-Carter
Peter Schmidt
Anne Thompson
Lana and Dick Underhill
Bill Weatherall

We welcome these new members:

P. and S. Jance	Hank Strubin
C. Corell	E. Thomson
C. Reed	B. and A. Behm
Susan Bell	Georg Helenius
Berni Claus	W. Griffiths



In Memoriam

We salute these islanders who were part of the Bowen community and who have disappeared from our lives this year. We remind you that the Archives maintain biographical files relating to Bowen residents. Additional material relating to Islanders is always welcome. Contact Lois Meyers-Carter at <lbmcarter@shaw.ca>

We will miss:

Gisela Behm	April
Tony Carachelo	April
Bob Carkner	August
Susan Catliff	June
Mary Clark	July
Bill Gibson	July
F.R.X. (Bobby) Johnstone	September
Bob LeFluffy	May
Evelyn McLeod	August
Betty McQueen	February
Lance Milligan	June
Caroline O'Neil	May
George Proudlock	June
Charlene Roseman	March
Kenneth Seed	March
Aaron Sluggett	June
Lane Gordon Thorlaksson	January
Ron Tribe	July
Nathanael Tunnicliffe	September
Jack Urquhart	August

Thank you to our lenders...

To the individuals who generously loaned us artifacts for display in our exhibit on the history of Western Explosives Factory on Bowen Island from 1909 to 1913:

Gary Anderson
Andy Behm
Ross Cone

...and to our summer staff



Phoebe Ramsay.
Photo by Ron Woodall

Summer is always a busy season here at the Museum & Archives. Between hosting visiting school groups, assisting researchers of local history, holding fundraisers, and more, there is always something happening to keep us busy. We were very fortunate this summer to

have had two very enthusiastic and capable co-op students from the University of Victoria on board to lend us their talents. Huge thanks to Kara Johancsik, Museum Assistant, and Phoebe Ramsay, Archival Assistant, for all their hard work. We wish you well in your future endeavours.



Kara Johancsik. Photo by Heather Joan Tam

HISTORIANA

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Naming; Claiming:

The story behind place names on this island we call Bowen

By Kara Johancsik

When someone first asked me, "Who was Bowen, anyway?" I was stumped. Nobody seems to know or care about how Bowen Island got its name. History is boring, right? And local history of place names? Even worse! As it turns out, however, the history of place names in and around Bowen Island is anything but. In fact, a closer glance at the meanings of Howe Sound, Bowen Island, and Hood Point reveal some exciting elements of local history, spanning from naval battles off the coast of France to the colonialists surveying nineteenth century North America.

Most islands in Howe Sound are named after an incident that occurred across the Atlantic several years before British surveyors arrived on the west coast of North America. The French Revolution initiated a series of conflicts that destabilized Europe. At the beginning of June 1794, French fleets of the new Revolutionary government clashed with British ships near the small island of Ushant off of the west coast of France. During the course of battle, the British captured six French ships and broke up the fleet. Meanwhile, the confrontation distracted the British fleet from 130 French merchant ships, which passed safely by on their way to Brest. As such, both sides claimed victory to the battle, which became known to the British side as the Glorious First of June.

65 years later, Captain George Richards, a British hydrographer of the H.M.S. *Plumper* surveyed the islands off the west coast of Vancouver. Remembering the Revolutionary Wars, Richards named the places in Howe Sound after British naval men. Commander of the British Channel Fleet Admiral Richard Scrope Earl Howe received credit for the British victory at the Glorious First of June, hence Howe Sound.

Bowen Island received its name from Rear-Admiral James Bowen, who played an important role in engaging flagships in battle and breaking the French line.

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FUNDING CUTS STALL OPERATIONS AT BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM

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EARLY BIRD ALERT

Due to the unexpected loss of provincial and federal grants to non-profit associations, membership fees have been increased to:

Single \$25 Family \$30 Corporate \$50 (no change)

BUT...if you renew by November 30, you may renew at the old rate and save five dollars.

Single \$20 Family \$25 Corporate \$50

Thanks for your support of Bowen history.



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NAMING BOWEN ISLAND

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Hood Point on the northern coast of Bowen Island was named after Sir Alexander Hood, Admiral of the Blue, who was elevated to the status of Baron Bridport for his bravery in the Glorious First of June battle.

Rear-Admiral James Bowen and his naval victories meant very little to the indigenous Squamish people who used Bowen Island for hunting and cultural activities. In fact, some Aboriginals believed that the large whale bones that Squamish whale hunters had left behind on the beaches near the Tunstall Bay area caused the Whiteman to call the island "Bone Island".

Howe Sound, Bowen Island, and Hood Point had Squamish names long before Richards completed his survey. The body of water that we know as Howe Sound was called *Eyesyche*, which means an open area of water, similar to English words "gulf", "strait", or "sound". Unlike the British colonialists, the Squamish did not use people's names to distinguish a particular body of water.

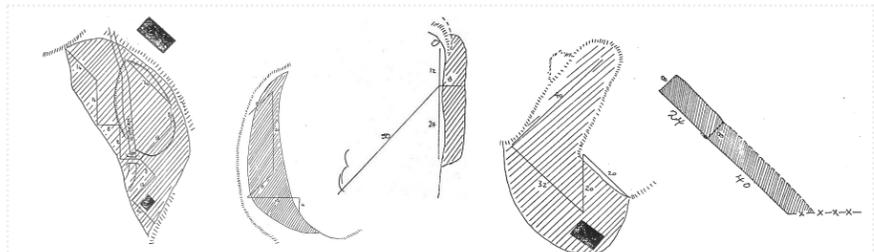
Bowen Island was originally called *Xwlil-xhwm*, "fast drumming ground". Though there were never any permanent settlements on Bowen Island before people from Europe arrived, the Squamish people used the island as a stopping point for travelers, to meet other First Nations groups, and for cultural activities such as drumming ceremonies. Unlike the British surveyors and settlers, who tended to name places after individuals important to their national heritage, the Squamish name *Xwlil-xhwm* described the island's specific cultural purpose.

Similarly, the Squamish name for what Richards called Hood Point is a literal description of the area. *Kwumch-nam* is a Squamish word that describes the sound made by stamping one's heel. It was also the name for the area around Hood Point, where the sound of the waves against the shore resembles the soft stamping of a heel against the ground.

Certainly, Richards did not think of the Squamish when he completed his survey. He named the islands and waters independently, which suggests that he believed the area to be wild and uninhabited. After all, what better

way to commemorate a legendary sea battle than to name this new wilderness after the battle's key figures? The Squamish names that described cultural activities or natural features of particular places have now faded out of popular use. But exploring Squamish place names and British colonial place names reveals the differing values between indigenous and settler societies. Place names in this sense are remnants of British Columbia's colonialism.

So, what's in a name, after all? *Namely*, further evidence of the breadth and depth of our fascinating local history.



Navigating our environment: understanding our relationship with the land we inhabit through diagrams, creating maps, drawing borders, and assigning names to land and bodies of water.

Hydrographic maps of various areas of Bowen Island prepared by the Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, 1975-76. Compiled by Heather Joan Tam.

FUNDING CUTS STALL OPERATIONS AT BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Dear Members and Friends of the Historians, we have some unfortunate news to announce. Because our Direct Access grant application was denied by the provincial government (along with those of most arts and cultural organizations across the province), the Historians are experiencing a budgeting crisis, and as of September 8, 2009, the Bowen Island Community Museum will be without a curator, and operations at the museum will be stalled indefinitely.

The future of our public programming and installation of new exhibits is uncertain. Your Board of Directors will continue to meet and strategize, and the Archives will remain open on Tuesdays and Thursdays thanks to our Archivist Dorothy Lawson and Volunteer Lois Meyers-Carter.

Our sector plays a vibrant role and contributes to the diversity of the province's shared culture. BC's arts & culture sector employs more than 78,000 people and contributes over \$5 billion to the provincial economy annually.



People, Plants & Places Tour July 17 & 18, 2010

After a one-year hiatus, the 2010 People, Plant and Places Tour (PPP) featuring 7 house, garden, artistic, and historic sites (8 counting our picnic location) is ready for July 17 & 18. You won't want to miss any this year! They are outstanding! You may reserve tickets by e-mailing bowenppp@shaw.ca. Thank you Alison Morse, Dan Parkin, and Marlene Mather for assisting me in choosing and securing the sites, and a special thank you to our future hosts who make this well-attended tour possible.

Beverly Underhill
PPP Preview Site Coordinator



The BC Government's own research has demonstrated that for every dollar invested in the arts, \$1.38 comes back in taxes.

These funding cuts are devastating the arts & culture, sports, and non-profit sectors. Please make your voice heard on this issue. The BC Museums Association has posted a "Call to Action" on their website, which includes details on whom to write letters of protest to, &c. The BCMA website is at <http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca>.

We thank each and every one of you for your support of the Historians over the years.

Yours, & in solidarity with all cultural workers across British Columbia,
Heather Joan Tam, Former Curator

Bowen Island's Beary Merry Christmas exhibit has its roots in the days of the great department store window extravaganzas. From the 1920s to the 1960s, major department stores in large cities vied with one another to create holiday fantasies in their large corner display windows. These major exhibits, planned for months ahead, and often combining human and mechanized segments, went up before Christmas, stayed up until the New Year and were viewed by thousands of children and parents. The Historians exhibit is a loving mini salute to those family delights of earlier years. Although this delightful exhibit isn't possible this year, it is hoped to come back in 2010.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL AND HIGH TEA

at Evergreen Hall, donated by owner Maureen Armstrong, was a huge success due to the many volunteers, donations, and outstanding attendance. The Bowen Island Historians Museum and Archives' three Board Directors, Jacqui Parker-Snedker, Dan Parkin, Andrew Todd, with the additional help of Darcie Buzzelle and Tim Rhodes, were largely responsible for the overall organization.

Well-known antique appraisers Uno Langmann and daughter Jeanette donated their time and expertise and attracted many people with interesting antiques, paintings, and unusual articles, while entertaining a fascinated audience. Museum Curator Heather Joan Tam, and our two University of Victoria summer students Kara Johancsik and Phoebe Ramsay were busy weeks before selling tickets, preparing displays, and on the day of the big event, setting up displays, waitressing, and greeting guests, who were enjoying the delectable goodies while listening to Michael Creber tickling the ivories.

Thank you Board Director Marlene Mather, and the many volunteers: Maureen Armstrong, Jane Boddy, Barb Boon, Sarah Deretic, Liz Fincham, Heather Hodson, Sheree Johnson, Peter King, Eric Lawson, Janice MacLean, Julia McLaughlin, Pat Sainiuk, and Neela Todd.

Donations from: Nicola Murray of Floribunda, Alderwood Farm, Nancy Leonard, The Village Baker, Eileen Hall of Savary Island Pie Company, and Notte's Bon Ton Pastry & Confectionery gave us a considerable discount.

Thank you also to everyone who generously loaned us china and cutlery, and turned out to support this event.

Thank you all most sincerely.

Beverly Underhill
President
Bowen Island Historians



Two guests enjoy an afternoon of delectable treats at the Historians' High Tea at Evergreen Hall. Photo by Beverly Underhill

