

HISTORIANA

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New Face at the Archives

Welcome to Deidre Farah • By Dorothy Lawson



Deidre Farah has joined the Museum & Archives team. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Lawson.

IT HAS TAKEN a long time but there will soon be a new face at the Archives. Way back at the end of the summer Rob Forbes told me of someone who was actually excited about learning the archives. We met, she, her four month old son and I; we talked and mutually discovered that she would be the perfect person to pass the torch to. Now we are both excited!

She is young!

She is strong...at least a good soccer player should be able to handle the boxes on the shelves.

She has many qualities that will fit well in the archives.

She is an Islander...True her island was Denman; but she knows how island life works. Her background also fits the description of many of our early islanders One of our pioneers was a Kanaka another had either Turkish or Egyptian in the mix, and we have had Finns and just about every nation in Europe, a good part of Asia and the Americas. But this is the first time, I think, that we can count someone an Afghan background. This is ideal, for what is the work of an archive but to look for roots.

She has an educational background that couldn't have been better planned for archival purposes. A degree in Anthropology and volunteer work at the Museum of Anthropology, UBC intensified her love of old things. Then two archaeological digs, in which she took part, one in Jordan dealing with Bronze Age artifacts, the other in Greece as a summer assistant advisor, will have given her the ability to overlook dirt and grime,

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roy and Joy Collins

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

Roy and Joy Collins • Erwen and Patty Smith •

Richard and Lana Underhill •

Joan Wood

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BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



An unidentified man taking his self-portrait with a camera. The nude photographer can be seen in the reflection of the glass door. Lieben, c1950s. Bowen Island Archives collection.

Vibrant home of Einar and Muriel Neilson is revisited in Summer 2012 exhibit

"I'll never spend another Christmas without remembering with love 1952 at Lieben," wrote Margerie Bonner Lowry to Muriel and Einar Neilson, after visiting their Bowen Island home with her husband Malcolm Lowry. The Neilsons counted the Lowrys among their dear friends and frequent visitors to this gathering place and retreat for an assortment of prolific writers, artists, and academics.

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A curious pair of photos depicting Einar Neilson and an unidentified man in the same pose, reclining in bed while reading Life magazine. Bowen Island Archives collection.

Book Launch: *Dead Horse on the Tulameen*

Jon Barlett & Rika Ruebsaat

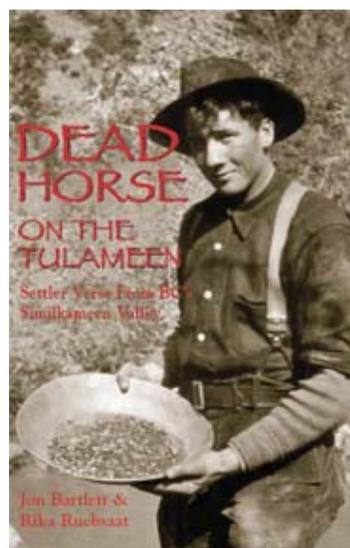
March 11, 7pm • The Gallery @ Artisan Square

*A drill makes the music that rings in his ears
But a candle's the charmer to drive away fears.
Down deep underground where grim shadows are thick—
Here's to you always, my old candlestick.*

Poem by an underground miner in Princeton BC, 1900

Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat know that wherever there is a community archives, treasures are waiting to be found within. The two singers and cultural historians visited Princeton Archives and uncovered some unique gems from

history: poems by early settlers in the Similkameen Valley describing their daily lives with humour and insight.



These poems, along with archival photographs from the region, are presented with Jon and Rika's historical narrative in their new book, *Dead Horse on the Tulameen: Settler Verse from BC's Similkameen Valley*. Join the authors for the Bowen Island launch of this collection.

The launch takes place on Sunday, March 11, 7:00 pm at The Gallery at Artisan Square. Jon and Rika will entertain with live singing, readings from the book, a multi-media slideshow of photographs from their travels through the Tulameen region, and a Q&A period. The book will be available for purchase.

Admission is by donation, and refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you at this celebration of BC local history.

This event is presented jointly by the Bowen Island Arts Council, Bowen Heritage, Bowen Island Museum & Archives, Bowen Island Public Library, and Friends of the Library.



2012 Bowen Island People, Plants and Places Tour

July 21 & July 22 • By Lois Meyers-Carter

An update for islanders—onwards with enthusiasm!

PPP is coming! Pass the word and save the dates: Saturday, July 21 and Sunday, July 22. It's amazing to realize that 2012 is the 17th year of the PPP Tour. This welcome summer treat returns after 2011's much-deserved break. The PPP partners—the Memorial Garden Society and the Community Museum and Archives—are gearing up to present a new slate of homes, gardens, gracious hosts and friendly volunteers. (Several islanders have already passed the word that they are looking forward to being a tour volunteer again.)

Every other year, this tour presents a lovely, informal way to have an insider's look at a group of carefully chosen homes and gardens. Tickets are valid for both days, so that a guest may visit some of the sites on Saturday and the rest on Sunday. This new arrangement allows mainland visitors the option of spending a relaxing weekend in one of Bowen's diverse array of bed and breakfasts, and sampling from a selection of charming dining options. As well, special PPP rates are available at Bowen's scenic and challenging new 9-hole golf course.

Stay tuned: there's more to come. And oh yes, the locations of the tour sites are still under wraps but there'll be stories in the Undercurrent to tantalize you. Meantime, volunteers are welcome and needed—shuttle car drivers, directional sign squad, ticket takers, and gardening enthusiasts. Phone Volunteer Coordinator Alison Morse at (604) 947-9875 or e-mail her at pppvolunteer@shaw.ca.



View beautifully landscaped gardens and unique homes on this year's People, Plants and Places Tour. Ticket sale details to be announced in Spring. Photo courtesy of Jenelle Pasiechnik.

A NEW FACE AT THE ARCHIVES

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as well as patience to work methodically and keep proper records. Keeping proper records would have also been either learned or reinforced by her program and volunteer work as a legal secretary. This will be especially valuable to the archives as her work dealt with intellectual property law and there is much that is changing in this field that an archive needs to keep abreast of.

She has a degree in Education to top it all off...backed by actual practice at IPS in Special Education, another area which requires much patience. And she is patient and gentle; I could see that during our visit. Two sons of 2 ½ and 6 months helps a lot. She will be well able to put up with the minor frustrations of an archives.

Why choose to join our Archival team for her volunteer work. This is best of all!

She has a respect and fascination for the past.

"There's a story for every artifact; some stories may reveal themselves to us, Others we may never know," is how she puts it. That is the spirit of an Archivist!

She and her family came to Bowen to visit and instantly knew it was where they wanted to retire...so why wait. They are here for the long term! Maybe we won't have to choose a new archivist for another thirty years.

Welcome Deidre Farah.



BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



In Memoriam ~ 2011 ~

We salute these islanders who were part of the Bowen community and who have disappeared from our lives recently. The Archive maintains a biographical database plus other biographical files concerning Bowen residents. Additional material relating to these Islanders or others is always welcome. Contact Lois Meyers-Carter at lbcarter@shaw.ca

We will miss:

Stuart Allen, Ann Angus, Bob Babcock, Jan Bakker, John Bottomley, Michael Buchanan, Geoffrey Burnett, Rod Clark, Al Davidson, Peter Dean, Alastair Dickinson, Sylvie Deselliers, Jan Furst, Michael Haggerty, Bill Hawker, Georg Helenius, Carol Hussy, Audrey Hutton, Olive Johnson, Ross Johnson, Charlie MacNeill, Bruce McLeod, Joan McNeill, Ailsa Milligan, Doug Mitchell, Doreen Pryce-Jones, Jim Robinson, Susan Roote, Muriel Ross, Ken Shirley, Mallory Smith, Sheila Tripp, John Wightman, Audrey Woodley and Aird Worsley.

YOUTH CURATORS RESEARCH ELECTRICAL POWER ON BOWEN

Heather Joan Tam

Ever since the Museum began collaborating with Bowen Island Community School for our annual Youth Curator Program, I have looked forward to BC Heritage Week celebrations. During the month leading up to Heritage Week, a group of 10 students, led by Community School Coordinator Sarah Haxby, visit the Museum & Archives to research a topic related to the designated Heritage Week theme. The Youth Curators select artifacts and photographs in our collection to feature in a display at their school.

From February 20-26, 2012, Heritage Week celebrations took place across the province to explore the theme of Energy in BC: A Powerful Past, A Sustainable Future. The Youth Curators focused on topics related to power on Bowen Island: What was the island like before there was electricity? What household appliances did islanders use? How did people get to and from Bowen before the days of BC Ferries? How was manual labour carried out different compared to methods used today?

This year's Youth Curators found answers to these questions through the course of their research, using historical records and materials at the Museum & Archives. The information they unearthed is on display at the Bowen Island Community School until March 26, 2012.

The Youth Curator Program is made possible through funding from Bowen Island Municipality and Decoda Literacy Solutions.

LIEBEN EXHIBIT, SUMMER 2012

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Folders full of photographs, correspondence, and writings are stored in boxes at the Archives, and among these records and artifacts is a story of a unique corner of Bowen Island where, from 1946 to the late 1960s, one could find passion and creativity, great company and stimulating conversation, and calming natural beauty. Deep friendships were cultivated by Lieben's generous hosts.

And who were their friends? What were their politics? What of the rumours of raucous goings-on at "Lusty Lieben"? Find out this summer at the Bowen Island Community Museum.



Youth Curator Kole Bentley researches an oil lamp. Photo courtesy of Sarah Haxby.



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