

HISTORIANA

Summer 2012

The Newsletter of the Bowen Island Museum & Archives

Volume 19, Number 2

Annual General Meeting & Summer Exhibit Opening

Sunday June 24, 2012 from 2pm to 4pm

Museum & Archives Garden, 1014 Miller Road

Agenda: President's Report | Financial Report | Committee Report
Election of Directors | Adjournment

Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

It's Back! The People, Plants, & Places Tour 2012

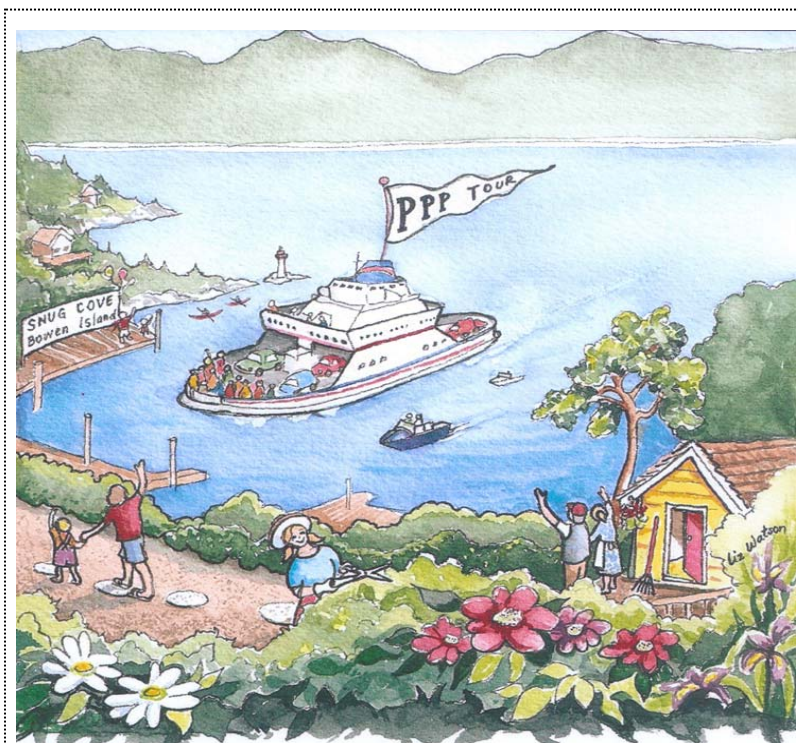
by Lois Meyers-Carter

It's that time of the year again. The People, Plants, and Places Tour (lovingly referred to as the PPP) is back and will be taking place on Saturday, July 21, and Sunday, July 22. Begun in 1993, the popularity of this annual island tour has stayed consistent and it remains an intimate and quality experience for both Bowen residents and off-shore visitors. A summertime highlight, the full menu of the nine sites for this year's tour includes seven homes and gardens, plus open houses at the Museum & Archives and the Memorial Garden. Special thanks go to our 2012 hosts: Basil and Angela Huxham, Rory and Lisa Holland, Trish and Francis Jacquet, Dave and Marg Witty, Linda Hargrave, Jack and Andrea Little, and Ann Ramsay and Chris Pollard.

This unique island ramble enables islanders and visitors alike to get an intimate glimpse of the natural beauty of Bowen Island, to meet a number of its fascinating people and to learn a bit about the island's history.

The tour's thoughtfully balanced selection features homes and gardens chosen for their special qualities. There is something for everyone to enjoy; some gardens demonstrate how to meet special challenges with taste, intelligence and creativity, and, as always, houses range from creatively upgraded cottages to homes with breath-taking waterfronts.

PPP tickets are valid for both days, allowing guests to visit some of the sites on Saturday and the others on Sunday. This arrangement also allows mainland visitors the option of spending a relaxing weekend in one of Bowen's diverse array of bed and breakfasts. In addition, a special PPP discount is available at Bowen's new scenic and challenging 9-hole golf course, which has a café now.



The PPP has become a popular tradition and island activity, and this year's tour proves to be one of its best. Illustrated by Liz Watson.

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Bowen Island Museum and Archives

LIEBEN: An Artistic Oasis on Bowen

Summer 2012 Exhibit

by CJ Pentland

Memories of an artistic retreat will be the highlight of the 2012 summer exhibit at the Bowen Island Museum & Archives.

The historic Lieben cottage on Bowen Island will come back to life this summer in what hopes to be the beginning of a future exhibit of the history of art on Bowen. Artifacts, documents, videos and many photos will be on hand, helping people re-imagine this curious Eagle Cliff property.

Built in 1941, Lieben, which means 'beloved' in German, was owned by Einar and Muriel Neilson, two long-time Bowen residents. From the '40s to the early '60s, Lieben attracted many intellectuals and artists who appreciated the calmness of Bowen as they worked. It became less occupied in the late '60s and was ultimately given to the provincial government after the Neilson's passed away.



Visit and experience this 'cedar key of quiet.'

However, the legacy of the house and the Neilsons still lives on. Although a popular spot for visiting writers, Lieben truly was an odd but intimate community fueled by the similar passions and values of its owners and visitors. With so many stories and artifacts present at the museum, hopefully visitors can get a sense of that feeling as well.

This summer, visit the Museum & Archives and discover for yourself this fascinating piece of Bowen heritage. Learn more about Lieben's curious proprietors, its colourful guests, the fate of the Eagle Cliff property, and much more. Along with our Logger's Cabin display and the Cabinet of Curiosities exhibit, the Museum & Archives is set to provide both islanders and off-shore visitors another vivid glimpse into Bowen's past.



Photos, furniture, artwork and other objects connected to Lieben will all be on display at the Museum & Archives.



Say goodbye to that brown! The repainting of the Museum & Archives building was completed last month by Nelson Lapine. The building now sports a soft, pale green exterior perfect for summer weather. We would like to extend our gratitude to Nelson and invite the community to check out the Museum & Archives' fresh new look!

On the Street Where You Live

The 2012 Bowen Phone Book features a very informative and interesting article that can tell you much more about the neighborhood you live in.

In addition to the telephone directory, each issue, artfully produced by Barbara Wiltshire of Wiltshire House Publishing, also includes photographs by Bowen Islanders, tidetables, transit schedules and a feature article on Bowen Island history. The Museum & Archives collaborates with Barbara each year as she conducts research for the article using historical records and materials from the extensive collection

that can be found at the Museum & Archives. This year's article, written by long-time Museum & Archives volunteer Lois Meyers-Carter, focuses on the development of Bowen's many and diverse neighbourhoods.

Full of historical accounts, snapshots from the lives of Bowen's early settlers, and names and faces you're sure to recognize, the feature provides an engaging overview of each neighbourhood's unique story and character. Look for "On the Street Where You Live: An Historic Look at Bowen Island Neighbourhoods Hoods" by Lois in the 2012 Bowen Phone Book, and visit the Archives for more on local history.



Bowen Island Museum and Archives

It's Back! The People, Plants & Places Tour 2012

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The PPP provides important funding and exposure for the Museum & Archives as well as the Memorial Garden in Crippen Park. All tickets are available by email at bowenppp@shaw.ca, hihistorians@telus.net, or by phone to Van Hayden at 0384 and Museum and Archives at 2655. Islanders can also find order forms at a number of Cove locations such as the Museum & Archives.

PPP Volunteers Needed!

During the tour, volunteers help take tickets, show visitors the gardens and houses and direct visitors to parking spots. There are 2 shifts each day: 9:30am-1pm and 12:30pm-4pm. Help is also needed in the weeks before the tour.

Tickets for volunteers are only \$10. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alison Morse, PPP Coordinator, at 9875 or at amm5@shaw.ca.

Please support the Museum & Archives and the Memorial Garden by volunteering and/or purchasing tickets.

Thank you,
PPP 2012 Committee



Expect gorgeous gardens and exquisitely designed homes at this year's tour. Bowen Island also offers a variety of places for lunch. The Mitts family's mid-island seven-acre grassy lawns provide a particularly restful spot to take a break. Washroom facilities will also be readily available throughout the tour. To learn more about the PPP, visit:

www.bowenislandppp.org/



The Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers Association visited Bowen Island in April 2012 for a history tour led by Museum & Archives volunteer Lois Meyers-Carter. The group explored the Museum & Archives and surrounding Bowen attractions. Photo courtesy of Phyllis Schnider.

Board of Directors Update

The Bowen Island Museum & Archives Board of Directors says goodbye to Mary Letson and Darcie Buzzelle. For over four years, Mary has contributed her many talents to Museum & Archives events, fundraisers, and membership drives. We would also like to recognize the efforts of Darcie, who was especially instrumental in our successful November Membership Drive. Thank you, Mary and Darcie; we wish you both well on your future endeavours.

As we say goodbye to some members, we welcome another. Jack Little will be joining the Museum & Archives team

as a Director. Jack is a professor of history at Simon Fraser University and has been living on Bowen for 6 years. Jack recently wrote an article on Bowen, "Vancouver's Playground: Leisure and Sociability on Bowen Island, 1902-57." A copy of his article can be found at the Museum & Archives.

Welcome to the team Jack!

One position remains open on the board of directors.

The Museum & Archives would also like to welcome our three new summer students: Laura Mason, CJ Pentland, and Jordan Rongavilla. From UBC's Arts Co-op program, they will be here all summer, so don't forget to say hi while visiting.



Bowen Island Museum and Archives

Welcome New Members

Bowen Children's Centre
E. & C. Davies | Jack Edwards
Pam Henschell
I. & KW. Lam | Jocelyn MacNiel
Coreen Mayrs | Ross McDonald
Jan Stevens

Thank You Donors

* = also a new member

Timothy C. Kerr Family Foundation*
Maureen Armstrong | Navroz Bandali
Brian Biddlecombe | R. & G. Booth*
Bonnie Brokenshire* | Cy Burrill
Nancy Cameron | Berni Claus
Jean Cleator | M. & F. Corney*

Agnes Curran* | Jeff Derbyshire
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Penelope Anne Williams
Joan Wood

The Museum & Archives would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all our members and supporters. It is due to community support that the Museum & Archives is able to preserve and share Bowen's rich history.

IN MEMORIAM (JAN-JUNE 2012)

We salute these islanders who were part of the Bowen community and who have recently disappeared from our lives. Their legacy is everywhere and Bowen is

grateful for their contributions. 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 lbmcarter@shaw.ca.

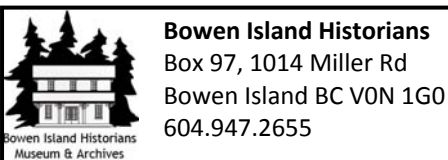


Peter Schmidt (above) & the other islanders will be sorely missed.

Linda Denley (FEB) | Mick Strubin (FEB)
Betty Black (MAR)
Anne Caarscadden (MAR)
Michael Goldie (MAR) | Ron Smith (MAR)
Martin Tipton (MAR)
Sylvie Deselliers (APR)
John Hutton (MAY)
Anne Manning (MAY) | Bill Rush (MAY)
Jenny Welsh (MAY)

Peter Schmidt (MAY): Peter, a long-time islander, died May 18, and a part of Bowen feels gone as well. Peter was an active and generous part of the community for many years. Although Peter's university degree was in chemical engineering, it was at the Fisheries Research Board where he met his future wife, Eileen Taylor, part of an island family. The couple raised their three children in North Vancouver, but the family's Bowen ties drew them summer after summer and they eventually made Bowen their permanent home in 1972.

For a while Peter commuted, often supplying islanders with lumber and tools from his own supplies or he would bring them back from town. He finally decided to turn these needs into a business. Peter, his dad George and son-in-law Mike built the Bowen Building Centre which grew and flourished and became an island institution. Peter's selection as the 1991 Citizen of the Year recognized Bowen's appreciation of his years of generous support to agencies including: the Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, Seniors 123, the Park and Store Use Society, as well as endless community activities like the annual Bowfest.



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