



*Museum & Archives*

BOWEN ISLAND BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Newsletter of the Bowen Island Community Museum & Archives

Volume 27 Number 1 • Spring 2019

## **Annual General Meeting & Summer Exhibit Opening**

Sunday June 23, 2019, 1:00-3:00

Agenda: President's Report, Financial Reports, Museum & Archive Reports,  
Election of Officers

Refreshments will be served



Exhibit opening: Picturesque: Picnics on the Happy Isle  
June 23, 2019 after the AGM

**To become a member or make a donation the museum and archives  
click here [bowenislandmuseum.ca](http://bowenislandmuseum.ca) or give us a call at 604.947.2655**

# President's Report

It's been an eventful last few months at the Museum & Archives uncovering new layers of our Island's history. The Union Steamship Company has played an iconic role in Bowen's past from the early part of the 1920's all the way through to the early 1950's. No other ship played a greater role in ferrying people back and forth from Vancouver to Bowen Island than the Lady Alexandra. Built in Montrose, Scotland in 1924, Lady Alex brought sand from the coast of Aberdeen in her ballast and emptied it on the shores of Mannion Bay to create Sandy Beach as we know it today. The Vancouver Maritime Museum has approached us to create and share an exhibit on the Union Steamships in the near future. As well, they are sharing large drawings of Lady Alexandra's floor plans and photos of Bowen Island's Union Estates which included the hotel grounds and the many cottages that dotted the east side of our island. These were busy and exciting times for our little island as tens of thousands of gleeful visitors came over every year to get away from the stresses of the city - no wonder our historic nickname was the "Happy Isle". On the flip side, with the recent visit of Sam Yamada who is 90 years old, the last survivor of a much beloved Japanese family that were the caretakers of the Malkin Estate (which is known as King Edward Bay today), we were reminded that there were some not so happy moments in our history. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the declaration of War with Japan, Sam (as young boy) along with his parents and siblings were torn from the community they loved and sent off to internment camps in BC's interior. The Bowen Island Museum and Archives is looking into ways to recognize their contribution to our island's rich history.

On a last note, as you drive past the Museum you might have noticed some construction going on. We are building a new storage addition to house a growing number of artefacts in our collection. As well, a new pathway arbour and outdoor gallery is being constructed this month along with a heritage wall that will help educate future generations of our Island's rich history in an outdoor community space. Many thanks to the volunteers, especially Greg Cormier, his Secondary School students and Joel Voyer, a local contractor who are helping us realize this dream. We can't do it alone so we appreciate your help in any way, either by donation or volunteer labour. Look forward to seeing everyone at our AGM on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Rob Forbes  
President

## **We gratefully acknowledge:**

The financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

The financial support of the Bowen Island Municipality, through the Community Grant, allows us to continue to collect, preserve and make available to the public the history of Bowen.

Young Canada Works (BC Museums Association and the Canadian Council of Archives) whose financial assistance allows us to hire our summer students, Cindy Zhang and Cicely Ashley.

We thank the Bowen Island Community Foundation for the Revitalization grant.

# Museum News

The last few months have been a busy time in the museum: The December display Fashionably Bowen: Island Bears was greatly received. The highlight was our special event: 32 visitors

snuggled into our humble museum and listened to Martin Clarke reading 'A Child's Christmas in Whales'. Afterwards Bob Doucet delighted the audience with a selection of original and cover songs. Someone mentioned that this might be the beginning of a tradition, and we are excited to be able to announce a return of these two favourite Bowen Islanders for the 2019 winter season. A big thank you goes out to both artists and as special thanks to Graham Ritchie who kept bringing in well needed chairs from who knows where.



From February to May our Winter/Spring display Recent Acquisitions opened up the space in the museum for group visits, and our schools took full advantage. A Show and Tell with the Municipal Emergency Coordinator, Jennifer McGowan, was a hit with the visiting classes from the Bowen Island Community School.

Jennifer patiently answered all the enthusiastic questions about the donated emergency kits, and potential emergency scenarios. We thank Samantha Adkins and Jennifer McGowan for this wonderful visit. A visit from Island Discovery School's Amy Nosek and her class was so engaging for the students that we extended their visit far beyond the planned time.



The exhibition of the Youth Curators, the annual collaborative student program between the Museum and BICS was extended this year at the request of the teachers to the end of April. We held the certificate ceremony in the museum, where our president Rob Forbes handed them out to the young emerging scholars of Bowen's history.

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In March we had the great pleasure to work with Teslyn Kopoulos, a teaching candidate from Queens



University with a focus on First Nation. Besides conducting research on the museums basket collection, as well as Vice President Michael Shield's basket collection, she mostly worked on establishing a meaningful connection to the Squamish Band. We are grateful to Teslyn for her inspiring work.

May is always a very busy time in the museum, we welcomed our summer student Cindy Zhang and with all hands on board we are preparing this year's summer exhibition Picturesque: Picnics on the Happy Isle.

We are excited to show Becky and John Turner's elaborately carved writing table made for the Britannia. The exhibit gives an insight into Bowen's history from the time Captain Andrew "Jack" Cates envisioned the island as a resort paradise. Cate's steamship, the Britannia, brought visitors to Bowen Island for picnics. This tradition peaked in the late 40s and early 50s, when Bowen Island as a main destination for companies, unions, social groups, and family picnics declined.

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# Recent donations to the Museum & Archives

**Adrienne Lawson** - 100 nitrocellulose negatives, Black scrapbook of Dorothy and Eric in Cooperstown ca1970, 1 bookmark of "Cottage on the Hill", USSC sugar shaker

**Wes Magee and Cecile Russell** - Frank Gowen Postcard of "Howe Sound from Bowen Island Inn", notes from Ann Thompson, cheque receipt for the "Higgins Cottage" rent. 6 postcards, "Theatre Buck"

**Susan Redmond** - 3 poster sized panels of photographs and information about the Recycling Depot (BIRD) Haig and Mary Farris – Postcards - Lagoon Approach Bowen Island Inn B.C., Mt Strachan Lodge, Bowen Island, BC, The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Magnet with copied photo of Bridge

**Bowen Island Community School** - Wooden Flag

**Bowen Island Municipality** - grey wool blanket, stretcher

**Margaret Dampier** - 1997 Bowen Calendar, 2 Union Steamship information brochures, 5 photographs

**Ron Woodall** - Book - The Vancouver Book (Bowen Reference) Pamphlet - Everything you always wanted to know about the Great Root Bear

**Daphne Shaw** - 5 albums of photographs, posters, newspaper clip- pings relating to the Tuesday Art Workshop from 1978 to 2017 **Elizabeth Southam** - 5 digital 1970s photographs.

**Nadyne Hindle, Murray Atherton, Judi Gedye, Gary Ander, Melanie Mason** - Digital interviews with Island Pacific Students

**Edythe Hanen** - Lily Hooper bound collection of poetry, photographs, newspaper clippings

**Sarah Haxby** - Bowen Island Brewing 6 pack cardboard boxes, Bow- en Island Brewing Bottles, Trophy Bowen Island Indoor Track Meet Championship, several plaques, from 1989-2001, a variety of Bowen T-shirts



**Don Cochrane** - 2 BC ferries schedules summer & winter 1985, GVRD Letterhead paper with A.H. Elliot's name Bluewater Park, Valhalla Ridge Improvement District textual information, Robert Monro Davies and Glenn Wolfe contract, Newspapers - The Bulletin, The Breeze ,The Island News, High Tide, The Bowenian, The Bar Rag

**Gord McQueen** - DVD of home movies images from Vancouver and Bowen Island 1956 - 1967, 10 - ca.1895 -1920 digital photographs

**Ross Hodges** - 3 WWII ration tokens

**Eric Sherlock** - 2 banker boxes of textual material, 1 spiral bound booklet written by Eric Sherlock - "Global Struggle on an island"

## News from the Archive

The archives have benefitted from many generous donations of unique photographs, videos and textual items during the last year. We are now busy adding items to our database so that others may soon enjoy them as well. If you are on FaceBook you can look for the Bowen Island Museum and Archives page and enjoy the recently added photos. Below are just a few examples of the variety of different photographs we received.



**Deluxe Bungalow #3**  
c.1975  
**Donated by Elizabeth Southland**



**Lily Hooper**  
1982  
Lily Hooper standing in the door the cottage she called "The Cedar" in 1982 (this is beside where the Snug Cafe is now)



**On Snug Point**  
c. 1910  
**Donated by Gord McQueen**

## Welcome SFU and UBC Arts



Cindy Zhang is a second-year UBC student in the faculty of Arts, with a linguistics major and a creative writing minor. She's from White Rock, though for the summer she's living on Bowen. She looks forward to helping with the upcoming museum events and learning more about Bowen's history. In her spare time she writes sci-fi/fantasy and sculpts clay dragons.

Cicely has moved around a lot but has been living in the Lower Mainland for the past few years. She is a psychology major who is looking forward to spending the summer on this small island. She's not entirely new to Bowen (having worked last summer at Artisan Eats), but she's looking forward to exploring the island's history and understanding it a bit better.

They are not as serious as they look in the photos! Drop by and say hi.



### **Bowen Island Museum & Archives**

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**Bowen Island BC V0N 1G0**

Phone: (604) 947-2655

#### **Board of Directors**

President: Rob Forbes

Secretary: Frazer Elliott

Treasurer: Colin Eyssen

Director: John Hazell

Director: Mike Shields

Director: Ron Woodall

Director: Andrew Todd

**Email: [bihistorians@telus.net](mailto:bihistorians@telus.net)**

**Website: [bowenislandmuseum.ca](http://bowenislandmuseum.ca)**

#### **Museum & Archives Hours**

##### **Summer Hours**

Mon - Sun 10:00 - 4:00

##### **Winter Hours**

Archives: Mon - Wed 10:00 - 4:00

Museum : Tues - Fri 10:00 - 4:00

Museum & Archives open Sunday 12-4

Museum Curator: Ines Ortner

Archivist: Catherine Bayly

## In memory of Anne Thompson

Anne Thompson was one of the founders of the Bowen Island Historians and always active in its support. She was, for six years, the Treasurer and said always said that when she felt she had done enough she would locate her replacement. That she did and it was the very efficient Bill Riddell.

When the Historians decided to self-publish their book, ***Bowen Island: 1872-1972***, Anne was the most dedicated worker. For years, her self-appointed task was to check supplies in the local bookstore, making sure that books were delivered and paid for.

On Bowen Anne was also involved with the Bowen Bridge Club and the Bowen Heritage Society.

At the Bowen Island Museum and Archives we are proud to present the **Anne Thompson Award** to volunteers for “faithful and creative service over a period of time.” It is named after Anne, “its first recipient, who epitomized the many virtues being acknowledged.”

Anne Thompson passed away on May 20, 2019 in West Vancouver at the age of 101.





## A heartfelt thank you to our Volunteers

A special thanks to Dean and Keith of Clearline Plumbing for coming to our aid for our occasional plumbing issues and installing a drainage line. They have generously donated their time and supplies.

A huge thank you to Greg Cormier, our local building inspector and his West Vancouver Secondary Students for constructing the concrete foundation for our new storage addition and the garden pathway arbor with the outdoor gallery. All the lumber used was milled by the students using trees donated by John Reid from his Grafton property.

We would also like to thank Joel Voyer for the time he spend excavating and backfilling the area around the storage area.

We appreciate and thank Amy Adams, who has donated 50% of her time in the design and building plans for all the Revitalization Project Structures.

We are grateful for the valuable contributions in the archives by Leslie Churchland whose research and writing skills are a huge asset.

David McCullum (Digitally Hip) deserves a huge round of applause for the number of hours he generously donates to the Museum and Archives keeping our computers and databases functioning.

To become a member or make a donation the museum and archives click here [bowenismuseum.ca](http://bowenismuseum.ca) or give us a call at 604.947.2655