



Port Coquitlam Heritage & Cultural Society Newsletter

Summer 2011

Working to Preserve Port Coquitlam's Heritage

Heritage Display Centre
2571 Mary Hill Road
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 4X3
604-927-2388
Open: Weds: 9 - 1, Thurs. 12 - 5

Community Archives
2100 - 2253 Leigh Square
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 3B8
604-927-7611
Open: Weds. 9.30 - 1, Thurs. 4 - 8

email: pocoheritage@portcoquitlam.ca
www.pocoheritage.org

Members Elect New Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting held on April 21, 2011, PoCo Heritage members elected their Board of Directors to lead the Society in the year ahead. We were sorry to lose Janet Harvey who is joining her husband in retirement to their family home in Gaspé, Quebec. Janet's hard work and enthusiasm as Chair of the *Get it Built* Committee will be particularly missed. We wish Janet and Bill a long and happy retirement. Joining the Board for the first time is Margaret Owens. Margaret is a welcome addition to the Board having already proved her worth as a hard working and effective member of the fundraising committee. Welcome aboard, Margaret!



Mayor Moore addresses PoCo Heritage members at AGM

2011-2012 Board of Directors

President	Pippa Van Velzen
Vice President	Julie Schmidt
Treasurer	Ralph Johnston
Secretary	Carol Hubbard
Director	Dave Allen
Director	Brian Hubbard
Director	Bryan Ness
Director	Margaret Owens
Director	Michael Thomas



Update your Bookmarks - We have changed our web site address
We are now at www.pocoheritage.org

The Waiting Game

Still no decision on Leigh Square space

In January, PoCo Heritage requested the City to allow us to use the space formerly occupied by Ten Thousand Villages. This would enable us to consolidate our presence in the downtown and create a new heritage centre adjacent to the Archives. Our goal would be to make it a welcoming place to which people could come and find out about Port Coquitlam's history in a modern and cohesive way. We would also strive to make it as attractive as possible to young people so that school groups may be encouraged to visit.



After making our pitch to the City, outlining the many advantages, including: consolidated open hours, increased security to encourage greater volunteer participation, providing a good alternative to our ultimate goal of a Port Coquitlam Museum, and enabling the Community Police Station to expand into our existing space on Mary Hill Road, the City advised us that they have decided to seek proposals from all Port Coquitlam groups and retailers who may wish to use the space, in keeping with the vision for the Leigh Square community arts village concept.

We are, of course, very disappointed that the City has failed to immediately recognize that PoCo Heritage is the ideal tenant for this space. However, we will work hard in our response to the Request for Proposals which we are told will be issued in the very near future. The proposal submissions and evaluation process is likely to take several months and the likelihood is that there will be no final decision until year end.

In the meantime, we urge all those who support PoCo Heritage moving into the space to make your wishes known to Mayor and Council.

Photo Contest Announced

The City of Port Coquitlam, Tri-City News and the Port Coquitlam Heritage and Cultural Society recently launched the "A Day in the Life of PoCo", Photo Contest and invited local photographers of all ages to share their vision of Port Coquitlam as seen through the lens of their camera. Submitted images must be creative and imaginative, and not be retouched or altered by software such as Photoshop®. Images must be taken in Port Coquitlam.



Each photographer is invited to submit a maximum of three photographs for consideration. Submitted photos will be displayed in the Archives in the Leigh Square Community Arts Village from September 1 to October 31, 2011 as part of the Heritage photographic display. Submitted photos may also be featured on the City of Port Coquitlam website at www.portcoquitlam.ca and the Heritage and Cultural Society website at www.pocoheritage.org.

In addition, the top three photos, as selected by the Heritage and Cultural Society, will receive prizes including a Heritage Society membership and City memorabilia and publication in the Tri City News. Contest winners will also be recognized at a City Council meeting in September.

Photographs must be submitted in a high resolution 8" x 10" print copy as well as in digital jpeg format to be considered for the contest. Digital copies can be provided on CD or submitted via email to pocoheritagephoto@gmail.com. Printed submissions and CDs can be mailed or dropped off in person to:

Pippa Van Velzen
Port Coquitlam Heritage and Cultural Society
c/o Port Coquitlam City Hall
2580 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8

"I Love My City" Poetry Contest

PoCo Heritage Member Laura Thomas pens winning entry

Time capsule

by Laura Thomas
April 2011

From here, the dirt beneath my toes,
The promise of Port Coquitlam grows.
Together with family, from eldest to tot,
We grow and create memories for a time capsule in this spot.
What would be inside that locked tight case?
A moment of delight, memories not to be erased.
A flattened penny from the tracks would go first,
Then a whip of Cherry blossoms about to burst!
A seed of promise from where the city and farms meet,
A blast of sea air as the rivers greets.
Cherished memories of festivals in the park,
Time well spent with friends after dark.
Fireworks that fill the night,
With a flurry of wings, a Blue Heron takes flight.
This is the message that I wish to send,
A hope, these days will never end.



Laura reads her winning poem at May Day
Opening ceremonies

Congratulations, Laura!

A "Must Try Harder" Entry

I Love my City

by Carol Hubbard



I love its rivers
Its parks and its grass
Its beautiful downtown with much charm and class
I love my home city
With its small town flavour
Clean streets and coffee shops we can all savour
But most of all
None can surpass
PoCo's shiny new over-pass

Maybe I should stick to writing minutes....

This cute entry is by Pippa's granddaughter, Rosemary.
Well done, Rosemary!



Port Coquitlam is
the best, I never ever
want to rest, there's so
many things there ~~are~~
to do like riding the
trails and skating too.
I love all the celebrations
like the mac day
parade and the big,
bright fireworks around
my birthday. I might
not like all the snow
but the wind there
makes my feelings for
the city grow. I love
you Poco.

By: Rosemary
Cathcart

AGE 9

A Trip to the Wild West

by Ralph Johnston



On a recent visit to Arizona, we stopped in Tombstone, "The Town Too Tough to Die". Tombstone's downtown has been designated a National Historic Landmark District by the U.S. National Park Service.

Tombstone was founded in 1879 by Ed Schieffelin, a sometime army scout, who also did some prospecting. The soldiers told him all he would find was his Tombstone, so in 1877 when he found a rich silver vein he filed the claim under the name tombstone. The town that grew up around the richest silver strike in Arizona took the name.

In 1881 Tombstone became the county seat of the new Cochise County. In 1882 the Cochise County Courthouse, now a

Museum complete with gallows, was built at a cost of around \$45,000. In less than seven years the population grew from 100 to 14,000. By mid-1881 Tombstone boasted fancy restaurants, Vogan's bowling alley, four churches, an ice house, a school, two banks, three newspapers including the aptly named *Epitaph*, an ice cream parlor, the Schieffelin Hall opera house, 110 saloons, 14 gambling halls, and numerous dancing halls and brothels including the Birdcage Theatre. The Birdcage Theatre was named for the cage-style crib compartments suspended from the ceiling where the 'ladies of the night' plied their trade. All of these



were situated among and on top of a large number of dirty, hardscrabble mines.

Perhaps the most famous event in Tombstone's history was the Gunfight at the OK Corral. While there are conflicting stories of the event, it pitted Wyatt, Virgil, and Morgan Earp with Wyatt's friend John 'Doc' Holliday against the 'cowboys'. Cowboys was a term used to describe the outlaw element that frequented the county, while legitimate cowmen were referred to as Ranchers or cow herders. Twenty four seconds after the shootout began Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton, were mortally wounded. Thirty shots had been fired. You can see a re-enactment every day at one o'clock. By 1900 the mining boom was past and the population had declined to about 700 residents. Today Tombstone is a tourist town with a population of about 1500.



One of the most interesting sites is the Boot Hill cemetery. It is here that several of the Clantons are buried as are Tom and Frank McLaury. The cemetery had fallen into disrepair and vandals had removed some of the grave markers when in the 1920's concerned citizens began cleaning it up and researching the placement of the graves to preserve it for future generations. Some of the more interesting epitaphs include; "Here lies Lester Moore - four slugs from a .44 - No Les, No more"; and "Here lies George Johnson - Hanged by

mistake 1882 - He was right, we was wrong, but we strung him up and now he's gone". Others are as simple as: "Raymond Verra - Stabbed - 1882"; "Hancock - Shot 1879"; and "Harry Curry - Killed by Indians - 1882".

All in all, an interesting glimpse of life in the 'wild west'.





Without our volunteers we could not do what we do for the community. Thank you!

Dave Allen
Justin Beck
Shirley Berkey
Konni Bernaschek
Walter Carlson
Sherry Carroll
Pat Dales
Todd Delaurier
Darlyne Dyxon
Margaret Follis
Mike Forrest
Karon Fuson
Norma Gillespie
John Hansen
Pat Hanson
Janet Harvey
Carol & Brian Hubbard
Ralph Johnston

Eurilda Larsen
Eileen Marshall
Larry Menard
Lois Milne
Doreen Murphy
Bryan Ness
Margaret Owens
Anne & Bill Pratt
James Putnam
Cheryl Rand
Don Reid
Audrey Rooney
Fern Rooney
Julie & Lawrence Schmidt
Linda Sliworsky
Judy & Steve Smith
Laura & Michael Thomas
Marjorie & Roy Yeo
Pippa Van Velzen



We goofed! The certificates of appreciation mailed to our volunteers in April had insufficient postage. Please accept our apologies.



A Trip to the Head of Pitt Lake in 1860

By Jeff Rudd



Governor James Douglas:
Father of BC

On May 24th, 1860, James Douglas, Governor of both the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, celebrated Queen Victoria's birthday by taking leading citizens of the two colonies on a cruise from New Westminster up the Fraser and Pitt Rivers to the head of Pitt Lake. One member of the party was Bishop George Hills. Hills had been installed in 1859 as Bishop of all British territory west of the Rockies and north of the American border, which included Vancouver Island and British Columbia. He arrived in Esquimalt in January 1860 and on May 24 was in New Westminster for his second visit at the start of his first extensive tour of British Columbia. Hills kept a diary, edited extracts from which were published in the Annual Reports of the Columbia Mission. Copies of the Report were sold for the benefit of the Mission, "Price one shilling". Hills' account of this trip appeared on pages 32 and 33 of the 1860 Report. It is remarkable to think that in 1860 people in England could have read about a Victoria Day celebration on Pitt Lake!

Hills' diaries for 1860 have been edited by Roberta Bagshaw and published with background information and annotations as "No Better Land" Sono Nis, 1996. This is a fascinating book and is well worth reading. Bishop Hills' diary account of the day is reproduced below. The diary contains a few details omitted from the Columbia Mission Report, mainly descriptions of the food, drink and toasts on the cruise. Note the mention of two early settlers of what is now PoCo, S.H. Atkins and Alexander McLean. A few notes have been added in [square brackets].

May 24, Thursday *The Queen's Birthday*

The Governor invited a large party to spend the day with him in celebration of the Queen's birthday. He chartered a steamer, the Maria, for an excursion to the head of Pitt Lake by the river of that name. We started at eleven from the Camp wharf [Royal Engineer's camp at Sapperton]. The day was dull. There was some rain but on the whole the weather was good.

The Maria is one of those extraordinary vessels, peculiar to America, which combines light draught, ample accommodation, power and speed. Two hundred people might be stowed in her and she would not be two feet in the water. Her wheel was behind.

We passed up the rich and beautiful banks of the Fraser about five miles when we came to several islands, one called Tree Island behind which flowed in the Coquitlam. We took up a settler here and his friend, Mr.

Atkins, a fine old Irish gentleman, who driven away by the Incumbered Estates Act, had wandered from Ireland to Australia and from Australia here where he resides upon 400 acres of land with his two sons. He is a communicant. His daughter was confirmed at Victoria recently and his sons are preparing for the same ordinance.

Manson's Island [Douglas Island], shortly after, divided the channel of the Fraser and on one side, the north, lay the Pitt River, about half a mile wide. This we entered and steamed along a fine reach with meadows on either side. At one point is the farm of Mr. McLean who fired a salute as we passed. Mr. Good, the Governor's Secretary, has a farm also. On this we observed several stacks of hay. After proceeding about twelve or fourteen miles, passing several Indian villages, we came to the entrance of the lake. The scenery had now become mountainous, we were passing through a range called the Coast Range.

The lake now entered was about fifteen miles long. It is exactly like a Scotch lake. I seemed to be in Loch Ness. Captain Spalding whose father, for many years, has lived at Fort Augustine on that lake, expressed the same opinion. The only difference was that the land was more lofty and the lake perhaps broader but it was not above two miles.

At one or two points where the lake turned and where there was a view both ways, nothing could exceed the beauty of the scene. Waterfalls came pouring down in a white path down the mountain side, occasionally hidden by the trees and then visible again from below. Fir trees lined the sides and summits of the perpendicular heights, to the extent of from 600 to 1500 feet. At three o'clock we reached the head of the lake. Here we anchored and a boat on to proceed up a snub river.



We turned back at four and sat down in the saloon to an excellent repast. There was salmon and beef and chicken and ham and all sorts of [pastries] and wines, champagne went about in abundance.

The Governor proposed the loyal toasts of the old country, which were drunk with all honours. The bishop and clergy of the diocese were named with much kindness and their healths drunk with three times three and one cheer more.



Colonel Richard Moody of the
Royal Engineers

Colonel Moody proposed the Governor.

Various other toasts were given. At the Governor's request I proposed the Press, coupling with it the name the editor of the Westminster Times who responded. In returning thanks for my own health and that of the clergy I said among other points, we desired to forward, without being politicians, the institutions of the land. I rejoiced that a step toward self-government had been taken in the grant of a municipal council to New Westminster.

The clergy came out to live and die amongst them. We dreamed not of retiring back to our native land. I spoke of the course of the glory of England being in her religion and of the blessing it had been to her and might be to this colony. We were an unendowed, a non-established church, but confidently trusted we should find support.

We reached the Camp at eight o'clock after a most agreeable day.

Geocaching Update

by Brian Hubbard



Geocache trackables

Canadian Navy Centennial Geocoin

has travelled a total of 988 km and is now in Bashaw AB, about 100 km SE of Edmonton.



Canadian Geocoin

has travelled 417 km but has not moved since the last update. It is still in Naramata BC.

Cute Yellow Nasty

Our travel **bug** has travelled 210 km and although it's been around the Lower Mainland and as far east as Abbotsford, it's now near Golden Ears Way in Surrey BC.



Historica Fair

by Brian Hubbard

On May 13 Bryan Ness, Carol Hubbard and Brian Hubbard travelled to Burnaby Village Museum to join the other dozen or more judges in the annual Heritage Fair for schools. Judges were put in pairs, one with experience and one without. Over 70 groups of two or three students (grade 4 -10) submitted their projects and each pair of judges evaluated 5 or 6 in detail. We also looked at as many others as time permitted to see if any qualified for one or more of the several special awards that were available.

It was a fine day and the projects all very interesting. We learned new stuff and the enthusiasm of the students was inspiring. The photograph on the right shows Bryan Ness and Brian Hubbard while the one below shows a Japanese-Canadian student and his project illustrating how the Japanese culture is celebrated in Canada in his own family.



Port Coquitlam - Lost in Translation

by Bryan Ness

Our Port Coquitlam Heritage Society has recently been involved in leading several City Tours lately, with a bit of a twist. Instead of neighbourhood walking tours, we have been leading groups of ESL (English as a Second Language) adults around the Downtown area to hone their English skills and learn a bit about our area's history.

The Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISS of BC) representative Gayane Petrosyan contacted our President, Pippa by e-mail, enquiring about possible tours for her group, involving us. We were happy to oblige, of course, this being a great way for others in our community to learn about ourselves at the Heritage Society, and gives us a chance to give back to the community.



On Wednesday morning, June 1st., we entertained about 25 ISS members at the Display Centre. If you remember the "good-old-days" when we would hold our monthly meetings there, the space is somewhat limited. Through the crowd, I swear I saw docent Brian Hubbard swinging a cat around by the tail, but my eyes might have been playing tricks again. After a brief video presentation on early settlements and pioneers, Brian and I broke the visitors into two groups to take on a "scavenger hunt/mural walk", while Julie Schmidt stayed behind to man the Centre.

We had to be "on our toes" and ad-lib, so to speak. At our first stop, the Terry Fox Library, the plaque for Terry's statue has been stolen, so it was hard for our guests to come up with the answers. All in all, though, we all had a very educational time and I am looking forward to our next time out. I understand Brian Hubbard is in collaboration with movie director Francis Ford Coppola on a new

and revised tour script entitled "Apocalypse Meow", and would have a witty comeback, but I believe the cat's got his tongue!

Heritage About Town May Day



Present and Past PoCo Heritage Presidents enjoy May Day Opening Ceremonies



Linda and Bryan Trip the Light Fantastic at the May Day Dance



MC/Dance Instructor Candace checks out Brian's drag at the May Day Dance



Bryan conducts walk of downtown parks



An unusually soggy May Day Parade



Todd shows the flag for PoCo Heritage in his vintage truck



Nils Carlson in "Mabel" for PoCo Heritage



Karon never lets it rain on her parade



Walter may have lost count of how many May Day Parades he has seen

Thank you Special thanks to Tod Delaurier and Nils Carlson for representing PoCo Heritage in the May Day Parade with their vintage vehicles



"THEN AND NOW"

SERIES OF HERITAGE ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN TRI-CITY NEWS

PoCo Heritage, the Port Coquitlam Business Improvement Association and the Tri City News have teamed together to produce a series of articles to be published every other month over the next four years.

Each piece will feature a location in the downtown BIA area. The BIA will write a description of the business currently in that location and PoCo Heritage will provide a description of what it once contained, along with photographs from the archives.



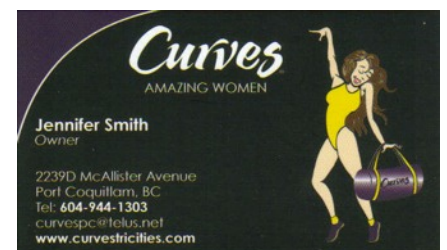
Hear Ye, Hear Ye !

Mark your calendars! On Sunday July 10th 2011, PoCo Heritage will be guests of Kirkland House, with Colin Campbell as our host. This is an event you will not want to miss, as we step back in time to a beautifully restored farmhouse in Ladner.

We will be served coffee and tea that will go along with the picnic lunch that each of us will bring .The gardens will be enjoyed as we eat lunch and then we will be taken on a tour of the grand house.

We will aim to set up car pools for the event with a time to arrive at Kirkland House around 11:30 A.M.

Please RSVP to Karon Fuson 604-941-6517 or karflow@telus.net.



Advertisement

UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meetings are held in the Community Room in the Leigh Square Arts Village on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.00 p.m.

No meetings in July and August

Next meeting: September 15, 2011

Heritage Evenings are held at The Archives, Leigh Square on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7.00 to 8.00 pm.

Next Heritage Evening: June 22, 2011: *A Day Trip to New Westminster* presented by Bryan Ness

No Heritage Evenings in July and August

Visitors are always welcome!

COMING EVENTS



July 1 - Canada Day at Castle Park

August 14 - Summer BBQ at Karon and Ralph's home

Summer Heritage Walks

Northside (*meet at Kinsmen Hall, Coquitlam Avenue*)

July 14, 10.00 a.m.

July 28, 6.00 p.m

Southside (*meet at Terry Fox Library*)

August 11, 10.00 a.m.

August 25, 6.00 p.m.

Please call 604.927.7611 to register for the walks.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular \$20

Corporate \$25

Family \$25

Seniors \$10

Students \$5

Join and pay dues on line at www.pocoheritage.org

2011 Board of Directors

President	Pippa Van Velzen	604-941-8465
Vice President	Julie Schmidt	604-941-5430
Secretary	Carol Hubbard	604-942-4480
Treasurer	Ralph Johnston	604-941-2601
Director	Bryan Ness	604-944-1200
Director	Brian Hubbard	604-942-4480
Director	Margaret Owens	604-942-1975
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Director	Michael Thomas	604-945-5447

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