



AUGUST 2020

MUSEUM OF THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

NEWSLETTER

MUSEUM UPDATE

Dear Members,

We hope you and your families have had a safe and enjoyable summer. The Museum has been busy since reopening to the public on June 1st, with business adaptations in place to keep our community safe during these unprecedented times. We have been working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to develop safe building policies so the Tourism Discovery Centre can stay open but remain a safe space for visitors and staff.

These adaptations include:

- Maximum 20 visitors: Following provincial and federal guidelines as well as WorkSafe BC requirements, there is a maximum occupancy of 20 visitors in the Tourism Discovery Centre at any one time. Because of the limited building occupancy, volunteers will count toward the maximum visitor occupancy which is 20 in total. To ensure we are able to serve as many visitors as possible while continuing to do our best to protect our volunteers and the community, we ask that volunteers do not offer their time working at the Museum until the risk is lowered and restrictions have been lifted. Of course, we encourage you to come to the Museum for a visit and explore our exhibits as visitors!
- Updated protocols: We have implemented physical distancing measures (minimum of 2 metres/6 feet between individuals), one-way traffic throughout the building, increased cleaning protocols, and have hand sanitizer stations dispersed throughout the building. To protect the community, patrons who are sick are not permitted in the building and are asked to stay home.

For more detailed information on the Museum's COVID-19 Safety Plan and how these changes might affect your visit, please see our COVID-19 measures available on our website www.cowboy-museum.com.

Despite the many changes that have affected tourism this summer, we have been fortunate to see many local visitors from the Cariboo and wider B.C., with nearly a thousand patrons visiting the Museum since June 1st. We have experienced visitor cooperation in following our new safety measures and would like to thank our patrons for being so understanding and supportive over the last few challenging months.

Sincerely,
Museum Staff & Directors

MUSEUM WEBSITE RECEIVES FRESH NEW LOOK

WWW.COWBOY-MUSEUM.COM

This summer, Museum team member Casey Bennett devoted time to bettering our Museum website for the public. While we still use the same website address, it now has a fresh new look, and gives the user ease in finding more information they may be looking for. The website offers information on the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame, Indigenous Peoples, Events, Exhibits, Photo Collections and general Museum information. We encourage you to head over to www.cowboy-museum.com and check it out!

RED CROSS PROJECT UPDATE

The development of COVID-19 has slightly delayed the Red Cross project which has now been extended into the winter, with the 2017 Wildfire Exhibition planned to open in the fall. We will notify the community once an opening date has been set for the exhibit.

The Museum has been incredibly lucky to have Raene Poisson, a professional museum conservator, join the Red Cross project as a project assistant to support project assistant Casey in completing the last few months of the large-scale project. As the project continues its Restoration and Relocation project funded by the Canadian Red Cross, Raene is a welcomed addition to the team, offering her expertise on proper cleaning, conservation, and safe storage of the diverse collection of historic items that are still stored at the Museum's off-site locations.

As mentioned, part of the Red Cross project's goal is to consolidate and preserve the nearly 700 Museum collection objects that have been stored at the two off-site locations since the move and wildfires of 2017, and return them back to the Museum's premises. Maintaining objects in a museum's collection is very demanding on Museum resources through providing adequate storage space, storage materials, and the conservation care required to preserve the object. As such, an integral part of the Red Cross project includes thoroughly reviewing the existing museum objects stored at these off-site locations and understanding how each object fits within the Museum's collecting mandate and constitution, collection priorities, and how it represents the history of the region. If there are objects that are not suitable for the Museum's collection, the object may be considered for deaccessioning, which means removal from the Museum's permanent collection. There are multiple steps to the deaccessioning process, all of which prioritize keeping the object accessible for the community – such as transferring the object to a more appropriate museum or non-profit organization. To complete this large-scale task, the Museum has created a Deaccessioning Committee of Raene and three directors to review each object that Raene recommends for deaccessioning. Each object receives careful consideration and discussion by the Committee before the Museum will deaccession an object. We welcome members to join the deaccessioning committee if they are interested. Currently, we have two spaces available on the committee, so if you would like to join, please contact Alex at mccoffice@telus.net.

MUSEUM ATTENDS WILLIAMS LAKE STAMPEDE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IN JULY

On Saturday July 4th, the Museum was fortunate to be invited by the Williams Lake Stampede to partake in their Community Spirit Pancake Breakfast held at the WL Stampede Grounds in partnership with the Rotary Club of Williams Lake. The Museum set up a booth alongside the drivethrough breakfast, with the Museum's white horse on display. While it was a year with many changes to Williams Lake's traditions including stampede, this breakfast brought community and stampede spirit.

*Museum Hours of
Operation*

Fall Hours Effective September 1st, 2020

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Saturday & Sundays 10am to 3pm

Labour Day - Monday September 7th - 10am to 3pm

NEW FRIENDLY FACES AT THE MUSEUM OVER SUMMER MONTHS

MUSEUM WELCOMES 3 SUMMER STUDENTS

After opening in June, we were fortunate to welcome 3 new summer staff to the Museum's team to support our busy season. Massimo Calabrese and Amy Bebawi were both hired as our summer students this year to continue to improve the Museum's catalogue records as well as develop new displays, answer research requests, and provide excellent visitor assistance. Their exhibit development work has included moving the B.C. Cowboy Hall of Fame displays inside the Log Cabin to create a formal and centralized Hall of Fame space for the inductees and their artifacts. The displays outside of the cabin upstairs now include Stampede, Stampede Royalty, Ranches, Stopping Houses and Ranch Stores, and Historic Hotels. Massimo and Amy also each wrote an article for Casual Country on topics of their choice that relate to the history of Williams Lake. Be sure to look for their articles in the September publication!

Rowan Paulsen, a recent Anthropology graduate from UNBC, also joined the staff this summer to provide additional support to the Museum's ongoing Red Cross project. He completed substantial work on the project's exhibition on the 2017 Wildfires of B.C., coordinating consultations, completing research, assisting with exhibit design, and writing the information text blocks to accompany the artifacts and photographs.

As these staff all completed their terms at the end of August, we are very appreciative of all the hard work they put in over the summer and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

RAENE DROP ⚡ (TIPS & TRICKS FROM CONSERVATOR RAENE)

SILVER POLISHING - BY RAENE POISSON

There are already lots of resources explaining how to polish silver – I will tell you about one product that you should NOT use and WHY. The product that explicitly gets me in a rage as an Objects Conservator is Silvo Metal polish. It can be easily found at any home hardware store and is specifically marketed for polishing silver, so why is it bad?

To start, whenever a silver object is polished, the physical layer is being abraded away – one reason why you don't want to over polish. Like most polishes Silvo has an abrasive in it to remove the tarnish layer, but the *type* of abrasive present is the important bit. Silvo uses quartz as its main abrasive – which is a 7 on the Moh's Hardness Scale! For context diamond is a 10, and the product I like to use for polishing uses calcium carbonate - which is a 3. A high hardness means the abrasive is cutting deep and removing more than required, while also doing damage and creating micro scratches on the surface.

Silvo also contains lots of additives such as silicones, perfumes, and tarnish inhibitors. Silicones and perfumes will off-gas which reacts with the silver causing increased tarnish. Tarnish inhibitors only work temporarily, and once the silver starts to tarnish it does so quickly and unevenly, leaving streaks.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! To keep it short, always research products you want to use and check their ingredients – resources such as the BC Museums Association and the Canadian Conservation Institute has information you can access online related to polishing silver.

Silver trophy before polishing - although there are many factors the streaks could have been caused by an improper product being used.



Silver trophy after polishing.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM



Left to Right - 2020 Summer Staff Group Photo

Alex Geris, Rowen Paulsen, Raene Poisson, Massimo Calabrese, Davana Mahon, Amy Bebawi & Casey Bennett



Museum staff & volunteers set up booth at Stampede Community Spirit Pancake Breakfast July 2020



Raene teaches staff how to build boxes for safe artifact storage



Casey & Amy testing their skills building boxes



Casey assists in changing of displays



Massimo learns about active rust on artifacts from Raene

Reminder

Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin AGM is approaching in November 2020.

All Memberships expire September 30th, 2020.

Must have a valid membership to vote or hold a position within the board.

Please find attached Membership Renewal Form if you would like to renew



Museum of the
Cariboo Chilcotin

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