



FEBRUARY 2021

# MUSEUM OF THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

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NEWSLETTER

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## LOOKING BACK & REVIEWING 2020

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As we dive into the new year of 2021 after welcoming a new Manager to the museum team in January, looking back at 2020 we experienced a year of challenges, learning, and growth. Just as we prepared to welcome guests into the Museum to host the annual City of Williams Lake birthday tea on March 16th, COVID-19 took a turn and we found the tea cancelled and, a few days later on March 20th, the Museum closed its doors to the public before later reopening June 1st. This has not been a normal year for the world, and the Museum was unable to host any events such as our birthday tea, wreath workshops, craft fairs, and the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame induction ceremonies to name a few. Even though we were not able to host any of our own events due to public health orders throughout the year, we were fortunate to be invited to join the Williams Lake Stampede Association and the Rotary Club of Williams Lake where we set up a booth for passing breakfast patrons, which allowed us the opportunity to interact with the community once again.

While we missed seeing our members and community, we found opportunities to dive deeper into our collection, working to improve our conservation efforts, assist in public research requests, transform some of our exhibits, and rotate some displays. We also opened our new exhibit “Cariboo Strong, Resiliency in the Face of the 2017 Wildfires” with support from the Canadian Red Cross. Please see page 4 for more details on the Cariboo Strong exhibit.

The Museum was fortunate to have four staff members join us for the summer months of 2020, who helped us relocate the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame exhibits inside the log cabin within the Museum to better showcase the cowboys and cowgirls of the Cariboo Chilcotin in a space of their own. Displays were also added upstairs that showcase the stopping houses of the Cariboo Chilcotin. We even brought our popular life-size horse back for guests to enjoy!

While 2020 brought challenges and changes, just as the rest of the world experienced, the Museum missed its cherished events where it allowed us to interact with our membership, and community. We were very fortunate to have just over 2000 visitors through the Museum for the 2020 year. We look forward to what 2021 brings and the opportunities it may bring with it, and we look forward to connecting with our membership again. We wish everyone health and safety during these challenging times, and hope that we will soon be able to once again host events and welcome a greater number of visitors and tour groups through our doors. Currently, the museum is open Monday to Friday and will be implementing new hours in March and April of 9am to 4pm. With a maximum building occupancy limit of 20 patrons. Covid cleaning procedures remain in effect for the safety of our guests.

Sincerely,  
Museum Staff & Directors

## NEW MANAGER JOINS MUSEUM TEAM

The Museum bid farewell to its Manager, Alex at the end of November as she returned home to Ontario to be closer to her family. However, we are excited to welcome and introduce our new Manager, Carmen, to the Museum team! Carmen joins us from Alberta, with six years of museum experience and is eager to learn about the Cariboo Chilcotin region, and make our community her new home. Having gained an appreciation for all things stampede and rodeo after living for thirteen years in Calgary, Carmen completed the Heritage Resource Management Program through Athabasca University before entering the museum field.

## *New Hours!*

The Museum hours will be changing in March and April to 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, closed weekends.

### PLEASE NOTE

In accordance with provincial guidelines the Tourism Discovery Centre is following strict protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These include:

- Limit of 20 visitors in the building
- Hand sanitizer available
- Social distancing of 2 metres or 6ft apart
- Increased cleaning procedures

## MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW HOME FOR BC COWBOY HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin Society is pleased to announce that it has accepted the opportunity to welcome the BC Cowboy Heritage Society under the Museum umbrella. We are excited for this opportunity to administer the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame as well as the presentation of the BC Cowboy Heritage Society scholarship, the Mike Puhallo Scholarships, and the Joe Marten Award. The museum is looking forward to teaming up and working with the BC Cowboy Heritage Society to continue to promote and encourage the preservation of Cowboy Heritage in BC. The joining of these two societies will allow the legacy and impacts which the BC Cowboy Heritage Society has created to continue to thrive within British Columbia. The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin showcases many exhibits on ranching and rodeo, creating a perfect pairing for the two societies, and this opportunity will allow the Museum to be able to connect with a broader reach of those interested and passionate about the Cowboy Culture and Lifestyle, and to create larger positive impacts within the community.



We welcome everyone to join us at our AGM, where we will be electing Board Members to oversee the BC Cowboy Heritage Committee! AGM date to be determined following Covid-19 government regulations.

## REMEMBERING TWO DEDICATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

### MUSEUM WISHES TO EXTEND CONDOLENCES

The Museum joins the community in mourning the recent loss of Clay Myers and Tom Curtis. Both long-term Museum members and dedicated supporters. We would like to recognize all their commitment, dedication and time they spent volunteering at the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin, helping us to create the Museum we are fortunate to have today. We wish to extend our condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of both these gentlemen. We are grateful for the opportunity to get to know them, and to have shared time with them. They will be deeply missed and their memories cherished.



Clay Myers (Left) & Tom Curtis (Right)  
at Museum Cowboy Coffeehouse held  
April 2018

# LOVE STORIES WITHIN THE MUSEUM COLLECTION



## THE STORY OF ED & MARTA DEAK

In light of Valentines Day just a few days away, we decided to search through our collection and share a unique love story.

We would like to share with you the story of Ed & Marta Deak, alongside their 1951 MkV Douglas Motorcycle.

Ed & Marta first met in 1945 in a military hospital in Overtraun, Austria. At the time Ed was recovering from a leg wound from World War 2. As they fell in love, Ed at the age of 18 and Marta at the age of 17, decided to move to England, and get married where they would then live for seven years. As a wedding present to themselves they purchased a 1951 MkV Douglas Motorcycle.

Alongside their motorcycle, Ed & Marta embarked on the trip of a lifetime together in 1955. They bought passage to Canada on the Greek Line Ship, Nepluia where they would spend 10 days at sea. They arrived in Montreal on April 28th, and began travelling across Canada on their motorcycle. They would then spend 4 weeks, and almost 4000 kms struggling through snowy roads, slush, ruts and lengthy stretches of mud. Often Ed would push the motorcycle struggling to keep it upright and Marta would walk behind, until they finally landed in Vancouver where they would remain for several years.

In 1979 the couple travelled through the Cariboo Chilcotin and fell in love with the region, which inspired them to move to Big Lake. It would be here in Big Lake that together they would raise 3 children and pursue farming, art, and later they contributed to the art community of Williams Lake. Together they lived an exciting and inspiring life.

Today their motorcycle is a part of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin collection, and is available for viewing on our main floor gallery.



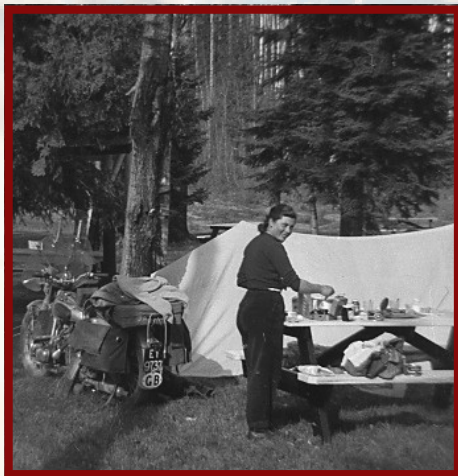
Ed & Marta Deak



1951 MkV Douglas Motorcycle



Ed stands with the motorcycle as they travel across prairies



Marta at a camp they have set up along their travels



Marta along their travels



# CARIBOO STRONG EXHIBIT NOW OPEN

The Museum is excited to share its new exhibit with the public, Cariboo Strong – Resiliency in the Face of the 2017 Wildfires! Museum staff member Casey and the Museum team have been busy researching, gathering information, conducting interviews for over a year, and we are excited to finally share it with you. The Museum opened the new Cariboo Strong exhibit November 6, 2020 and it showcases the 2017 wildfires that affected the Cariboo Chilcotin. As the exhibit opened up we discovered a BC author had just released a book on the 2017 wildfires, and we were fortunate to join up with Claudia Cornwall, author of "British Columbia in Flames" to offer a live zoom event that discussed the details of her book, with special guest speakers. We were also joined by Angela from the Open Book at our exhibit grand opening to sell signed copies of Claudia's book.

While the exhibit is open at the Museum Monday to Friday, it is also fully available for online viewing from the comfort of your own home! We encourage you to pop down to the Museum and check it out, or find the Cariboo Strong exhibit online at [www.cowboy-museum.com](http://www.cowboy-museum.com)!

We would like to take a moment and extend our appreciation and gratitude to the Canadian Red Cross for their funding, and to each person and business who contributed to the Cariboo Strong exhibition. Your support is very much appreciated!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE

### MUSEUM AGM POSTPONED TO SPRING 2021

While increased Covid-19 restrictions put a halt to our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for past November, we are still looking forward to updating our Members with the successes of our museum over the past year. While 2020 was challenging for everyone in our community and across the globe, we still accomplished many exciting projects and saw many positive outcomes and opportunities. We have rescheduled our AGM for May 20th, 2021. We will be in communication closer to the date with further details, including location, which will be determined following Covid-19 regulations. Please mark our AGM on your calendar!



Museum of the  
Cariboo Chilcotin

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Wishing everyone a wonderful Family Day!

Reminder, the Museum will be closed for  
Family Day, February 15th, 2021.  
We will resume regular hours Tuesday.

## Supporting Sponsors



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



2017 Logs Signed by First  
Responders - Donated for exhibit  
use by Pioneer Log Homes