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A Newsletter from the Town of Princeton

March 2017

### BEST WISHES CATHY ORSER



On Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 a "Community Tea" was held to honour Cathy Orser at the Legion Hall.

Cathy has been a volunteer in our community for many years and was instrumental in getting Princeton involved in a world-wide "Peace Movement" and had the Peace Pole erected in front of the old Town Hall (pictured above). One side of the Peace Pole read "May peace be in our homes and communities" and the other read "May peace prevail on earth." The Peace Pole was removed during renovations of the new Visitor Centre and will be reinstalled in the spring.

Cathy is moving from Princeton and will be missed by many. Best wishes Cathy on your new adventure.

### SPRING AHEAD MARCH 12, 2017



### THANK YOU PUBLIC WORKS



As everyone in Princeton knows, this winter has been one of the more memorable on record, including periods of intense cold and abundant snowfall.

Mayor and Council, would like to recognize the great job that the Town's Public Works Crew have done this winter and to thank them for their dedicated service.

### CONGRATULATIONS PRINCETON ROTARY CLUB

Town Council would like to congratulate the Princeton Rotary Club on their very successful Wine Festival held February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Rotary Club raised \$13,000!

The Princeton Rotary Club have been raising funds for the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation for a "Princeton Rotary Room" that will be constructed in the new tower located at the Penticton Regional Hospital. The Club had committed to raising \$30,000 for the project, anticipating that it would take four years and they did it in two!

The Rotary Club had already provided \$15,000 to the expansion project and with the funds raised at the Wine Festival, the club will be donating the additional \$15,000.

The Princeton Rotary hosts two major fundraisers a year; the wine festival and a golf tournament in June.

Congratulations!



## HISTORY OF THE PRINCETON & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

**1957** - Gloria Stout, Rosemary Pesut and Isabel Cattermole met to discuss a Museum project for Princeton. Their idea was to preserve our history and provide a tourist attraction.

**1958** - After presenting a proposal to the Centennial Committee they received a \$100 grant. Elmer Burr gave permission to locate on his property – still the present Museum site. Tom Stout and his fellow Kinsman elected to bring in an old log cabin they had obtained from Summers Creek. They dismantled it and numbered the logs and Rollo Ceccon hauled them into Princeton where they were reassembled on site. The total expenditure was \$5 – the cost of two cases of beer!

Many groups worked very hard together to make the building operational and presentable.

**1967** - The Town of Princeton purchased the Burr property and as a Centennial project constructed a new building to house the Library and the Museum. To keep the building open, the Museum made an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce to use the Museum office as the tourist booth. The person opening the Tourist Booth also opened the museum in the daytime and the Museum volunteers kept the museum open evenings and dispensed tourist information as needed. Mayor David Brown gave the first grant of \$1,000, which was gratefully accepted. In this new building, the Town provided the maintenance, insurance, heat and light, as well as operational grants.

**1985** – A Heritage Grant was obtained on Princeton's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday for construction of the Livery Stables and Farm Implement Shed to house the Welby stagecoach, fire truck, and buggy.

**1999** - Joe Pollard donated to the Princeton Museum one of the most extensive mineral and fossil collections in British Columbia. In 1999 a grant to celebrate the Millennium was obtained to build the Pollard Wing to house over 40,000 fossils and minerals. The most popular part of the collection for kids is the fluorescent minerals; when a black light is shone upon them the minerals glow in wonderful shades of orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and white.



**2008** - The Town of Princeton entered into discussions with the Museum board to explore opportunities for expansion of the Museum. This was partly inspired by the fact that the

Town was developing space for a new public library.

The Town entered into an agreement with an engineering firm (M. Milligan and Associates), to provide a site survey of the existing Museum building. The conclusion of their report was that the original building was well conceived, well constructed, well maintained and is in very sound condition. This was the news we all were hoping for and gave us inspiration to look at future possibilities.

**2009** - Design work began with analyzing the air quality and humidity levels in the building to enable storage of the archives and future displays. The humidity report was conducted over the span of 12 months to determine the scope and scale of the air quality in the building.

**2010** - Structural plans were reviewed to remove walls and create an open concept display area. Concepts emerged regarding traffic patterns and multi use display areas.

In order to be respectful of the Museum operation and to minimize the inconvenience to the public, the work was done through the winter months. Final designs and blue prints were approved in the fall of 2010 and a request for proposals was issued in December. The newly renovated Museum we see today was open for business by June of 2011 with much praise from the community. The capital cost of this renovation was \$283,867.

**2016** – The final piece of the renovation plan was completed through a grant from the Province of BC to install a freight elevator connecting the downstairs storage and archives to the main floor display area; cost of this project was \$69,724.

Over the past ten years the Town of Princeton has supported the annual operations of the museum in the amount of \$411,437.

Thanks to the commitment of the Town and the volunteers of the Princeton Museum Society, we have one of the nicest small town Museum venues in the province. Something that we can all be proud of. Not only is our Museum an excellent tourist attraction, it is the repository for Princeton's rich history.

