

Okanagan Historical Society
Annual General Meeting

Silver Sage Winery, Oliver
April 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The president, Tracy Satin, welcomed 33 members and guests to the 90th Annual General Meeting of the Okanagan Historical Society.

NOTICE OF CALL: The secretary, Joan Cowan, read the Notice of Call as printed in the 78th Annual Report.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion: That the minutes of the April 27, 2014 meeting be adopted as published in the 78th Report. D. Gregory / H. Thorburn. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you letter from David Skyrme of Highclere, England for making the journals available online and for offering such a complete index to the reports. Through the journals he now has a real feel of the place and challenges faced by the early farming pioneers, and in particular his relatives in the Grindrod area..

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

- a) President – Tracy Satin
- b) Secretary – Joan Cowan
- c) Treasurer – Bob Cowan.

Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted as presented.

B. Cowan /L. Shannon. Carried

Motion: That Cecil Schmidt be appointed auditor for the next year.

B Cowan / D. Roberts. Carried

- d) Editor – David Gregory

BRANCH REPORTS:

- a) Oliver / Osoyoos - Larry Shannon
- b) Penticton - Karen Collins
- c) Summerland – David Gregory
- d) Kelowna - Bob Hayes, read by Tracy Satin
- e) Vernon - Herb Thorburn
- f) Armstrong / Enderby - Carmen Kirkland
- g) Salmon Arm - Rosemary Wilson
- h) Similkameen - David Gregory reported that the president, Brenda Gould, has submitted one essay for the report

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- a) Father Pandosy – Tracy Satin, OHS representative to the committee, capably created a report on the spot.
- b) Index – Dorothy Zoellner, read by Joan Cowan
- c) Student Essay Contest – Diane Ambil
- d) Video contest – David Gregory
- e) Website – Joan Cowan
- f) Historic Trails – David Gregory. Peter Tassie also reported that the Lake Country vote for the linear rail corridor trail initiative was 75% in favour.

Motion: That the Okanagan Historical Society support the concept of a rail trail corridor for non-motorized use throughout the Okanagan Valley, and that a copy of the motion be forwarded to appropriate authorities. P. Tassie / D. Gregory. Carried

Discussion: This motion needs to be more specific to designated sites, it is too general. There will be a problem in Osoyoos, as most of the rail line is in private hands. Some rail trails, such as the KVR, are already mixed-use.

Motion: That we support the decision of the Armstrong Enderby Branch as presented at the Armstrong Enderby Branch AGM April 19. The Okanagan Historical Society supports the City of Enderby and Shuswap Trail Alliance in forming a public linear trail corridor between Sicamous and Armstrong, preferably non-motorized, on the CPR abandoned rail line. B. Cowan/ D. Gregory. Carried

Discussion: The Shuswap Trail Alliance suggested a good reason to support this is the possibility in the far future of a light rail line on the corridor. Some landowners expressed concerns about ATV traffic and vandalism.

Motion: That we support the linear corridor, preferably non-motorized, from Kelowna to Coldstream. J.A. Gamble / D. Gregory. Carried

Discussion: Policing and enforcing non-motorized vehicles is a concern. The City of Penticton has made allowances for private property next to the trails by making the trail narrower at certain points, with deer fences to protect orchards. Businesses have sprouted up along the trail to take advantage of the increased foot traffic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Peter Tassie indicated that there is concern among senior ministers in the provincial government that our public records are not being preserved or maintained.

Motion: That the Okanagan Historical Society supports the concerns of the ministers, and recommends that government records of all types be systematically turned over to the provincial archives for description and preservation. P. Tassie / D. Gregory. Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Randy Manual capably and humorously conducted the election of officers for the 2015 - 2016

executive:

President – Tracy Satin
Vice President – Rosemary Wilson
Secretary – Joan Cowan
Treasurer – Bob Cowan
Editor – David Gregory

COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS:

That the executive council and branch committees be thanked for all of their hard work over the last year. D. Gregory.

That the Oliver Osoyoos Branch be thanked for hosting the annual general meeting this year in the winery. T. Satin

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Randy Manuel invited members and guests to the 2016 annual general meeting of the Okanagan Historical Society, to be held in the historic Shatford Centre, Penticton, Sunday, April 24.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by president Tracy Satin at 12:05 pm.

Following the annual general meeting, the Oliver Osoyoos Branch hosted a luncheon for members and guests in the Silver Sage Winery. Life members and new life member Larry Shannon were introduced. A cheque was presented to the student essay contest winner Brian Spanier's Nana, Anne Davidson.

Guest speaker John Bremmer presented an excellent overview of the history of the wine industry in B.C.. Lynn Bremmer followed with a description of the first wineries in the South Okanagan and their evolution to today, plus an explanation of the various wine- and grape-related organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Cowan

President's Report - Tracy Satin

Before I start I would like to say that it has been a real honour for me to be President of the Executive Council, as there has been a long line of dedicated individuals who have gone before me that have set the bar very high for the Society. It is my absolute pleasure to serve all of you and, if you so choose, I am looking forward to continuing my position for the upcoming year. Thank you all.

The 2014-2015 year for the Executive Council has been one of reflection, contemplation and

sharing.

You may have noticed that the 78th (2014) Society Report was slightly larger in volume than previous years. This was done so that all submitted articles and tributes could be included. I would like to acknowledge that our Editor, David Gregory, took on the additional financial piece for this and that we are extremely grateful to him for giving up his honorarium in order for the Society to publish such a spectacular Report – thank you David!

This year Diane Ambil presented the 5th draft of the Editor's Handbook to the group. There were some suggested modification and additions regarding timelines, Branch Editor responsibilities, and digitization. This edition was adopted as revised and I would like to thank Diane for all of the hard work she put into such a thoughtful and thorough document.

The Society also made the decision to expand our Essay Contest contributors to include junior and senior secondary students along with University. It is our hope that through this contest we can inspire the Valley youth to take note and interest in the history of their communities.

At our first Executive meeting in July we agreed to partner with the Kelowna & District Genealogical Society and consented to them using information from our Reports in several upcoming publications they were working on documenting small cemeteries and burials from Peachland to Oyama. In return the Society would be credited as the source. Receiving this request was greatly appreciated as most of the time our Reports are cited without our knowledge so it is difficult for us to know the depth and breadth of their value to the greater community.

In August the majority of the group attended a workshop, run by Bob Cowan, to examine the criteria, number and types of obituaries and tributes in the Report. This workshop was very successful and in the upcoming Report we are pleased to say that there will be more flexibility in the writing of the obituaries and tribute will be eliminated. Not to fret though, as we will be adding a new section on Biographies. These will have more flexibility as to their length and content and can focus on those who are still with us or those who have passed.

Our October meeting was jam-packed with information but our main focus was on the Society By-Laws, Constitution and Policies, and how they are reflected in the Report and all the work that we do.

In November a Branch Editor's meeting was held. To begin with there was a recap of the 78th Report with comments and kudos and then recommendations for this year's 79th issue were discussed.

In February we had a Finance meeting and due to all around raising costs, all branches will be contributing to the cost of general liability insurance. We will also be contributing less to the Father Pandosy Mission Committee but measures have been put in place to ensure their continued success.

The Executive is quite a large group that is dedicated to not only the activities of each individual Branch but to the Society as a whole. Each and every member of the Executive gives their all

and it is such a pleasure for me to be able to work with all of them and to let others know about all of the amazing work that is done through this very special group. Thank you to all Branch representatives, Presidents and editors and thank you to all who have taken on extra responsibilities to ensure that the Okanagan Historical Society stays relevant and remains an integral part of the Okanagan.

I would like to specially acknowledge and recognize Dorothy Zoellner who has fully participated in the Society both as a representative of the Kelowna Branch and for all the work she has done with the Executive Council and recognize her work on the Report Index Committee. Dorothy has spent over 60 years being an advocate for the history and heritage of our communities and she will be deeply missed at our meetings but there is solace knowing that she will always be connected to us and we look forward to seeing her at our social events during the year.

I have to say that it is always nice to meet with the Branch representatives as I get to hear and learn about all the goings on in the Valley. The Okanagan Historical Society is very active and I am really proud to be a part of it. I am looking forward to the 2015-2016 year and am eager to see how the history of the Valley's people and places will be elevated as a sense of pride and joy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary - Joan Cowan

I have carried out the regular duties of the secretary: preparing and distributing agendas, recording and distributing minutes of all meetings, collecting reports and lists for the annual report, answering all correspondence, maintaining the membership and subscription lists, and mailing the reports to institutions and our membership.

Recently I have been sorting through the OHS records and attempting to fill in some gaps in our archival collection, our fonds, which is housed in the Vernon Museum. If you happen to have a copy of the minutes of the AGM from April 2010, I would appreciate a copy.

I would like to remind you to return your membership cards. And presidents, please submit a list of the current officers of your branches for this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Editor's Report - David Gregory

At the branch editors meeting held November 2, 2014, it was decided to publish a special section on heritage buildings and/or sites from each branch of the Society. These sites and/or buildings are identified as "the most important and significant in their community." We decided on two photographs and no more than 1,000 words from each branch. Last year several branches exceeded this limit. To be fair to each branch, I will firmly stick to the 1,000 word limit and two photograph limit.

In the three previous Reports, I attempted to expand the AGM portion of the Report, with photographs, in an effort to make our society more lively and personal. The majority of the branch editors wished that this section of the Report be reduced in size, so I will follow those wishes and minimize this section.

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver Osoyoos Branch - Larry Shannon

The Branch had a successful year. On May 4, 2014 we had a plaque dedication ceremony at the Fairview Kiosk, honouring Isabelle and Carleton McNaughton who were instrumental in helping the Okanagan Historical Society acquire and develop this site. The event was well attended generated good publicity for our organization. On August 17th 2014 we had a Branch picnic at the White Lake Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. We had a very interesting and educational guided tour of the facility. The Branch had its Semi-Annual Meeting in Oliver on Oct. 30th 2014. The guest speaker was Mr. Richard Simmonds. He has been a member of the Oliver Volunteer Fire Department for many years and was the fire chief for much of this time. Richard told us about many of the big fires and emergency events in Oliver over the years.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Osoyoos on April 12th, 2015. The existing executive was re-elected with the exception of our secretary Lynn Alaric. We have not found a replacement secretary yet. The guest speaker at this meeting was Mr. George Fraser. Mr. Fraser's topic was 100 Years in Osoyoos, One Families' Perspective. The meeting was interesting and well attended. The Branch has been working on the design and installation of a sign on Highway 97 close to where it intersects with Testalinda Creek. This sign will describe the historical significance of this creek from pre European to recent times. Work on the ongoing Fairview Cemetery project is still progressing, but at a slow pace.

Respectfully submitted,

Penticton Branch - Karen Collins

The Penticton branch made changes this past year. Our last meeting of 2014 was also our last meeting to be held on a Thursday evening at Library/Museum Auditorium. Beginning with that October 30th meeting, we have had a less formal atmosphere at our meetings in an effort to involve members more. That evening, rather than having a guest speaker, we had a round table discussion of stories suitable for Halloween and members brought unusual items to view and discuss.

We continue to encourage members to bring items of interest to share with others in attendance. Our meetings are now being held at the Shatford Centre at 1:30 on Sunday. It was felt that this would be more advantageous for members who could not get out in the evenings. At our meetings and April we did have members from out of town who otherwise would not have attended.

Randy and Karen are part of a committee supporting Important Bird Areas, Oliver Osoyoos OHS and the Oliver Heritage Society in an investigation into preservation of the Haynes Ranch buildings on Road 22. The members of Penticton branch were unanimous in pledging our support following discussion at our meeting. Randy also did a weekly historical presentation Thursday afternoons at the Shatford from mid-January until mid-April. He will begin again mid-October in affiliation with the OHS branch.

During Heritage Week our branch manned a display in Cherry Lane Shopping Centre Thursday, Friday and Saturday, answering lots of questions while promoting the Penticton Museum, OHS, SS Sicamous Society and Shatford Centre. The Bay and Cherry Lane sponsored the event with the mall providing us mall space as well as an empty storefront. We showcased photos, provided by the museum, of the 100-2100 blocks in keeping with this year's theme 'Main Street', had displays and or provided handouts for each group as well as having very good book sales. We recieved excellent coverage by the Penticton Herald and SO Country Internet Radio which also helped in making it a most successful event.

Our AGM was held April 19th at the Shatford Centre. Our guest speaker was Bruce Manuel, a member of the Upper Nicola, and the Corrections Liasion Officer with the South Okanagan Restorative Justice Program, working out of the Enow'kin Centre on the Penticton Indian Reserve. We had met Bruce during Heritage Week when he gave us an impromptu talk on basket weaving. We had a basket that our member Marylin had used as a toy basket as a child on display. The Museum kindly lent us the same basket for our meeting and Bruce included it in his talk. He was very well received in that everyone was encouraged to participate during his talk and members felt like they were part of the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Summerland Branch - David Gregory

For Heritage Week (February 16-22), the Heritage Advisory Commission selected a heritage building, tree and site. This is the 29th year of selection. The selected building is the Summerland Supply Company building at the corner of Main Street and Victoria Avenue. It was built in 1906-1907. Summerland originated along the lakeshore and this building is one of the first buildings built on the "new" town site. The selected heritage site is the West Summerland Train Station site. The train station itself was demolished, but all of the blue-prints are available to one day restore on that site. The heritage tree is the maple tree (about 100 years old) beside the Rippin barn on Dale Meadows Road in Prairie Valley.

In recognition of the theme of Heritage Week – Main Street: At the Heart of the Community – some branch members participated in tours of Summerland's Main Street.

The branch hosted its AGM on March 26, 2015, at the Seniors Village. The featured speaker is Dr. Frank Kappel, and his presentation will be on the cherry industry in Summerland. George Downton, from a pioneer family, was elected president of the Branch.

For Earth Day the Branch hosted an historic tour of Summerland's Lower Town and was well attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelowna Branch - Bob Hayes

It is my pleasure, as President of the Kelowna Branch of the Okanagan Historical Society, to report on the Branch's activities during the past year.

We continue to offer our members a number of opportunities to get together with family and friends, as they celebrate the history of the Central Okanagan Valley. On Sunday, July 27 we hosted our annual Family Picnic at Parkinson Rec Centre; attendance at this event, which this year recognized citizens of Rutland, was very pleasing. On Sunday, August 23 the Kelowna Branch held its first "Family Fun Day", located at the Pandosy Mission site. Attendance at this event was wonderful, with lots of young families in attendance, as they explored this historic site, enjoyed displays and entertainment, and had an old-fashioned picnic.

Plans are already underway for the 2015 Family Picnic (Parkinson Rec Centre) on Sunday, July 19; and the second "Family Fun Day", (Pandosy Mission site) on Saturday, August 22. In 2014, the Kelowna Branch was unable to have its Fall Tea and Social event, due to problems in securing a location and caterer; it is hoped that this very popular event will be resurrected this fall.

February was an especially busy one for the Kelowna Branch, which took an active role in local Heritage Week (February 16 to 22) activities. Working alongside Kelowna Museums, the Central Okanagan Heritage Society, Westbank Museum, the Westbank First Nations Museum, Lake Country Museum, and several neighbourhood associations, the Kelowna Branch generously donated members' time, resources, and funds to help make Heritage Week 2015 the best ever. The Kelowna Branch had a display of various OHS books at its table in Cutter's Lounge, in the Royal Anne Hotel. There was obviously lots of interest in these publications, and the Branch brochure and contact information were available to the general public.

The Kelowna Branch's 2015 Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, April 4 at the Parkinson Rec Centre. As usual, attendance was very high, with almost 200 people enjoying a delicious supper, participating in the business meeting, and listening to guest presenter, Heather Berringer, UBCO Chief Librarian. Display boards of local pioneers and their business, generously provided by the Kelowna & District Genealogical Society, were very popular with those in attendance at the AGM.

Sales of the OHS "78th Report" continue to be pleasing, with the Kelowna Branch selling almost 100 copies, as well as brisk retail sales in two Kelowna locations. The Branch' "Kelowna Street Names – Their Origins" continues to sell well, as do certain back issues of OHS Reports. The December 2014 book sale at Rona (Kelowna) was very successful.

The Kelowna Branch has two representatives on the local Community Heritage Committee, although this committee has not been sitting of late, owing to a change in the local civic government. It is hoped that this crucial committee will soon be back to work, taking on its role of monitoring and preserving local heritage.

The Kelowna Branch continues to submit articles, on a wide variety of topics, to the local Kelowna newspaper. The Branch has had a weekly Monday column in "The Daily Courier" since 1994, and to date almost 800 articles to do with the many facets of local history have been published. The Kelowna Branch continues to submit pioneer names to City Hall for consideration when new streets are designated and named.

This past year, the Kelowna Branch again sponsored several bursaries, which were awarded to well-deserving local students who are pursuing higher education. It is always very rewarding and gratifying to hear back from these students, thanking the Kelowna Branch for its financial support and outlining their plans for the future.

This has been another busy year and the year ahead looks to be equally productive and exciting. I would like to thank the hard-working and dedicated Executive, Directors, and members of the Kelowna Branch for their ongoing efforts and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Branch - Herb Thorburn

Since the last Valley AGM the Vernon branch has continued on a near normal course. The total general membership has remained steady at about fifty-five, with thirty to forty attending the three general events. The executive has been reduced to seven with the loss of two members, and is anxious to add some new, preferably younger faces. Prior to our three main activities, Vernon branch issued a newsletter to advise the general membership of the upcoming event, promote the sale of any new publications and to urge the submission of articles for the OHS Reports.

The first activity of the year was our 11th annual "Pioneer Picnic" held on 9 August in Coldstream Park. Thirty-nine people enjoyed branch editor Bill Dunsmore's hamburger/salad lunch topped off with Black Forest cake. Our usual practice of having a raconteur to tell stories of the past, and an honouree for contributions to local history was this year combined into one person. Rob Dinwoodie, who by day is a range manager for the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, is often seen and heard as a cowboy troubadour at the O'Keefe Ranch, singing his own songs in praise of the role of the horse in the history of the BC interior. He provided the picnic with a fine and much appreciated performance.

Vernon Branch held its Fall General Meeting held on 23 November at the Schubert Centre. After the usual meeting activities including a Branch Editor's report and Executive Council feedback, we had a presentation by the Deputy Chief of the Vernon Fire and Rescue Services. An audience of about thirty-five enjoyed a highly illustrated talk by Lawrie Skolrood on the

history and capabilities of the “fire department” from its inception in 1891 to the present. His “show-n-tell” included four members of the fire and rescue service, one completely outfitted in current equipment costing \$6000. The Deputy Chief emphasised the inspection and prevention aspect of their activities and urged everyone to have working smoke detectors.

The last main activity of the year was our AGM in late March. After the usual business and an “election” in which all of the old board agreed to serve again, we had a long sought presentation on the history of Tolko Industries, one of Western Canada’s leading wood product producers and headquartered in Vernon. We were fortunate to have Mr Al Thorlakson , currently the executive chairman of Tolko, give us an illustrated talk on the development of Tolko from its modest beginnings in the mid 1950s as a planer mill in Lavington to its current 3500 employees. Certainly there was no one better qualified to tell the Tolko story than Mr Thorlakson and the interest of the audience was evident in the questions that followed.

Other activities related mainly to book sales and promotion of the OHS and local history have included participation in the Vernon Museum’s two-day Antiques and Collectables Show and Sale, and collaboration with the Museum in celebrating International Museum Day on 16 May. Our projects related to historic picture placemats and the reprinting of the Okanagan Brigade Trail – North booklet are starting to pay off with 43 placemats and 7 copies of the booklet sold. Also there has been good interest in back issues of the OHS reports with 51 sold. Peter Tassie continues to work on his history of the Vernon Irrigation District to which we have maintained our pledged financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

Armstrong-Enderby Branch - Carmen Kirkland

Our fall meeting was held in the Armstrong Museum on October 26th. In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of 4-H, John McKechnie was our guest speaker and spoke of his involvement with, and remembrances of, 4-H as it developed in our area. The name of the organization represents its four personal development core values: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. There was also a discussion of the swine club in the 1950's and members in the audience shared stories of the potato club, poultry club, and beef and dairy clubs.

Unfortunately attendance suffered at this meeting due to insufficient publicity of the event, the presentation topic and speaker. This was not the case, however, for our AGM held on April 19th which hosted a large and varied audience at the Enderby Senior's Complex.

Following the November and December book sales of the 78th OHS Report at Askews in Armstrong and the Enderby Credit Union, along with an extremely modest Credit Union dividend, our Treasurer reports an increase in our bank balance of \$1,209.24. We received correspondence from Highclere, England, thanking the organization for making available online the reports of the society, complete with index, and the Historic Cemetery Committee announced that a Clean-Up of the Lansdowne Cemetery will take place on May 24th.

A slight change in our slate of officers was seen with Carmen Kirkland elected to fill the position of President; Don Moor, the retiring President, filled Carmen's vacated position as Director, and Jean Lockhart stepped down as Director. We currently have one position of Director yet to fill.

The AGM was recessed and the topic of the presentation was "The Future of the Abandoned CPR Corridor". Garnering much interest were photo boards prepared by the Enderby Museum staff and a 50' long survey map of 1892 showing the entire length of the Shuswap and Okanagan (S&O) Railway from Sicamous to Okanagan Landing, which was graciously loaned for the event by the Vernon Museum.

Bob Cowan, one of our two esteemed Branch Editors, prefaced the presentation with a brief explanation of the historical importance of the S&O Rail Line, then introduced each of the guest speakers. These included: Brad Case, Councillor with the City of Enderby, who gave a brief update on the political process; Phil McIntyre-Paul, from the Shuswap Trail Alliance, who spoke to the possibilities of using the now closed railway right of way between Armstrong and Sicamous as a public trail corridor; and Tilman Nahm from Grindrod, who owns property along the Shuswap River, spoke to why the right of way should not be made into a public trail. There were also speakers from the floor and an interesting and informed question period.

Following the presentations and discussion, the AGM was reconvened and a motion passed that our Branch support the City of Enderby and the Shuswap Trail Alliance in forming a public linear corridor from Armstrong to Sicamous along the lines presented.

This motion will be presented during the New Business portion of the Annual General Meeting of the Okanagan Historical Society, to be held at the Silver Sage Winery in Oliver, on April 26th for their consideration as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Salmon Arm Branch - Rosemary Wilson

To start I would like to thank the executive and directors for all their support and hard work through out the year.

We had a very successful Valley AGM. It was a lot of work and could not have been done without the efforts of some very dedicated members. We had a book sale in the Mall in November when the #78 Report came out and in time for Christmas. Also a book sale in February for Heritage Week. Dorothy Rolin set up a display of past Reports, covers and some articles pertaining to the Salmon Arm area. Thank you to everyone who sat and sold books.

For our December gathering, Dorothy Rolin and I gave a history lesson on the 25 years that the Salmon Arm branch had existed. Lifetime member plaque was also awarded Mary Wetherill. She has done much for the Branch. She spent endless hours on the walking tour that we are putting together, she was president, she has written articles for the Report, and is generally there for the betterment of the organization.

During the year, I have written letters of support for Haney Heritage Village when they have applied for grants. We had a committee meeting on re-writing Historic Routes. Two people had gone through the book and highlighted things that should be looked at, either to change or correct. They had done an excellent job. The committee hopefully will have another meeting in the near future to bring this to publication.

Chuck Mobley and Gail Burkitt have done two interviews and are hoping to do some more directly. This is an area that we desperately need some help in.

At our local AGM on April 12, Edna and Alf Peterson were presented with their lifetime membership. Edna supplied coffee and did a lot of driving while her brother-in-laws were involved in the OHS. Alf is very knowledgeable about the area and has contributed much to our meetings over the years. They are the kind of people you can always rely on. The Wilson's also gave a presentation on the Tappen Co-op, which is celebrating 100 years of service to the community in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Father Pandosy Committee - Pat Walls

The year 2014 was another success story for the Mission. We saw the return of a number of annual events at the site, including the OHS sponsored "Pioneer Day." For the first time, the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce hosted a valley-wide "mingle" which gave exposure of the site to numerous Chamber groups from throughout the Okanagan Valley. Several hundred attendees enjoyed good food, fine wine and fellowship. Several first-time corporate visitors commented on returning to the mission for future social gatherings.

The most spectacular event saw our humble Mission being chosen (shrouded in absolute secrecy) as the site for the annual Le Diner en Blanc. Eight hundred guests attended an incredible formal dining extravaganza under the stars and the watchful eye of Fr. Pandosy himself. What a gala night! When one realizes that the same event (in Paris 2014) was hosted beneath the Eiffel Tower, we are in some pretty select international company!

2015 will see the implementation of some exciting new projects:

1. In partnership with Francophone Affairs B.C. and in collaboration with the local Francophone community, we will be launching a significant bilingual (English/French) signage for the site. We received an initial grant from the city of Kelowna and a matching grant from Francophone Affairs, B.C. All signage will be converted to "period appropriate" French and English
2. The B.C. Heritage Branch has approved the installation of two flagpoles to fly the Canadian and B.C. flags. We are especially indebted to the generosity of the Warkentin family (Kelowna Steel Fabricators) and local service clubs (St. Charles Garnier Knights of Columbus and the Rotary Club of Kelowna) for funding this project
3. We hope to establish a stand-alone web site which will allow us to better promote our "jewel of the Okanagan"
4. We have commissioned the building of more benches for the property

5. The entrance "kiosk" will be re-designed and made more user-friendly
6. We will enhance the fire protection system on site and continue to make renovations where needed

The mild winter and early spring weather has resulted in an earlier than usual opening of the site. April 25th saw another dedicated group of volunteers donate their time and talent to the annual "clean-up" day.

June 6th and 7th will see the site host the 14th annual "marquee" event - the annual Okanagan Antique Power Club Tractor Show. This fun family weekend has traditionally "kicked off" the season for us. It seems to rejuvenate and motivate all of us who are dedicated to maintaining that pioneer spirit. To that end we are grateful for the efforts of the Okanagan Power Club in their undaunted dedication to helping us preserve our Mission as the historical gem of Kelowna's unique history.

Our committee is passionate about the role we play within the broader structure of the Okanagan Historical Society organization. Thanks to the hundreds of hours of volunteer effort, and the extraordinary determination of our committee over the past several years, this magnificent historical site continues to be a focal point of pioneer heritage in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Index Committee- Dorothy Zoellner

We have very few printed copies of the Index to Reports 1 - 76 still available for sale. Our sales and the generous gift of the Webber Family in memory of Jean Webber continue to leave us with a good fiscal balance.

Because of the success of the printed Index, I am pleased to announce that the executive passed a motion that we print the entire index to the reports every five years. I feel that we have maintained a readership who prefer the printed copy.

Sincere thanks to Joani Cowan and Faith Hudson, who continue the updating of the Index following each new printing of our Report -currently # 78.

Respectfully submitted,

Student Essay Contest - Diane Ambil

This year's winner of the Student Essay Contest is Brian Spanier. His winning essay looks at his family's history in the Okanagan and is entitled "The Davidson-Spanier Okanagan Succession". David is 18 years old and is graduating this year from Semiahmoo Secondary in Surrey. He will be enrolling at OUC Okanagan to study Geology. David's grandmother Anne Davidson will accept the prize on his behalf at the AGM in Oliver, April 26th.

Respectfully submitted,

Student Video Contest - David Gregory

This year the committee once again judged a large selection of excellent student historic videos. There were some excellent entries to the contest. The winning entry was "The Armstrong Cheese Company" by Matt Purdon. The judging for this contest has to be one of our Society's most enjoyable tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Website - Joan Cowan

The society's website has been updated three times this year to change the contact information for branches and editors, to update the index, and to highlight the new report. I would like to encourage you to send to me detailed information concerning your meetings and events, so that can be updated on the website as well.

I continue to receive correspondence from our researchers requesting copies of articles. In many cases they also wish to thank us for putting most of the reports online in digital form. And they certainly appreciate the index!

Respectfully submitted,

Historic Trails Committee - David Gregory

In 2014, there was some interest in a section of the Brigade Trail north of Bear Creek. I provided a group with data on that section of the trail and perhaps more will come of it in the future.

The conversion of the CN railway line into a trail system from Kelowna to Vernon and perhaps beyond into the Shuswap, if successful, will be a big boost to all Okanagan Trail systems. The significant provincial and municipal contributions of funds for a trail system along Okanagan Lake in Summerland could also have an impact on trail systems in the south end of the Valley.

In the south Okanagan, there are some discussions about extending the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail Linear Park, from Summerland to Peachland. The Trails of the Okanagan group is interested in this trail as part of their biking system. By permitting biking and prohibiting ATV traffic, this may prove to be a better approach to trail preservation

Respectfully submitted,