



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Burnaby Village Museum

Home of the CW Parker Carousel

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION DATE: 2016 September 07

FROM: DEBORAH TUYTTENS

SUBJECT: BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM UPDATES

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

- The temporary exhibit “Technology before the Smartphone” was popular with visitors, along with a related scavenger hunt activity this summer. A number of hands-on demonstrations of technology were integrated into existing exhibits and programs, including coffee grinding demonstrations at the General Store, laundry at the Log Cabin, a hands-on weigh scale at the General Store, and stereoscope demonstrations at Elworth.
- Twice a week in July and August the BVM hosted First Nations education programs for the general public. This included working with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to provide Aboriginal Medicinal Plant Tours of the site, and BVM hosted Squamish Nation educators who conducted interactive weaving demos for visitors.
- A large collection of uniforms, badges, and documents related to the history of Girl Guides in Burnaby was donated to the Museum and is being catalogued.
- Curatorial staff continued to improve physical condition and documentation of large objects stored in an off-site warehouse. This summer improvements were made to documentation and storage of several large objects from Oakalla prison, including cell walls and doors. The paint on the Eagle Ford neon sign was consolidated by conservation staff.

FALL PROJECTS

- The BVM annual Burnaby Neighbourhood History speaker series runs from September through November. This program, offered in partnership with Burnaby Public Library and Burnaby Historical Society, features free talks and walking tours. Highlights include A Tsleil-Waututh History of Burrard Inlet by Carleen Thomas, Chinese-Canadian Farmers of Big Bend by Larry Grant and Sarah Ling, a history of progressive politicians and politics in Burnaby by Allen Seager and Lisa Codd, the film screening Digital Stories by Burnaby Women, a tour of Burnaby’s Tian-Jin Taoist Temple, and a walk around Deer Lake with Mark Angelo during salmon spawning season.

< 7 >

Subject: < 7 >

2016 September 07 Page 2

- Major renovations are underway to the Orientation Plaza to better welcome the larger volume of visitors enjoying the site and improve wheelchair access. Summer visitors have enjoyed the new space, and improvements will continue into the fall.
- A project is underway to create workstations for volunteers who help to research and document the collection. The workstations will provide access to a custom software product that will make it easy for staff to review and transfer research data created by volunteers into the collections database. This improvement will significantly increase the capacity of the museum to host volunteers interested in working with the collection.
- A researcher specializing in First Nations history has joined the staff at the Museum, and will be developing research materials that can be used by school program staff. The research will help the Museum meet the growing demand of school program groups for content that meets the objectives of the new social studies curriculum in BC

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Tuyttens
Museum Services Supervisor