

Manager's Report

Annual General Meeting – 13 April 2024

Operations Highlights:

2023 was definitely a challenging year, but it had some very positive aspects as well. For example, our membership has increased ten-fold, and we really appreciate all the support the community has shown us. Thank you for that, and we look forward to working with you into the future.

Our summer students stepped up to ensure that summer programming met our usual standards and our visitors' expectations. I also want to acknowledge Alyson Small, our Research Curator, who did admirable work coordinating, planning, and managing in the midst of turmoil.

Despite the challenges, we have retained our reputation as one of the leading community museums in the province.

Major Projects:

- **Archives Shelving!** After years of planning and fundraising, we installed high-density shelving in the Archives vault in January 2023. This tripled our available storage space, so we can continue building the archives collections for many more years with no increase to our physical space. Thank you to our project donors; your support helped access grants from Columbia Basin Trust and Cultural Spaces Canada.
- **40 Years, 40 Voices!** Our fortieth anniversary project reached out to people whose stories we have not told in the past and invited them to share their knowledge and experiences with us. Many of these stories are from people living in the community today, and many thanks to Brenda for all her work in helping us connect with those individuals. Alyson created several micro-exhibits on historic cultural communities; and visitors contributed their stories throughout the summer.

Looking Forward:

- **Centennial Events:** A special on-site temporary exhibit and many, many collaborations with community events and organizations are keeping Alyson, I, and several volunteers very busy. Event details coming in the next week or so.
- **Murphy Equipment:** Watch for a special members event in early June to provide your input into the various options for the storage and display of a large collection of belt-driven machinery.
- **Collections:** We are in the process of moving to a new collections management software, which will not only provide better internal cataloguing and recording processes, but will also make our collections available online for the first time, hopefully by this fall.
- **Community Partnerships:** We are looking forward to renewing our Fall Fair and other partnerships that fell by the wayside last year.

Collections:

45 donations were received in 2023, comprising several hundred individual items.

Programming:

Full summer programming returned for the first time since 2020. Self-guided brochures now available in multiple languages.

Exhibits:

40 Years, 40 Voices saw excellent participation and attendance. Logging Arch and Water interpretation panels coming this year.

Community:

Partnerships continued with three community events, four seniors homes, and 11 school classes.

Visitation:

Drop-in visitation somewhat lower than 2022 due to late-summer closure, but event and program attendance comparable to past years.

Volunteerism:

Average 15 volunteers each month, contributing 840 hours; now returning to typical levels following late-summer interruption.

Staffing:

Five summer staff hired to supplement two permanent and one maintenance staff.

The Creston Museum uses the past to inspire connections with the community today, address its challenges, and make it a better place to live, learn, and explore