

LYTTON MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

February 2007

420 Fraser Street, Lytton, B.C.

Issue 8 Number 1

THE LYTTON AND DISTRICT T.V. ASSOCIATION

Have you ever heard of this association? Some say they have not, others complain because this association is partially funded through taxes, and others are very grateful that it exists. It is essentially a service that Lytton offers to those who cannot or prefer not to pay for cable or Starchoice or whatever. It is run by volunteers, with funding coming from taxes, amounting to approximately \$18.00 per year on assessments of \$150,000, the equivalent of three packs of cigarettes, or \$9.68 per year on assessments of \$80,000, the equivalent of five cups of coffee! It is used by Elders or those on tight pensions, people who rent, or anyone who can not access television for various other reasons.

This article is a history of how television first came to Lytton, and how difficult a project it has been over the years. It is a story of the dedication and hard work of many volunteers, still ongoing.

It all started in the early 1950's. A man named Bill Shaw, who owned Shaw Springs Auto Court and Restaurant, decided to see if a TV signal could be picked up on the surrounding mountains. He loaded his four-wheel drive up with a television set, a lighting plant, some TV aerials, and away he went. He tried out several spots, and finally, with Art Kent and his Forestry four-wheel drive, they headed up Botanie Mountain to the Forestry Lookout. They took a group of Lyttonites with them: Annie



The upper site at the peak of Botanie Mountain. Weather is a factor!

Photo courtesy Joe Chute

Kent, Jim O'Dwyer, Laurie O'Dwyer, Lloyd Dodge, and "Heppy" Hepburn, the lookout man was there, too. They set up the aerials, the lighting plant and the TV, then sat in the Lookout Building and watched 'Ed Sullivan'! It was the first time some of them had ever seen television.

Now the planning began, and the real work started. It was decided that they needed a power source at the top of the mountain to relay the signals. They acquired a wind generator from Reid Dickenson and some 12 volt batteries. By this time there was snow on the mountain. They borrowed Spencer's D4 cat, hooked a trailer on behind to

carry all the equipment and supplies needed, and started out. Two men, Ted Sheppard and Stan Coles, planned to stay at the site, put up the aerials, and get everything working. We had one station, CFJC channel 11, from Kamloops. (Later on, they put in channel

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Rigging the new forty foot tower during the brief summer work opening.

Photo courtesy Joe Chute

8, BCTV.)

This arrangement worked for only a few weeks, before the heavy snow bent the aerial over and stopped the windmill. That was that!

In the meantime, other communities became interested in our project, including Kamloops (CFCR). The Lytton volunteers put a power line from the top of the mountain down the east side to a creek at the bottom near Botanie Road. Two propane generators were brought in, and a shed was built to house the motors. Boston Bar and Lillooet were

getting our signals, but the Boston Bar signals were very weak. These communities helped with volunteers and machinery.

This system lasted for approximately two years. However, getting propane into the site was almost impossible during the winter, and propane fuel proved to be very expensive, running the motors 24/7. Kamloops came up with the idea of installing a Pelton Wheel in the creek at this site. It worked for quite a while, but there were problems keeping the leaves and debris from clogging up the system, and also with rodents chewing

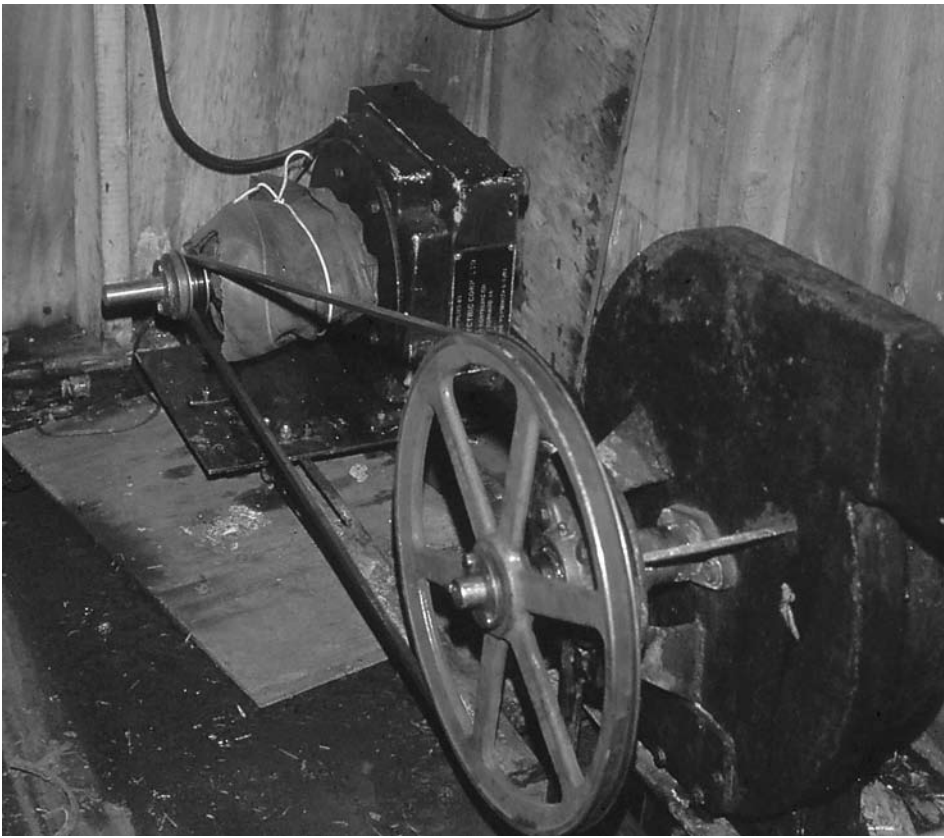
up the power lines, which were just laid on the ground.

Finally all concerned decided to run a power line down the west side of the mountain, to 6 Mile on the Lytton/Lillooet Highway and hook up to hydro. Lillooet volunteers came down and put in the power line, which was (and still is) about two miles long. The line was put down in a hurry and not properly anchored, laying over rocks and logs, and consequently frequently breaking. This line is still being used but is very tough to maintain. Winter snows of four and five foot depths hide the breaks, and the climbs up and down the mountain in this terrain are punishing, to say the least. Logs have been cut out and the line anchored on the ground but breaks still occur, and porcupines and rats love chewing the lines.

The Kamloops crew put up another shed, at the top of the mountain, north of the Lookout Building, so that the receiving aerials could be out of the weather. A 40 foot mast was installed with aerials pointing north and south, to service the areas towards Boston Bar and Lillooet.

This involved many volunteers from all the communities. Power line trouble brought out several volunteers and snowmobilers. There were many hairy trips up the Forestry access road, much worse now since the Forestry abandoned the Lookout Station. Supplies for repairs often had to be carried up the last section of road, which was impassable even for snowmobiles in the deep snow. This site is now being used by the Ambulance, R.C.M.P, and Search and Rescue radios, but they don't contribute to the maintenance of the site by road, they just hop into helicopters! This solution is way out of our budget.

Now that the work had begun in earnest, licenses needed to be applied for. First, the lease for the land at the top of Botanie and the land over which the power line would run must be applied



The Pelton Wheel (in front) turning the generator to supply power up to the site.

Photo courtesy Joe Chute

for. Next came separate licenses for each piece of transmitting equipment from the CRTC. Also, we needed to apply to be a registered Society, which meant formal meetings and election of executive and directors. We needed dedicated volunteers, especially technicians, and most of all, we needed funding.

We needed equipment, which meant tracking down as much serviceable second hand equipment as we could find. Once a station was set up, the CRTC required that transmission had to be continued to protect the investment of those who had purchased television sets especially to receive the local transmissions.

The Association set up a second site on the Quinn road site, with the permission of the Lytton First Nations band. This site is set up to supply 5 channels. Unfortunately, the equipment on both upper and lower sites is very old and in poor condition. Again, funding was the main stumbling block. The Association

receives approximately \$8225 per year, while any given piece of equipment can be approximately \$17,000 per channel. Thus it has been necessary to replace



The forty foot mast (previous page) bent in two after a harsh winter season.

Photo courtesy Joe Chute

what we can with second hand materials.

Funding for the TV site operation was applied for from the TNRD, which had the power to impose a 2 mil levy on rural taxpayers for projects which met with public approval. The Village also collects a 1 ½ mil levy on local village taxpayers. The funds collected by the TNRD were sent to the Village Council, to be passed on to the TV Society. This taxation was to be an ongoing process, with the tax mil rate determined by the expenditures of the TV Society in the previous year, thus making yearly budgets and annual reports from the Society a necessity.

This levy was specifically for the transmission of TV and radio signals to a designated area. These funds could not be diverted to another project. Any diversion of these funds to another project would appear to be mis-appropriation of funds in contravention to the original agreement.

The TV situation is further complicated by the original agreement that signals would be sent to Boston Bar and Lil-

loot for rebroadcasting. By providing a signal to these two centers, permission was given to increase the signal strength of the transmitters in order to provide usable signals to feed their local transmitters. This in turn increased the area which the signal covered, and the number of recipients. On the plus side we gained several volunteers from these communities.

While cable TV has entered Lytton, it in no way covers the area covered by the transmitters. Also, the TV Association renders a very real service to those who, for one reason or another, can not afford cable TV. Seniors, many Elders, and renters in many cases have only the local signal available to them.

In 2003, a survey was attempted by the Village, to see how many users there actually are. Our contention is that our original agreement with CRTC was that so long as only one individual used this service, it could not be discontinued. From the results of that survey, 75% of the survey participants wished to continue to support the Lytton and District TV Association. The Village Council has agreed to the usual funding for 2007, but after that it will be up to the users of the service to convince the Council to support the service.

What is really surprising is that, although Council has voiced a desire to discontinue this funding, at the same time the Lytton & District TV Association has been asked to 'umbrella' the Lytton Area Wireless Society, which puts a great deal more strain on our few volunteers.

It will be interesting to see what happens in the future. The Lytton & District TV Association 'name' is no longer – it is now the Lytton Area Wireless Society. It claims to have three sub-groups: Internet, TV and radio. High Speed Internet is the buzz-word now. The local television volunteers are very hard workers, sadly in short supply. The equipment they need to keep going is very expensive,
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Digging a snow trench at the upper site to find a break in the power cable.

Photo courtesy Joe Chute

and people who are using the service are not vocal enough to support this service. The Village Council has agreed to keep providing taxation funding for 2007 only. Are our users interested enough to let the Village Council know they want this service to continue?? It will be entirely up to you!

The accompanying photographs are examples of just some of the many difficulties encountered by the TV team. Climbing a 40 foot mast in a howling snowstorm was just one of the many challenges. Photographer Joe Chute has preserved an amazing account of perseverance and hard work on the part of our dedicated volunteers.

**A NOTE FROM
THE ASHCROFT WHITEHOUSE
ANOTHER POSSIBILITY**

November 8, 2006

Re: Portable Organ in Lytton Museum:

Note: What I have is a recollection from an oral conversation with the Reverend and Canon Colin Dickson. I do not have any written documentation to support the recollection. The conversation probably took place in 1977 or 1978.

Canon Dickson had the portable organ in his house (the old church house) in Lytton. He was using it primarily to practise organ music for Sunday worship in the S. Mary and S. Paul's Church. Colin, being a "story-teller" spoke of the heritage of the organ.

Colin spoke of the portable organ as being used by a chaplain in the Army. World War II comes to mind, although it could have been World War I. Following the war, the organ became surplus and was acquired for work within the Lytton Parish. It may have been designed specifically to fit in the back of a Jeep along with a portable Altar.

Colin used the organ periodically in his travels as a travelling priest for special services. He used to carry it in the back of his Land Rover. During my early years as priest in Lytton, we did use the portability of the organ for funerals and other special services on the West Side of the Fraser on occasion. Once he sold the Land Rover and moved into his bus, I do not recall the organ being used again for worship. (There was not room in his Mazda for his dog and the organ.)

Perhaps one of the reasons I filed this little piece of history away, is Colin was very gracious about the Army and Army Chaplain, as he was ex-navy.

The conversation with Colin aside, I

think it highly unlikely that the organ would have been used in the 19th Century in the Lytton area as a portable organ, as the size of the organ - although small, would have necessitated the need for an extra horse, which would have increased the work load for the priest in his travels.

Jim White.

Curator's Note:

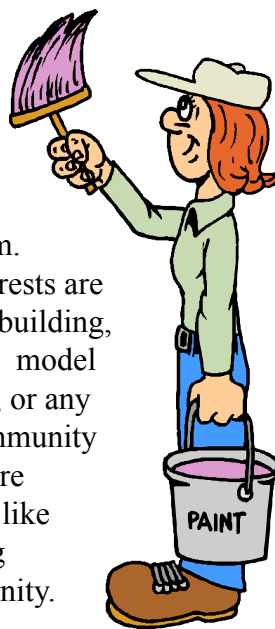
When I first walked into the Lytton Museum the above mentioned organ was already here. There was a display card on it which said (and still does): "This portable organ was used by the early missionaries in this district. It is probably one century old and was usually carried on horseback".

I had no idea where it came from or who brought it in - I just took the card for the gospel truth. I have been telling everyone this story for years! Now we have another possibility. Interesting!



VOLUNTEER!

Lytton has many volunteer groups, including the Museum. If your interests are gardening, building, collections, model railroading, or any type of community service, there are people like you helping our community.



JOIN THEM TODAY!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Further to our column on the present whereabouts and 'doings' of our former Lytton school students, read on for more examples of how Lytton is making an impression on our world:

Dr. Maureen Ward (nee Floyd) is a Superintendent of Schools, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Dr. Al Floyd, Dr. of Dentistry, has his office in Kamloops.

Jean York, M.Ed, Manager of Health Services, Spences Bridge.

Brenda Aljam, (nee Walkem) Master of Agriculture, Director of T'Mix Research, Merritt, B.C.

Shirley Egles (nee Florence) Senior Peer Counseling of B.C., Victoria, B.C.

Chuck Melanson, Farmer and Insurance Broker, Enderby and Armstrong, B.C.

Ted Melanson, Master of Education, Retired, Armstrong, B.C.

Trudeen Dunstan (nee Anderson), Teacher, M.ED., Chase, B.C.

Dave Walkem, RPF and MBA, Chief of Cooks Ferry Band, Spences Bridge, B.C.

The family of Rev. Jim and Phyllis White:

-Heather, married with two children, lives in Ashcroft

-Rebecca, works in Foothills Hospital, Calgary on the neuro ward, is a Degree nurse, earlier worked at the Lytton Info Centre with Mrs. Chute for approx. 3 summers, and worked as a nurse at Lytton's St. Bartholomew's Hospital until it was closed in 2002.

- Josh, works for the Ashcroft Village, in the winter as Zamboni driver and in

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The mystery object from Newsletter Volume 7 Issue 2. Now that it has been removed from the river (see below) we can be fairly certain what it is.

Photo courtesy Richard Forrest



The dredge parts near Kanaka from Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 2. Compare this to the artifact from the Thompson (below).

Photo courtesy Richard Forrest

A Mystery Solved — Sort of...

In Volume 7 Issue 2, we asked if anyone could identify the object pictured above left. Since it was always mostly submerged, even at very low water, we could just guess.

As soon as the train wreck happened in the summer, we began asking the Canadian National crews to allow us access to the historic artifacts that were then mixed up with the new wrecked cars and bridge parts.

The CN clean-up company was most cooperative, and rescued the old Simplex train truck, several old car parts and the mystery object from the Thompson. These all became property of the Lytton First Nation, as they have rights to the area where the wreck took place.

Through a co-operative effort between the Lytton First Nation and the Museum, we will accept the recovered artifacts as a loan, clean them and do whatever restorative work we can and put them on display at the Museum. Our thanks go out to the Lytton First Nation.

First, the artifacts must be moved to a temporary storage area, where we can

clean them and plan for a display.

Now that the mystery object is out of the water, we can compare it to the dredge spool near Kanaka (above right). It is almost certainly from one of the many dredges that worked the Fraser River.

This has left a couple of questions unanswered... How did the dredge part

get so far up the Thompson River? It was recovered several hundred feet upstream of the confluence. Also, are there other parts waiting to be found in the same area?



The mystery object sitting well above the water, waiting to be moved to a temporary storage area in preparation for display at the Museum.

Photo courtesy Richard Forrest

Lytton Museum Commission

Annual Report of the Chair – 2006

The Museum has had another successful year in 2006. A steady growth in accessions and a healthy number of visitors contribute towards the stability of the Museum as a centerpiece of the community.

We have published four newsletters this year as well as completing a number of research requests. Many new items have been added to our collection and we have been able to get a new internet presence: www.lyttonmuseum.ca.

A number of events that took place in our community in 2006 helped to emphasize the importance of the railways to Lytton. In the spring, the repeater station, long a landmark on the Canadian National property, was torn down. This was reported in detail in our May 2006 Newsletter.

During August, Lytton was host to a small army of recovery and construction workers while the Canadian National Bridge over the Thompson was being repaired after a coal train derailment. We were able to have the event recorded in our August Newsletter.

As well, the Museum helped to represent the cultural side of Lytton when, in February, we hosted a reading and book signing by W.P. Kinsella. Kinsella is a renowned author and humorist, a winner of the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia and the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, to name a few. A lively book auction went a long way towards covering the costs involved. Thanks largely to the efforts of Mayor Chris O'Connor, the evening was very successful and well received by those who attended.

The Seventh Annual Tea and Talk was held during Heritage Week, and author Dan Hauka attended and gave a reading from his book "McGowan's War".

While our building still needs attention, the new display shed at the back of the yard has become home to several artifacts and most of the items now have identifying signage.

The Village was able to provide us with funding to employ two people through the summer. This generous support allowed us to keep the doors open to the public seven days a week through the summer and gave some of the volunteers some much needed rest time. Our grateful thanks go out to Tom Peglow and Anna-Marie Adams and of course the Village for its generous monetary support..

This fall, Lytton has had a wireless high-speed internet network installed, and we were able to get the Museum a complementary account as a Commission of the Village. This means that we will be able to have the Museum hooked up to high-speed internet at no cost to us. Thanks go out to the Village and to the Lytton Wireless Society.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers who make our Museum a reality. From Dorothy Dodge, who puts in countless hours as our Curator/Archivist, to the members and executive of the Commission, to the volunteers who help clean, organize and care for our Museum, I say: ***a job well done!*** We would not have a Museum without you.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Forrest
Chair
Lytton Museum and Archives
Commission



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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the summer as parks staff.

-Sarah, lives in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Works in the Bakery as the 'Bag lady' and will be getting married April 20, 2007, in Ashcroft.

The family of Joe and Peggy Chute:

Lyn is married and lives near Abbotsford. Lyn and Dennis Warmerdam have two children: Katie, 21 years old, is attending Fraser Valley College to become a teacher, and Brian, who is in Grade 12, is planning to attend Simon Fraser University. Lyn is a teacher assistant in Deroche, where two former Lytton people, Alice Spinks (a teacher) and Ken Isaac (a custodian) also work.

Heather is married to Alan Johnson and they have two boys, Carl (14), and Roland (nearly 13). They attend a one-room school in Quatsino, where Heather teaches Grades 2 – 9.

Harvey, lives in Bellingham, Washington, with his wife Carrie and twin daughters Sarah and Hanna, who are 9 years old. Harvey's daughter, Celeste, is in grade 12 in Salmon Arm. Harvey is a computer programmer for Northrup Drummond.

Ross and Jennifer live in Pitt Meadows and have two children, Dustin (2 ½ yrs old) and Ella (2). Ross is a paramedic at the Maple Ridge Ambulance unit.

Roger and Suzanne live in North Delta and have 2 children: Erin (5 yrs) and Marcus (3 yrs). Roger is a respiratory technologist and works at St. Paul's and Royal Columbian Hospitals.



A NOTE FROM
THE ASHCROFT WHITEHOUSE
ANOTHER SIDE TO
ALL HALLOWS, YALE

November 8, 2006

One day I sat down for a chat with a number of elderly First Nations ladies in Spences Bridge. It turned out that two of these ladies had attended All Hallows, in Yale.

Their stories were quite different than the one recorded in the Museum Newsletter concerning All Hallows as a “finishing school”.

As St. George’s Industrial School taught the boys about animal husbandry, carpentry skills, black-smithing, and utilizing irrigated land in addition to some basic “3 R’s”, so All Hallows was for the First Nations girls, a place to learn how to become a chambermaid and/or servant to the rich white girls.

They were taught about cooking, sewing, house cleaning and other household chores in addition to their basic “3 R’s”

These girls were not being prepared for some higher education. However, they were given a “leg up” in an ever changing world for the First Nations people, giving the girls the skills for paid work in or near their communities - in the homes of the rich, or menial jobs in the hospital or hotels, etc.

To hear these ladies tell the story, clearly there was a two tiered system operating for the girls at All Hallows.

A question I should have raised - but didn’t - was whether or not there was a place at All Hallows for the poor “white” girls.

Jim White.



Photo: Thompson.]

ALL HALLOWS' SCHOOL.

**Playhouse Write Now! Series
Hosts Reading of
Kevin Loring’s New Play**

The following is taken from a news release emailed to the Museum:

December 7, 2006 - Vancouver, B.C. – As part of its *Write Now!* series the Playhouse Theatre Company is hosting an evening reading of *Where The Blood Mixes* (formerly named *The Ballad of Floyd*) by First Nations playwright and Playhouse Artist-in-Residence Kevin Loring. The reading will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 7 p.m. at the company’s production centre at 160 West 1st Avenue. Admission is free.

Mr. Loring has been developing this play, a deeply personal story centred on three people from the N’lakapmixon nation of Lytton, B.C. Says Mr. Loring, “*Where The Blood Mixes* speaks about the emptiness we desperately try to fill in our hearts, our longing for love and return to a place within ourselves that we can call home. Lytton’s had its fair share of trauma associated with the legacies of residential schools, and

although the play doesn’t directly implicate the residential school system, the title ‘survivor’ is a handle that all native communities are familiar with.”

The play, under its former title, was presented as a staged reading by the Alberta Playwrights’ Network in Calgary as part of the PlayWorks Ink Festival last month and has since undergone more development.

The Playhouse gratefully acknowledges the City of Vancouver’s Cultural Diversity Program for its support of Mr. Loring’s residency. The Playhouse Theatre Company, Western Canada’s largest theatre company dedicated exclusively to producing works of the contemporary repertoire, was founded in 1962 with a mandate to provide the finest possible drama to audiences in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. For more information, visit www.vancouverplayhouse.com

For more information please contact: Mairi Welman, Public Relations Manager

