

# HISTORIANA

• The Newsletter of the Bowen Island Community Museum and Archives •  
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## *Farewell, Dorothy!*

*Historians Archivist retires after 32 years of service*



*Archivist Dorothy Lawson gives remarks at the Grand Opening of the Bowen Island Historians' Archives on May 7, 1995. Archivist Trevor May and Historian Lois Meyers-Carter look on. Photo courtesy of Allie Drake.*

**F**ellow Historians recently bid a reluctant farewell to long-time archivist Dorothy Lawson with an informal gathering at the home of president Bev Underhill.

Dorothy has been involved in every aspect of the Historians' steady progress since 1979 when she and her husband and fellow conservator Eric Lawson moved to Bowen. By that time, the Historians had published their ambitious book: *Bowen Island: 1872-1972*. As a result of their research, members were storing a goodly amount of historical material in their homes.

However, lack of a building didn't stop them from presenting monthly programs for members and friends, preparing exhibits for other agencies and working with the local schools. Of course, each year brought various fundraising events to be presented. Dorothy was a key part of it all.

Dorothy's extensive background in teaching was topped by her training as a professional conservator. Her specialty was conservation of paper, paintings and related materials plus she had worked at a number of museums.

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## **The Teddy Bears Are Back!**

The Bowen Island Community Museum is collaborating with the Bowen Island Community School for a special, seasonal display.

BICS School Coordinator Sarah Haxby, Teacher Susan Ballou and the Grade 3 students at BICS will be sewing and making their own teddy bears for the exhibit "Old Bears, New Bears".

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# BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## *The Historians need your help!*

### **We went from a one-storey Archival storage space in 1995...**



The Historians have undertaken a building and grounds improvement project to refresh our appearance and strengthen our presence as part of the Bowen Island community.

Spearheaded by Board member Rob Forbes, this project began in the summer and will be completed in stages. Rob has tirelessly worked to paint the building, re-gravel the parking area, and designed a new sign for our front entrance to invite visitors in. Big thanks to Rob and the team of volunteers who have provided their skills and time to this project.

### **...and now it's time for us to freshen our look once again.**



If you've passed by the Museum & Archives on Miller Road recently, you probably noticed that there's something different about the way we look.

No longer the plain brown house on the lot, the Museum & Archives has received fresh coat of light sage green paint that has made the front of our building look a little less drab. With a soft ivory white trim and deep grey accents, the building, once the remaining three sides receive the same treatment, will acquire a more charming heritage look.

### **...to a two-storey Museum & Archives in 1997, complete with new landscaping...**



Our new sign, a beautiful rendering of an historic photograph with a view overlooking Deep Bay, was painted by Coral Louie of The Sign Studio at Artisan Square, Bowen Island. The old tractor has been enlivened with a new coat of red paint, thanks to Erwen Smith who so enthusiastically volunteered and carried out this task.

But there is still much to do.

Do you have time or resources to spare? We appreciate any volunteer work or finances donated to go toward the renewal of the Community Museum & Archives. We can't do this without the help of our members!

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# BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

*Thank you to Dorothy Lawson from your friends at the Historians.*



*Dorothy enjoys a unique view of the Bowfest Parade from the window of Walter Weismuller's Cadillac, along with author Irene Howard, 1990.*

As small grants began to make temporary staff possible, more space was needed. The clever solution was to raise the small building, thus creating two floors. The exterior acquired new siding, new windows and an entrance verandah. The lower floor was designated as the museum and the upper floor became the archives. Dorothy was the key person in developing the two services. Finding grant money and job grants became an important part of life and Dorothy was an active part of that process, Dorothy's abilities in the computer world meant that she could plan and utilize contemporary approaches to material access and storage. Databases were created for photographs and biographical information and more. Dorothy was the one who knew what was needed and when. Her pleasure in research meant that she was always delighted when she helped someone solve a historical problem.

## **FAREWELL, DOROTHY**

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Over the years, her skills were of immense and on-going use to the active group. She was involved in the purchase of a Snug Cove lot to house a future museum. The existing humble cottage on the property was rented to help pay the mortgage. Eventually the group was able to construct a garage-like building to hold the historical material previously housed in private homes. The modest one story structure enabled a variety of historical artifacts and archival material to be housed together.

As numerous and productive years have passed by, Dorothy has decided that it's time to retire. Her fellow Historians are sad to see her go, They will miss her lively personality and her ability to work with many kinds of people but they are supremely appreciative of her major role in the on-going progress of Bowen Islands Community Museum and Archives.

*- Lois Meyers-Carter*

## **OLD BEARS, NEW BEARS**

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As for the "Old Bears" part of the theme, the students, their families, BICS teachers, and the Bowen community are invited to loan us their bears for display. Do you have a teddy with a special story? Please contact us if you're interested in participating.

The "New Bears" exhibit opens on December 4 and runs until December 19, during museum hours on Sundays and Mondays. The museum will also be open by appointment during this time. You can still see Old Bears January 2, 3, 8 and 9. Look forward to a festive display and the return of the teddy bears!



# BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



## In Memoriam

We salute these islanders who were part of the Bowen community and who have disappeared from our lives recently. The Archive maintains a biographical database plus other biographical files concerning Bowen residents. Additional material relating to these Islanders or others is always welcome. Contact Lois Meyers-Carter at [lmcarter@shaw.ca](mailto:lmcarter@shaw.ca)

We will miss:

Ailsa Milligan – August	Joan McNeill – September
Rod Clark – July	Jan Furst – September
Doug Mitchell – August	Audrey Hutton – September
Ross Johnson – August	Sheila Tripp – October
Al Davidson – August	Aila Worsley – September
Bill Hawker – September	Carol Hussey – November

Each one of these friends carved out a unique place in the fabric of Bowen life. Many contributed in several ways: some on committees and community building, some as music lovers, several as a key part of a neighbourhood, some in the life of Bowen's churches, some as island problem solvers and some through what they helped to create on Bowen. Their legacy is everywhere and Bowen is grateful for their contributions.

☼ Where would we be without the help of our co-op students during the busy summer season? Museum Assistant Jenelle Pasiechnik and Archival Assistants Kate Masri and Heather Muir have returned to their studies at the University of Victoria. We thank them and wish them luck in their studies. Their positions were funded by the Department of Heritage's Young Canada Works Program and Service Canada's Canada Summer Jobs Program. Thanks also to Bowen Island Municipality for the Fall Grant-in-Aid to enable us to continue the preservation of Bowen history. ☼

☼ Due to the Municipal elections and the post box changes on Bowen Island, the annual November Historians Membership renewal has been re-scheduled for February. We look forward to your support in the New Year!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Carol Wyllie Hoppler

## THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

Marilyn Harris • Ed and Penny Moul • Marlene Mather • Jimmy and Nancy Dorman • Aaron Becker through Telus Team Cares • Anne Thompson • Linda Hargrave • Lois Meyers-Carter • Erwen Smith • Edna Thomson • Bill Weatherall • Bill Leithead • Julia McCaig • Bruce Russell • Wes Magee • Rob Forbes • Donovan Reeves • Gary Anderson

## HISTORIANS SEEK ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING RENEWAL PROJECT

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The Museum & Archives is a vast resource for Bowen Island history. The fascinating objects in our artifact collection are showcased in seasonal exhibits throughout the year. Researchers, genealogists, and the interested public have made use of the materials in our archival holdings to learn more about the history of Bowen, consulting our 5000+ historic photographs, maps, biographical files, historical records, and more. Those who cannot visit in person correspond with us over e-mail and access our photo collection through the World Wide Web on our photographic database.

We want to better serve our community and the public, and raising our profile is the first step in achieving that goal. If you can assist us in our renewal project, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!



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