

NEWSLETTER

Museum awarded major Heritage BC infrastructure grant



In February, the museum was awarded Heritage BC funding of \$73,659 for historic building upgrades under a funding program called the Unique Heritage Infrastructure program. Given that heritage organizations across BC put in applications that totalled five times the amount of available funds, our museum's success is even more remarkable.

The funding includes three main projects to protect the windows, replace the wooden gutters and replace the entry ramp. The upgrades will reflect the historical "look and feel" of the old Roe house.

As a donor-funded museum society, these major maintenance projects have been on our radar for several years but were well beyond our capacity to do altogether or in this way. As Heritage BC's media release noted, "Heritage BC joins the Province of British Columbia in announcing the results of the single largest funding program to support B.C.'s unique heritage infrastructure.

"Through this funding program, the Province not only provided the largest one-time infusion of funds [\$16M] into the heritage sector, but it also recognized the importance and potential of heritage infrastructure and its place in our province's economic picture."

The Pender Islands Museum is thrilled to be one of just 68 projects to share in the largest one-time infusion of funds into BC's heritage sector.

Funding will soon flow throughout the province to support projects in 68 communities including Atlin in the northern reaches of the province to Fernie in the southeast corner and to Port Alberni on the western side of Vancouver Island. The awarded projects show us the strong local connections of our history and heritage.”

Thanks to board members Simone Marler and Mary Chamberland for completing the funding application ahead of a tight timeline in October 2020. Also, thank you to the community-minded Jean DesChenes of Driftwood Construction for helping gather the detailed estimates.



If you've ever volunteered to prepare an application for government funding, you'll appreciate the effort that goes into the process, and the satisfaction of getting the cheque in the mail!



Museum Re-opening Delayed

In past years, the museum traditionally opened on weekends as of Easter. In early April, stay-at-home restrictions again took hold as we watched the race between COVID variants and vaccinations.

The sign on the museum door says it all: “We’ll open again when it’s safe to do so” for both our visitors and volunteers. We miss you!



Picture yourself here for the summer!



We're looking to hire a summer student at the museum.

Go to young-canada-works.canada.ca/ to apply.
Deadline extended to May 5, 2021





The museum has once again received Young Canada Works funding for a summer Museum Assistant. If you know of a local student who'd be a good fit, please have them apply directly through the Young Canada Works website. For info, call museum chair, Simone Marler, at (250) 217.0823. Deadline is May 5, 2021.



The museum's Annual General Meeting took place on February 21 via Zoom. A big "thank you" to the 29 members who joined us!

The theme for the year was of a year divided in two: the time pre-COVID-19 followed by the challenges of operating a small museum during a pandemic. Even though it wasn't the 15th anniversary year we expected, we adapted in these historic times. We hope you were surprised at what actually was accomplished.

If you missed the presentation, it's on the website at penderislandsmuseum.ca/

Health Centre at 40: A Personal Reflection by Simone Marler

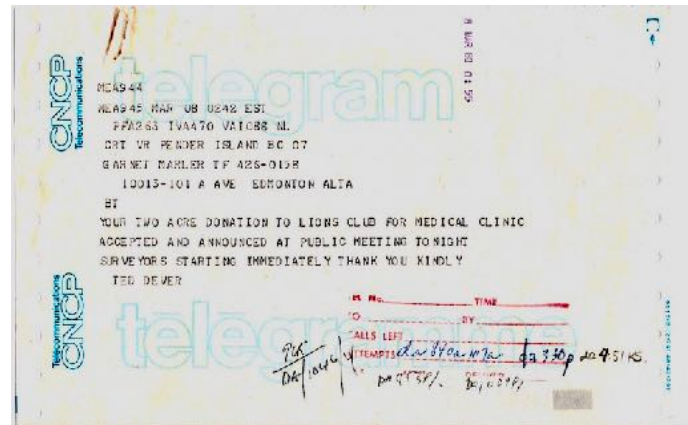
As chair of the museum society, I often write and research the history of "other" people from Pender's past. This time, though, it's personal.

On May 30, 2021, the Pender Islands Health Centre will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We are indebted to Kathleen Lightman, president of the health care society, for writing the history of health care on the islands, featured in the Oct/Nov 2020 *Pender Posts*.

But the story of how our health centre came to be where it is, is a personal one because my in-laws, Garnet and Elsie Marler, donated the 2-acre parcel of land just after they came to Pender in 1979. I came across all the documents related to that donation recently, which I'll now add to the museum's archives. An interesting find was the telegram (above right) sent to Garnet in Edmonton on March 8, 1980 acknowledging the donation of the land had been accepted at a public meeting, and survey work would be starting immediately.

Two days later the Lions Club followed up with a letter that ends, "...on behalf of the community, we extend our thanks and appreciation to you for making this property available as a very generous donation, and thereby contributing much to the well being of its citizens and the citizens of generations to come." Those words apply literally to our family. Our daughter, Dr. Emma Marler, DMD, recently joined Pender Dental part time. She, her husband and baby daughter settled on Pender last September, making four generations with a connection to our local health centre.

Simone Marler, Chair, Pender Islands Museum



Island Vacation Costs: 1939 Style

This article appears in the April Pender Post but editors inadvertently missed the final couple of paragraphs, so here it is in full. Readers tell us they enjoy these stories from our past and what they tell us about our life now. We congratulate the Pender Post on 50 Years of keeping us "in the know" about our island community!

As pandemic restrictions lessen, many conversations are turning to vacation plans, even if we shouldn't go far afield. We tend to think things were "cheaper in the old days", so it's fun when we find a way to compare holiday costs from years ago to today. Our museum has a copy of a list of the costs for an island vacation in 1939. On the back is scrawled "a young lady kept this record of her 2-week vacation". Alas, we don't know her name, but let's call her "Dorothy", the second most common name for a girl born in 1920.

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Dorothy's vacation expenses totalled \$53.95, the equivalent of \$943.43 today. How she spent her money tells us a lot about what a vacation was like 80+ years ago and what the young woman herself was like. Indeed, the very fact that she took a vacation—and kept track of every penny—indicates an organized person, who carefully planned her adventure.

Dorothy chose June 24-July 9 for her vacation. She likely lived in Vancouver's West End because she paid 55¢ for taxi fare from Thurlow St. to the CPR dock.

The sense one gets from Dorothy's expenses is of a single woman and she probably had a job. The median income for a working woman in Canada at the time was about \$600/year. Paid vacation time wasn't the norm until well after WWII, so perhaps she was a teacher.

That Dorothy could afford a vacation in the Depression meant she had some disposable income. She may have travelled on her own but it's also possible she went with a friend. The final expense item on her list shows she paid \$3.00 to "Judy". Is this a settling up of shared expenses? Or, was Judy a neighbour who looked after Dorothy's little dog/cat at 20¢/day?

In terms of transportation, Dorothy paid \$2.70 return to Mayne Island aboard the *Princess Mary*. She tipped baggage "stewards" 30¢ and 40¢, and stored her luggage for 30¢. She was then free to enjoy the ferry trip unencumbered, spending 35¢ on "afternoon tea", plus 10¢ for the tea steward. "Tea" likely included tea, sandwich and a sweet.

"Dorothy's [1939] vacation expenses totalled \$53.95, [or] \$943.43 today. How she spent her money tells us a lot about what a vacation was like 80+ years ago..."

Dorothy stayed at the Hall family resort, "The Anchorage", on Mayne Island. A 1941 newspaper ad described it as having "lodge and cabin accommodation; no crowding; comfortable beds; home-cooked meals; own farm produce; hot and cold running water in most rooms". For 15 days' room and board, Dorothy paid \$37.50—equivalent to about \$650 today.

We know she took a day trip to Pender on the *Princess Mary*, and then paid "Henshaw" to row her back to Mayne, plus taxi fare to the lodge. Back then, the Mayne-based Henshaw family had seven boys, and one can just see a strapping young brother putting up his hand to take on this job. (Henshaws later came to Pender and the family continues here to this day.) Dorothy also made a long-distance phone call to Vancouver costing 32¢, or a whopping \$5.60 in today's currency. She probably had a little box camera along because she bought two rolls of Verichrome film.

Dorothy splurged on a few things. She bought 60 pictorial postcards to remember her trip, "2 tiny watercolours, and 2 small pen and ink sketches". She mailed nine postcards for just 23¢ (\$4.00 today) which is less than half the cost of sending postcards today. Dorothy records the name "Foster" with the watercolours, a reference to Mabel Foster, a long-time painter on Mayne. At a time when the islands didn't have electricity except for a generator at the general store, two ice creams would have been a real treat! The tape measure and ball of string remain a head scratcher.

When our anonymous young woman returned from her vacation, Canada was two months away from WWII. Was her holiday an escape from the constant talk of war at the time? In 1945, after six long years of war, did she look back at her 1939 vacation as the last "normal" time of peace? We've been in this pandemic for more than a year, and while the comparison with wartime isn't a perfect one, there are lessons to take away about perseverance, and gratitude for living on our beautiful islands.

By Simone Marler, with thanks to Frank and Susan Trice for info about *The Anchorage* and the Henshaws. This story will be featured in *The Mayneliner* in coming months.

— COST OF VACATION —	
1939	
June 24 to July 9 inclusive:	
Return steamer fare between Vancouver and Mayne Island	2.70
Taxi, Thurlow Street to C.P.R. Dock ..	.55
Baggage room at dock .....	.30
" " stewards 1 @ .30, 1 @ .40 ..	.70
Afternoon tea, "Princess Mary" .....	.35
Tea steward .....	.10
"Princess Mary" from Mayne to Pender Island .....	.50
Henshaw, rowboat from Pender to Mayne Island .....	.50
Garrick, taxi from Foster's to Hall's ..	.75
1 Telephone call, Mayne to Vancouver ..	.32
2 Verichrome films @ .30 .....	.60
4 small notebooks @ .05 .....	.20
1 " bot. Fountain-pen ink .....	.15
1 Tape measure .....	.05
1 ball String .....	.10
1 Pencil .....	.05
2 Ice creams @ .10 .....	.20
52 Pictorial Postcards @ .05	2.60
8 " " @ .10 .....	.80
4 Postage stamps @ .02 .....	.08
5 " " @ .03 .....	.15
2 tiny Water Colours (Foster) @ .35 ..	.70
2 small Pen & Ink sketches (Turpin) ..	1.00
1 week's board "Anchorage" @ 15.00 ..	15.00
1 " " " @ 20.00 ..	20.00
1 day's " " " @ 2.50 ..	2.50
Judy	3.00
Total	<u>\$53.95</u>