



Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

What's Up?

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



It's been another busy season with staff changes, new programs and achievements, including some small upgrades to our exhibits as time and funds become available.

After over a year of working on a self-study and updating the Museum's policies, procedures, and long-range plans (most of it done while Addison Field was here), the Sheldon Museum is proud to announce our 10-year Subsequent Accreditation. Ft. Missoula Historical Museum Director Bob Brown and Museums Alaska Executive Director/University Instructor Michael Hawfield spent two days looking over the Museum and talking to staff and Board members, and, after what seemed an interminable wait, the Museum was given this prestigious award. Only five other museums in the state can claim American Association of Museums' Accreditation, which is given to those institutions who meet nationwide standards of professionalism in administration, programs, exhibits, artifact care and visitor services. This is a tribute to many years of training and hard work of the staff and board.

There have also been a few staff changes. Last August we were sad to see Andrea Nelson leave but were fortunate to hire Karen Meizner, former director of the Sitka Historical Museum. She has been a wonderful addition to the staff, continuing the exhibit updates that Addison and Andrea began, taking good care of our artifact collections, and assisting researchers. Kris Reeves, the Museum's custodian, now also fills the museum aide position which was deemed necessary with the increase in cruise ship dockings and the decision to begin opening on Saturdays during the winter to make the Museum more accessible to the community.

Additionally, a few new programs have been introduced. To complement the Six Week Spotlight Series, the lobby is now a "mini rotating gallery". A different work of art from the Museum's permanent collection will be hung for one or two months then exchanged for



Exhibit Upgrades! John Carlson, Scott Carrlee and Karen Meizner in front of the newly-hung Chilkat blankets. See page 2.

another, so the work of our very talented local artists does not languish in storage.

To emphasize the "and Cultural Center" part of our title and to bring in some performing arts as well as visual arts, the 3rd Sunday Recital Series was introduced. Musicians, writers, and actors entertained audiences through April, with the exception of December. Because the Doll Fair has returned to October, this season's Recital Series will begin in November. As part of the Doll Fair, a beautiful doll house made by Bill Aronson will be raffled during the event.

As usual the Children's Interactive Learning Center was a hit, prompting requests for the program to continue year round—so this fall, if all goes as planned, exhibits in the Lower Gallery will be rearranged to make room for a Children's Corner. It will be a place where children with adults can participate in some of the activities found in the CILC.

Thanks for another great year.

Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center

Director - Jerrie Clarke
Operations Coordinator - Blythe Carter
Educator Coordinator - Kathryn Friedle
Collections & Exhibits Coordinator - Karen Meizner
Museum Assistant - Nancy Nash
Museum Aide - Kris Reeves
Custodian - Kris Reeves
Newsletter - Blythe Carter
Radio Program - Joan Snyder

SMCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President - Jim Heaton
Vice President - Jim Shook
Secretary - Gary Lidholm
Treasurer - Mary Jane Valentine
Bob Adkins
Frankie Perry
John Svenson
2 vacancies (Interested parties please contact the museum.)

Volunteers - over 230 community members donated over 3,400 volunteer hours in 2007.

Thank You Volunteers!

11 Main Street PH: (907) 766-2366
PO Box 269 FAX: (907) 766-2368
Haines AK 99827

www.sheldonmuseum.org
E-mail: museumdirector@aptalaska.net

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

CVHS DIRECTORS:

President - Bob Henderson
Vice President - Lucy Harrell
Secretary - Joan Snyder
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Director - Jim Heaton
Director - Myrna Kornelis

P.O. Box 623
Haines AK 99827
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"New" Chilkat Blanket & Chilkat Weavings Remounted

Unbeknownst to many, been on display at the Sheldon Museum are on loan. Two of these will go to the new cultural center in Klukwan when it is completed. Needless to say, we were thrilled at a recent opportunity to acquire another blanket made by Jennie Thlunaut for our permanent collection.

The blanket, similar to the bear blanket already on display, was commissioned by John and Erma Schnabel in 1956 for their daughter, Debra. When Debra told her cousin Omar Cordes this spring that she had decided to sell the blanket, he offered to donate a large portion of the price, on behalf of the Cordes Family, to the Museum in order for the beautiful weaving to remain in Haines. The Chilkat Valley Historical Society picked up the remaining cost with funds from the CVHS Sheldon Museum Endowment Fund.

The Museum's Board and staff extend their warmest thanks for this priceless piece of Chilkat Valley history. All five of the blankets and other weavings can be viewed on display in the Museum's upper gallery.

By coincidence, at the time Debra's blanket arrived in the Museum, we were in the midst of remounting the blankets in the large wall case, a project funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Museums. When the blanket exhibit was designed many years ago, they were hung from their top edge. Over time, this weakens the edge and can cause damage.

Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum Curator of Museum Services, directed the project and designed new mounts for the pieces. They now lie at a slant attached to their mounts with a Velcro strip backed by muslin which is sewn to the top edge of the blanket. The mounts are covered with an acid-free, nappy piece of fabric that will give the weavings additional support to take stress off the top edge.

Lani Hotch, granddaughter of weaver Jennie Warren, sewed the muslin and Velcro strips to the blankets. John Carlson, maker of the original case, modified it to make it deep enough to hold the slanted mounts.

There was a request to remove one of the loaned blankets from the case so that it could be used. In its place hangs the newly-acquired blanket.



Chilkat Blanket made by Jennie Thlunaut in 1956.



John Carlson and Scott Carrlee fitting the new mounts to the Chilkat Blanket case.

New Art for the Museum

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN INDEBTED TO THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION



"Yukon on the Rocks" watercolor by John Svenson.

The Sheldon Museum would like to announce the acquisition of two watercolors and a carved model of a Tlingit canoe purchased with funds from the Rasmuson Foundation's Art Acquisition Initiative. The goal of this fund is to support living, practicing Alaskan artists through museum purchases, to enhance the permanent art collections of Alaskan museums, and encourage Alaskan museums to develop formal collections policies.

Through his vivid watercolors, local artist John Svenson has taken it upon himself to record as many of the beached, derelict, wooden fishing boats that graced the shores around Haines a little more than a decade ago. These boats were used for decades in the Alaskan fishing industry before being replaced by metal and fiberglass boats. Most were destroyed after the local government determined them to be hazardous. If you have stories about either of these boats, please share it with us!

Carved and steamed in the traditional manner, the "Head Canoe" model by Jim Heaton is 1:12 scale of the Head Canoe currently being carved in Klukwan, the first made in over 200 years. The design depicts a baleen whale slicing through the waves. The group carving the full-size canoe is comprised mainly of members of the Klukwan Whale House. Along with the baleen whale,



"High and Dry" Aqua Pal watercolor by John Svenson.



"Head Canoe" 1:12 scale model by Jim Heaton.

Heaton painted twelve ovoids on both sides of his model to represent these individuals.

In addition to the Rasmuson funded purchases, the Museum also purchased (with monies from the Museum's small Acquisition Fund) two of Beverly Schupp's pastel landscapes featured in her Six Week Spotlight exhibition.

See all of these beautiful creations on display in the Museum's galleries.



"Chilkat Breakup #1" and "Chilkat Breakup #2" pastel paintings by Beverly Schupp.

Six Week Spotlight

Featuring Solo Exhibits by Local Artists



A pastel painting of the Chilkat Mountains by Beverly Schupp.

The ongoing Six Week Spotlight Program is designed to provide a way for local artists to put together museum-quality shows in a local venue. Since our last newsletter the following artists have had solo exhibitions.

ALEXANDRA FEIT: INSTALLATIONS

In August of 2007 Alexandra Feit transformed the Elisabeth S. Hakkinen Gallery into a fun and playful art installation with fuzzy textured fabrics and forms.

Installation art became a movement in the last decades of the 20th century and has fully blossomed now in the beginning of the 21st. The art addresses the entire experience of moving through space, often using multimedia. Sometimes it's designed to fit in a particular space, other times the work itself creates the space. Several of Alexandra's pieces were designed specifically with the Elisabeth S. Hakkinen Gallery space in mind.

BEVERLY SCHUPP: PASTEL PAINTINGS

Often seen around the Chilkat Valley at her easel

painting the local landscape, Beverly Schupp graced the Hakkinen Gallery with her beautiful pastels in May 2008.

Bev moved to Alaska in 1977. Over the past twenty-two years she has honed her painting skills through university classes, summer arts festivals and various outdoor workshops in watercolor, acrylic, oil and pastel painting.

She has exhibited works in several Haines galleries and the local branch of First National Bank, Alaska, and has participated in University of Alaska Fairbanks student shows, the Southeast Alaska State Fair and in Alaska Watercolor Society juried shows in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

ROD WEAGANT: OIL LANDSCAPES

The Hakkinen gallery came alive with Rod Weagant's oil paintings in July 2008. Rod first came to Alaska in 1966 to serve in the Army at Fort Richardson. He quickly fell in love with everything about the state and eventually found himself working for the National Park Service in Anchorage. In 1973 he accidentally wandered into an exhibition of paintings by some of the great Alaska landscape painters. The outdoor life of these painters so appealed to Rod that he immediately quit his government job and entered art school.

In 2000, he and his wife, Jane, fulfilled their dream of returning to Alaska when they moved to Haines. Rod loves the small-town atmosphere and the proximity to great landscape subjects. The combination of the fishing industry, beaches, mountains, glaciers, alpine tundra and the Yukon interior provide more than a lifetime of painting inspiration.



Left: Rod Weagant next to his painting "Streamside" on display during his exhibit of oil paintings. Right: Alexandra Feit in front of "Shimmer" one of her installations designed specifically for the Hakkinen Gallery Exhibition.

Don't Miss These Up-Coming Six Week Spotlights!

Featuring Local Haines Artists



September 2008
Suzanne McCollum
Dream-Like Paintings
Featured above "Mama"



May 2009
Kerrie Cohen
Tiles & Ceramics
Ceramic Sculpture featured above.



March 2009
John Svenson
Woodblock Retrospective
Featured above "Terminos"

Six Week Spotlight Applications will be accepted again in Spring of 2009. Watch for an announcement in the Newspaper and on the Radio.

Sheldon Museum **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please select an amount.

- \$20 \$50 \$100
 \$200 \$500 \$1000
 Other _____

Where do you wish your donation to go?

- Exhibits Upgrades**
 Endowment Fund
 Collections
 Tlingit Language Class
 General Fund

Your tax deductible donations may be dropped off or mailed to:
Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center
P.O. Box 269, Haines, AK 99827

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Photo "Finishing"

by Nancy Nash



Some of the most interesting photos are those of Mayreld Swanson Parker's time in Klukwan, 1953–1957. Her pictures include many family groupings on various special occasions in the village. The photo here shows Mrs. Parker modeling the "Whale Design Blanket," made for her in the early 1960s, under the watchful eye of its creator, Jennie Warren (Warne).

After a slow start, a photo collection project begun last summer is now galloping along. The Museum holds thousands of historic photos, many in separate albums or collections. These have all been accessioned and digitally scanned but the only way to use them, thus far, has been to physically view them.

Now, nearly 1500 photos have the people, places and activities in them identified and entered into our museum database, so a simple keyword search can bring anyone to the photos they want to see. The immediate goal is to have one major collection or album from each decade of the twentieth century completely researchable; as of July, this has been done through the 1950s. Andrea Nelson began the work, and Nancy Nash is determined to hang in there until it's completed.

2007 VOLUNTEERS

Bob Adkins, Lisa Andrieson, Henriette Arenson, Sean & Quinn Asquith, J.B. & Linda Axson, Alice Bachman, Sandra Balloch, Phil Benner, Chris Bowman, John, Jeremiah & Hannah Brower, Ann Burkhardt, Scott & Ellen Carrlee, Donna Catotti, Ray Chapin, Dan Coleman, Shirley Collins, Leanne Converse, Jan Criswell, Lowana Drurey, Eagle Elegance Auction & Food Donors, Alexandra Feit, Ben & Jo Feldman, Addison Field, Dick & Julie Folta, Mary Ellen Frank, Rob Goldberg, Lucy Harrell, Jim & Rebecca Heaton, Lee Heinmiller, Bob Henderson, Steve Henrikson, Ramona Holmes, Juanita Horton, Lani Hotch, Cheri Hutchins, Art Jess, Tommy Jimmie, Jr., Cynthia "CJ" Jones, Nick Kokotovich, Liz Kinkaid, Klukwan School, Eric Kocher, Myrna Kornelis, Belle Laing, Theresa Land, Roy & Carol Lawrence, Barbara Lewis, Gary Lidholm, Kathy McCardwell, Suzi McCollum, Jan Miller, June Miller, Elaine Moran, Irma Morgan, Linda Moyer, Dee Myers, Dwight Nash, Andrea Nelson, Daphne Ormerod, Greg, Dylan & Keegan Palmeri, Frankie Perry, Paulina Phillips, Bob Plucker, Mary Price, Kevin & Hannah Reeves, Lee Roberts, Tonya, Joseph & Russell Rossman, Georgia Sampson, Suzie Scollon, Tim Shields, Jim Shook, Jean Smith, Joan Snyder, Ryan Staska, Irene Stigen, Paul & Helen Summers, John Svenson, Joel Telford, Blaine & Dawne Thomsen, Alan Traut, Mary Jane Valentine, John Venables, Carol, Kenny & Seth Waldo, Doris Ward and Beverly Watson.

237 Volunteers ~ 3,420 Hours ~ Thank You!

CVHS Secretary's Report

BY Joan Snyder



CVHS annual picnic at the Anway property and (right) Julie Ferrin and Kathy Friedle pitch in during the workparty.

If you are interested in family history, Haines has wonderful genealogy resources. The January 6th CVHS meeting was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). Penny Stoddard of the LDS Family History Center gave an introduction to all of their available services and gave us the opportunity to go online and research family members.

Our April 6th meeting at the Sheldon Museum was a time to discuss the Museum's request to help purchase Debra Schnabel's Chilkat Blanket (see page 2) and vote to continue our membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The June 29th annual picnic was held once again at the Anway property, following a work party. Bob Henderson entertained the gathering with a brief history of Joe De Blondeau "Count or No Account?"

The Society continues to underwrite the Sheldon Museum Talk, aired on KHNS radio every Tuesday morning. Since March, we have presented a series of recorded interviews from the 1970s and 80s: "In Their Own Voices." We have heard the late Lib Hakkinen, Molly Hibbler, Mary King, Joan Comerford, Grace Steves, Dixie Johnson, Emma Smith, Clara McRae, Mary Meacock, Jo Jurgeleit, Carl Heinmiller, Ted Gregg, Gil Smith and Frank Wallace. We have also heard stories by Jane Bell, Hazel Englund, Mayreld Parker (who observed her 100th birthday May 17th), and Lowell Knutson. A grant through KHNS made it possible to transfer the old cassette recordings to CD and

digital, then edit them for the program.

We continue to support History Day. This past year's theme was: "Conflict and Resolution in History." Winners were: Tia Heywood for her exhibit and Brennon Whitemore, Royal Henderson and Patrick Henderson for their skit about the battle of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*. These students went to Washington, D.C. to compete on the national level.

Committee members Doris Ward, Myrna Kornelis and Roy Lawrence pulled together varied and interesting Brown Bag Lunch programs last winter. We watched a video from the series "Exploration Northwest" shown on a Seattle TV channel in the 1960s. This episode featured Port Chilkoot and Alaska Indian Arts and "starred" very young Judy and Lee Heinmiller; Carol Clifton demonstrated her technique of cake decorating for which she is well known, and offered samples of the cake to all; Joan Snyder gave a brief history of nursing in the Chilkat Valley. Writer Dan Henry spoke on Conflict Resolution. Jerrie Clarke shared her experiences working on an archeological dig in Egypt. Director Tod Sebens gave us a look backstage at the intricacies of putting on a play. Psychologist Robin Grace explained mental self-care. John Svenson, noted mountain guide and artist, let us all try our hand at woodblock printing. Bob Adkins, teacher and tour guide, showed his talents as a flying photographer, and Lani Hotch told us of the great exciting happenings at the Cultural Center in Klukwan.

Remember to attend our next exciting meetings in October and December!

CVHS DUES

Individual \$12 Lifetime \$250

Family \$22

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



DONATIONS

Please select an amount.

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$200
 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Where do you wish your donation to go?

- General Fund (CHVS)**
- Endowment Fund (Sheldon Museum)**
- Anway Cabin Preservation**

Your dues and/or tax deductible donations may be dropped off at the Sheldon Museum or mailed to: **CVHS, P. O. Box 623, Haines, AK 99827.**

Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center

Museum Schedule

Office Hours (year-round): 9am-5pm Mon-Fri
Summer Gallery Hours: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri
1-4 Sat & Sun
Winter Gallery Winter: 1-4 Mon-Sat

*Displays on Tlingit Native Culture
& Pioneer History of the Chilkat Valley*

LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE FREE! TELL A NEIGHBOR!

Visit us online: www.sheldonmuseum.org



Sponsored by National Endowment for the Arts the Big Read was held in January 2007 to promote reading nationwide. Donna Cattoti took her inspiration for the above picture from the book "My Antonia." This year's Big Read will be held September - October, featuring "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT,
INTEREST, INPUT, AND PARTICIPATION.

UP-COMING EVENTS

September 12 - October 24th

Suzanne McCollum Exhibit at the Sheldon Museum

September 22nd - October 19th

Big Read Program community wide celebration

October 19th, 2-4pm

Dolls Fair & Big Read Program Closing Ceremony

at the Sheldon Museum

November 6th, 6:30pm

Eagle Elegance (the Museum annual fundraiser)
at the Haines High School



SHELDON MUSEUM
& Cultural Center

P.O. Box 269 Haines AK 99827

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DON'T FORGET
Suzanne McCollum's Painting
Exhibition
Opening Sept. 12th - Oct. 24th
at the Sheldon Museum