



Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2011

2010 marked the 100th anniversary of Haines' incorporation and the 30th anniversary of the Sheldon Museum's dedication. We celebrated in grand style with lots of special activities, changes and community connections.

The year began with an ending: the conclusion of re-wiring, repairing and updating our Fire Suppression System. This seemingly straightforward project turned complicated very quickly, requiring the work of many electricians, telephone repairmen, and the crew from the Borough Facilities department. Thanks to the Borough Assembly, Manager and Facilities Department for funding and coordinating that project.

Next was Chilkat Valley Jeopardy: In January the Museum board, staff and volunteers, held a Chilkat Valley Jeopardy Tournament at the Chilkat Center. Cynthia "C.J." Jones, Tom Morphet, Dan Henry and Joan Snyder collaborated to create trivia for three rounds of Jeopardy-style questions, all based on the Chilkat Valley. Twenty-seven people braved the stage, in teams of three. This was so much fun and so well received that we repeated the venture in February 2011 with the edition of a kids round.

March brought six weeks of Big Read events, featuring the book the *Maltese Falcon*. KHNS Radio produced and aired a delightful "readers theater" of the book; the Lynn Canal Community Players performed a murder mystery "Bull In A China Shop" on stage; Georgia Sampson crafted our own jeweled falcon; Dan Henry directed children in a murder mystery play; and many other events were hosted here, at the Library and around town.

We scrambled to finish a "rough draft" of our new Lower Gallery exhibits in time for International Museum Day in May, and celebrated the Museum's 30th birthday with Museum Day in an Open House that gave visitors their first look at our new exhibits.

For the Haines Centennial the museum provided historic photographs that appeared in businesses and on lamp posts around town, helped plan a giant celebration on Main Street, and put up a 4th of July games booth in Tlingit Park. Children tossed small balls and bean bags, made bubbles, received balloon animals, and had their faces painted. It was such a success, the museum has decided to make it



Judges Cynthia "CJ" Jones and Tom Morphet give their "thumbs up" for a contestant's answer at the Museum's Chilkat Valley Jeopardy fundraiser in 2010. The event was so popular we've added it to our annual events calendar!

an annual addition to the Independence Day festivities.

Many activities continued from prior years: February brought History Day and the Brown Bag Lunch series. The Haines A Cappella Women's Chorus continues to rehearse on Thursday evenings during the "off" season. The trains appeared for the Museum's Christmas Open House.

We've officially left the crowded November fundraising season to other groups. The Silent Auction we tried out at the Southeast Alaska State Fair in 2009 returned in 2010 with even greater success.

Other individuals and groups hosted lectures, films and interesting programs at the Museum. Highlights include: the State Women's Club Convention, Dan Henry's book discussions, and films from Lynn Canal Conservation. With slideshows and imagination, we looked for gold in the Yukon, traveled the Dalton Trail, climbed Mt. Everest and excavated in Egypt.

NYU instructor Michelle Dent conducted research and writing workshops centered around the theme of Alaskan women's organizations and their participation in the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle. Many People used the Archive by visiting in person or using e-mail, telephone, or letters. This included visitors from (continued on page 2)

Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center

Director - Jerrie Clarke
Operations Coordinator - Blythe Carter
Educator Coordinator - Susannah Dowds
Collections & Exhibits Coordinator - Karen Meizner
Museum Assistant - Nancy Nash
Museum Aide - Kris Reeves
Custodian - Kris Reeves
Newsletter Editor - Blythe Carter

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Treasurer - Diana Pyle
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Anastasia Wiley

Volunteers - over 180 community members donated over 4020 volunteer hours in 2010.

Thank You Volunteers!

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director@sheldonmuseum.net

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

CVHS DIRECTORS:

President - Jim Shook
Vice President - Myrna Kornelis
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Bruce Gilbert
June Haas
Dave Pahl
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cjinhaines@aptalaska.net

Front Page (cont.)

(continued from front page) Norway, Great Britain, Canada and all over the U.S. researching for books, personal interest and even movies.

Special thanks to Jack and Tracy Allen, Cynthia Jones, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Museum Board members, event sponsors and those who donated via the PFD "Pick. Click. Give." program! Thanks to all our volunteers for their time and dedication, all the businesses and individuals who have donated prizes and everyone who has offered their help and encouragement throughout the year.



Fourth of July children's booth at the Fair! So much fun we decided to make it an annual event! If anyone would like to contribute or make a donation to help purchase supplies, call the Sheldon Museum or fill out the donation form on page 7.

Lower Gallery Reinstallation

The major project of the year was to install new exhibits in the Lower Gallery with updated and enhanced interpretation. The previous summer, the exhibits were removed and a temporary abbreviated version was installed in the Hakkinen Gallery to make room for the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music." When New Harmonies moved on, a crew of volunteers helped paint, reposition the walls, and bring the artifacts back downstairs.

Karen Meizner and Andrea Nelson designed and installed the new exhibits with an eye toward interpreting Haines early history. The official opening was held on May 16, 2010 to celebrate the Museum's 30th Anniversary and International Museum Day.

The Lower Gallery is still a "work in progress" and will remain so for several years as the



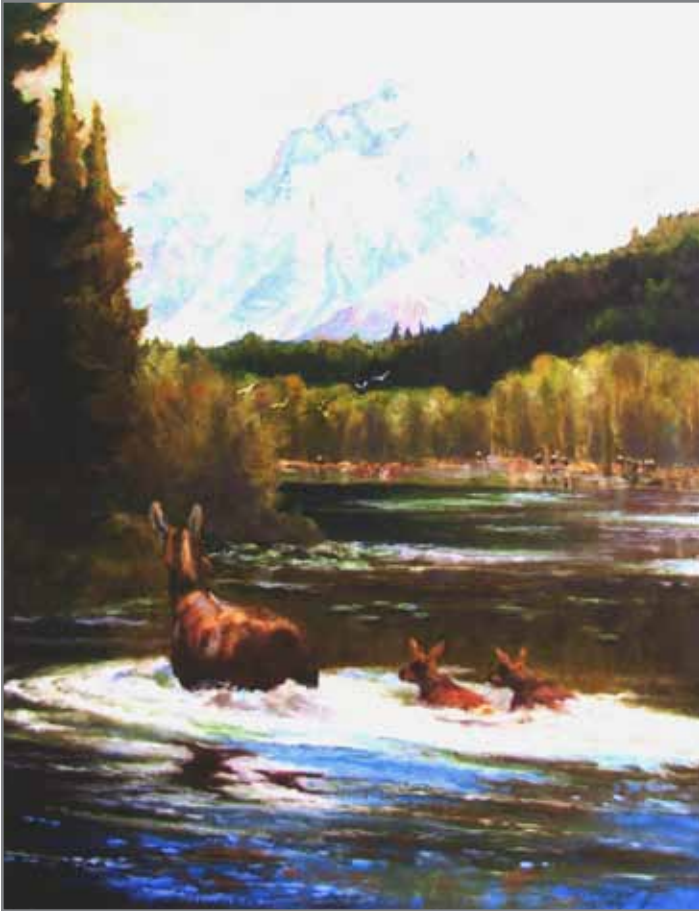
*Top: Volunteers moving lower gallery walls.
Bottom: New exhibits during the Open House.*



exhibits develop and mature. We welcome and encourage comments! Let us know what you like, what needs work and if you have any artifacts, photographs and/or stories you are interested in contributing.

New Art for the Museum

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN INDEBTED TO THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION



"Spring Babies" oil painting by Carol Clifton.



"Fly" assemblage art piece by Andrea Nelson.

The Sheldon Museum announces the acquisition of 4 pieces of local art 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 to encourage Alaskan museums to develop formal collections policies.



"Bird in Paradise" pen and ink drawing by Amelia Nash.



"Gathering" ceramic sculpture by Kerry Cohen.

Six Week Spotlight

Featuring Exhibits by Local Artists



Amelia Nash and Andrea Nelson at their opening.



Sarah Cohen celebrating a successful opening.

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. The following artists had exhibitions in the summer of 2010.

In April, Andrea Nelson and Amelia Nash wowed visitors with their joint exhibit "Curious / Vicarious" featuring found art assemblages, watercolor "portraits" and pen and ink three-dimensional drawings.

In June, Debi Knight-Kennedy and Sharon Svenson filled the Hakkinen Gallery with beautiful carved puppets, sculpture and glittering glass mosaic shrines and images with their combined show "Super Heroes & Goddesses / Inside & Outside the Box."

Sarah Cohen stunned visitors with her magnificent blown glass exhibit entitled "On My Mind" in July. Who knew glass could be sculptured into delicate lace, spiny balls, and fluid shapes.

George Figdor brightened the Hakkinen Gallery in

September and moved viewers with his photography of far off places, capturing intimates moments and transforming what might be everyday activities into poignant scenes of life.

Don't miss the 2011 line-up of Six Week Spotlight Exhibitions starting in May!



George Figdor standing before his photography exhibit.



Left: Debi Knight Kennedy with "Justice" and "Truth," two of her puppets representing the Seven Virtues.

Right: Sharon Svenson before her mosaic "Raven's Stash", which was decorated with a plathora of local trinkets!

Upcoming 2011 Six Week Spotlights

Featuring Exhibits by Local Artists

The Sheldon Museum will host its 4th season of Six-Week Spotlight exhibits featuring local artists, beginning May 13th, 2011. This year's juror, Paul Gardinier, Curator of Exhibitions, Alaska State Museum in Juneau, selected three exhibits for the season.

The first is a fiber arts exhibit pairing Tamsen Cassidy's "Chilkat Wool Works," with Joe Parnell's "The Feltist." Cassidy creates 3-dimensional felted sculptures of animals and people, while Parnell designs 2-dimensional scenes in felt. Parnell describes himself as "art in life" and invites the visitor to "allow your inner child to come out as you absorb the colors and images." Cassidy states, "Wool is alive. Indeed, when it is worked one feels the life springing out of it. It is this life that creates the art ... each one is unique, one of a kind and a being in its own right." This will be a delightful show for children and adults alike.

"Fish and Chips" is the next Spotlight exhibit, a retrospective of Jim Heaton's wood carving, showing his progression over the past 20 years and features new works as well as pieces from museums and private collections.

Ron Horn will conclude the season with a show of his photographs titled "Natural Art: Digital Photographs of Haines Wildlife and Landscapes." While much of Ron's work is well-known locally, this will be a chance to see his work collectively and in large format.



Jim Heaton : Fish & Chips
Northwest Coast Style Carving
June 24th - July 31st



Ron Horn
Wildlife Photography
August 5th - September 17th



Joe Parnell & Tamsen Cassidy
Felt Art & Wool Sculpture
May 13th - June 18th

Fun for Kids! (and Adults Too!)

Sheldon Museum Education Program



Planetarium activities with Susannah Dowds and kids.



Craft making at the Museum's Christmas Open House.

Over the course of this winter, the Education Department was excited to continue traditional programs offered at the Sheldon Museum while introducing new activities for kids and adults.

Young visitors are always welcome at the Sheldon Museum and this year we upgraded our children's area, introducing new programs, just for kids! The Discovery Area now offers toys, games and exhibit-based activities for young museum enthusiasts. Likewise, children are encouraged to explore the Sheldon Museum during Kids' Day, a weekly program in the winter that brings history of the Chilkat Valley to life through interactive crafts, activities and games.

Scholars from Mrs. Andriesen's 7th and 8th grade classes learned about history through hard work and

research during the 2011 History Day competition. This year's theme, Debate & Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, Consequences, inspired 31 exhibits, websites and documentaries ranging from Vietnam to the existence of aliens. We were pleased that 12 projects from Haines advanced to the state competition. Cash prizes were donated by the Chilkat Valley Historical Society.

Evening programs at the Sheldon Museum presented snapshots of our natural world to kids and adults alike. Community members got an in-depth look at the night sky when the University of Alaska Museum of the North Traveling Planetarium visited for Community Science Night. The planetarium displayed constellations, the Northern Lights, and the Milky Way to viewers, while children enjoyed additional celestial activities including glow-in-the-dark posters, spectroscopes, and constellation drawings. We were also excited to partner with the Takshanuk Watershed Council to bring wildlife photographer and filmmaker Mario Benassi for a series of presentations where he shared his knowledge of owls, hawks and other birds of prey.

Tlingit Language Class entered its 13th year at the Sheldon Museum. Each week, teacher Elsie Spud shares her knowledge with a group of dedicated students. This year, class is also held in Klukwan so that Tlingit language speakers who live there may attend. During classes in Klukwan we are especially happy to speak with Evelyn Hotch, Elsie's mother and former Tlingit Language teacher.

Stay tuned for warmer days and more Sheldon Museum events including an Earth Day celebration in May, new school programs and summer activities.

The Education Department would like to give special thanks to: Alan Traut, Elsie Spud, Evelyn Hotch, Richard Buck, Bob Adkins, David Barlog, Janine Allen, Kris Reeves, Georgia Sampson, Erik Stevens, Mary Jane Valentine, Alex Barlog, Chris Cannon, Amy Rath and Myrna Kornelis.

New Education Coordinator



Kathy Friedle



Susannah Dowds

Kathy Friedle left the Museum as Education Coordinator this past October. We were sad to see her go but wish her well. Susannah Dowds has taken up the education torch. She first arrived in Haines on a beautiful day in May of 2009 and spent the summer interning at the Hammer Museum. Susannah liked the area so much, she decided to stay, working part time at the Haines Public Library, the Haines School and KHNS. She was thrilled to start working at the Museum.

Eldred Rock Lighthouse Update

by Karen Meizner



With the encouragement and support of Sheldon Museum Board Members Pam Randles and Michael Marks, the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Committee was reactivated in 2010. The Museum Board agreed to fund a few extra hours for Collections & Exhibits Coordinator Karen Meizner to reestablish contact with the Coast Guard, Alaska GEC, National Park Service, and General Services Administration and find out what can be done to lift the lighthouse out of its current state of uncertainty.

Eldred Rock appeared briefly on the GSA list of lighthouses to be transferred under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) in 2004, but was quickly pulled off as the result of a claim made on Alaska lighthouses by the US Forest Service. Passage of The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (PL109-241) provided for the transfer of underlying lands at various lighthouses, including Eldred Rock, from the Forest Service to the Coast Guard. However, concerns were voiced by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about high lead content in the soil.

At present, the Coast Guard is managing several large mitigation efforts that have a more immediate impact on population centers, and therefore are considered to be a higher priority. In the autumn of 2010, District 17 once again requested funding for the Eldred Rock mitigation efforts and was turned down.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska, headquartered in Juneau, is willing to partner with us to help with NHPLA eligibility and to find and provide funding, resources, workers and transportation for upgrade and maintenance of the lighthouse for future generations.

If you are interested in joining the Eldred Rock Committee, please contact the Museum.

Sheldon Museum DONATIONS

Please fill out your address, then select an amount and where you wish your donation to go.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$20 \$50 \$100

\$200 Other _____

General Fund

Exhibits Upgrades

Endowment Fund

Collections

Fourth of July

Other _____

Your tax deductible donations may be dropped off or mailed to:

Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center P.O. Box 269, Haines, AK 99827

Or Donate On-Line Using Paypal: www.sheldonmuseum.org/smcc

Grants Awarded to SMCC

Rasmuson Foundation Technology Grant & Alaska State Museum Grants-in-Aid:

The combination of these two grants funded the purchase of a server, a Store Point of Sale System and all new computers, printers and scanners to replace aging equipment.

Alaska State Museum Grants-in-Aid:

In our quest to become more energy efficient, we were able to replace all the power hungry office lights and install track lighting in the Lower Gallery!

Chilkat Valley

Community Foundation:

Facilitated the hiring of Andrea Nelson to assist with redevelopment and installation of exhibits in the Lower Gallery.

Chilkat Valley

Community Foundation:

Funded hiring Nancy Nash in the winter to continue cataloging the photo collection.

Alaska Humanities Forum:

Enabled us to record and transcribe more local oral histories.

American Bald Eagle Foundation - Wings of Freedom:

Paid for the development of hands-on material for educational field trips to schools.

Alaska State Museum Summer Intern Program:

Provided Kathy McCardwell as a summer intern to do condition assessment on the collections.

National Endowment for the Humanities:

Funded the purchase of equipment (and training with Scott Carrlee) to monitor the museum's environment so we can better care for artifacts.



SHELDON MUSEUM VISITOR HOURS

Office Hours (all year): 10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Summer Gallery Hours: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri
1-4 Sat & Sun
Winter Gallery Winter: 1-4 Mon-Sat
Call (907) 766-2366 to schedule tours, etc!

**Tlingit Native Culture, Local Art &
Pioneer History of the Chilkat Valley**

LOCALS ALWAYS FREE!

www.sheldonmuseum.org



Children's faces are painted by Kris Reeves at Tlingit Park during the Fourth of July celebration. Local sponsors enabled the Museum to have a children's booth with fun games and activities.

Upcoming Events

Now - April 30th

Picturing Haines: Photo Open Invitation Exhibit
featuring photographs by local photographers

May 6th - June 18th

SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: JOE PARNELL & TAMSEN CASSIDY
Felt Art & Wool Sculpture

June 24th - July 31st

SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: JIM HEATON - Fish & Chips

July 28th - July 31st

Art & Antiques Auction at the SE AK State Fair!

July 4th, 2-4pm

Children's Fourth of July Booth at Tlingit Park!

August 5th - Sept 17th

SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: RON HORN
Wild Life Photography!

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



SHELDON MUSEUM
& Cultural Center

P.O. Box 269 Haines, Alaska 99827 (907) 766-2366

U.S. Postage
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Haines AK 99827

DON'T MISS!
Picturing Haines Exhibit
Now - April 30th
on display at the Sheldon Museum

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

Preserving the history of the Chilkat Valley



*Steve Sheldon and Charlie Anway
in Charlie's strawberry fields.*



*A classic view of Charlie Anway on the porch
of his cabin, circa 1910.*

ANWAY PROPERTY UPDATE:

The Chilkat Valley Historical Society supports many local historical endeavors, but its current main effort is the restoration of the Charlie Anway Cabin, spearheaded by Cynthia "CJ" Jones. While planning out this summer's projects, CVHS decided to approach the Anway work parties in a slightly different manner. Instead of designating one afternoon a month for an "all-encompassing work party", we will gather a specific number of folks for a designated project (or several designated projects) on a given day. Some projects require lots of able bodies, others only a very few; some will be several days in length once they get started, others will be short. Hopefully, this will make more efficient use of everyone's time.

We plan to have the new brochure printed in time for distribution this summer. The interpretive planning folks are scheduled for July. When you are out at the property, be thinking of places for signs, trails, landscaping ideas and what you would like to learn about the area if you were a visitor, etc.

We have begun a dialog with Full Circle Farm who owns the property above us (which was also part of the original Anway property) to see how we might work together on various mutual needs.

2011 BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES:

The Brown Bag Lunch Programs (BBL) ran from February through March at the Sheldon Museum. Sponsored by the Historical Society and the Museum, Myrna Kornelis & Doris Ward planned well this year. The speakers and topics have been excellent, including the rich history of the Woman's Club in Haines with Georgia Sampson and Julie Shook (they served Chili - Yum!); the history and running of the Arts Council where Tom Heywood performed on his guitar and sang for the audience; 50 years of the Peace Corps (the museum installed a special exhibit just for the BBL, and a panel of former Peace Corp volunteers including Russ Bowman, Bruce Gilbert, Mardell Gunn, Anne-Marie Palmieri, Pam Randles, Burl Sheldon and Joan Snyder, shared their experiences from all over the world); Lindsey Moore shared her insights on counselling school students; Heather Lende entertained audiences with excerpts from her articles and blogs and discussed the upcoming release of her first work of fiction; and Michael Stark shared his experiences as an actor in Hollywood and New York!

Don't miss out! Look for the Brown Bag Lunch Series next season!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

2010 Donors General Fund

Dick & Julie Folta, Tom & Carolyn Ganner, Lucy Harrell, Eric Juda and Marge Matthews.

Donors Charlie Anway Cabin Restoration Fund

2010: Phyllis Byrum, Don Chase, Jerrie Clarke, Susannah Dowds, Lucy Harrell, Jean Infantino, Larry Jurgeleit and Nelle & Ellis Greene, Cindy Jones, Joyce Kelm, Marge Matthews, Ann Myren & Tim McDonough, Ed Nelson, Dave & Carol Pahl, Mike Race and Helen Tengs. **2011:** Mike Race and Cindy Jones.

Chilkat Valley Historical Society

Preserving the history of the Chilkat Valley.

KHNS QUESTION OF THE WEEK aka SHELDON MUSEUM HISTORY TALK

Reflections by Joan Snyder

In the spring of 1987, "Ask me, I Live Here" was being aired on KHNS – a program where local business owners could talk about their businesses and what they had to offer.

Representing the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Cindy Jones (CJ) asked 10 historical questions, and then said "If you don't know the answers, you need to visit the Sheldon Museum." Dan Henry, program director for KHNS at the time suggested that we ask a question a week on the radio then give its answer the following week. Thus, 'Question of the Week' was born. The first question was: Where did Haines get its name? (Answer: Mrs. Francisca Electra Haines). Elisabeth 'Lib' Hakkinen, Museum Director, and CJ, regulars on the program, continued to pose and answer historical questions, and the Chilkat Valley Historical Society agreed to underwrite the program. Other Haines old timers and notables gave their voices to the history of Haines and the Chilkat Valley: Ray Menaker, Bob Henderson, John Schnabel, Doris Ward, and Marty Cordes among others. After a few years "Question of the Week" morphed into the "Sheldon Museum History Talk." Rather than asking questions this program presented episodes of History in the Chilkat Valley. Some of the subjects were straightforward such as: Where was the Post's Golf Course?; Boating Accidents in Upper Lynn Canal; and How Rex Beach got his start in Alaska. Some were humorous: What is

a Sproule cocktail? Lib or CJ read articles from the early Pioneer Press including Bands and Basketball, Haines, Garden Spot of Alaska and Alaska Midland Railroad. Lib and CJ read from books by Haines authors Caroline Willard's Life in Alaska, Hjalmar Rutzebeck's Alaska Man's Luck and Lael Morgan's Black Soldiers on the Alcan. They recruited more history tellers Jim Wilson, Dan Henry, Joan Snyder and Frank Wallace among others.

Lib moved to Portland, Oregon in 1995. Joan Snyder, active in the CVHS, became the program's regular voice until 2008 when CJ began digitizing old oral history tapes. CJ and Dan Henry broadcast the series In Their Own Voices. It was wonderful to once again hear those old familiar voices, now gone. Molly Hibler, born under a covered wagon, described how she moved to Alaska in a sailboat in 1915. Jane Bell described riding a train across the country in WW2. Forrest Young and Marty Cordes told the story of when Forrest was mauled by a bear.

In 2010, Sheldon Museum Director Jerrie Clarke enlisted the National Park Service in Skagway to share radio time with Haines. The NPS now broadcasts from Skagway on alternate Tuesdays.

Now in its 24th year, the Sheldon Museum history talk is still well received in the Lynn Canal and has revealed to listeners the fascinating history of the Chilkat Valley. It recently spawned a new version of the popular game show Jeopardy, which the Museum now holds as an annual fundraiser. The CVHS continues to sponsor the Sheldon Museum History Talk.

CVHS DUES

- Individual \$15 Family \$30
 Patron \$50 Lifetime \$250

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)**
 Anway Cabin Preservation

PAYMENTS AND DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED ON-LINE!

go to: www.sheldonmuseum.org/cvhs and pay using Paypal. You don't even need a Paypal account!

Or you can still drop them off at the Sheldon Museum or mail a check to: CVHS, P. O. Box 623, Haines, AK 99827.

Your donations are tax deductible!