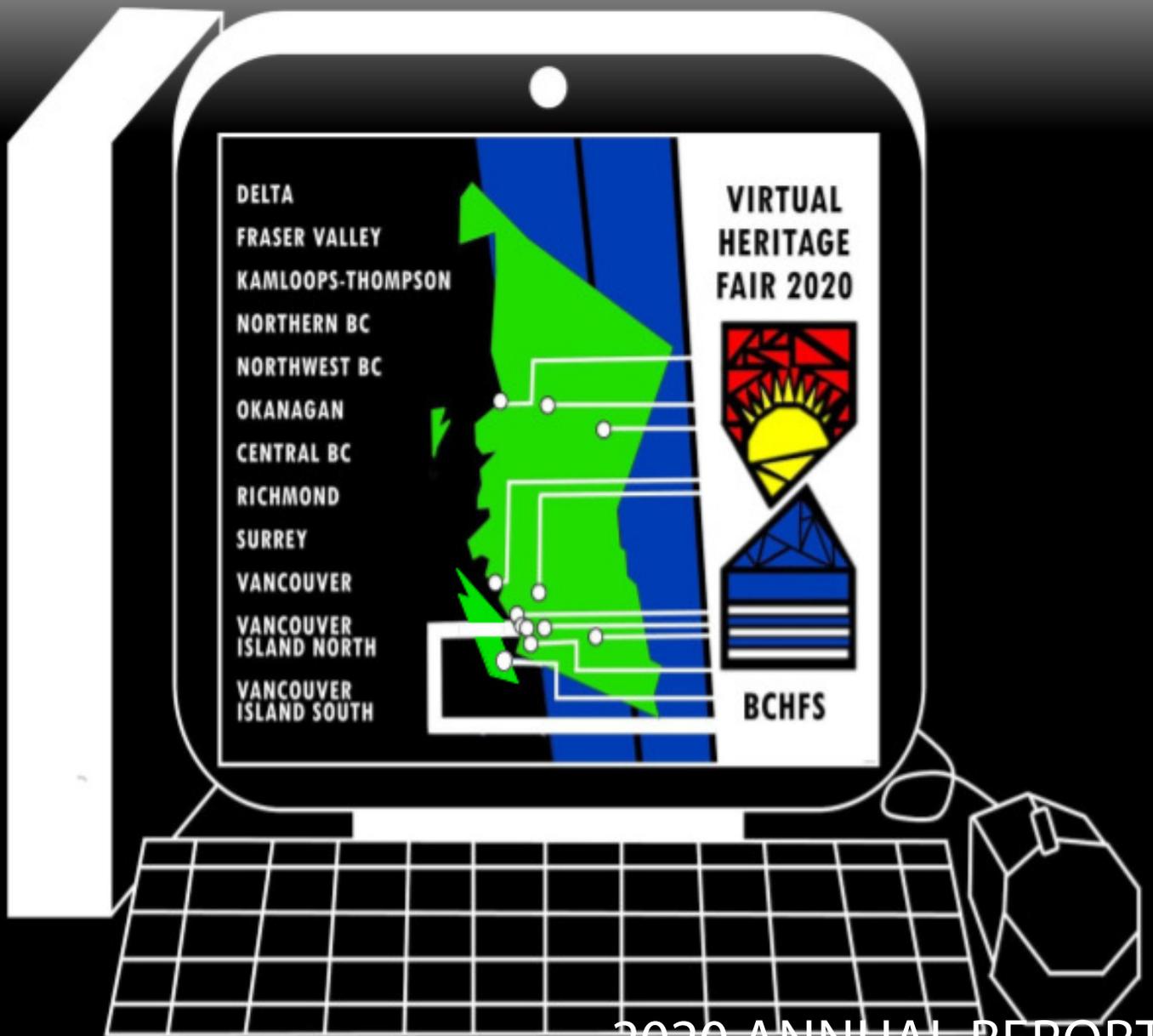


BC HERITAGE FAIRS SOCIETY



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE 2019 PROVINCIAL FAIR IN VICTORIA

Message from the Executive

Kris Foulds, BCHFS President

While the events of 2020 have been at best challenging, and for many devastating, unsettling the world's norms offers the opportunity to learn from the past to chart a better future. Now, more than ever, it's important to be aware of Canada's history. We're at a moment when the calls to address the wrongs of the past to create a better future for all Canadians cannot be ignored, but to move forward as a nation we need to understand where we've fallen short of our ideals. Every Canadian should inform themselves, take responsibility and contribute to the long overdue systemic change.

When it comes to preparing the next generation for the future, then education becomes the primary concern. More than has been in the past, students' studies have shifted to the virtual realm and more than ever turned to project-based learning. Traditional classroom-based learning has long been challenged by the ever-increasing complexity in our lives and societies, while research on project-based learning, giving students some control over learning, has demonstrated that students become better prepared for deeper learning, develop high-level thinking skills and intra/interpersonal skills.

In responding to the challenges 2020 has placed in our path, the BC Heritage Fairs Society has worked to support our educational partners and participants by providing new learning opportunities and resources. Although the global COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of all Regional Fairs and postponement of the in-person Provincial Fair, the BCHFS responded with its first Virtual Fair on June 27 and 28. Participants attended workshops delivered by Native Land, On This Spot, Know History, Bateman Foundation and Vancouver Japanese Language School, and attended virtual site tours at Port Moody Station Museum, Alberni Valley Museum and Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, and presented their projects.

A website, Taking Reconcili-Action, was launched to provide content and resources related to the Truth and Reconciliation Report. The project was led by BC Heritage Fairs alumnus Lucas Hung. Fellow alumni Leona Lam and Kevin Butchart also conducted interviews and created videos. Mentorship and support was provided by Jennifer Iredale, CAHP; Judy Dunn, teacher and BCHFS Treasurer; Mary Campone, teacher and BCHFS board member; Meg Wilcox, BCHFS board member; and Evan Fryer, teacher and BCHFS Vice President. The project was generously funded in part by Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund.

The BCHFS is grateful for the support of our members, sponsors and many friends, without whom the important work we do would not be possible. Thank you.

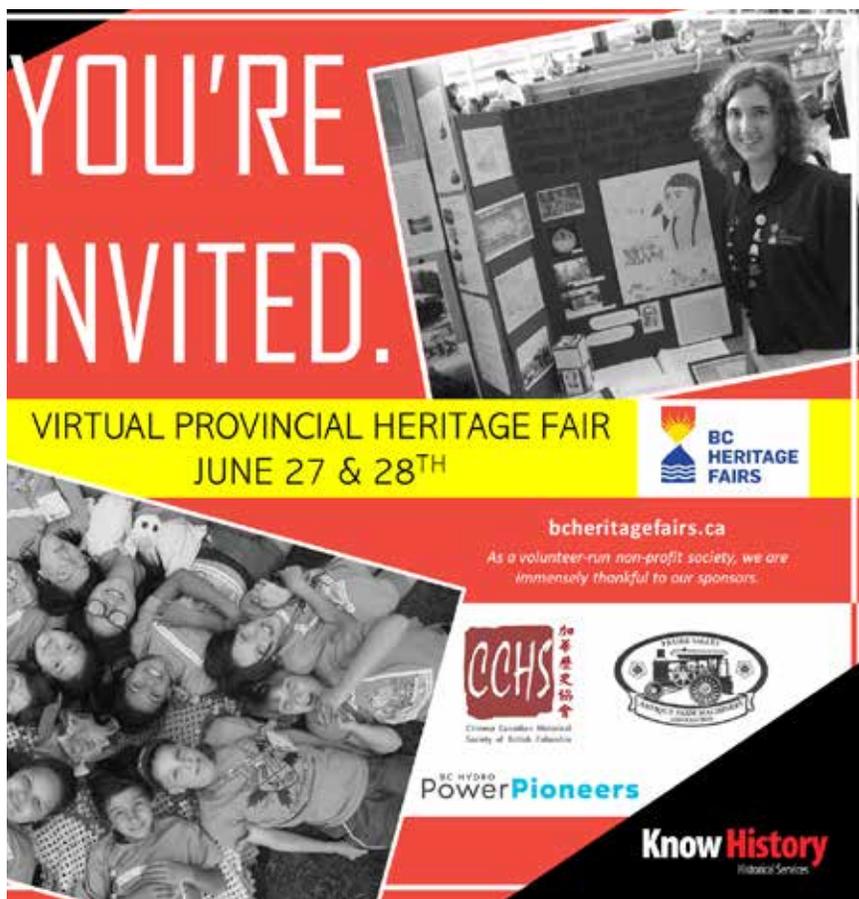
Board Members 2019-20

Becky Burns
 Mary Campone
 Judy Dunn
 Kris Foulds
 Evan Fryer
 Will Garrett-Petts
 Andrew Hildred
 Rachel Meloche
 Cindy Rowell
 Abigail Uher
 Meg Wilcox

Virtual Provincial Fair Report

Rachel Meloche, Alumni Program Manager and Virtual Fair Coordinator

This year, like so many things, our in-person Provincial Fair was cancelled along with the in-person Regional Fairs. This was devastating for students who had already been working on their projects for many months, especially for those who had already had their in-person School Fairs ([you can read an update from one of our alumni on her experience judging in-person Fairs here](#)). With the support of the Board, our Alumni Leadership Team sprang into action and quickly put together a two-day Virtual Fair over Zoom. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors who provided funding for the Fair, including T-shirts for our participants and honoraria for our presenters.



Students were able to participate by sending in their projects to be posted online ([you can view those here](#)), and/or to participate in workshops on the June 27-28 weekend. We had a total of nine workshops, as well as student interviews conducted by our Alumni team and the presenters. Some students, parents, and community members tuned in just for specific presentations, while others stayed for the whole weekend! Our Alumni team worked tirelessly behind the scenes over the weekend managing the Zoom call, updating the Twitter and Instagram feeds, and monitoring the chat, as well as posting recaps of [Day One](#) and [Day Two](#) of the Fair.

We received a lot of positive feedback from students and parents about the Fair, and we're already working on how we can use the lessons we learned this year for the 2021 Fair, however we are able to host it.

Communications Report

Meg Wilcox

2020 has been a shifting year for the Society, and this year the communications team worked to help support the BCHFS as it got up to speed in updating its online assets. It is tedious, it is often overlooked, but it's work that must be done if the systems are going to work smoothly!

The team also supported the brilliant online programming put on by the Alumni Committee with the Virtual Fair. At the end of the day, the Society's best communications tool is our fantastic Alumni, and any way we can use their passion, insight, and web savvy, we'll be putting our best foot forward. A fantastic example of this is how the Alumni currently manage and update the Society's social media platforms.

Financial Report

Judy Dunn, Treasurer

BC HERITAGE FAIRS SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL POSITION
 AUGUST 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current		
Cash	\$83,722	\$48,350
Accounts Receivable	3,750	3,750
Government Remittance Recoverable	913	1,973
Prepaid expenses	<u>974</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>\$89,359</u>	<u>\$54,073</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
Current		
Accounts Payable	\$2,809	\$1,250
Deferred Government Grant	<u>18,000</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>\$20,809</u>	<u>\$1,250</u>
Net assets	<u>\$68,550</u>	<u>\$52,823</u>
	<u>\$89,359</u>	<u>\$54,073</u>

Fundraising Committee Report

Andrew Hildred

This year, the Fundraising Committee has encountered some unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19 and the global pandemic. These challenges have not been unique to our organization and while we have faced adversity this year, we have also had some success with fundraising. One of our biggest challenges was our inability to host in-person events. Overall, the Society did well to overcome this obstacle by hosting a Virtual Provincial Fair. On the fundraising side however, we were unable to host a fundraising event in September 2020 as planned. Currently, we have postponed the Society's fundraising event to March 2021. On the positive side, the committee has reached out to find a new and improved venue for a future fundraising event, which will allow us to grow and make connections in other communities and with new partners. The committee is also considering hosting a virtual fundraiser, maybe a workshop for teachers that could raise profile of the organization while also generating income.

The Virtual Provincial Fair helped propel us to seek out new sponsors and supporters. Early in the planning process we were able to identify a financial need – increased access to video conferencing – and we were able to actively seek out supporters to help with this ask. We were able to attract sponsorship from the Fraser Valley Antique Farm Machinery Association, Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia, BC Hydro Power Pioneers, Know History, and On This Spot. Having a very clear ask helped us generate funds from new and existing sponsors. Crafting a more precise and direct ask will benefit the society in the long term and help us raise funds in the future.

One ongoing relationship is with BC Gaming Commission. We were fortunate to receive a BC Gaming grant this year that can be applied to next year's Provincial Heritage Fair.



We also initiated a new fundraising campaign in conjunction with Indigo, Chapters, and Coles. The Indigo FUNdraiser, launched in 2019, was a positive step forward and to date the Society has raised about 15 % of our fundraising goal. Unfortunately, the ability to reach our goal was severely hampered by the pandemic and subsequent store closures at the height of the pandemic. Perhaps the Society can extend the time to reach our goal or reform this partnership when in-store events are again possible.

The committee expressed reluctance to actively fundraise during the pandemic. In general, the society, like many other museums and cultural organizations, exists within a “culture of poverty.” It is hard for us to monetize or put a price on what we do and hard for the general public to understand why we need to ask for funds. Shouldn't our program be free? Why do individuals need to support the organization? Because of this year's Virtual Fair, freely accessible, fewer memberships were sold; if the pandemic persists into next year, we may have to look into ways to increase our membership through the Virtual Fair.

School and Regional Fairs Committee Report

Mary Campone

This committee has functioned as a committee of one (the Chair) for this past year. The fact that it has been an unusual and unexpected year goes without saying. Many of our Regions had registered their intent to participate in this year's program and had proceeded with planning their Regional Fairs. Understandably, the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic with school closures and institutional shut-downs brought plans to a standstill and greatly affected how the year evolved. The Provincial Fair Committee had worked diligently and prepared an excellent program for this year's Provincial Fair that had been scheduled to be held in Kelowna. The Kelowna Committee is to be commended on their efforts at developing the proposed program and their willingness to postpone and host the Provincial Fair in 2021 if circumstances allow. Due to the uncertainty of the coming academic year, we can only hope that we may return to our normal practises and proceed on a positive note.

In the interim, BCHFS is indeed indebted to Director Rachel Meloche and the Alumni Council for stepping in to provide interested students the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Heritage Fair. This was held online June 27th and 28th and what a success it was! The invitation was sent out via the Regional Coordinators and we were excited to see individual students taking part from Vancouver, Kamloops, Delta, Lois Creek, Barriere, Victoria, Langley, Nanaimo, Heffley Creek, Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey, and Burnaby. BCHFS is also incredibly proud of the hard work displayed by the Alumni team to give so much of their time towards this endeavour and to successfully mentor individuals new to the process.

Amidst the confusion and unexpected turn of events of this spring, one region needs to be recognized for ultimately going above and beyond by sponsoring their own Virtual Regional Fair. Vancouver Island North (Port Alberni) and Regional Coordinator, Shelley Harding, are to be congratulated for stepping up into "unchartered waters" and providing the virtual experience to their local regional participants. Well done!

In the meantime, this committee chair has also spent time developing a resource that will be accessible through our website this Fall. Heritage Fairs and Indigenous Studies is a supportive guide to demonstrate the correlation between the BC Social Studies Curriculum and First Peoples Principles of Learning. By using the Inquiry process to develop Heritage Fair projects, teachers (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) can address First Peoples content and perspective in the classroom that respectfully reflect First Peoples concepts of teaching and learning. It is hoped that this resource will be useful to teachers/ knowledge providers teaching First Peoples/ Nations studies to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.



Membership Committee

Kris Foulds

The Membership Committee works to expand membership in the Society and to develop and improve benefits to our members.

For a number of years, every participant in the Provincial Fair has joined the BCHFS to attend the Fair, which means they do not often renew their membership. In 2020, the committee examined ways to retain our youth members by providing other benefits. Toward this end, the Alumni Program was expanded to Junior and Senior Councils, providing the opportunity to engage younger members and provide a longer period of involvement and personal development.

Also in 2020, Regional Coordinators were encouraged to request participating schools within their regions become Institutional members, both as a means to provide additional funding for the Society, and to strengthen the Society's ability to advocate on behalf of heritage learning at District and Provincial levels.

In 2020, the committee will continue to encourage support for the Society through membership and to deliver and improve services and benefits we can provide.



Number of Members:

2015-16:	84 members
2016-17:	119 members
2017-18:	126 members
2018-19:	71 members
2019-2020:	84 members

Alumni Committee

Rachel Meloche, Alumni Program Manager

In the summer of 2019, the Alumni Leadership Team chose to expand the Alumni Program to include a Junior and Senior Council rather than one single council. This led to the expansion of the Leadership Team to include our Alumni Program Manager, Junior Council Coordinator, and Senior Council Coordinator. The Junior Council had 6 members in its first year, which was students in grade 7 or younger, and the Senior Council had 12 members between grades 8-12. The expansion to include a Junior Council was a very successful pilot, and gave our youngest alumni the opportunity to learn in an age-appropriate environment. They also worked with the Senior Council on a major project.

This year's major project was a documentary entitled *Our Communities*, and it is available now on [the recently re-launched BCHFS YouTube channel](#). Both our Junior and Senior Council members, as well as the Coordinators, worked extremely hard on this documentary. Like many things, the documentary had to be moved online in mid-March when only a few of the interviews had been done. The documentary is ultimately a mix of in-person and Zoom interviews, with voiceover done by a Senior Council member.



Our Alumni Leadership team also now includes a Social Media Coordinator, as well as Social Media Assistant, who help the Alumni Program Manager with Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The entire Leadership Team was instrumental in running this year's Virtual Fair.

The Leadership Team is looking forward to welcoming the students back to the Alumni Councils next year, and several students have already expressed interest in returning.

Sponsors and Student Awards

We continue to be appreciative of the long-time support provided to the BC Heritage Fairs Society by the following agencies:

BC Hydro Power Pioneers
The Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia
The Lieutenant Governor of BC
The United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada
BC Heritage Branch (Historic Places)
Heritage BC (Rich Culture/Other Voices)
Canada's History Society

We also remain grateful to our many individual donors who support the Society and its work.

Without the formal Regional Fairs hosted this year, many of the student recognition awards were not able to be presented in 2020. These awards present an excellent way to acknowledge student successes within our program and we will continue to encourage the presentation of these awards within our regions next year.

The BCHFS would like to especially acknowledge the generosity of the BC Hydro Power Pioneers and the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia. In lieu of individual student recognition, these organizations provided the Society with monetary contributions that assisted us in covering the expenses incurred in sponsoring the Virtual Heritage Fair, which included providing all student participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event.

