



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 4th, 2024, 9-10am
University of the Fraser Valley

Videoconference (Teams) link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZD01Nj00YjktZGY1Zi00ZWnkLTgwNDktYjhkNDk2MzQyZGU5%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cdf1c2d5-34b7-4602-84b2-e3f937b1914a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e630f03f-5e73-4264-9125-f21757c173aa%22%7d

Meeting ID: 232 845 828 728

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Agenda

1. Opening
2. Stó:lō Welcome: Gracie Kelly Th'ewá:li (Soowahlie) First Nation
3. Recognition of Member Societies represented
4. Member Society updates
5. Report on attendance and voting delegates
6. Approval of Minutes of AGM of June 3, 2023
7. President's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2024
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Reports available in the Annual Report
10. Election of Officers and Directors
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

Board nominations

The following individuals are standing for election to the board of the British Columbia Historical Federation for the 2024-25 year.

Rosa Flinton-Brown, Langley

President

Rosa joined the BCHF in 2019 as Treasurer and was elected President in 2022. Over the past five years, her appreciation for the values of the BCHF and the commitment of its members to public history has grown. Working with the talented members of the BCHF Board and seeing what can be achieved with a skilled, compassionate, and responsive team and limited resources, has been inspiring. Rosa received her accounting designation CPA (CA) in 1993 with Deloitte & Touche in Vancouver. Since she left public practice in 2000, Rosa has created curriculum, taught professional development courses, and facilitated participatory decision making and capacity building in not-for-profit environments. In her final year as President, Rosa hopes to focus on ensuring the BCHF's financial sustainability for the next President.



Anna Irwin, Victoria

Vice-President

Anna Irwin has a Bachelor of Arts in history and French from the University of the Fraser Valley, and a professional specialization certificate in collections management from the University of Victoria. Originally from the Eastern Fraser Valley, she has worked in museums and held various board positions including the Chilliwack Sports Hall of Fame and the West Coast Ringette Historical Society. Anna is a collections manager in the history department at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations). She will be starting her Master of Arts in history in 2024 at the University of Victoria.



Kira Westby, Smithers

Secretary

Kira is from Peterborough, Ontario. She received her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology and History from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2010, and a Masters in Public History from the University of Western Ontario in 2011. Prior to moving to Smithers she worked at the archaeological collections facility Sustainable Archaeology: Western in London Ontario for three years. While living in London, Kira was the Emerging Leaders Representative on the London Advisory Committee on Heritage. Kira has been the Curator of the Bulkley Valley Museum in Smithers since November 2014. She also sits on the boards of the Tourism Smithers Society, and the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest.



Rizwaan Abbas, Surrey

Director

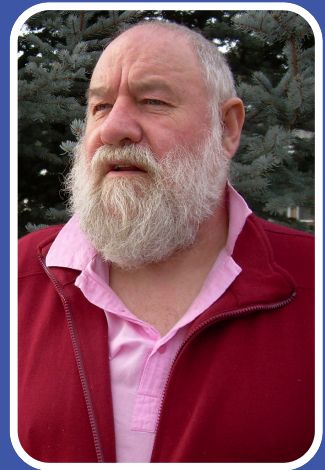
Rizwaan was born and raised in Sparwood on the ancestral land of the Ktunaxa Nation. He has an associate degree from Douglas College, a BA in Archaeology from SFU, an MSc. in Paleoanthropology and Paleolithic Archaeology from University College London (UK) and a PSc. in Collections Management from UVic. He is a Director of the Indo-Fijian Cultural Society of Canada and has been working in culture resource management for over two decades. Rizwaan is an archaeologist for the Semiahmoo First Nation and a member of the Historical Discrimination against People of South Asian Descent Advisory Committee, in Vancouver, and the South Asian Canadian Museum Engagement Committee. Rizwaan was a guest editor of BC History Magazine and has curated an exhibit titled, "Surrey's Pocket of Paradise" at the Museum of Surrey and authored a Chapter in the book, "The Social History of South Asians in British Columbia," published by the University of the Fraser Valley, all where he showcases the heritage and history of British Columbia's Indo-Fijian communities.



Jon Bartlett, Princeton

Director

Jon is a UBC history graduate, trained under Keith Ralston. In his time, he has been a legal executive, a teacher, an editor, a professional singer and a historical researcher. Now retired, Jon is the Secretary of the Princeton & District Museum and Archives, and the current Chair of the BCHF conference committee. With his wife, Rika Ruebsaat, Jon has written a couple of books of local history: *Dead Horse on the Tulameen* and *Soviet Princeton*, and he has been guest editor of *British Columbia History*. Jon and Rika are also the founders and principal organizers of the Princeton Traditional Music Festival.



Chelsea Brown, Harrison Mills

Director

Chelsea Brown is a recent graduate of Oxford University where she received her Master of Studies in Global and Imperial History (2020). She has been involved in data management and collections projects at various institutions in the UK and Canada, including Early Modern Letters Online (EMLO), the Ashmolean, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (MAE) at Simon Fraser University, and at several Provincial Heritage Properties here in BC. Chelsea has been working at the Kilby Historic Site since 2017 in various capacities between schooling, becoming curator in 2022. Recent projects at the Kilby Historic Site have included the repatriation of over 30 Indigenous baskets to the Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets First Nations, collection digitization, and emergency planning.



Teresa Carlson, Chilliwack

Director

Teresa is a graduate of the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria and has worked in the heritage sector for over twenty-five years, in both BC and Saskatchewan. She has held a variety of positions in museums, and has also served on various boards, most recently as President of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan. Teresa moved home to BC with her husband, Keith, in 2019. She currently works as Curator at the University of the Fraser Valley, and is collaborating with Stó:lō community members on several projects, including two websites.



Sarah Ling, Vancouver

Director

Sarah oversees the development and implementation of the Chinese Canadian Museum's public programming and exhibitions. She holds a BA in English Literature with a minor in First Nations and Indigenous Studies, and a MA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of British Columbia, with a community-centered research background in Chinese and Indigenous relations on Musqueam territory. Born and raised in Prince Rupert, northern BC, she is passionate about establishing relationships and connections with individuals and communities across the province. As a filmmaker she has produced a number of documentaries featuring Chinese Canadian stories. She is an active volunteer in Vancouver Chinatown and is Past-President of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC. She enjoys creative projects, nature walks, and opportunities to spend time with her niece, nephews, and goddaughters.



Monica Miller, Maple Ridge

Membership Coordinator

Monica Miller (she/her) is a communications and publishing professional with a Master of Publishing from SFU. She has worked in various roles as a writer, editor, digital marketer, project manager, and designer. She is currently the Marketing and Publicity Coordinator for Heritage House Publishing, an independent book publisher based in Victoria. Monica is also passionate about local history, community building, literary diversity, arts for social change, creative space making, and book arts. In her leisure time, Monica enjoys knitting, reading, and horseback riding. Born and raised in Vancouver, she now lives in Maple Ridge, the traditional territory of the Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation.



Aman Johal, Surrey

Director

Aman is an interpretation officer with Parks Canada and has worked at Fort Langley National Historic Site since the beginning of this century. He is also a storyteller with Forbidden Vancouver Walking Tours. Aman loves to walk and talk, and if people follow him while he does this, he does not appear as crazy. This passion has led him to develop many historical walking tours at Fort Langley and other national historic sites across the country. In his free time, Aman likes to write, and has a generous following of subscribers online, which singlehandedly funds his family's addiction to Slurpees.



Greg Nesteroff, Trail

Director

Greg is a Nelson-based journalist, historian, news editor, and news director. He recently published (with Eric Brighton) *Lost Kootenays*, a Kootenay history drawn from the workings of the Lost Kootenays Facebook Group, a social media sensation that started with the intent of preserving, promoting, and sharing the history of the Kootenays and the people who lived here. Today the Lost Kootenays community is 48,000 strong and one of the most dynamic sites in British Columbia. Greg is active with historical societies in the Slocan Valley and Arrow Lakes. He is a self-described “postcard collector and allround nerd” and publishes a local history blog, *THE KÜTNE READER*. He is the editor of *BCHF Buzz*, the monthly British Columbia Historical Federation’s newsletter.



Laura VanZant, Revelstoke

Director

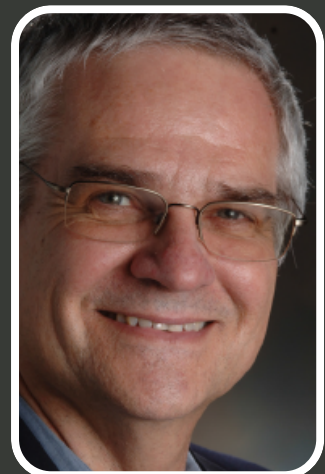
Laura VanZant is the Assistant Curator at the Revelstoke Museum & Archives. She received her BA in history and archaeology from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2017 and an Advanced Diploma in Museum Studies from Algonquin College in 2019. She is the former curator of the Revelstoke Railway Museum and has also worked for Parks Canada and the Museum of Dufferin. Her passion is for community stories and sharing unheard voices and making the museum experience more accessible for all visitors. In her spare time, you can find her kayaking with her husband, curled up with a book and her cat, or cross stitching in her favourite chair.



Ron Verzuh, Victoria

Director

Ron is a writer, historian and documentary filmmaker. His latest book, *Printer’s Devils* (Caitlin, 2023), is a social history of Trail. He is also the author *Smelter Wars* (UTP, 2022), a history of the wartime struggle to form a union, *Radical Rag* (Steel Rail, 1988), a history of the 19th-century Canadian labour press, and *Underground Times* (Deneau, 1989), the story of Canada’s 1960s counterculture. Ron’s documentary films include *Joe Hill’s Secret Canadian Hideout*, *Remembering Salt* (about a Canadian screening of the banned movie *Salt of the Earth*), and *Codename Project 9* (about Canada’s role in making the atomic bomb). Born and raised in the Kootenays, he is married and now lives in Victoria.



Quentin Wright, Vancouver

Director

Quentin graduated from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland and holds a degree in Production Engineering and Management. He has worked in the non-profit sector for thirty years, initially in the arts and then in housing. He has worked with over forty co-operative and non-profit housing organisations. He is the Executive Director of Mole Hill Community Housing Society, which has stewardship over the only remaining block of intact Victorian and Edwardian housing in Vancouver. Mole Hill contains 170 suites of social housing, three daycares, a group home and numerous other community resources. He enjoys playing the piano and gardening (but not at the same time).



Elwin Xie, Vancouver

Director

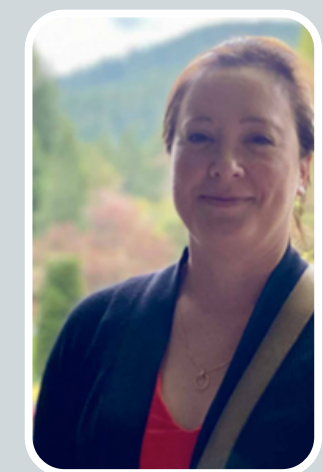
Elwin has worked casually at the Burnaby Village Museum for the last fifteen years as museum interpreter and since July 2023, he has added the Chinese Canadian Museum to his mix of museum interpretation. For the Vancouver Historical Society, Elwin has uploaded monthly history talks to the organization's YouTube channel for the last seven years. He can also be found offering his technical support with the West Vancouver Historical Society, the Chinatown Storytelling Centre, the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden, and of course to the BCHF.



Shannon Bettles, Williams Lake

Past-President

Shannon is a federal public servant who has worked as a curator with Parks Canada, an archivist in Chilliwack, and at several small museums in Ontario and in BC. Shannon has a Master of Library and Information Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies, and her community work includes researching and promoting the sport of ringette. She currently lives in Williams Lake, the homelands of the Secwépemc, Tšilhqot'in, and Dakelh Nations where she enjoys playing hockey and exploring the outdoors with her husband Chad.



K. Jane Watt, Fort Langley

Honorary President

Jane is an award-winning Fort Langley based editor, researcher, and writer. She is a community facilitator and the founder of the small publishing company, Fenton Street Press. Recent books include *We Are Kwantlen* (2020), the *Contemplative Practice of Writing* series (2019-2021), the Langley Community Music School's fiftieth anniversary publication, *Bringing Music to Life* (2019), and the City of Surrey's Canada 150 project *Surrey: A City of Stories* (2017). She is Associate Editor of *British Columbia History* magazine and looks forward to her continued work with the BCHF. She is proud of the Federation's work to build resilience and capacity in the sector by building relationships and sharing stories about the unknown corners of BC history.





Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Via videoconference

1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, Recognition of Member Societies

President Rosa Flinton Brown called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

Emma Quan provided a territorial acknowledgment

K. Jane Watt introduced guest speaker Todd Davidson

The President introduced the Board members present at the meeting: Rosa Flinton-Brown (President), Anna Irwin (Vice President), Shannon Bettles (Past President), Kira Westby (Secretary), K. Jane Watt (Honorary President), Mark Forsythe (Director), Maurice Guibbord (Director), Kennedy Neumann (Director), Greg Nesteroff (Director), Janet Ou (Director), Emma Quan (Director), Ron Verzuh (Director), Elwin Xie (Director).

2. Member Society Updates

The following societies provided brief updates:

- BC History of Nursing Society (Nan Martin)
- Kathy Murphy (VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association)
- John Lutz (Victoria Historical Society)
- Robin Fisher (Friends of BC Archives)
- Evelyn Wedley (Surrey Historical Society)
- Mark Forsythe (Langley Heritage Society)

3. Report on Attendance and Voting Delegates

40 attendees were present at the meeting, of whom 36 were voting delegates. The quorum for the AGM is 25.

4. Minutes of the Previous AGM

Motion to adopt the agenda: Rosa Flinton Brown/Kathy Murphy. Carried.

Motion to adopt the minutes of the AGM of 04 June 2022: Rosa Flinton Brown/Ron Verzuh. Carried

5. President's Report

The President addressed the President's Report on page 3 of the BCHF Annual Report. She shared information on her first term as president, including reflections on the BCHF values statement, and thoughts on where our storytelling mandate fits into the changing world, comments on the logo/branding, BCHF's building relationships with other provincial organizations (Friends of BC Archives, BC Museums Association) to avoid working in silos, and to be part of larger conversations.

Rosa also addressed the proposed new constitution and bylaws. The goal of the review was to create transparent, simplifying guiding documents to help us move forward.

Motion to accept the committee reports: Rosa Flinton Brown/Ron Greene. Carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

Rosa Flinton Brown presented the Treasurer's Report on pages 2-3 of the BCHF Annual Report, providing an overview of changes in costs between 2022 and 2023 fiscal years.

Amended statement of Statement of Changes in Net Assets with typographical errors corrected was presented (change from what was included in package to membership).

Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, as amended: Rosa Flinton Brown/Jim Foulkes. Carried.

Motion to waive the audit requirement: Rosa Flinton Brown/John Lutz. Carried.

Rosa explained that going forward this motion will not be required, as we are removing the audit requirement in the new Bylaws. Jim Foulkes suggested that the BCHF could potentially have an independent review of finances in-house/by an accountant as needed.

7. New Constitution and Bylaws

Rosa provided an overview of the process, initiated by Callie Anderson, of creating a governance committee to make adjustments to the foundational documents of the BCHF to ensure that these documents reflected what the BCHF is doing and how it was operating. Simplifying language was a big goal.

Motion to adopt the constitution and bylaws: Kira Westby/Greg Nesteroff. Carried. 29 of 39 attendees participated in the vote.

8. CLF announcement

Anna Irwin presented the winners of the 2022-2023 Centennial Legacy Fund awards: Boundary Historical Society, Pender Islands Museum Society, Barriere & District Heritage Society.

9. Recognition of Member Societies

The following societies were represented at the meeting:

- Alder Grove Heritage Society
- Barriere and District Heritage Society

- BC History of Nursing Society
- Bulkley Valley Museum
- Langley Heritage Society
- Slocan Valley Historical Society
- Surrey Historical Society
- Vancouver Historical Society
- VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association
- Victoria Historical Society
- Princeton Museum
- Maple Ridge Historical Society
- West Coast Ringette Historical Society
- Pender Islands Museum Society
- Friends of BC Archives
- Heritage Park Museum Terrace
- Nanaimo Museum

9. Election of Officers and Directors

Shannon Bettles, Past President recognized and thanked outgoing directors Maurice Guibbord, Refano Lumempouw, Janet Ou, and Kennedy Neumann.

The following individuals stood for election to the BCHF Board:

- President: Rosa Flinton-Brown
- Honorary President: K. Jane Watt
- Vice President: Anna Irwin
- Past President: Shannon Bettles
- Secretary: Kira Westby
- Treasurer: Barbara Kearny Copan
- Director: Mark Forsythe
- Director: John Bartlett
- Director: Teresa Carlson
- Director: Chelsea Dunaway
- Director: Greg Nesteroff
- Director: Aman Johal
- Director: Monica Miller
- Director: Emma Quan
- Director: Ron Verzuh
- Director: Elwin Xie

Motion to elect the slate of officers and directors as presented: Shannon Bettles/Monica Miller.
Carried.

10. Guest Speaker

Mark Forsythe introduced guest speaker Todd Davidson from the Princeton and District Museum. Todd presented a video discussing the impact of the atmospheric river event and its effects on the community of Princeton.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Rosa Flinton Brown/Anna Irwin. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32.