



Heritage News

CENTRAL OKANAGAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
SPRING 2016

CELEBRATING OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPES

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Munson Pond
- Learning about Brent's Mill
- Brent's Grist Mill Stabilization Project
- Okanagan Brigade Trail
- Mission Creek Restoration Initiative
- Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative
- Heritage Grants Program
- 2016 Heritage Award Winners
- COHS News in Brief
- Heritage News



Source: COHS Fonds

MUNSON POND: This family portrait was taken shortly after Robert and Eliza Munson and their children arrived in the Benvoulin area in 1890. The couple was very active in the community, including being instrumental in the planning and building of Bethel Presbyterian Church (Benvoulin Heritage Church).

Brent's Grist Mill Stabilization Project

by Lorri Dauncey



Brent's Grist Mill is one of four structures (farmhouse, milk house and stone cairn) that were moved in 2002, downstream from their original site, to the newly created *Heritage Homestead and Grist Mill Park* at the foot of Dilworth Mountain. The buildings were moved onto new concrete foundations, retaining their original relationship to each other as well as their close proximity to Mill Creek. During the intervening years there has been some conservation work undertaken on the farmhouse and milk house but only minimal stabilization work has been done on the Mill

building. The Grist Mill built in 1871, is the most significant of the four structures and the one most at risk. Early this year, the City of Kelowna hired a team to proceed with the stabilization. In March, work at the site got underway.

A heritage conservation plan for the stabilization of the Mill and addition was created in 2014. This plan recorded the current condition and interventions necessary in order to ensure that the heritage value of the building was preserved. The conservation plan recommends the best conservation practices as identified in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The first step in the stabilization of the Mill was to raise the building and add new beams under the original ponderosa pine sill beams. Missing sill beams were also replaced in the addition. Once this work was complete the floor in the Mill was no longer bowed. (The Mill had originally been built on a stone foundation).

The addition has undergone a significant amount of stabilization work, including repairs on each of the ten main posts. The addition roof has had significant roof rafter and roofing board (strapping) replacement due to the very poor condition of the original materials. The Mill and the addition are in the process of being re-roofed with hand split cedar shakes, similar to the original roof.



A significant amount of the board and batten ponderosa pine siding is being reattached and repaired. Much of the material had been removed in order to facilitate the moving of the building, pulled off by vandals or fallen off due to disrepair. Where possible original square nails are being reused as well as new square nails to complete the siding repairs.



Last fall, the site underwent a clean-up. This spring, the contractor sorted through all the original materials on site as well as materials that had been either salvaged or purchased for the project. Fortunately, three missing boards needed to complete the Brent's Mill logo in the building's interior were found and re-installed next to the one still in-situ.

As part of the stabilization of the building, new hold-downs and strapping have been added as unobtrusively as possible. New tie beams will be added in the loft space of the Mill.

The windows and doors will not be restored at this time but will be boarded up to complete the stabilization process by the end of June. New screens below the sill beams will help preserve the foundation by keeping out wildlife and helping with air flow. Once Brent's Grist Mill is stabilized and secure, it is hoped that the next phase will begin for this important building and site.



Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative

Over the past months, the new owners of the rail trail corridor – City of Kelowna, Municipality of Lake Country, the North Okanagan Regional District, and the Okanagan Indian Band - have worked together to lay the preliminary framework for building a hard-packed trail from Coldstream to Kelowna. It is now up to all interested parties to raise the \$7.86 million that the trail is expected to cost.

This amazing route will cover close to 50 km in a continuous corridor, providing a link to all communities along its path and featuring many of the valley's most scenic spots. One highlight for those of us who appreciate and support built heritage is that the new trail will take visitors right past the gates of Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park! A wonderful opportunity for the public to get up close and personal with heritage structures. A meter of trail construction will cost \$160, and contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated!

To get involved or to make a donation to the construction of the trail – visit the volunteer group's web-site at okanaganrailtrail.com.



Kelowna Heritage Grants Program



COHS is well into its ninth year of managing the City of Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (CoKHGP). The program was created to recognize the value of heritage in the community by providing financial support to owners of heritage properties. The program promotes the conservation of residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural heritage. Grants assist with a portion of the costs incurred in maintaining the building's exterior including the foundation. Only buildings

listed on the Kelowna Heritage Register are eligible to apply for grants from the program. The Kelowna Heritage Register currently has 209 properties listed, including 21 that are protected by a Heritage Designation Bylaw. All granting decisions are made by a committee of community volunteers with heritage expertise. The Kelowna Heritage Register can be accessed at <http://www.kelowna.ca/iHeritage/Scripts/>. For more information on the program contact ~ Lorri Dauncey at ldauncey.cohs@telus.net

The old Willits-Taylor Drug Store building, 375-387 Bernard Avenue, was built in 1913. The building was awarded a heritage grant for the repair and repointing of the brick façade and the painting of the window sashes, frames, cornices and parapet. The work is now complete.

This building's heritage value lies in its having accommodated, for most of its time, one of the longest operating businesses in downtown Kelowna, the Willits-Taylor Drug Store (1899-1996; on this site 1901-1980s). The establishment of the first drug store near by in 1899 and its moving to this site in 1901 are representative of the establishment of Kelowna's initial commercial and shopping district along Bernard Avenue. It also has value as a very good example of the Commercial Style, with brick walls enlivened by decorative stone trim and classical detailing.
(SOS, Kelowna Heritage Register)

