



# THE OCTAGON

FALL 2009 EDITION

## Editor's Comments:

*For the first time, we are sending this newsletter out via the Internet. We are doing this in an effort to cut expenses. It costs almost \$1.25 per copy to mail each newsletter. Also, we hope that perhaps we are saving a tree. We do encourage you to print off a copy if that is the easiest way for you to read the newsletter and share it with family members. If you are receiving this via snail mail and you have an email address, we would appreciate you sharing that with us via [info@fintry.ca](mailto:info@fintry.ca)*

## A Word from the Top

From the pen of John Sugars,  
President

2009 HAS BEEN AN  
EVENTFUL YEAR FOR  
FRIENDS OF FINTRY.

We started activities in earnest in March when we began getting things in motion for "The Festival of the Falls" which was designed this year to celebrate the arrival of The Laird of Fintry, James Cameron Dun-Waters to Fintry. Dun-Waters came from Fintry Scotland in 1908, fell in love with the Short's Point delta (shortly to be renamed Fintry), which would become the HOME he would occupy for the rest of his life. He died in 1939. Dun-Waters had gone to school in Britain with Earl Gray who was to visit Fintry in 1909. There they renewed their boyhood friendship hence "The Festival" is sometimes dubbed "Earl Gray Day" The festival was a great success with guided tours of the barns & the Manor House, which have been preserved by the "Friends"(FOF). The day was also a financial success with earnings in excess of \$6300.



Recently, we were in touch with the Fairbridge Farm School organization at Duncan (Vancouver Island). As you may know, when Dun-Waters was unable to sell Fintry, he passed the ownership over the Fairbridge Farm School Organization in England. (See [fintry.ca/Fairbridge Farm](http://fintry.ca/Fairbridge Farm) for more information) We had several guests from this organization come to the Festival: Marjorie Skidmore and her mother (a Fairbridge Child), Bob Hocking from Chilliwack, whose father was a British Home Child who was sent to Canada in 1902 from the Shaftsbury Farm School in Bisley, Surrey, England to Ontario, and several others. We have a reciprocal connection with the Fairbridge Farm Schools Organization and can exchange Annual Reports and other publications to keep up with one another.

On Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. & Mrs. David Smith of Fintry Scotland visited Fintry B.C. Canada (Okanagan). They were interviewed and filmed with Mike Roberts of C.H.B.C.-T.V. and were a feature story by Judie Steeves for the "Capital News". The Smiths sent us a thank-you letter when they arrived home stating that they were THRILLED with their visit to our Fintry exclaiming that it was SO much like their place "back home". They have relatives living in Radium, Invermere, & a sister and family in Calgary. They may even start a Scottish exodus! We would like to thank Ben Stewart of Quail's Gate Estate Winery for their very kind generosity in loaning us a meeting space throughout the

cold winter months in the last few years. This year we will be holding our winter meetings at the City Hall in Lake Country.

In July, we had a most successful "Pancake Breakfast" which enticed a huge crowd to attend (many from the campgrounds). The longest line-ups we've ever seen for one of our famous breakfasts. From the middle of July to the middle of August was devastating because of a forest fire on Terrace Mountain. This fire necessitated the evacuation of the residents of the Fintry Delta for 2 weeks or more. Fortunately there was no loss of life and all the houses, including the Manor House were untouched by the fire. Although forest fires are part of the nature of things in the Okanagan during the hot summer months, and they are part of Mother Nature's house cleaning, they are indeed terrifying. Special thanks must go to the North Westside Fire Dept., Wilson Landing Fire Department, and numerous other departments from within the valley, as well as B.C. Parks Employees and provincial forestry firefighters who stayed on top of the fire situation throughout.

To top off our "earning" year, we had a highly successful "Fireside Thanksgiving" on October 10<sup>th</sup> with well over 200 visitors who were escorted through the Manor House by a bevy of loyal "Fintry-ites"

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## AGM News

At the 2009 AGM in June a resolution was passed allowing for the election of up to 12 board members instead of 9. In this way, continuing board members hoped to spread the duties around a little thinner.

Board Members elected are:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| John Sugars     | President      |
| Mike Berry      | Vice President |
| Anita Baker     | Treasurer      |
| Melody Aubin    | Secretary      |
| Karen Bennison  | Membership     |
| Sandy Welbourn  | Publicity      |
| Gwendy Lamont   | Education      |
| Jennifer Hindle |                |
| Paul Koroscil   |                |
| Vayla Tulloch   |                |
| Gil Wyse        |                |

Vayla Tulloch has since resigned for personal reasons

During the meeting, a suggestion was made by Erin Nelson that the board consider changing the entry fee charged for tours of the barn and manor house from \$5 per tour to \$5 for both. The board discussed this at length at their next meeting. The result is that the rates have been changed so that \$5 gives a person access to both the barn and the manor house tour.

We are still looking for someone to coordinate volunteers for our fundraising events. You do not need to be a board member or attend meetings. Our events organizers will liaise with you. If you have a few hours to donate, we would sure like to hear from you. Please contact one of the board members or email [info@fintry.ca](mailto:info@fintry.ca) if you can help. Perhaps a couple of friends could work together and share the job?

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## Treasurer's Report

Good News/Bad News

2009 has had its ups and downs financially. The "ups" included 3 very successful fundraisers - the Festival of the Falls, our July 18th Pancake Breakfast, and the Thanksgiving Fireside Tours, raising a total of \$8,200. Proceeds from tending the Bar at Lone Pine Ranch garnished us another \$5,400.

Unfortunately, there were some major "downs", the greatest of which was the summer forest fire that caused the closure of the Park. This prevented us from holding our August Pancake Breakfast and from conducting tours of the Manor House and Barns from mid July to mid August. The resulting loss of proceeds from these events has hurt us financially. Other unexpected and costly "downs" include the rebuilding of the steps and porch off a side entrance to the Manor as well as a bill of \$1800 to replace the hot-water heater and repair the furnace in the caretaker's suite. Although Parks pays for major repairs like roofing it has no budget for the "smaller" repairs. These may seem minor to Parks but they take a large bite out of funds we raise. We are not in the red yet - with judicious spending we should be able to meet our expenses for this year but there will be little left to add to our collections.

Submitted by Anita Baker

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## What 's New?

By Dan Bruce,

Centennials are like hurricanes. They happen from time to time, attract attention, and then they pass. Those involved recover and carry on. The Fintry Estate's 100th was celebrated on May 9th, and thanks to our dedicated board members and volunteers we not only survived, but greatly increased public awareness and appreciation of the site.

Mark Flanagan, now Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park returned to the Okanagan as Fintry's guest of honour, and planted a London Plane tree that re-establishes Fintry's connection to Windsor, documented in one of James Dun-Waters' photo albums.

One of the recent experiences that we do not want to repeat was the Terrace Mountain Fire. Widely reported in the media, there is no need to go into details about it here. However, one impressive fact must be mentioned: the large number of concerned people who called, offering help if needed. Rob Kuffert and his fiancée, Nini were housesitting for Peter and Marian Blundell, and with great efficiency Rob worked with the North Westside Fire Department to set up sprinklers and prepare Fintry for any eventuality. Miles Kingdon and the Quichena Ranch cowboys made themselves available on very short notice to remove collections from the Manor House if necessary, and Kim Stinson, of the BC Interior Horse Rescue Society offered us a number of horse trailers. Winn Rentals of Kelowna loaned us a gas powered pump, which was delivered and installed by the Lake Country Fire Department (Naval Division!) Although our admissions revenue suffered, there was no damage done to the buildings or contents, which were well guarded by Forestry staff, BC Parks and the RCMP.

Our collections continue to grow in size and quality. We have received a large collection of high quality glassware donated by Mr & Mrs Len Jupp of Kelowna. A very good example of Arts and Crafts furniture was donated by Don and Jacque Schneider, also of Kelowna: a couch

that was once the property of Dr Boyce, Kelowna's first doctor.

Larry Freeborn of Wilson Landing contributed a number of agricultural items from his family's Kelowna heritage, including a bulk cream can. This is one of the few dairy industry related items that we have obtained, and with the importance of the dairy operations at Fintry, we hope that it is the start of a trend.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan came to our rescue with a grant-in-aid to carry out a bat exclusion plan for the Manor House. While we like to be thought of as good neighbours, environmentally friendly and eco-sensitive, thousands of bats doing their "thing" in the Manor House attic is too much. The numbers have been greatly reduced, and we hope to achieve zero bat occupancy in 2010.

Compensatory bat boxes are being set up in the surrounding trees.

" In the clearing stands a boxer  
And a fighter by his trade..."\*

\* Apologies to Simon and Garfunkel



Fintry's boxer is Richard Humphries, an early star of the sport, whose dramatic action portrait was painted by John Hoppner in 1787. James Dun-Waters purchased the original painting in 1888, and it was included in the original furnishings of the Manor House.

Research has revealed that the painting is now in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, having been purchased from

Margaret Dun-Waters in 1951. We contacted the "Met" and asked if we could get a copy of the piece for Fintry. The response was that the "Met" does not make their images available for permanent use, but in this case, permission has been granted for the permanent exhibit of the reproduction at Fintry.

Thanks are due to Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator of Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History, and to Ryan Haley of the New York Public Library for facilitating the contact with the Metropolitan Museum, also to Lynda Miller and Michael Breakey of Kelowna for producing the print, and, needless to say, our picture framers by appointment, Picture Perfect in Kelowna.

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FESTIVAL OF THE  
FALLS:  
100th Anniversary  
May 9 2009

May 9 dawned bright and sunny, when volunteers and members of the Friends of Fintry Society arrived to prepare for their annual Festival of the Falls. Board members, volunteers, Janice Sich, and the planning committee had found 21 vendors and exhibitors to set up display booths, set in a semi circle on the grounds by the Octagonal barn. The exhibitors represented a variety of artisans from various towns in the Okanagan, selling and displaying crafts and foods. The participants were shielded from the sun (sometimes drops of rain) under white canopies or coloured umbrellas, each marked with a flag, all of which added to the ambience and festive air. When the gates opened at 10:00 am, members of the Kelowna Hostesses were on hand for ticket sales. Nearby was our own membership table, manned by Anne Ashton.

Those participating included:

B.C. Parks (several members in attendance),  
Beta Sigma Chi (goodies), (B.Hayes)  
Brown Road Candles (Shannon Hickson),  
Joanne Beaulieu (painter),  
Kelowna Calligraphers' Guild, (Jacquie Myers)  
Kelowna Historical Society,  
Kelowna Weavers and Spinners, Wood Carver,  
(Mr. Hudson),

Kingsmill's Pottery, (Bob Kingsmill).  
Lamont's Honey, RDCO,  
Little Creek Gardens (the Denisons),  
R. Williams, weaver/spinner  
Regional District Central OK (Sandy Mah)  
Westbank Pottery, with ashpanaira items Jillian Paynter),  
...and I hope we didn't miss anyone!

On the outer rim of the grounds were several red fire trucks and a display fire truck (manned by Wayne Carson and crew). Dave Robertson gave geology tours. Two antique cars were on display as well, by members of the Canadian Antique Car Club. The owners were Bill Fleming and Dan Watkin, resplendent in period clothes. For the younger set, there was a Fish Pond and an Arts and Crafts table, manned by Barbara Leadbetter and Diane Baker. Kenn Dungate provided music throughout the day. The aroma from hot dogs and hamburgers being cooked by the Bakers and their crew pervaded the grounds, adding to the general pleasant atmosphere.

At 11:00 opening ceremonies were held, with invited guests and CHBC's Mike Roberts, as MC, being piped onto the grounds at the barns. (Thanks to Colin Mather our ever reliable Piper) Speeches were given and then dignitaries were piped to the manor house. Here, special guest Mark Flanagan, keeper of the gardens in Windsor Great Park, planted a commemorative London Plane tree, which was donated & planted by Cody's Tree Service. Inside the Manor House, Jan and Ken Waldon unveiled the old curling trophy, which Dun-Waters had donated to the Vernon Curling Club. The cup was originally a wedding gift from his servants and is now to be shared between the two parties. Invited guests were then taken on a tour of the home.

At 1:00 these guests and available Board members had a wonderful luncheon created by Lake Okanagan Resort staff. Bev Dobson created beautiful flower arrangements for the tables. People continued to arrive for the balance of the day to enjoy the falls, as well as nature, geology, Manor House, and barn tours.

As always, many volunteers, friends and family worked "behind the scenes to make Festival of the Falls, 100 year Anniversary of Fintry, a successful event.

Submitted by Gwendy Lamont, Director

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## Pulling Together At

### Fintry

The Beaches Were Alive  
with  
The Sound of Music!



'Pulling Together', is an annual event that aims to show how the RCMP work together with First Nations Elders and Youth in British Columbia, In July, the group came to Fintry's beach for the first time to spend the night camping on their way paddling down the lake. Much co-operative preparation was required to pull this event together. A group of 22 colourful war canoes loaded with RCMP officers and First Nations' Elders and Youth from all over the Province arrived with much excitement and ceremony. It was quite the sight seeing: all the decorated canoes coming in at once with many participants wearing traditional clothing. Approximately 400 people camped on the beach around the Packinghouse. In the evening, there was much singing, dancing and drumming. The Blundells and the Park's staff were invited to join in for a grand crab dinner feast on the beach. It was evident by the smiles on everyone's face, that a good time was had by all.

Submitted by  
Marian Blundell

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## Manor House

### Report

Memories are Made of  
This!



The summer of 2009 at Fintry Proper (Manor House) in Fintry Provincial Park was certainly a memorable one! Friends of Fintry held a very successful annual pancake breakfast on the third Saturday in July celebrating Parks Day. The weather was perfect; the Park was packed with hungry campers, many returning for just that weekend to enjoy the annual scrumptious morning breakfast. Little did we know what was to come! The phone started to ring late in the day – heavy smoke seen – coming from somewhere!! And it was coming from Glenmore, then Rose Valley, and within 24 hours, Terrace Mountain was in the news. And for the next four weeks plus, Fintry was in the headlines. Fintry's telephone connection was destroyed for many weeks due to the holes that were dug into the 100 acre hay field, our power was cut leaving us with much melted ice-cream in Buster's freezer, and of course, we eventually had to leave the area. Fintry Provincial Park became a helicopter base for about 14 helicopters constantly coming and going, sucking up fire repellent out of huge containers in the hay field or drawing water from the lake. Then one of the fire bombers crashed into the lake off the lighthouse point. The pilot was rescued without injury by a Fintry Delta homeowner.

We are now able to sit back and chuckle and reminisce two evacuations later. A big thank you to:

- Wayne Carson and all the firemen from the Westside and from across the country who came to help,
- The Salvation Army for our few meals in Vernon and Kelowna,
- Our son's spare bedroom and his basement for all our boxes of precious belongings and business records,
- The sprinklers on the roof of the Manor House, and more over by the barns, security and first aid personnel at the Park entrance.

The second evacuation for us was the most intense – the heat, the helicopters, our pumping adrenaline, and the flames that looked like they were licking up behind the upper La Casa homes. On our return after the second evacuation, heavy rains came and 300 firemen working in the high bush were brought into Fintry

Park for the day, as it was too dangerous for them to work. Peter took about 150 workers on tour of the Manor House. They were very impressed, with some being from Quebec and Ontario and at that time very anxious to head home.

All that is now passed. The hay field returned to its normal self, the fence posts



are all back in place, the phones are ringing, the staff returned, the campers returned, and the season ended well with a very successful Fireside Day on Thanksgiving Saturday. With over 200 guests, the perfect amount of delicious pumpkin loaf, hot apple cider, tea and coffee, the fireplace burning in the Trophy Room, a modern electric fireplace (graciously loaned from the West Kelowna Home Hardware) a lovely addition in the living room the season ended on a high note. Peter and Marian gave more tours on Sunday for those who missed the day before.

All is now quiet. Fintry Provincial Park is closed for the season, the gate is locked, hibernation has set in – until the snow flies and the cross-country skiers return, hopefully not too soon (for the snow that is). We now look forward to the Festival of the Falls in May – always a great start to the season, the sounds of the raging water, music, laughing voices, the barns and Manor House all spruced up after the winter – all will be ready.

Marian and Peter Blundell



## Fintry Volunteers

To all of our volunteers, The Board Members of Friends of Fintry say:

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**We are in need of help. We would love for someone to volunteer to be our Events Coordinator. The job would entail finding volunteers, from a list of past volunteers and current members, for each of our fund raising events. Please! Please! Please!**

**Email: [info@fintry.ca](mailto:info@fintry.ca)**

## Friends of Fintry Educational Presentations

The Friends of Fintry Society now offers to students and teachers a variety of activities, discussions and artifact displays, depicting the life of Captain Dun-Waters and contributions he made during his life at Fintry and in the Okanagan. The format includes a 3-part stand-alone display, a CD and DVD. Also included are opportunities for discussion group activities, and writing and viewing artifacts. The presentation generally supports the science, math, and language goals (and IRPs) and the focus may be tailored to individual needs as requested. This presentation is for in-class viewing.

This presentation can also be made to Senior's Groups. Cost of presentation: an honorarium of \$50.00 to Friends of Fintry Society

To request a presentation contact:

Gwendy Lamont 250-769-7735 or 250-455-6646

e-mail [gklamont@yahoo.ca](mailto:gklamont@yahoo.ca) or [info@fintry.ca](mailto:info@fintry.ca)  
or Dan Bruce, 250 766 2081



## Membership News

There are **152+** paid members of Friends of Fintry! We can always use more! Just to remind you, your membership is good until spring 2010, unless your newsletter arrived with a **red address label or email address!** "Red" means your membership, in our records, is not current. If you would like to renew, and we sure would like you to, send your name, address, email address, and \$10 per adult or \$25 for a family to Friends of Fintry c/o 2279 Westside Place, Kelowna BC, V1Z 3T5



# The Living Barn

*This is an imaginary story and reflects only what Gil would like to see Fintry become. All names of animals and humans, as well as implied conversations are only a figment of Gil's huge imagination.*

On a crisp autumn morning in November 1941 at 5 am the barn is already a beehive of activity. Let's sneak in and enjoy the life there.

Pete, the herdsman and Bill his apprentice have arrived at the barn and already greeted each other with their jovial friendship.

Bill says to Pete, "Where do you want me to start today?"

"Well you might as well climb the silo and throw down the silage for the morning feed and give the girls their proper portion while I get started milking."

"Hey Pete it sure pays to get old, ya get all the sitting down jobs!"

"Listen Whipper Snapper every day you are a agein'!" They both laugh as they head in different directions.

Amid the clatter of the stanchions, the rattling of milk buckets can be clearly heard. Then you hear a plop as forkfuls of silage come down from above, with their distinct fresh sour smell. That seems to motivate the cows to murmur their anticipation of what is soon going to be within their reach.

As Pete comes up to Sally from behind, he says, "Sally ol' girl, just move over a bit so as I can sit down". As he puts his 3-legged stool down and positions his bucket in the proper place he begins to gently squeeze, and you hear that rhythmic sound of milk splatting against the stainless steel pail.

Suddenly Pete exclaims, "Jeez Sally is it always necessary to slap me alongside the head with that dang tail of yours?"



Behind him Pete hears the Master speaking in his Scottish accent, "Morning Pete, its better that Sally does it than the Missus."

Pete replies, "Morning Sir! Have your self a look at Daisy and her new little girl there in the pen. She sure is pretty!"

Outside now the whirl of the Pelton wheel is heard as the sawmill springs to life. Some new sounds are heard in the barn as the teamsters talk to their majestic charges while harnessing and preparing them for the days activity.

"Hey Pete!" the Master says, "Young Julie will be comin' down to the barn for a pail of cream to make butter. Give her the best! Thanks!"

Soon the beautiful young Julie is at the barn. "Hi Pete," she says. "Is the cream in the same place as last time?"

Pete replies, "The third can from the right in the milk house is the best cream for makin' butter! Have a great day. You're sure lookin' pretty! Ya want me to tell Bill ya were here to see him?"

Julie says, "Nah I came to see you. I prefer older men!" Pete coughs a bit in embarrassment as Julie skips out the door to the milk house.

This short scenario of the relational activity between humans, animals and all of nature, is my dream to see re-created. As I stand in the barn and try to visualize and imagine all the activity I view in pictures, I have real life experiences to stimulate memories.

I wonder if today's young have any place to process what really was going on there. Wouldn't it be something if we actually saw the farm come back to life?

Imagine rows of veggies in the fields, the banter of workers weeding in the sunshine, and coffee time with fresh butter on a biscuit baked from flour ground from the Pelton wheel.

This could be a picture of the life and educational components as Dun-Waters intended, touching the people of today in a healthy wholesome way.

Sounds fun and healthy when we need healthy sustainable food more than ever.

Dream with us and help us to see the past as  
pertinent to the future!

By Gil Wyse, Board Member