

THE OCTAGON

SPRING 2009 EDITION

A Word from the Top

From the pen of John Sugars, President

It has been a very busy year. So busy, in fact that no one had the time to put together a Fall Newsletter. For that, we apologize but hope that you will forgive us and find this one informative and enlightening.

We have had many new acquisitions to our collection at the Manor House. For example, Sue Hooper donated a Roman Chair in ebony, a wall stand with hat rack, a glove box and an umbrella stand.

The Sugars Bench, a personal project of mine, is now in place near the sundial and has been cemented down. We look forward to the installation of a rose arbour and the planting of roses to add to the setting.

Our biggest undertaking is the Festival of the Falls 2009. We have decided to feature this year as the **100th Anniversary** of the purchase of the delta property by J C Dun-Waters. Mark Flanagan, the keeper of the gardens in Windsor Great Park, London and Alex Budden, the British Consul General from Vancouver will be our special guests for the occasion. Mike Roberts from CHBCTV will be our MC for the *occasion* and our planning committee has been working very hard to make this an extra spectacular event. There will be an unveiling of the *Dun-Waters* Curling Trophy that will now be housed in the Manor during the summer months. We thank the Vernon Curling club for allowing us to share in the displaying of this special cup. We have had some unexpected expenses this year, one being the "eviction" of a colony of bats from the Manor House's attic. They have moved to other quarters but now the mice in the basement are causing problems. However, thanks to many generous donations, you our faithful members, and the hard work of many volunteers, Friends of Fintry continues to make progress.

It has been my pleasure to be president of this group for the past 2 years. Where did the time go?

We will be looking for new board members at our AGM. If you love Fintry, perhaps it is time to consider giving her more of your time. For more information email info@fintry.ca

What's New?

By Dan Bruce

We have had a number of interesting items added to our collection in recent months, many of which will be in place in the Manor House when the first tours of 2009 take place on the 9th of May, our 100th anniversary. Curatorial time has been much occupied with arrangements for the celebrations, so a brief mention of some of the pieces will have to suffice for the present.

The **Vernon Curling Club** has now agreed to share with us the curling trophy cup, given to the club by James Dun-Waters. The cup was presented to Mr. Dun-Waters by the servants at his house, "Creighton", on the occasion of his wedding in 1888. Thanks to the co-operation of club President Trevor Perepolkin, we will be able to exhibit the cup at Fintry during the summer months, and the club will continue to award the trophy during their winter period of activity.

Mrs. Ruth Cushing of Vernon donated a fine example of a late Victorian sideboard, and **Mrs. Verla Stuart** has generously donated a sofa that was at one time, part of the original furnishing of the house at the mouth of Shorts Creek, "Burnside".

During the summer, we were presented with a number of small personal items that belonged to James Dun-Waters. These came from **Mr. John Menzies**, and his wife **Beverley**, of Saltspring Island, and include several of the First World War medals awarded to James Dun-Waters. Mr John Menzies is the brother of Margaret, the second Mrs. Dun-Waters, and through that connection we were able to trace the history of a

very significant item that was once part of the Manor House furnishing. About the time of his first wedding, Dun-Waters purchased a painting by John Hoppner, an "action portrait" of Richard Humphries, the well-known bare-knuckle boxer of the late 18th Century. It was painted in 1787, one of a long list of portraits by Hoppner (Admiral Lord Nelson sat for him on more than one occasion) and was reproduced as a mezzotint in 1788. After the death of James Dun-Waters, the painting was sold, and found a new home in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Since it has been in the Metropolitan's collection, it has been exhibited several times in European galleries, on loan from the Met. We have written to the Metropolitan to ask about getting a good colour reproduction of it for Fintry, and we await their reply. In the meantime, we have acquired a very nice engraved portrait of John Hoppner, after a self-portrait, published in 1812. There is a possibility that with the co-operation of the Kelowna Art Gallery, we may be able at some future date to arrange for the loan of the original painting, to allow Okanagan residents a chance to see this very striking image, and a fine example of British portraiture of the late 18th Century.

Mention must also be made of a porcelain model of a pair of greyhounds. This was donated by **Ron and Kirsten Candy**, of Vernon, and is without doubt the finest piece of porcelain in the collection. It is from the Belleek workshop in County Fermanagh, Ireland. The subject matter would certainly have appealed to James Dun-Waters and we are very pleased to have an item of this quality in our collection.

Fintry Events for 2009

Friends of Fintry hosts four fundraising events throughout the season: Festival of the Falls in May, BC Parks Days Pancake Breakfast in July, Fintry Days Pancake Breakfast in August and Fintry Fireside Thanksgiving in October. All of these events are well attended and a lot of fun for visitors and volunteers.

Our pancake breakfasts are most appreciated by the campers at Fintry Provincial Park. Comments like, "Do you do this every weekend?" "What could be better than breakfast with syrup and no dishes to do?" and "Can you come and cook at my campsite tomorrow?" let us know how much they appreciate our efforts. We also get people who drive out for the day to have breakfast, do the Manor House and Barn tours then hike up to the falls. Anita and James Baker have the formula

for food down pat so everything runs smoothly and everyone is happy. On top of that, we raise some much-needed funds for the upkeep of the Fintry Estate.

Our Fireside Thanksgiving is an open-house-style of touring. We have a volunteer in each room to give people a bit of the history of that room and a story or two. Guests are served mulled apple cider and pumpkin loaf and are free to wander from room to room talking to the volunteers. The fireplace crackles in the trophy room to add ambience, a little heat and a bit of smoke to the atmosphere! It really has a nice homey feel and you can truly imagine Captain Dun-Waters entertaining in such a manner. Of course, he would have more than likely served a bit of whiskey to his guests!

Our Festival of the Falls theme for this year the 100th Anniversary of Fintry: Be it the arrival of Dun-Waters at Fintry or purchase of land, clearly the date was significant enough to both Earl Grey and James C. Dun-Waters. Earl Grey was then the Governor General of Canada. Earl Grey is "remembered fondly today for a little gesture – the Grey Cup. Such is history"

~ Fintry: Lives, Loves and Dreams by Stan Saurerwein and Arthur Bailey

Volunteer/Membership Coordinator
Karen Bennison

Fintry Calendar of Events 2009

- May 9th Festival of the Falls 10 – 3:00**
- June 7th Heirloom Discovery Day Call**
250 542 4540 to reserve
- June 14th AGM at Manor House 10:00 am.**
- July 18th BC Parks Day Pancake Breakfast**
8 - 11
- Aug. 15th Fintry Days Pancake Breakfast**
8 - 11
- Oct. 10th Fintry Fireside Thanksgiving**
12 - 4

Fintry Volunteers

Throughout the year many volunteers contribute to the success of Fintry Estate. It is truly amazing the number of people that come out to help at events or contribute their time or skills. While I would love to be able to print all their names, I'm sure I would forget someone and that would be sad. However, I can say thank you to the 18 – 20 people that help out at the pancake breakfasts, the 12 people that give their time for Fireside Thanksgiving, the 40 or more that contributed to the success of Festival of the Falls, and the 16 who worked at our booth at the Armstrong IPE. In addition, thank you to the ladies from Wilson Landing who came out to plant the garden in front of the Manor House again this spring. Our thanks goes out to the Parks attendants who help spread the word about our summer functions. Thank you, as well, to those of you who came and did our spring-cleaning: washing windows, dusting, vacuuming and raking! When else can you get up close and personal with antiques! Now some special thank you: Jan and Ken Waldon get our thanks for continuing to give up weekends in 2008 to give tours and Ken, thanks for keeping the lawns mowed last year. Thank you, as well to Joan Salisbury, Gwendy Lamont, Erin and Leanne Nelson, Jennifer Hindle who also provided tour times this year. A huge thank you goes to Kenn Dugate who continues to organize our musical entertainment. There are also countless hours given by others doing repairs and maintenance around the estate: Thank you for your help. Ingenious Webdesign needs to be thanked for donating their time to keep our fintry.ca up-to-date. Lone Pine Ranch must be thanked for having so many wonderful events this summer. Dan Bruce, Mike Overend and Rob Kuffert get our thanks for bringing in much needed funds by volunteering their time to run the bar at these events. Fintry benefits financially from these events! Rob also installed the new cupboards and brought up and installed the fridges that we needed. And, there are others out there that quietly contribute without most of us even knowing!

As you can see, there is a long list. Each person who volunteers at a breakfast or Fireside gave us 5 hours of their time, for Festival of the Falls it averaged 6 hours, as did IPE. If you even begin to do the math, you will realize the wonderful contribution these people are making to help Fintry function.

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

1733 Westside Rd. N. Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3T4
250-769-7735 or 250-455-6646

e-mail gklamont@yahoo.ca or info@fintry.ca
or Dan Bruce, 250 766 2081

Membership Renewal Time

We cannot operate without your support.

Please renew your membership so
Fintry can continue to grow.
The membership form is enclosed.





Fintry, Stirlingshire,
Scotland found Fintry,
Okanagan through our
web page
www.fintry.ca

James Dun-Waters inherited a sizeable estate in Fintry, Scotland from his father, which included an ancient Scottish castle called "**Culcreuch Castle**" (photo) - dating back 500 years - and a baronial country house called "Craigton House", built by his father. All of this was sold when he purchased the peninsula and upper farm at Short's Creek 100 years ago this May. Mr. Dun-Waters made this Canadian property his home in 1909 and named it "Fintry" after his family's Scottish property.

2009 has been named "Homecoming Year" in Scotland to commemorate the birth of Robert Burns 250 years ago. David Smith - the principal of the Primary/elementary School in Fintry, Scotland and his wife Jackie - a teacher at the school - are organizing a school-based project to connect with other Fintrys around the world and see if they have any connections with their Fintry and, if so, what that might be.

When they found Fintry, Okanagan's website they reached us through e-mail and they were able to arrange to include a visit to our Fintry in their up-coming visit to Western Canada. They are delighted to find that we too are celebrating a centennial!

As a member of the Board of the Friends of Fintry, who happened to have been born in the hills of Fintry, Scotland, I met with David and Jackie Smith at the Manor House on a pleasant April afternoon. Dan Bruce - Executive Director - and Judie Steeves and Sean Connor of the

Kelowna Capitol News, joined us. David donned his kilt for the interview and the Photo op and then we toured the Manor House and the farm buildings and packing house.

David and Jackie Smith were so excited to find such a notable estate on the peninsula at Fintry and were really thrilled that our Parks Department and the Regional district had acquired it all. They are also most appreciative of all the work being done by Dan Bruce and the Board of the Friends of Fintry, working with the government agencies, to restore Fintry to its former standard and maintain the estate, with all the buildings, for future generations as part of our Okanagan heritage.

Jennifer Hindle

"Gardening with Mark
Flanagan"

Mary Irwin Theatre
Rotary Centre for the Arts

Friday 1st May 2009 - 7.30 p.m.

Tickets at the Rotary Centre Box Office
\$15.00 each - General Admission

Presented by The Friends of Fintry
- A Fundraiser for Fintry

Mark Flanagan is the Keeper of the Gardens, The Royal Estate, Windsor Castle.

This will be a remarkable opportunity to hear Mr. Flanagan talk about the planning of the gardens at the Royal Estate, the plant material that they use and how they work in that environment. Mr. Flanagan is also a noted collector of plant material in the wild, particularly in China, Korea and Russia. We expect that he will touch on these topics also.

Before moving to his position at Windsor Castle, Mr. Flanagan was for many years at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew as Superintendent in the Wakehurst Division.

Bats in Our Belfry

By Marian Blundell

Bats – what are they? – Well, they are very interesting little animals! The libraries of this world are full of information on bats. They are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, and they are everywhere, except in the extreme Polar Regions. And – almost 25% of all mammals are

BATS. Some say in the summer there are as many bats flying around at night, as there are birds flying around during the day, depending on where one lives.

The word is out that bats are blind; they get caught in your hair, (and they are creepy). We have all heard that. Well, that is all incorrect. Bats are NOT blind, they have excellent eyesight, they do NOT get caught in your hair, and they are NOT mice with wings. They have wings made of folds of skin stretched between elongated finger bones and the body. And they locate their prey using echolocation, sending out sound waves to find objects in their path. They are nocturnal, hunting and feeding at night, sleeping during the day hanging by their feet for easy take off in the evening. The ears of many insects including moths, crickets and beetles are very sensitive to the echolocation calls of bats and this allows these insects to avoid capture. Bats have exceptional life spans, with some adults living over 30 years.

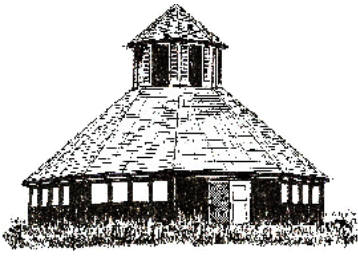
There are seven species of local bats known as Vesper bats. We at Fintry have the little Yuma bat, according to bat experts, which is a representative of the mouse-eared bat (genus *Myotis*), and is therefore similar in appearance to the little brown bat. It is generally smaller than its cousin but it has larger hind feet. In B.C., the Yuma bat is partial to forest clearings and arid regions, and this little bat is known to eat more than half its body weight in one day. And that is why the Yuma bat likes to live in Fintry Provincial Park during the summer. We have lots of bugs. Campers will certainly tell you that.

And, perhaps the most important aspect on the subject of bats at Fintry, we have superb breeding locations – the old Packinghouse, the heritage barns, and the last but most critical at present is the Manor House attic. The female bat gives birth to a single baby, which grows rapidly, and is ready to fly by 18 days. Little is known of the adult males in summer but they do not live in the nursery colonies with females and babies, and are presumed to roost alone or in small groups in cracks and crevices or in bat houses.

In British Columbia, it is against the law to knowingly kill a bat with quite a fine threatened. Bats in the Manor House present a huge health problem with the ammonia smell from the guano. They seem to have been here forever. Arthur Bailey mentions in his book “Fintry – Lives, Loves and Dreams” the difficulty of bats on his first night sleeping in the Manor House! And so the stories continue.

This past winter Dan Bruce called in a pest control company for consultation. After much discussion, the Board of Directors decided to have the Manor House sealed off from the outside, at a cost around \$7,000 and with the tenants having to leave for a few days. To remove all remnants of many generations of bats from the inside, (including the asbestos in the insulation) the cost was totally prohibitive, and would take many months to do. The job has been completed, so now we await the return to the wild of the Yuma bats and wish them “happy hunting” as they search out new homes, but keep up their fine record of keeping the bugs down on the delta.

And oh yes, after all of this, the campers still find bats creepy!



Friends of Fintry Society Membership Form

www.fintry.ca

info@fintry.ca

Mail to: FoF Membership, c/o 2279 Westside Place
Kelowna BC, V1Z 3T5

Membership type: New: _____ Renewal: _____
Single \$10 _____ Family (2 adults 3 children) \$25 _____ Group/Corporation \$50 _____ Donation \$ _____
(Please make cheques payable to Friends of Fintry Society) (Tax receipts given for donations over \$10)

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would be willing to help Fintry in the following capacities.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of the Falls | <input type="checkbox"/> Armstrong Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pancake Breakfasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireside Thanksgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Phoning Committee |

Office Use: Membership card/receipt sent _____ Info recorded _____ Date _____