



THE OCTAGON

Spring 2010 Edition

FRIENDS OF FINTRY PROVINCIAL PARK SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday June 12th, 2010

Fintry Manor House

10:00 a.m

AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:

- Minutes
- Annual Reports of Activities and Accomplishments
- Financial Reports
- Amendment to Constitution/Bylaws
- Election of Officers and Directors
- New Business

Current Board Members:

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	
Gil Wyse	

There will be openings for a few new board members. Please consider letting your name stand. Contact any board member to put your name forward.

A Word from the Top

From the pen of John Sugars, President

It seems like only yesterday that we had our last AGM. How time flies! We've had a pretty busy spring after some quiet winter months. The Board has been busy discussing the "Fintry New Farm" proposal, preparing for Festival of the Falls (May 8th) and organizing the AGM (June 12th).



Although we attempt to compare one year to the next, it is impossible to compare last year to any other. The Terrace Mountain Fire was a terrible event and we are all so pleased that no homes were lost. Let us hope that there is not a repeat any time in

the future and we can look forward to tranquil Fintry seasons filled with festivals and pancake breakfasts!

Our new board members have fit in well and have been great contributors. Mike Berry has been a great help to me in his position as Vice President. He has consented to taking over the role of President for the upcoming year. Gilbert Wyse, with his passion for farming has helped to bring a new vision to Fintry. Melody Aubin took on the job of secretary and has been fantastic in keeping us organized and on topic.

Once again, at the AGM we will be looking for new board members. We have several vacancies to fill. Karen Bennison has let us know that she is going to step down this year & Vayla Tulloch resigned for personal reasons in the fall.

There are several new things to watch for around the estate this season. We have been in touch with the North West Garden Club and they have shown great interest in taking over the planting and maintenance of the gardens at the Manor House. It should be a beautiful year! The latest renovation project has seen the staff quarters come to life again. Thanks to Rob Kuffert for a magnificent job in saving this piece of the estate from ruin.

Nothing stays the same and Fintry Estate is no exception. The board has been working tirelessly on a plan to bring Fintry a bright future. Please read Mike Berry's report for full details on the exciting plans to return farming to the estate and once again create a dream ~ one that the board thinks Dun-Waters would have spearheaded if this were his time!

I thank you all for the last three years as President of the Board and I hope you will welcome my successor, Michael Berry and give him your full support. I thank Dan Bruce, Peter & Marian Blundell and all the board members for a most interesting and productive time.

Good health you all ~ Cheers ~ I won't be far away!

John Sugars.

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## Fintry New Farm

### A New Beginning

Just before Christmas of last year the Board of Directors was pleased to receive a proposal from Keith Duhaime of the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission to re-establish farming activities on the Fintry Delta, in the tradition of that developed by James Dun-Waters in the period from 1909 to 1939. The project, to be known as Fintry New Farm, will provide an enhanced educational experience for visitors to the Fintry Provincial Park, an incubation facility where new agricultural enterprises can be nurtured, and where new entrants can be tutored. The original farm was remarkably self-sufficient, diversified, sustainable and respectful of the local environment. It was in many ways a model for an agricultural renaissance in the Okanagan. The Board, BC Parks and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan are currently consulting with local residents to ensure that the project proceeds with the support of the local residents.

Michael Berry, Vice President



## A New Mission, Vision and Values Statement for The Friends of Fintry

The proposal to re-establish some agricultural activities at Fintry in the original tradition of Capt. Dun-Waters has encouraged the Board to re-examine the Purposes as set out in the Constitution of

the Society. The Board will seek the adoption of the following statements and modified Purposes at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

### **Mission**

The Mission of the Friends of Fintry is to create an environment that allows park visitors and participants to engage in recreational and educational opportunities that develop a greater understanding of their heritage, the lifestyles of their forebears, and the household and farming practices, skills, and knowledge that sustained them.

### **Vision**

Participants and visitors to the Fintry Estate and Park developing a transformative and deeper understanding of the heritage, lifestyles, and sustainable farming practices of inhabitants of the Okanagan Valley in the first half of the 20th century.

### **Purposes**

As stated in its Constitution, to further its Mission the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society has the following purposes:

- a) To assist with the management of the cultural and historic resources of Fintry Provincial Park, in cooperation with BC Parks, Okanagan District.
- b) To undertake projects to support BC Parks in initiatives for the preservation and restoration of buildings, cultural features, facilities and practices in Fintry Provincial Park.
- c) To raise and disburse funds to support the management of the cultural and historical resources of Fintry Provincial Park.
- d) To maintain registration with Revenue Canada as a charitable organization in order to solicit funds and services from individuals or corporations to allow individuals or corporations to deduct any monies and services so given from their income tax or corporate tax as a charitable gift.
- e) To cooperate with other organizations having aims and objectives similar to those of the

Society by conducting and participating in joint activities.

- f) To make grants to preservation, maintenance and restoration projects and for the education of the public to further the vision of the Society.
- g) To function at all times as an independent, non-political, not-for-profit body in carrying out the purposes of the Society.

### **Values**

In carrying out its Mission, the Friends of Fintry value:

1. Authentic and transformative experiences for visitors and participants to the Park and Fintry Estate.
2. Good relations with neighbours, First Nations, benefactors, and all other stakeholders.
3. Transparency and integrity in its decisions, in the management of its resources, and in its dealing with other organizations and individuals.
4. A safe and healthy environment for visitors and participants to the Park.
5. An operation that is environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable for future generations of park visitors and participants, neighbours, and other stakeholders.

Michael Berry, Vice President

## **Membership News**

*It is that time again. Time to show your support for Fintry Estate and Dun-Waters Dream. Time to renew your memberships. Membership forms have been included in this mail out. If you know of anyone else who would like to support Friend of Fintry please pass on a membership form.*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP. SPRING  
CLEANING TIME IS FAST  
APPROACHING. CAN YOU HELP?**

*Come to the Manor House Monday, April 26 from 10 – 4. We need to clean the Manor, the Barns, and the Yard in preparation for the upcoming season. Call Anita @ 250-766-3861 to let her know you will be there. Many hands...!*

**Educational Packages  
available for Teachers and  
Seniors Groups**

The Friends of Fintry Society can offer to students and teachers an educational program and kit, depicting the life of Captain James Dun-Waters and his contributions to the Okanagan. The kit includes a DVD, photographs and sample artifacts. The format includes opportunities for discussion, group activities, and writing. The presentation generally supports science, math and English IRP's (Curriculum) and is for in-class participation. Do you know any teachers who might be interested?

The kit is also available to seniors' groups. To request a presentation contact the following persons: Gwendy Lamont at 250-769-7735 or 250-455-6646, [gklamont@yahoo.ca](mailto:gklamont@yahoo.ca) or [info@fintry.ca](mailto:info@fintry.ca) or Dan Bruce [caballero@shaw.ca](mailto:caballero@shaw.ca)

**REPORT**

For the third year, Len Wood School students (Armstrong), visited Fintry for activities and tours of the site. We are also pleased to announce that a Vernon student won first place in "Local History" at the recent Historical Fair held in Vernon. Her topic was Fintry.

Looking to the future, the kit will be used shortly in a school in the Interior.

**What's New?**

One of the items of furniture that has long been on our list of needs has finally been obtained, largely through the sponsorship of Mrs. Ruth Cushing of Vernon. We now have a dining room table large enough to suit the room. It is a fine piece of mahogany,

made in England between 1850 and 1860. Perfect! The size of some of the rooms at Fintry has presented some problems in locating large enough pieces, and I am happy to say that this year we were also able to find a carpet that was large enough for the living room.

Our list of important additions to the collections is long, but include:

- a brass chandelier in the study,
- an Art Deco couch in the dressing room,
- a very fine bisque porcelain model of a pair of Greyhounds, and
- a thirty-six piece dinner service of Royal Worcester porcelain.

The couch was once the property of Dr. Boyce, and was donated by Donald and Jaque Schneider. The dinner service was the gift of West Willow Antiques, of Vancouver.

Some time ago we acquired a late medieval manuscript, an English land title deed dated 1450. Century 21 Executives Realty of Vernon generously sponsored this. This year that document was joined by another manuscript deed. This one is dated 1272. We are very grateful to Mr. Chuck Fipke of Kelowna for his sponsorship of this second document.

Rob Kuffert has been working on the restoration of the little building to the southwest of the Manor House, originally three sleeping rooms for the house staff. BC Parks have been active and effective partners in this aspect of the general restoration efforts at Fintry.

Submitted by Dan Bruce

**Fintry Calendar of Events 2010**

|                     |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| April 26            | Work Party<br>Spring Cleaning<br>10:00 – 4:00 |
| May 8 <sup>th</sup> | Festival of the Falls<br>10:00 – 3:00         |

June 12<sup>th</sup> AGM 10:00  
 July 17<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast  
                   8:00 – 11:00  
 Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> Pancake Breakfast  
                   8:00 – 11:00  
 Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Fireside Thanksgiving  
                   12:00 – 4:00

Thanks to Robert Ludwig for his good work cutting the grass around the Manor House and Barns.

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with the special occasions i.e.: Festival of the Falls, pancake breakfasts, private tours, gardening, Spring clean up crew, where extra help is so needed!!

The final stages are being finished on the new Pump House, which means all drinking water in the Manor House and Park is now chlorinated which proved to create a dusty and noisy environment while the work progressed for a number of months.

## Manor House Report

Manor House – Marian and Peter Blundell

Spring has certainly sprung around the Manor House. Buds are present on the foliage, watering has begun on the roses, hikers and pets are out strutting their stuff. Even our last year's baby magpies (their domed nest was right next to a Trophy Room window) have been very busy partnering up and making their new domed nests close by (and recycling twigs from last year's) in preparation. Life is returning to Fintry.

This has certainly been an interesting year. Of course, the big story this past year was the fires, the closing up and evacuation of the Manor House, the barns, and the Park for about a month during the summer. It was certainly a learning scenario!!

Last May we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Dun-Waters arrival at Fintry with the planting of the Centennial London Plane tree near the Labyrinth. It is thriving very nicely and is a great addition to that area.

Tony Durante continues to do an excellent job maintaining the Labyrinth which was designed and created in 2002-2003 by his late wife Cathryne. The flowers that are grown were picked particularly for it & have thrived so well. He told me to check out World Wide Labyrinth Locator on the Internet and how Fintry's Labyrinth blends in with the other labyrinths around the world. Try it – you will find it very interesting.

Restoring continues on the "Staff Living Quarters" taking the 'old leaking shack entwined with mangled live and dead bushes' to what it might have been like for staff working in the Manor House. When completed it will be part of the tours.

And now preparation for the final clean up of the Barns and Manor House, the gardens, property promotion, summer staff preparations – all currently taking place before June weekends and July and August daily tours - life continues very well at the Manor House.

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