



## **Friends of Fintry Provincial Park**

### **The Octagon - May, 2019**

Greetings Friends,

Just like the birds, we are all a-twitter now that Spring is here and we are getting the Fintry Manor House and the grounds ready for another busy season. The highlight of this month is of course our Spring Fair which will be happening on the Manor House lawn on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Vikings will be demonstrating their full contact jousting throughout the day, the Kalamalka Highlanders will be marching and playing at noon and there will be a variety of singers to entertain you from the veranda of the Manor House. Vendors will be demonstrating and selling their wares and there will be games and face painting for the little ones. A full fun-packed day is promised for all!!

As all memberships expired on April 30<sup>th</sup>, I would also like to remind you that if you haven't already renewed your membership you can do so at the Fair. Membership is an important part of our revenue stream and is critical when reporting and applying for grants to keep this heritage and cultural destination alive.

Still on the topic of grants, we unfortunately were not successful in our bid to get a grant for two students through Young Canada Works, so that means that we are relying totally on volunteers to manage tours throughout this upcoming season. If you can help us even one day a week it would be much appreciated. All that is required is an interest in the history of Fintry. We have a tour guide manual which covers all the important facts and training will be provided. Please give our Curator Dan Bruce a call at 250-766-2081 or myself (Kathy) at 250-542-4139.

When you tour the Manor House I am sure you must have seen the bookcases in the various rooms. Here, our Curator Dan Bruce gives us some insight as to what is in these collections:

*"Books do not usually make very interesting museum exhibits, as the contents are difficult to show unless they are in the hands of the viewer. They are however an important part of the furnishing of a home, and Fintry was no exception. We know that James Dun-Waters was a student at Jesus College, Cambridge, but his interests were more focussed on sports and outdoor activities than on academic studies. This does not mean that he was "illiterate" in any sense, and we are fortunate that at Fintry we have at least a part of his personal library, still in good condition. A big "Thank You" to Rod and Karen Stuart for donating the books that were in their*

*possession, many of which have the book-plate with the name James C. Waters. Those volumes would have belonged originally to Dun-Waters' father, James Coltart Waters, and they include a good selection of English literature and history. For the most part they are leather bound editions, and are what one would expect to find in a well-educated person's library of the time. The works of Robbie Burns and Sir Walter Scott are well represented, as is Lord Byron, and other English poets. There is also a life of the Duke of Wellington in several volumes and some lesser known items, such as the "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers" by William Aytoun, 1849, and "The Incas of Peru" by M. Marmontel, 1806. We know that there was also a set of the Badminton Sporting Library, a series of books covering a wide range of sports in the nineteenth century. These we do not have in the collection, and we are on the look-out for replacement copies.*

*Apart from these, there are additional items on the shelves that give a bit of an insight into the interests and shopping habits of the Laird of Fintry. We have a number of catalogues issued by merchants in England and the U. S. that were clearly sent for and from which orders were placed. There is an extensive Faber and Faber book list dated 1938 and a 1929 – 1930 Liberty's Yule-Tide Gift Catalogue, both from London, as is an Army and Navy Stores Easter list. An interesting one is Swaine and Adeney's 1935 catalogue of sporting goods, chiefly aimed at the fox hunting clientele. Swaine and Adeney's was founded around 1750 by James Ross, who was by Royal Appointment, Whip Maker to King George III. The company is still in business, and continues to hold the honour of Royal Appointments to the present day. Tucked inside this catalogue is an order-form for Abercrombie and Fitch of New York, founded in 1892, and also still in business. It was Abercrombie and Fitch that outfitted Theodore Roosevelt's famous African safari in 1909.*



*The Friends of Fintry have continued the library tradition, in that we have established the Fairbridge Reference Library, a repository of texts on agriculture, and related subjects. The name was chosen to memorialize the Fairbridge Farm Schools and James Dun-Waters' interest in agricultural education."*

So now we all know what hidden treasures are in those bookcases!

Happy Spring and Happy Mother's Day to all mothers out there.  
Hope to see you at the Fair.....

*Kathy Drew,  
Friends of Fintry Provincial Park*