



## **Friends of Fintry Provincial Park**

### **The Octagon - July 2018**

We are gearing up for our annual Fintry Summer Fair which will be happening on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the Manor House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As mentioned in the last Octagon, we have an exciting line up of singers and musicians including Triskele from West Kelowna, as well as dancers (the Vernon Scottish Country Dancers) and of course the ever-popular Kalamalka Highlanders Pipe Band. There will be lots of vendor booths and food trucks, so gather the clans, bring your summer visitors and have a fun day at Fintry.

The Friends of Fintry participated in the Vernon Downtown Association's Sunshine Festival on June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was indeed a beautiful sunny day, albeit a bit windy, and was an excellent opportunity to showcase the history of Fintry as well as good advertising for the July 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Fair.

We are delighted that the Fintry Manor House is now wheelchair accessible! The stonework around the new wider door is now complete, door painted and we are all set for our summer visitors.

We have been very busy at the Manor House with some large tours (seniors from Peachland) and several school tours. Our school tours have been a great success thanks to Gwendy Lamont and her organising skills (and ex-teacher class control). At the last tour she thought we should teach these little Grade 3/4s a Scottish Dance, in keeping with Dun-Waters heritage, but when it came time for the boys and girls to take hands, there was a lot of "eeee-uuu", "yuck" and "no way" so that was a lesson learned! The children really enjoyed the "touch, feel and guess" portion of the tour and I think they learned a lot about how things were done in the past.

Following is a little bit of history compiled by Jim Klein, regarding the Packing House (located at the water's edge at Fintry).



**The Packing House**

This packinghouse, built by James Dun-Waters c1924, conveys the scale and vision of the agricultural operation developed by Dun-Waters between 1909 and 1939. The packing house operated from 1924 to the mid 1940s.

The portion of the packinghouse adjacent to the wharf was used to grade and pack apples produced on the estate for shipment off-site on the Canadian Pacific steam-ships which sailed Okanagan Lake. The rear of the building was used for cold storage of crated apples.

As no electrical grid was anywhere near the estate at that time, power to operate the cold storage in the packing house, and the automatic power-operated fruit grader was generated by a Pelton Wheel water turbine situated on Shorts Creek near the barns.

Apple boxes, filled in the packinghouse, were hand-trucked across the wharf and loaded into a boxcar that sat on a barge at the wharf. At the peak of the season, the packinghouse turned out a boxcar of apples per day, 670 boxes per load. One year, 85 carloads of apples were shipped.

To ensure a successful orchard, Dun-Waters installed an irrigation system in 1912, bringing water down in wooden stave pipes from the waterfalls behind the orchard. Flumes took water to the rows of trees where a part of the orchard was watered by open ditches. For other parts, there was sufficient water pressure to use sprinklers, an irrigation technique ahead of its time.

This packinghouse is an important part of Fintry's history because it is a visible remnant of the estate's once extensive orchard operation, which at one time covered approximately one half of the delta lands.

Kathy Drew, President  
Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society