

# LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

420 Fraser St., P.O. Box 640  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

2013 Issue #3



Unlocking Lytton's Past

## A Vintage Holiday Wish



In 1843 the first Christmas cards were printed in England and sold for a shilling each (5p), the equivalent of an average weekly wage, making them the preserve of the moneyed classes. In 2010, one of the 18 known to still exist sold at auction for \$7,000.00 (cdn)

The image on this first Christmas card shows three generations of a family raising a toast to the card's recipient and wishes them:

A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU'

Which, 173 years later, is our wish to you.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Who? What? When? Snippets  
Chairs & Mayors  
Year-end Reports  
Roll-top Desks  
Bribing Butcher of Lytton  
Miscellany  
Lytton News - 100 Years Ago

## From the Curator

At the October meeting Dorothy Dodge's Curator's report concluded with :

*The time has come for me to pay attention to my "Best Before" date! It passed some time ago, so before I mess up completely I am going to resign as both Curator and Director, as of November 26, 2013. I've been thinking about it for quite a while and now that you have an excellent museum 'team' I feel the time is right. I'll still be a member and will be available if needed. It has been wonderful working with you all.*

Dorothy has been 'The Museum' since it began in 1995. We will hold her to her promise of assistance! Thank you, Dorothy.



## Lytton Chairs & Mayors Over the Years



*Mayor's Chair  
and  
gavel at the  
Museum*

Lytton has not always been governed by the Mayor and Councillors as it is now. In fact, in accordance with The Municipalities Act of the day, the governing body was constituted as a Board of Commissioners.

The Incorporation documents for the Village of Lytton dated May 3, 1945, indicate that Alexander Strang (Chair), Dr. John P. Ellis, and Morton Alexander Dyce (Directors) were appointed to the Board to hold office until their successors were elected at the first annual election to be held in December 1945.

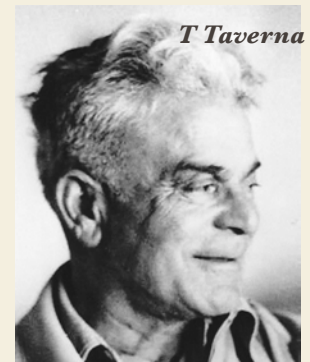


At this time, Board members were referred to as "Chair and Directors". This nomenclature continued until the terms were changed to "Mayor and Aldermen" in April 1968. But it wasn't until January 1, 1970 that the incumbent A.J. Ashmore actually took the title of Mayor. For another twenty-two years, the terms Mayor and Aldermen were applied, and in 1992, the term "Alderman" became "Councillor". These changes kept our Village Council in line with The Municipalities Act, and with other municipalities in and around British Columbia.

Initially, the installation of Chairs and Directors was for a period of two years, and often these terms were somewhat abbreviated. For example, in 1949 – coincidentally in the year when a great portion of Lytton's business district was destroyed by fire<sup>1</sup> -- there were three Board shuffles: January 7<sup>th</sup>, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 21<sup>st</sup> -- in one of which the Chair and a Director exchanged roles. According to the Village of Lytton records, in 2002, during the term of Mayor Chris O'Connor, the term was extended to three years, firstly to adhere to The Municipalities Act, and secondly, to enable projects initiated by the Board to be completed before a new Board took over the reins and possibly changed course.

Chair Thomas Taverna has the distinction of having served longest on the Board of Commissioners. In

1949, he was elected as Chair for one term, and served another two terms as Director. Then in 1953, he secured and held the position of Chair from January 1953 to December 1969 – 16 consecutive years!



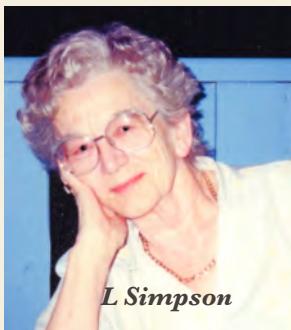
The Mayors having the longest tenure on the Board were Mayor Victor L. Loring who was first appointed in January 1976, and re-elected 4 consecutive times thereafter until 1984 – a period of 8 years; and Mayor Joseph A. Chute, who began a 13-year tenure which lasted from 1985 until 1999.

Continued on p3

## Mayors & Chairs *con't*

The first woman on the governing board of Lytton was Director Mrs. Elsie Kent, who was elected on August 19, 1955, and stayed through a second term which ended December 1957. In 1967 Director Mrs. Lorraine Simpson was elected, and stayed for two terms.

Mayor Hazel Hill was elected in 1972, and in 1973, Mrs. Simpson became Mayor, and stayed for 3 consecutive terms.



Alderwoman Rita Haugen served 2 years from January 1977 to December 1978.

Alderwoman F. M. (Peggy) Chute served from December 1983 until

November 1985. Alderman W. (Wilma) Thomas served from December 1984 to December 1987.

In more recent years, Councillor K. (Kathryn) Brooks served from 1996 to 2002, Councillor E. (Elna) De Klerk from 1999 to 2002, and Councillor R. (Rita) McKay served two terms from 2006 to 2011. Councillor J. (Jesoa) Lightfoot served one term before becoming Lytton's Mayor in 2008 and is currently in her second term as Mayor. Councillor T. (Tricia) Thorpe was elected as Councillor in 2011 and served for two years. Councillor D. (Denise) MacIntyre served one term in 2005, and was re-elected in 2011 for a 3 year term.

There are no municipal census figures for Lytton's population in the years prior to 1951, but the 1951 census yielded a population figure of 351<sup>2</sup>. By 1971, the population swelled to 494, a 58% increase, and thereafter gradually decreased until the present day when Lytton's population numbers approximatel 228, a decline since 1971 of 54%.

Despite erratic population figures, Village Council's responsibilities have grown considerably, and the Village Council continues to run with a Mayor and 4 Councillors, positions carrying a three year term. There is recent political movement toward a four year term to coincide with BC provincial elections, to join the majority of other Canadian provinces, and perhaps stimulate local election participation<sup>3</sup>.

Over the past 68 years, Lytton's governing body has undertaken and completed a number of significant projects which have resulted in a carefully developed community plan for Lytton. In subsequent newsletters, some of the more notable members of Lytton's Boards and their accomplishments will be discussed.

*Thanks to Dorothy Dodge, and Joe and Peggy Chute for their valuable insight, information and proofreading.*

*Submitted by J. Johnson.*

<sup>1</sup> 1994. Dodge, Dorothy. Lytton: Hot Spot of the Interior. In Reflections: Thompson Valley Histories. Ed. Wayne Norton and Wilf Schmidt.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/MunicipalPopulations>

<sup>3</sup> B.C. Municipalities: Local politicians support four-year terms. Alberni Valley News. <http://www.alberniavalleynews.com/news/224486721.html>

## Chairman's Report

It has been my pleasure this year, my first as the chairman of Lytton Museum and Archives, to work with an executive and volunteers of such willingness and high standards drawn from our small community. The old adage "One volunteer is worth ten pressed men" definitely holds true with our current group, I have found during this last year that calls for assistance have been met with unfailing loyalty and enthusiasm. Having said that, that does not mean we can't use more Volunteers. There are always things you can help with in the Museum.

Our long serving, dedicated, volunteer, Curator Dorothy Dodge has handed in her resignation. Dorothy will be hard to replace, as over the years she has taken many courses involving much time regarding the accurate work of accessioning archives and artifacts and her local knowledge of people and area history is invaluable.

Earlier this year we accepted the withdrawal of the earlier bid to extend the covered area, our "back yard project". This was due to changing requirements from the village regarding new structures, necessitating a revision of costs and plans to meet the latest building codes. These plans are being drawn up.

This has been a year of 'news' - new executive, new volunteers, new website, new newsletter, new office equipment, new storage racks - in other words, we've been busy. Thank you everyone.

Peter S. Heaster

## Curator's Year End Report

I feel a bit strange saying year end because the year never ends at the Museum. There is always something to access, files to research, paperwork to file, e-mails to answer, photos to print, general housekeeping to do, updating of displays, finding space to squeeze in new acquisitions, planning for events, gathering info for newsletters, hosting visitors and students, helping authors find photos and info for their next book, keeping up on activities of other BC and Canadian Museums for ideas, etc., etc. - oh yes, and writing reports!

2013 was a fairly typical year: the Young Ambassadors' visit, student visits, the Annual Tea & Talk in February, an extra Tea & Talk just for the Spintlum Lodge residents in June, visiting tourists, our Annual Members Dinner in June and now in the planning for the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec 11.

Once again the Village was generous to us in providing 2 salaries for summer helpers. With the cooperation of helpers in a bit of 'open hours shuffling', we managed to have the Museum open everyday from June 23 to September 6. Thanks to Tom Peglow, Nina Sidorczuk and Dereck Ostiguy for a job well done.

During the year we had approx. 880 visitors, down from last year's 1000 which matches with a reported general decline in tourism in BC. Hopefully we'll see more visitors next year. As usual, our visitors came from all over the world - we even had another visit from *The Barefoot Russian Traveller, Vladimir Nesin.*

con't on page 5

## Curator's Year End Report con't

Thank you to our Museum Members, near and far, our reason for being. Thanks to our volunteers, our summer staff, the Village, the Executive and especially to Dorothy Dodge for all her years of hard work making the Museum what it is today. I hope we can maintain the standards she set!

Marie Heaster,  
Co-Curator

## Roll-top Desks



Do you have a roll top writing desk?

Have you ever wondered who came up with this piece of functional furniture? And when?

It was particularly popular in the 19th and 20th centuries because of the many stacked compartments, cubby holes, drawers and writing space that could be quickly hidden away pulling a wooden curtain from a hidden cylinder. Modern roll-tops are often used as computer desks.

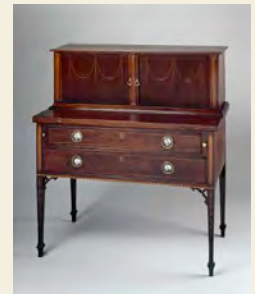
The roll top desk design evolved from three earlier types of desks:

- the Carleton house desk was an open desk with lots of storage drawers,



the Cylinder desk with a solid curved vertical-sliding front, and

the Tambour desk with vertical slat shutters opening horizontally left and right.



The inventor? And when? - It all depends on which history you read.

The New York Times reported it was "probably" invented by London Cabinetmakers Mayhem & Ince in the early 1800's.

The Kentucky Historical Society attributes it to Jacob Alles in 1879.

The Bullfinch Illustrated Encyclopedia of Antiques gives credit to a 1760's French Cabinetmaker, Francois Oeben.

Other sources give credit to Abner Cutler who designed and patented it in New York in 1850.

The following story is printed with the author's permission. Michelle Poncelet describes her gold rush stories as:

*creative non-fiction short stories. Some of the characters are real people from history: no intention is made to mis-represent historical facts.*

## The Bribing Butcher of Lytton



The first hotel in Lytton was built in 1861 by Belgian Argonaut Louis Hautier and his wife Josephine. The Globe Hotel developed a solid reputation on the Cariboo Wagon for

Louis' handmade pastries and Josephine's fine cooking. They grew grapes and produced several varieties of wine for the Globe's saloon.



In 1868, Hautier had a dispute with Patrick Kilroy, the town's butcher. Hautier was a small lightly built man, known for his polite manner punctuated with a fiery temper when provoked. Kilroy, a Fenian, was a large man of over two hundred pounds with a reputation for being stingy. The two men did not get along, and one day, after hearing Kilroy make disparaging remarks about his family, Hautier decided to do something about it.

Hautier arrived at the front door of Kilroy's butcher shop carrying a stout cudgel in one hand and a pistol in his pocket. Not surprisingly, Kilroy wrested the stick from Hautier's grasp and proceeded to beat the hotelier about the head. Hautier reached his hand into his pocket and fired the pistol, hitting Kilroy. Standing nearby was a First Nations man, Shal-lou. Upon hearing the gunshot, several people rushed into the street, and seeing Kilroy lying on the ground, rushed to his assistance. Kilroy, his face bloodied and blackened by gunpowder, was treated by Doctor McInnes and the bill of \$300 for the treatment of the scalp wound and powder burns was paid by Bill McWha, owner of the Lytton Hotel.

Believing he had a solid case against Hautier, Kilroy sought to influence Shal-lou to give favourable evidence by giving him free meat in the month leading up to the trial.

Judge Begbie arrived at the courthouse in Lytton and the trial of Louis Hautier began before a packed room of witnesses and spectators. Counsel for Kilroy and Hautier gave their versions of the events and then Shal-lou gave his testimony .

All of Kilroy's bribes of meat didn't seem to have made an impact. Shal-lou told of the vicious attack Kilroy made on Hautier with the club, and of the shot fired and the smoke emanating from Hautier's coat. He told them

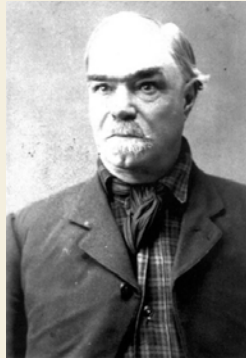
Continued on p6

## Bribing Butcher con't

he had not seen a pistol in Hautier's hand, but he had heard the shot and had seen smoke coming from Hautier's pocket

Kilroy was evasive under cross-examination when asked about his assault on Hautier. After several failed attempts at getting Kilroy to answer the question, Hautier's counsel turned to the judge.

Judge Begbie warned Kilroy he could be committed for contempt of court if he didn't answer 'Yes' or 'No' on whether he had beaten Hautier with the stick. Kilroy persisted in giving evasive answers and Judge Begbie ordered him locked up for six hours.



Hautier was acquitted.

*Editor's Note:* Did you enjoy this story? Visit Michelle Poncelet's blog "British Columbia gold rush history and stories" at

<http://bcgoldrushpress.com>

for gold rush short stories, biographies and sketches of BC gold rush pioneers. Great reading for history buffs!

Photo Credits: BC Archives

### DID YOU KNOW.....

...starting in 1890 and for a year or after, Salvation Army officers on horseback followed gold rush trails in the south central interior to make contact with lonely miners and ranchers in rural areas. Captain Smith travelled from Kamloops to Lytton and wrote in the Canadian War Cry:

*I arrived at Lytton about 6 p.m. After enquiring about a place to hold a meeting in for Sunday I was told the trustee of the school lived 3 miles out of Lytton, and he would be in about 9 o'clock in the morning. But I was told they never allowed anyone to hold meetings in it.*

*In the afternoon I took the open-air, had about 40 Indians and a few white people to talk to. Had a very nice meeting. Sunday is the busiest day of the week. People come in for provisions and then leave again towards night. I sold six War Crys, one man giving me a dollar for one.*

## Museum Annual Dinner

This year our dinner was held in the Parish Hall. This location was more central for many of our members.

An 'unorganized potluck' provided a variety of dishes to try.

Attendees obviously enjoyed it as the visiting after dinner lasted longer than anticipated!

## Lytton - 100 Years Ago - 1913 News Revisited

Arthur Noel of Lillooet and J. J. Farrell of Lytton have put up a wager of \$1,000 each upon a series of three games between the baseball teams of Lytton and Lillooet.

### Bridge Workers Strike

It is reported from Lytton, B. C., that bridge workers have quit work on the C.N.R. work, following a demand for a "closed shop" job on the company's bridge work.

### Sandbagged and Robbed

Word was received in Mission City Saturday that Mr. R. W. Randolph had been waylaid and robbed at Lytton. It appears Mr. Randolph was on his way to Ashcroft and stepped off the train at Lytton, when he was attacked by thugs, struck on the head and rendered unconscious. All his valuables were taken from him. These included about \$30 in bills, a gold hunting watch and chain, one pair of gold cuff links and his Gladstone hand bag, containing numerous toilet articles. Up to the present no trace of the robbers has been found.

Mr. Randolph, who is well known in Mission City and Abbotsford, returned to Mission City on Monday.

### PLAN WATER SYSTEM

#### FOR LYTTON SCHOOLS

**Water System**—It is reported that the school trustees of the Lytton, B. C. Dist., have planned to equip the school bldgs in the district with water systems.

### LYTTON (B. C.) NEWS.

Excavations are being made for buildings near the C. P. R. depot for Geo. Baillie, of Baillie & McIntosh, and J. R. Irwin, manager of the local branch of the bank of B. N. A. The new store building of B. Rebagliati is fast nearing completion.

Recently a fire in Lytton destroyed the new Catholic church, and ruined the residence of A. Stevenson.

Regular Museum Meetings on the last Tuesday of each month 7:00pm in the Museum.

(no meeting in July, Aug. or Dec.)

Request some or all of the following by e-mail:

Meeting reminders

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Update Bulletins

Newsletters

Send us an e-mail at

[museum@lyttonmuseum.ca](mailto:museum@lyttonmuseum.ca)

\$10 Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters.



Unlocking Lytton's Past

### LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

(a Village of Lytton Commission) is a member of:



British Columbia  
Museums Association



Archives Association  
of British Columbia

& the BC Historical Federation