

# LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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

2014 Issue #4



Unlocking Lytton's Past

## SNIPPETS THIS ISSUE

If someone asked the question *Where is Hell's Gate?*, what would the answer be? It all depends on who you ask!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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## Museum Summer Happenings

Tom Peglow and Dereck Ostiguy did a great job greeting our visitors and sharing our local history with them. We have received many compliments on how welcome they made people feel at the Museum.

Most liked Museum display? - the Bear !

During our summer hours, 18 June - 02 September., 951 people visited the Museum, and they came from

- 9 Canadian provinces
- 11 US states, and
- 27 other countries.

Our Museum and Community obviously benefit from a truly global tourist industry. Please consider being a volunteer to help maintain the Museum displays and/or welcome visitors the rest of the year!

## Local Author Reading

Author Harvey Chute kindly agreed to do a reading as the Museum's sponsored activity for River Festival. He read from his book "Stone & Silt", delighted the audience with a humorous poem from his rafting days and answered questions about challenges encountered when writing the book.

His donation of books, audience donations and book sales totalled



over \$150 for the Museum coffers.

Thank you,  
Harvey.



### Chairman's 2014 Year End Report

This year has been one of challenges, particularly in regard to getting projects completed.

We finally managed to coordinate the removal of the railway bogie and gold dredge drum that was stored in the Village sewage yard - all five tons of it. This netted us \$500.00

The drawings for the back yard project were completed along with the specification and are in the hands of the Village for variance and submission to the building inspector before being issued for bids. Hopefully 2015 will see the completion of this project.

Our Curator, as newsletter editor has been producing our new newsletter since 2013, well received by all. Please carry on with this important work.

The Village had the Museum roofing replaced with metal shingles. This along with the "HardiePlank" siding already installed improves the fire rating of the Museum building considerably. Just recently Doug Rebagliati offered a substantial donation to the Museum to assist with additional fire proofing of the Archives. This will be an ongoing project and will require some fund-raising to meet his stipulations.

All in all, another busy year for everyone.

Peter Heaster  
Chairman

### Curator's 2014 Year End Report

Thank you to our very small (but always willing to help) group of local volunteers who painted, repaired, weeded, cleaned, etc. to keep our Museum and yard looking "spiffy". We present a "good face" and it is often commented on by our visitors.

Thanks especially to:

- Dorothy for her continuing help in cataloguing donated archival materials and being a staunch supporter of history in our area.
  - Tom for his help and support in getting the Caboose cleaned and ready for visitors.
  - Dereck for his computer and photo help and arranging LED lighting for displays.
  - both Tom and Dereck for being super good hosts during the summer months, and - the Village for continuing to value the Museum.
- When it is windy outside it is good not to hear the clattering of the old shingles - the new metal roof has greatly reduced any museum's fear of water damage due to roof leaks.

We were open 7 days a week during the summer and had more visitors (951) in that time than in all of last year. In total 1054 people signed our guest book this year.

As I will not be Curator next year (but still involved as Newsletter Editor and Museum volunteer) it is impossible speak to 2015 events. Hopefully, a few more people will offer to volunteer at the Museum. Even a small task of sorting a file alphabetically or in chronological order can be a big help.

I hope the Museum will continue to grow and always be a positive and important part of our community.

Marie Heaster

## Speeders - the Railway Kind

submitted by Tom Peglow

Last summer while at the museum I decided to learn more about railway speeders as there are two of them on display in the back yard.

I was surprised to find out that there are thousands of them still in use and various models of the main types.

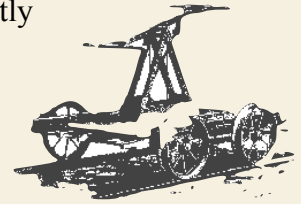
Rail speeders go back to bicycle-like affairs that came to be called Velocipedes by their inventor, a Michigan farmer named George Sheffield who lived ten miles from the nearest town.



Made of wood that ran on wheels made for rails, they have smaller outrigger wheels that ride on the other rail. Movement was provided by the push-pull handle connected by gears to the rear wheel. These are from the 1870's.

Rail companies became interested in idea after Sheffield, returning home one night came upon a broken rail, and used a lantern to stop an oncoming train and saved it from a derailment. After this happened the rail executives asked him to produce more for their use.

The Velocipede gave way to the handcar which was then mostly replaced with the advent of engine powered speeders in 1896. The engines made by Fairmont are two cycle liquid cooled with little radiators attached. They can be run in reverse allowing for returning to the shop without having to turn the machine around on the tracks. Top speed is around twenty-five miles an hour, and a hand crank was mostly used for starting them. However, some had starters. Fairmont produced over two thousand model S2-H's along with some twenty other models between 1947 and the 1980's.



They have been used by business people, telegraph operators, teachers, rail companies, and train enthusiasts all over the world, and numerous speeder clubs that still like to ride the rails when and where allowed.

I am glad I took the time to investigate and learn something new. I would also like to see if we could get one of the museum's speeders to run for a while by next summer.



**Model 52H,**  
circa 1947-1957



**Model M19,**  
built later up to  
the 1980s



## Another “Great Impostor” ? - Part 2 con’t from Issue #2, 2014

First , a correction - this statement from the first article in Issue #2, 2014:

*In 1969 in Ontario he was charged with reckless driving and driving with a revoked permit.*

This is incorrect. The source on-line article had mixed up extracts from several news articles so it looked as if it was related to Kitpou. It was not.

But he did run afoul of the law in 1976. More about that later.

Kitpou continued his criss-crossing of the country - you just never knew where he would pop up next or what the latest news story might contain.

1968 Port Angeles Evening News

*Kitpou wore three Honor Medallions .... one awarded him by President Johnson, second one presented to the Chief's father by Queen Victoria and the third he received for riding a buffalo.*

*Chief Kitpou, who received a Ph.D. from Bishop's University in Quebec.....*

1969 Danville Register

*Chief Kitpou and his son, Alan, ..... The Chief is especially proud of a “Golden Spike” Winchester 30-30 (one of 50 produced) carbine given him this year by the Winchester Company.*

*A copper plate given to one of his ancestors by the Hudson Bay Company in 1785 also is displayed. The plate was a gift for a treaty granting the Hudson Bay Company exclusive fur-trading rights.*

*Perhaps the most unique item in Chief Kitpou's display is the Champlain Calumet, a combination peace-pipe-tomahawk... It dates from 1608 when one of his ancestors smoked the pipe with the French granting them safe residence in Canada.*

By January 1970 Kitpou's arrival in Lytton, and his accomplishments, made for a lengthy article in the Hope Standard newspaper.

*Lytton has a celebrity. He is Wobay Kitpou who calls himself Kitpou. He has a wife, Ruby and 11 children, nine boys and two girls.*

*Kitpou spent 21 years in the Canadian Navy and was a translator of the Indian and Eskimo language for the government in the North.*

*After leaving the Navy he felt he needed to get away from it all so he took his Grandfather, who was 102 at the time and went into the woods for 2 years. He did not come out again until his Grandfather died at 104 years of age.*

*...he can trace his family back 16 generations.*

*Kitpou speaks six major languages - Algonquin, Ojibway, Peuoscott, Sioux, Apache and Navajo. He has written five books, including “Tribal Law” and assisted in the book called Mattchilsom Documentary” which was published in France.*

*...He made two movies, an Eagle American production called “Indian Paint”, and an MGM production “The Tribal Law”. He has also been in a number of TV series,*



such as *Gunsmoke, F-Troop, Bonanza and Wagon Train.*

In January 1971 a pamphlet entitled "The Tribal Law of the Children of Light" was published by Wawa Print & Litho, noted "Compiled and translated by Shaman Chief Kitpou."

January 19, 1971, La Presse Montreal article said Kitpou stopped off in Montreal on his way to New York where he was to

*...negotiate an engagement on the Ed Sullivan Show.*

*He was accompanied by his son Guiss...*

*In addition to being the star of the feature film "Northwest Passage", produced by the department of the National Archives of Ontario, the Indian chief equally held roles in American cinematographic productions, in films such as "A Man called Horse" and "How the West Was Won". Next, he published a book, "Tribal Laws", a compilation of all the laws that govern the Indian Tribes of North America.*

*After having stayed in the Canadian Navy for 21 years, the shaman Kitpou left an Algonquin tribe in Nova Scotia, re-located in the West and became the adviser of the five Indian Nations of that region.*

June 18, 1971, Archives of Ontario files report he and his son visited Sarnia's Boy Scout Camporee.

By August 1971, he was making his appearance in Terrace. (See Part 1 in #2, 2014) and a subsequent Terrace newspaper article reported

*The headdress he wears is 140 years old and has accompanied the Shaman in many television and movie screen appearances.....*

*Kitpou is internationally known and has personally received acknowledgement from Royalty, presidents and movie stars.*

February 26, 1972 The Edmonton Journal wrote about a theatre group putting on a play called "The Sky People". Their advisor was Kitpou, *...an instructor of Indian history and an actor who has performed on stage and in 7 motion pictures.*

A follow up interview with Kitpou states he *...is on leave from his job as instructor of Indian history at the Church of England Indian Residential School in Lytton, B.C. ...and an actor - a relatively famous one, at that.*

*He appeared as the Shaman in A Man Called Horse. As a driver in Stagecoach. In Rifles '66 and in How the West was Won. And as Screaming Chicken in the TV series F-troop.*

*One of his most prized possessions is a 400 year old peace pipe carved from stone, once smoked by Queen Victoria and other kings and queens since then.*

Kitpou's transport of the Haida canoe in 1971 from Prince Rupert to the National Canoe Museum in Ontario was interrupted when his station wagon died in Thunder Bay Ontario. The canoe was left outside all winter where it deteriorated and cracked. In Toronto, in May 1972 extensive repairs were done before heading to it's final destination in August 1972, but not before a Kitpou photo op, as he, and several costumed youths paddled the canoe in front of HMCS Haida in what was billed as *...a ceremonial visit.*



By January 1973, Kitpou had returned to the Okanagan and was booked to do 4 storytelling sessions at the Kelowna Library.

August 1973 Native Voice newspaper reported Kitpou attended the Penticton Pow-wow. He was ...educated at Oxford University where he received his PhD in philosophy. He wrote his thesis on the conception of the brain and human thought.

June 15, 1974 Kitpou's 8 year old daughter fell into a Westbank creek, fractured her neck and drowned.

December 1974 A group of ...Indian children from the Lytton British Columbia Indian Residential School and Kitpou ...the head of the Indian Residential School. are in Banff to present a peace pipe to the Banff Indian Days Chairman.



During 1974/75 Kitpou was listed as a member of the the Okanagan Photographic Society.

May 1975, Kitpou, ...a consultant on Indian artifacts for the Royal Ontario Museum, was passing through Medicine Hat transporting two totem poles, gifts from B.C. Indians to the Algonquin tribes of Central and Maritime Canada.

Canmore Miner Newsletter Aug 13, 1975 article reported

Shaman Chief Kitpou brought some of his 'boys' from the Litton Indian School to perform. They told of the Indian version of Creation and the story of salmon fishing in B.C.

.... Kitpou and his lively wife, Ruth, had some of their children and grandchildren with them.

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To be continued - a seemingly never-ending story!



**Another ' Who Is This? '**

This postcard style portrait was found in an old rooming house in Lytton. On the reverse is written

*William Jackson  
Oakley Via  
Dunfermline  
Fifeshire  
Scotland*

and *Wellington, June 1894* is noted in one corner .

There is a William Jackson listed in the Lytton cemetery records but the time frame doesn't fit. Nor is he listed in any census records we have at the Museum.

Stamped on the front is J. Uren, Artist. A little internet sleuthing revealed that John Batrel Uren was an Englishman who owned a series of businesses after immigrating to B.C.. He had shops at various times, in various places in B.C. - Victoria, Barkerville, Victoria, New Westminster, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Wellington (1894-1898), and Chilliwack.

Does your family have a connection to William Jackson in the photo ?

### Ring out the old and ring in the new...

The earliest recording of a new year celebration is believed to have been in Mesopotamia, c. 2000 B.C

In Ecuador, thousands of life-size dummies representing misfortunes from the past year that are burned in the streets.

In the Phillipines, wearing polka dots and eating round fruits is supposed to ensure a prosperous new year.

In Spain, eating 12 grapes as the clock strikes 12 is said to have the same effect.

In some South American countries wearing colored underwear determines your fate for the new year. Red means you'll find love. Gold means wealth, and white signifies peace.

No matter where you are from, or how you choose to welcome 2015,  
to you and yours,  
from Museum Executive and the Newsletter Editor :

## BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW



Trust that your ship may come in this year.....  
Heavy laden with good things with blessings and cheer

**Miscellany:** For those of you who live too far away to attend meetings, but would like to read minutes and reports presented, go to [lytton.civicweb.net](http://lytton.civicweb.net) look for "Museum Package for \_\_\_ meeting"

What will you do with this copy of the Newsletter when you finish reading it? File it in a binder for future reference? Pass it along to someone else to enjoy? Read it and toss it in the garbage ?

If either of the first two options - super! But if it gets discarded, please consider having a pdf copy e-mailed to you instead of a mailed hardcopy. Save a tree, and save mailing costs for the Museum.

**Erratum :** The gremlins were at work last issue. My apologies for not catching this before it went to print. Last page, 'We Remember', last column of names, please correct your copy to read :

Ernest Simpson (aka John Cenname)

Frank Simpson (aka John Cenname)



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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