

THE ISLAND HISTORIAN



The Orcas Island Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2015 Volume 1, Issue 2 Cost \$4.00

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We had another very successful year with an increase in visitors at both the Pioneer Museum and the Crow Valley School Museum. We continue to host school tours and group tours during the winter. Remember: all Orcas Island students get **free** admission.

It was a privilege to work this year with **high school interns Anthony Kaskurs, Leslie Ferrell and Braeden Smith.** Leslie and Braeden have graduated, but Anthony is continuing as a docent and collections intern. Orcas high school student **Joe Riegel** also joined us as an intern in collections. We are happy to help students with an interest in Orcas history and/or pursuing History or Museum Studies degrees. **Eric Eppig** of Boston College interned with us this summer doing research and writing a few of our History Nooks. I also want to thank **Iris Parker-Pavitt** who helped me put together our Smugglers' Blues exhibit this year.



We are actively **recruiting authors** for our History Nook columns in the Islands' Sounder, so if you are interested stop in the museum or call me at 376-4849. We are also looking for people interested in the Museums' collections to join our Collection Committee which meets on the third Thursday of each month.. If you are interested, email to me at curator@orcasmuseum.org.



We have a couple of grants in the pipeline for next year and I again want to express our gratitude to the **Swinomish Indian Tribal Community** for their generous donation to the Museums this year.

My **deepest gratitude** goes out to all our hard working volunteers and board members. Without them, your Museums would simply be buildings filled with objects. However, with their efforts and dedication your Museums are living, breathing centers of education and wonder, filled with personal and community stories reflecting and highlighting the heritage of

our special home, Orcas Island.

It is only through your continued support, volunteer efforts and team work that we can fulfill **our mission: to educate, inspire, connect and involve our community and visitors in the stewardship of our unique island history.**

Clark McAbee

WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

Pioneer Museum

Wed—Sat. 12-3,
Or By Appointment

Closed January

Crow Valley School

Opens Memorial Day
Weekend 2016

OFFICE HOURS

Tues—Sat
10:30-4:30

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Happy 60th Birthday



Next year marks the 60th birthday of the Pioneer Museum and we are planning a special Birthday Party at the Pioneer Museum on May 14th to coincide with the Museum's opening day. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this historic occasion. Would you like to help us make this a special event? If so, call us at 376-4849 or email us at info@orcasmuseum.org.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT ... JIM BIDDICK



Phew! We are over the tourist season bustle and what a great season it was! The Pioneer Museum and Crow Valley School clocked over 8,500 visitors. This year our Director, Clark McAbee, staged the *"Smuggler's Blues"* exhibit at the Museum documenting the nefarious history of smuggling rum, opium, Chinese laborers and wool in the San Juan Islands. The Exhibit was accompanied by Historical Matinees that expanded on our smuggling history. Clark has big plans for next year, too. He is working on an *"Over Orcas"* exhibit to chronicle the history of flight in the San Juan Islands.



The Museum is launching a new *"Passport Program"* in partnership with the Lopez and San Juan Island Historical Museums to encourage people to visit all of the Museums. Pick up your **free** Passport at the Museum. If you visit all three Museums before the end of 2016, you become eligible to enter the drawing for an exciting prize.



Coming up soon is our **Annual Members Meeting**. This year the meeting will take place on Saturday, January 23, 3:00pm – 6:00pm at the Orcas Senior Center. The Museum will be providing Prime Rib and Salmon and we are asking each member to bring a dessert or a side dish to round out the meal. The cost for the evening will be \$15.00. I look forward to seeing you there.

After three years of restructuring, I am happy to report that we now have a fully functioning Board and have established committee chairs to ensure a solid base for the future. As the new Board and committee chairs embark on 2016 the big issue facing us is fund raising to support the operation of the Pioneer Museum and Crow Valley School.



Please consider a **tax deductible donation** and/or a legacy gift to the Orcas Island Historical Museum so that future generations can enjoy and learn about Orcas Island, "The Gem of the San Juans", its early settlers and indigenous peoples.



History Quiz

1. Name the 6 cabins that make up the museum?
2. What year did the cabins move to the museum site?
3. What year did the Crow Valley school first open?
4. Who carved the totem sculpture in front of the museum?
5. When was Bison Antiquus found?

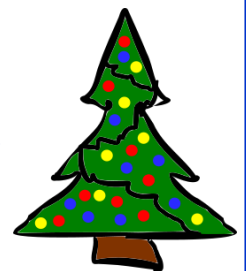
E-mail your answers to info@orcasmuseum.org.

We will post the answers (and names of winners) at www.orcasmuseums.org

Come See our Christmas Tree!

Once again we are decorating a tree for the Rosario Resort's Festival of Trees.

Our theme this year is **Saving Orcas History**. All of the trees will be on view throughout the month of December.



Come see our tree and cast your vote for the Historical Society! Each

BE A BRICK

CELEBRATE YOUR LOVED ONE

HONOR A MEMORY

LEAVE AN IMPRESSION

Donate to have a brick inscribed in our commemorative walkway today



Save The Date

November 27th
Eastsound ArtWalk
includes the Pioneer
Museum

November 30th OICF
Holiday Calendar
launches with *Saving*
Orcas Voices project

January 23rd Annual
Meeting Orcas Senior
Center. 3:00 – 6:00pm

Spring (date tbd) His-
torical Cruise

April 17th First 2016
Historical Matinee.

April 23rd Crow Valley
School Clean Up Day

April 30th Pioneer Mu-
seum Clean Up Day
10:00-3:00

May 14th Museum
2016 Opening Day and
60th Birthday Party

May 15th Historical
Matinee.

June 12th Historical
Matinee

July 2nd Historical
Days

July 17th Historical
Matinee

August 21st Historical
Matinee

September 3rd Annual
Auction

September 18th Last
2016 Historical Matinee

October (date tbd)
Heritage Harvest Feast

Saving Island History, One Voice at a Time

Orcas Island history is about the lives of our people –what they know and what they have experienced. The Museum has a treasure trove of more than 40 taped interviews that need to be preserved, transcribed and shared with residents and visitors. Other long time Island residents have fascinating stories and histories that have not yet been recorded.

“***Saving Orcas Voices***” is an exciting new project to capture and share these stories. The first step is to preserve the recorded histories that we already have. Many of our tapes are old, some with poor audio quality that needs to be technically enhanced so that volunteers can transcribe the tapes. After transcription, the stories need to be matched with photos from the Museum’s archives and placed into binders that can be shared with Museum visitors, school children studying local history, family researchers, and others. More information can be found at www.orcasmuseums.org/saving-orcas-voices.



The **second phase** of the project is to start collecting more Orcas Voices before those voices fall silent forever. This phase includes taping interviews, collecting and taking photos, transcribing and correcting interviews and creating binders and an electronic catalog so that those voices can be shared today and in the future.

The first phase of the project has been selected as one of 12 projects featured in the **Orcas Island Community Foundation’s 2015 Holiday Gift Catalog**. The project is seeking \$5,000 in donations and the Board has agreed to set aside up to \$3,000 of the Society’s funds to match donations made through the Christmas Catalog.

We need your help

- **Make a donation.** The first phase can be supported through tax deductible donations made through the **Orcas Island Community Foundation’s 2015 Holiday Gift Catalog** at <http://oicf.us>
- **Volunteer** to be a **transcriber**, help **assemble** the *Saving Orcas Voices* binders or be an **interviewer** or **photographer** for the second phase of the project.– Leave a message for Edrie Vinson at the Pioneer Museum.
- **Send us suggestions** at info@orcasmuseum.org of persons whose voices should be included in *Saving Orcas Voices*.



B1G1 Membership Drive

BE ONE ... A Member; GET ONE... A Member.

Do you have friends, family members or neighbors who are not members of the Orcas Island Historical Society? Do you know someone on the island who has never visited one of our museums or who has not come in for a long, long time? What does it take to preserve the precious history of Orcas Island? It takes YOU to BE ONE and to GET ONE!

Our goal for the BIG1 campaign is to double our membership by JUNE and we can do it with YOUR HELP. You will see the B1G1 campaign in full swing next Spring, but you don't have to wait that long! You can GET ONE ... a new member now, and then they BE ONE and GET ONE ... another new member and, well, you can see how we can grow.



To make this even more exciting, all members who bring in a new member will be eligible to be entered into a monthly drawing to win one of several exciting B1G1 prizes.

Membership applications are available at our website: www.orcasmuseums.org or they can be picked up at the front desk of the Pioneer Museum.

The Perfect Christmas Gifts



- A **donation** to support "Saving Orcas Voices" through the **OICF 2015 Holiday Gift Catalog**. [Html://oicf.us](http://oicf.us).
- A **membership** to the Orcas Island Historical Society.
- A **gift certificate** for the Pioneer Museum Gift Shop.
- An inscribed **Pioneer Museum brick** in honor of someone.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM ORCAS WHEN ...



1. **YOU ATTENDED DANCES AT THE GRANGE.**
2. **YOU KNOW WHY THERE IS ONLY ONE L IN PRUNELLY**
3. **YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN THE ROAD YOU LIVE ON HAD NO NAME AND**

Consider a Gift to the Historical Society

YOU can help us continue Saving Orcas History.



Gifts can be made to the Society's General Fund, which is used for day to day operating expenses or to our Endowment Fund, which holds funds to ensure our long term viability.

All gifts are tax deductible and help provide the money needed to keep the doors open, the lights burning, and the staff working.

The Orcas Island Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

See Our Historic Photos During Artwalk



On November 27th, the Pioneer Museum will be open from 3 to 6 p.m. offering cookies and hot drinks to visitors and exhibiting some of our historic artwork





Docents: Friendly people who can donate a few hours a week to greet museum visitors. No prior experience necessary.

Transcribers: Persons with computer skills to help transcribe our "Saving Orcas Voices" oral history tapes.

Fund Raiser: Person with prior experience to work with our Finance Committee to improve the Museum's finances.

Writers: Persons to write "History Nook" columns. Share your knowledge of Island history.

Editor: Person with MS Publisher experience to manage the publication of our newsletter.

Gardeners: Help maintain our front garden and create a historical kitchen garden in back.



Office Help: Persons with computer and phone skills are needed to help in the office.

Coordinator—Person with organizational and communication skills to coordinate Pioneer Museum docents

Call the office at 360-376-4849 or e-mail us at info@orcasmuseum.org



Annual Members Meeting

The Historical Society's Annual Members Meeting is January 23rd, 2016. We will be holding it at the Senior Center again this year from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Museum will be providing **Prime Rib** and **Salmon** for the entree and we are asking members whose last names begin with A-M to bring a side dish to share, while those whose last name begins with N-R should bring a salad or bread and members whose last names begin with S-Z are asked to bring a dessert. Beverages will also be provided by the Museum.

All of this for the low cost of \$15. Come and bring your friends. What could be more fun than getting together with fellow history buffs over Prime Rib or Salmon on a winter afternoon?

We will be recognizing the work of some dedicated volunteers and talking about our exciting plans for 2016.

Where to get tickets

Purchasing your tickets is easy. You can:

- **Call** the office at 376-4849.
- Purchase tickets on our **website**: www.orcasmuseums.org.
- Buy tickets at our **office** at 181 North Beach Road.

See you there!

Thanks to our 2015 Donors and Members

The Orcas Island Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and families who provided gifts or became members between 11/15/2014 and 11/15/2015

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WAYS OF GIVING

The Orcas Island Historical Society receives some funding from grants and an allocation from the Visitors Lodging Tax, but relies primarily on the generosity of our members to keep the lights on and the doors open at the Pioneer Museum and the Crow Valley School Museum. Without your financial support, we could not preserve the history of Orcas Island and make it accessible to the community. **History would no longer live here.** There are several ways, described below, that you can show your support for the Museums.



Increase Your Membership Level When You Renew: Memberships are available for individuals, families and businesses at levels ranging from \$25 to \$500. Memberships can be renewed at the Historical Societies office, at either of our two museums or online at www.orcasmuseums.org.

Donate a Brick to the Museum Entry: Each time you visit the Pioneer Museum, you walk a pathway made of bricks that have been inscribed with names and commemorative messages that have been paid for by donations from supporters of the Orcas Island Historical Society. With the donation for inscribing their brick, they become a part of Orcas History. **You can be a part of that history too.** Bricks come in two different sizes, can be inscribed with up to six lines of text and are available at donation levels ranging from \$55 to \$141. You can donate a brick to honor someone who is special to you or who has played an important role in the history of Orcas Island.



Make a Gift: Donations can be designated for our general operating budget or our Endowment Fund, which is held by Orcas Island Community Foundation. General operating funds are used to pay our daily operating expenses while the moneys in the Endowment Fund provide our long-term financial foundation. Gifts can be made to honor someone or as a memorial.

Give a Gift Certificate to the Pioneer Museum Store: Gift Certificates are available in any amount and can be redeemed for merchandise in our Pioneer Museum store anytime the Museum is open..

We are going to be cozy this winter

The Pioneer Museum will be closed for approximately one week during December for the installation of new HVAC ducting for our Heater. This project has been funded with a grant from the Washington State Legislature's Heritage Capital Project Fund administered by the Washington State Historical Society and will enable us to regulate the temperature in the cabins to help preserve our historic artifacts.

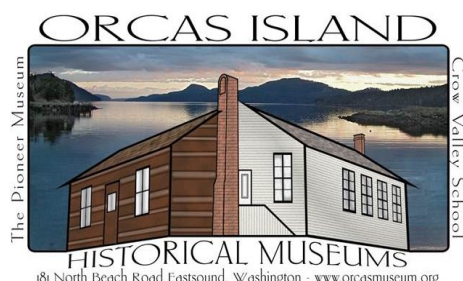
As we go to press, the dates for the closure are still unknown, as that depends on the contractor's work schedule. So give us a call at 376-4849 or check our website at www.orcasmuseums.org to make sure we are open before you drop by for a visit.

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Orcas History Lives Here!



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