

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lions Bay Historical Society (LBHS) works tirelessly to document our unique past and preserve this information for future generations of Lions Bay residents. The LBHS welcomes all submissions.

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## Lions Bay in the BC Historical Federation

*Written by Tony Cox*

Most residents in the Village know about the Lions Bay Historical Society (LBHS), but probably many think we are just a small group of people dedicated to preserve historical events in Lions Bay. While this is true, ...

it is not the whole story. We are also linked through association to many other Historical Societies in the Province, under the guidance of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

The Federation has member Societies throughout BC, and a number of affiliated Museums, Archival Sites, and other Historic Sites. It maintains a very useful website (see above), and it provides an important Provincial Forum and a united voice for the local and regional historical Societies in British Columbia. When necessary, the Federation will lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments about matters relating to heritage aspects of British Columbia, such as place names and preservation of historic sites.

The Federation promotes public interest and research into BC history, the preservation and marking of historical sites, ancient relics, and natural features of historical interest, and the exchange of ideas and projects amongst the member Societies. It provides loans to member societies to assist in the publication of historical notes, and it is developing an Endowment Fund to assist student and teachers to document materials and conduct research workshops relevant to the interests of the Federation. The Federation produces a quarterly Journal, holds an Annual Conference in different parts of the Province, and provides a wide range of Awards of Recognition for books, articles, student essays, websites and meritorious contributions.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Historical Writing has rewarded 29 authors since 1983. Thirteen students have received W. Kaye Lamb Scholarships (\$1000 or \$750) or its equivalent since 2000, and Anne and Philip Yandle Best Article Awards were given to eight writers since 1999.

For websites, there are eight awards since 1999, and Certificates of Appreciation and Merit are under development.

Members attend the Annual Conference from all across BC. It is a 3-day opportunity for a location to "show off" to the rest of the Province, and to be or become known as part of the map of the BC. It concludes with a thoroughly enjoyable Award Banquet. In recent years members have met in Revelstoke, Prince George, Kimberley, Nanaimo, and this year (2007) in Victoria. The town of Revelstoke, for instance, was able to receive help from its Council to develop four different Museums and to upgrade and paint heritage homes - it is no longer simply a railway drive-by but an interesting place for a stopover. Smaller societies such as Lions Bay are not in a position to host a Conference, nor are towns such as Rossland, Greenwood, Nakusp and New Denver, even though they have interesting museums, because of hotel requirements. In 2008 the Conference will be in New Westminster coupled with Langley. The event will feature a historic enactment by descendants of the Royal Engineers. In 2009 the location will be Nelson. All members are welcome to attend wherever a Conference is held, and to benefit from the Book Fair showcasing the latest on BC's History. Since I have a place on the Federation, I would be happy to answer any questions about our activities. We welcome subscriptions to our Quarterly Journal to help keep us solvent, and you are invited to look us up at <http://www.bchistory.ca> for more information.