

## The Golden and District Historical Society

On Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1968, a number of interested citizens met at Alexander Park School to discuss the formation of a historical society to preserve records, pictures, and artefacts pertaining to the Golden area.

Officers elected were:

President: Mrs. Neil Cameron

Vice-President: Mr. William Wenman

Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Woods

Treasurer: Mrs. Glen Bernie

The following were asked to serve as directors: Mrs. N. King, Mrs. T. Neville, Mr. C. Parson, and Mr. H. F. Graham.

The subject of a museum was brought up. Some of the old buildings in Golden were discussed.

Much planning and effort went into the construction of the museum which was opened on June 1, 1974. In 1982 the old log schoolhouse, located at Brisco, was moved to the museum property. After removing the roof in one piece, the building was dismantled one log at a time. Each log was numbered and after trucking them to Golden the school was reassembled. Evans Products Co. Donated the logs and lumber for the flooring. The schoolhouse was cleaned, washed, and painted inside and out and opened for public viewing June 27<sup>th</sup>, the same year.

When the C.P.R. gave up its passenger runs and VIA Rail took over they wanted to build a much smaller depot. The citizens of Golden supported a move by the town to preserve the old station which was originally built in 1904.

The Old Station Preservation Society was formed and looked into the feasibility of converting the structure into an Arts Centre and tea room. These plans did not pan out so the town decided to donate the station to the museum for restoration.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1992 the building was moved again from the south bank of the Kicking Horse to the unused roadway between the B.C. Hydro substation and the museum.

The Historical Society proceeded to raise the funds need to build a concrete foundation. After one more short move the old station was safely ensconced in its present location on the abandoned K.C.R. railbed at the rear of the museum. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1995, the town handed over the ownership papers for the station and the property that the station sits on. Work on the restoration began.

The first priority was to protect the station form vandals, so the following summer the museum property was completely fenced. In 1997 or 1998 it was decided to work on the restoration of the outside in order to protect the exterior from further deterioration. Work on restoring the interior is set to begin in 2010.

A Homecoming Weekend was held in September 1998, and then again in 2000. The Senior Citizens Club and the Historical Society worked together to make the event a huge success. All the participants enjoyed meeting old friends and family members.