

Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society

2017 Annual Report

Date; May 25, 2018

Background

The 2016 Annual Report outlined the work undertaken during the first 30 years since the Society was formed and we took on the responsibility to maintain the historic site. In addition information about the requirements of the new B.C. Societies Act was provided to members. This Annual Report will concentrate on the projects undertaken during 2017 and use of the historic site during the fiscal year; April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Maintenance of the Historic Site

Since the interior of both buildings were in good condition the Society concentrated on improving the exterior façade of the Chapel and Schoolhouse as well as the grounds. In late August two firms were hired to tackle various projects.

One firm removed all the old eve troughs and installed new ones which included gutter guards. This included the runs at the top of the clock tower and all the down spouts most with clean-outs at about a metre above the ground.

The second firm hired was responsible for painting and installing new fascia boards as well as painting the trim around all the windows of both buildings, trim boards and the stucco areas on the Chapel among other things.

A few years ago woodpeckers had damaged some of the cedar shingles on the sides of the clock tower and new shingles were installed when we had a third firm used their bucket truck to replace these shingles. This firm, Libra Tree Service, was contracted in July to remove some trees including the plum tree that was infested with black knot and two other trees that were growing up against the east wall of the chapel.

In September this same firm was also hired by the Fairbridge Strata Corporation 693 to remove a number of 80-year old Douglas fir trees at the rear of the Chapel (all except one were on strata property). A number of these trees had Laminated Root Rot although the one tree on the heritage site property was sound. Both the Society and Strata were concerned for the safety of the heritage site's buildings. Prior to their removal some trees had come down during wind storms over the past five years, with one almost hitting the Chapel. The firm also took down some very large branches of a Big Leaf Maple that hung over the Schoolhouse.

Use of the Heritage Site

Three weddings were held in the Chapel during the fiscal year. In addition the annual Fairbridge Carols event took place on December 2nd and the Strata Corporation held their Annual General Meeting in the Schoolhouse during the same month.

In mid September the Fairbridge Canada Association visited the site and held a service in the Chapel during their annual reunion while in May a movie production company rented the Chapel for a wedding scene.

Throughout the year approximately 250 people visited the heritage site over and above those participating in the above mentioned events.