



SWEDISH HERITAGE B.C. YEAR REPORT

April 1 2019 – March 31 2020

BY

Tuulikki Abrahamson photo

Tinni Zacco text

Swedish Heritage Committee members

Chair & Treasurer Laila Axen
Secretary Kee Kimmel Franzén
Donations Agneta Eineigel
Membership Gun Pennink
Grants Paula Eineigel
Photographer Tuulikki Abrahamson
Renovations Glenn Swanson
Web Jörgen Olofsson

Collection Committee

Tinni Zacco
Astrid Switzer
Irene Henriksson
Gun Pennink
Kee Kimmel/Franzen

Renovations of our hall



During 2018 Laila and several committee members fundraised to get money to start renovations. This is the space that Swedish Heritage B.C. has to their disposition from Swedish Canadian Village — an unused recreation room. Glenn Swanson is an interior designer and carpenter. He volunteered his time to turn this space into a display hall.

Committee members at large

Carina Spencer
Maria Lakes
Lennart Österlind
Christina Reid
Birgit Cook
Anna Kjellström
John Stuart

Donors for the renovations

Swedish Canadian Village
Sweden House
Swedish Cultural Society
Runeberg Social Club
Scandinavian Community Centre 6
display cases
ERV Parent LTD Flooring
IKEA kitchen
Thretheway House Abbotsford display
case
Home Depot window blinds
Vancity Credit Union donation box
Glenn Swanson
Carinna Spencer
Private Donation
Membership

By May 22, the renovations of the display hall and washrooms were finished as seen in the photos. In May, committee members visited Trethewey house in Abbotsford and were guided by executive director Christina Reid. After lunch at the Mennonite Museum in Abbotsford, we toured the museum. We were educated about different display techniques and cataloging.

In 2018, the committee had applied for a \$ 5000.00 grant for electronics through New Horizons and in May we learned that the grant was approved. SHBC purchased a laptop with programs such as Publisher, Photoshop and Microsoft Word.



Swedish Heritage Committee members and volunteers in front of kitchen area and office door



Washrooms renovated in Swedish colors as was an accessible washroom

During the late spring, preparations for the Donor Opening on June 9 began -- with invitations to donors and local dignitaries sent out. Display panels with text about each donor who contributed to the renovations were written by the committee members. Judith Anderson from Scandinavian Cultural Society mentored Tinni on how to use Publisher to make the display panels. During the opening they hung on the walls. By mid-April, it was decided we would have three displays for this opening of our 1700s artifacts titled:

“1700s Swedish coin collection and a Royal letter.”

DISPLAYS

Anna Kjellström transcribed the Swedish Finance Department Letter's Gothic text from 1718 and Tinni Zacco translated it to Swedish and English. Thomas & Tuulikkii Abrahamson Swedish 1700s tokens from a financially independent mining community run by Christina Piper were displayed. Copper Plate Money – the world's largest money- were also part of the exhibition. A birch bark wrapped lunchbox from 1786 donated by a Swede in B.C. was also showcased. And lastly there was a folk-art cabinet from the late 1700s from Värmland.



Letter 1718



C.P. tokens ca 1725



Lunch box 1786



1 Daler copper plate money



Cabinet and thank you donor sign



Display case

JUNE 9 2019 DONOR OPENING



Bo Olson began with singing "The American Emigrant" song later Jörgen Olofsson and his wife Monica joined



Irene with 1890s wet grindstone

left Mr. Brunner ERV, Laila & T. Gradin Honorary Consul & Canuck's scout

INVITED GUESTS

Swedish Honorary Consul Thomas Gradin
MLA Burnaby Katrina Chen
Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley
Swedish Canadian Village President Anders Nordin
Representatives from IKEA
Order of Polar Star recipient Irene Olljum
Karl Brunner
Annabelle Kergan



Irene Olljum with her Polar Star medal at the opening



The attendees



IKEA representatives



Donation box



Delicious Refreshment
Donated by Swedish
Canadian Village



MLA Burnaby-Lougheed
K. Chen with Laila Axen



New art revealed with A.
Nordin, right sitting Burnaby
Mayor M. Hurley

A big thank you to our volunteers hanging the wall displays, serving wine and helping in the kitchen. We could not have done it without you.

We were all happy over our successful Donor Opening with 69 visitors.

Later in June, SHBC shared a table with Swedish Canadian Village at the **Scandinavian Centre Midsummer Festival**. We received donations: money and artifacts. And some new members as well.

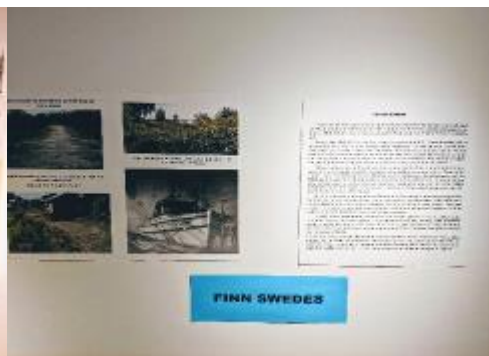
With only three exhibits the Heritage Room was closed for the summer. Yet preparations for our big day in September was under way. The committee decided on displays for that opening:

- Ukrainian Swedes in BC, Estonian Swedes in BC and Finn Swedes in BC for wall displays
- Swedes in BC in the early years in Fishing, Gold mining, Railroad building for walls
- Swedes in BC had been donating many artifacts to fill our four remaining display cases

Exhibits for September 15



Ukrainian Swedes



Finn Swedes



Swedes in BC Gold rush 1888 -1916 Dirigold, gold nuggets in BC Fishnet needles



Swedes in BC Railroad



Wet Grindstone 1890s, L. Österlind Map of Swedes
in B.C.'s settlements and painting of the Old City of
Stockholm



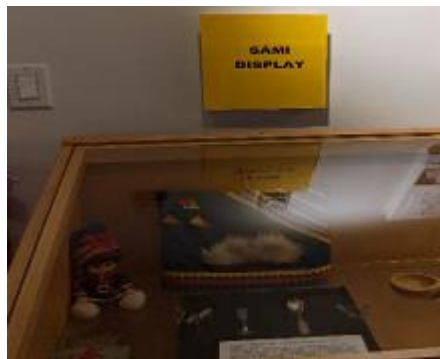
Swedish folk music accordion & violin ca 1890s
Birchbark horns



Straw shoes for men, women and kids
1809



Wooden baking trough & Container



Indigenous Sami display



Wooden washboard ca 1800



Vasa order meeting chair



View of our displays

Invitations for our opening event was sent to all members and artifact donors

PUBLIC OPENING SEPTEMBER 15 2019



Laila's official opening by cutting the ribbon while a crowd waited outside



Our visitors



Homemade Fika cookies and buns



Glenn, his partner, Birgit, Irene & Laila in the background



Three generations of Swedes in B.C. in front of the interactive Sweden Map

We had 49 visitors go through the Swedish Heritage Room that day

After the public opening the Swedish Heritage Room was open every Sunday from 1p.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday shifts of at least two committee members were set up. In September, SHBC purchased more electronics: a PC computer for the office, a color printer, and a high-resolution Epson scanner for archival material. The City of Burnaby had donated an older desk and chair.



In October, we participated in B.C. Cultural Days and were open Saturday and Sunday. We sent out our first **Newsletter** announcing this event. Kee organized a table and chairs for Fika.

We planned monthly displays for **Swede of the Month** and we started with Sven Börje Johansson a Reindeer herder and captain during the first Northwest passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. We were closed during the month of December.

Our First Christmas decoration
2019



Gotlands candle holder and straw horse

Kee organized our library. In the beginning of February, a new volunteer - Anneli Turunen - joined during a couple of shifts to help with cataloging Vancouver Lodge of Good Templars Linnea library books.



In January 2020 we learned that the Swedish Canadian Rest Home Association was celebrating its 75th Anniversary in May. The committee started to plan for an exhibit in the Heritage room. For a couple of weeks Laila, Irene, Agneta, Maria Lakes and Tinni met to research Swedish Press editions from 1944-1950 for our exhibit.

Laila was approached by the Scandinavian Cultural Society to assist with their upcoming **“Immigrant Women in B.C.”**. We entered into a collaboration with them and committee members wrote stories for this exhibition at the Scandinavian Centre. However, the Exhibit was cancelled due to the Pandemic and will be shown at a later date. These stories can also be used by Swedish Heritage B.C. On February 8, a Swedish Immigration delegation visited The Swedish Heritage Room.



On February 23, we had our first **Membership Day** with the traditional February treat: semlor (buns with whipped cream and marzipan).



Semlor with MLA West Vancouver Ralph Sultan left bottom. 23 visitors



A visitor during Semlor Membership day

On March 9, Laila, Paula and Tinni visited the White Rock Museum with the curator to discuss cataloging and look at their displays. It was a great learning experience. The curator encouraged us to not have a web-based cataloguing system but one that was program based so we could join other smaller museums and display our catalogue to a wider general public population search.

Three days later the **first Covid-19 restrictions** were imposed in B.C. Due to this, our March 23 2020, “Sing along” had to be cancelled. The Swedish Heritage Room closed its doors because of the world-wide pandemic.

Dag Blanck – the Director of Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, had asked to visit us in the week of April 1 but it was cancelled. We hope to meet him at another opportunity.

In March, we honored the Swedish hockey players in B.C. and Canucks 50th Anniversary in an exhibit.



THANK YOU

We could not have done all this without our archival and artifact donors, volunteer committee members, and other volunteers supporting us.

A big thank you to executive director Christina Reid- our mentor and supporter from Trethewey House in Abbotsford.

Comments from visitors “My family is related to the Ukrainian Swede in B.C. Sigalet and it is the first time I found information.”
A Finn Swede “Now I know where the Finn slough is and will visit it.”

Membership 72
Total number of visitors 142.