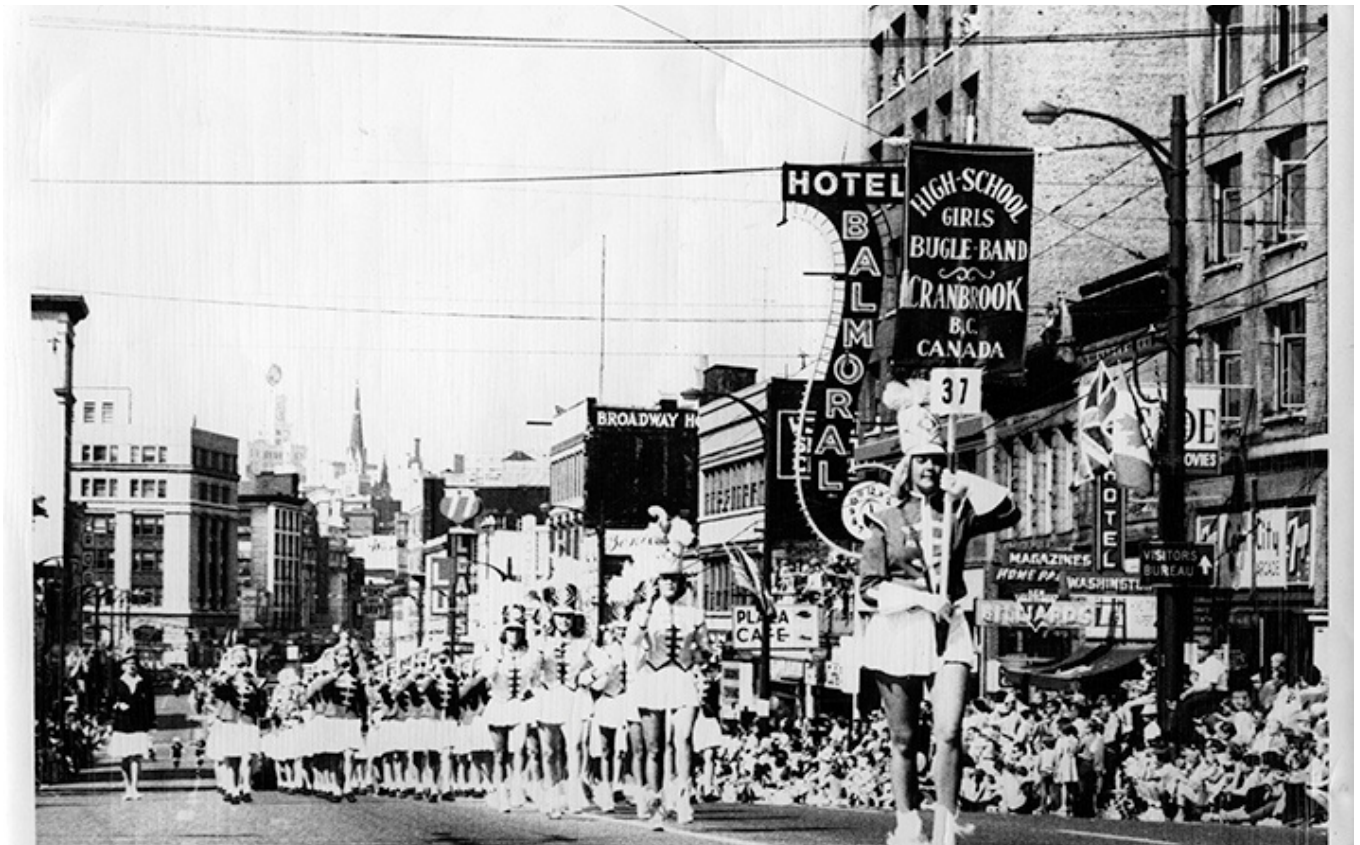


# THE BASIN RECORD

*The official newsletter of the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History*



*The Cranbrook Bugle Band in Vancouver c. 1962 Collection No. 2308.1459- Image courtesy of the CBIRH*

## Welcoming the New

The Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) is pleased to announce the launch of its highly anticipated Website Transformation and Rebranding project.

On July 5, 2023, the CBIRH once again declared its independence and wholeness as a historical society that is modernized, attractive and ready to be appreciated by a global audience. With the help of Chris Murray from Technical Excellence and Shawn Wernig of Eggplant Studios and \$30,000 of funding from the Columbia Basin Trust, the CBIRH has accomplished the monumental revitalization of a twenty-year-old website and operating system.

The task of finding the appropriate contractors and financing was challenging but necessary for us to continue our work and grow as an organization. Now we will be able to go forward with new digital and marketing strategies, efficient online transactions for our kiosk and for the purchase of all merchandise and images from our extensive collection.

This is an exciting time to rework our infrastructure, upgrade our strategic plan, and move ahead with creating beautiful content that can now be properly showcased through our website.

A press kit has been created and is being released through all local media channels and is being promoted across our site and communication channels.

To all board members, staff, and volunteers, thank you for helping to make this transition possible. We now have a brand-new face to be extremely proud of as we carry forward with our mission to preserve, document, archive, and showcase the Basin's history.

# Celebrating the Past with the Legacy of Learning



**Rocky Mountain Elementary School c.1974 Collection No. 2206.0009- Images courtesy of CBIRH**

The Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) has a longstanding partnership with School District #5 (SD#5). This collaboration has given us the opportunity to create a series of large photo exhibits celebrating the school district and its people.

We have created a unique environment which displays the achievements of the wide-flung district. The growing collection has made an impression with SD#5's counterparts, and it is our wish to bring Legacy of Learning to all the school districts in the Basin, starting with East Kootenay.

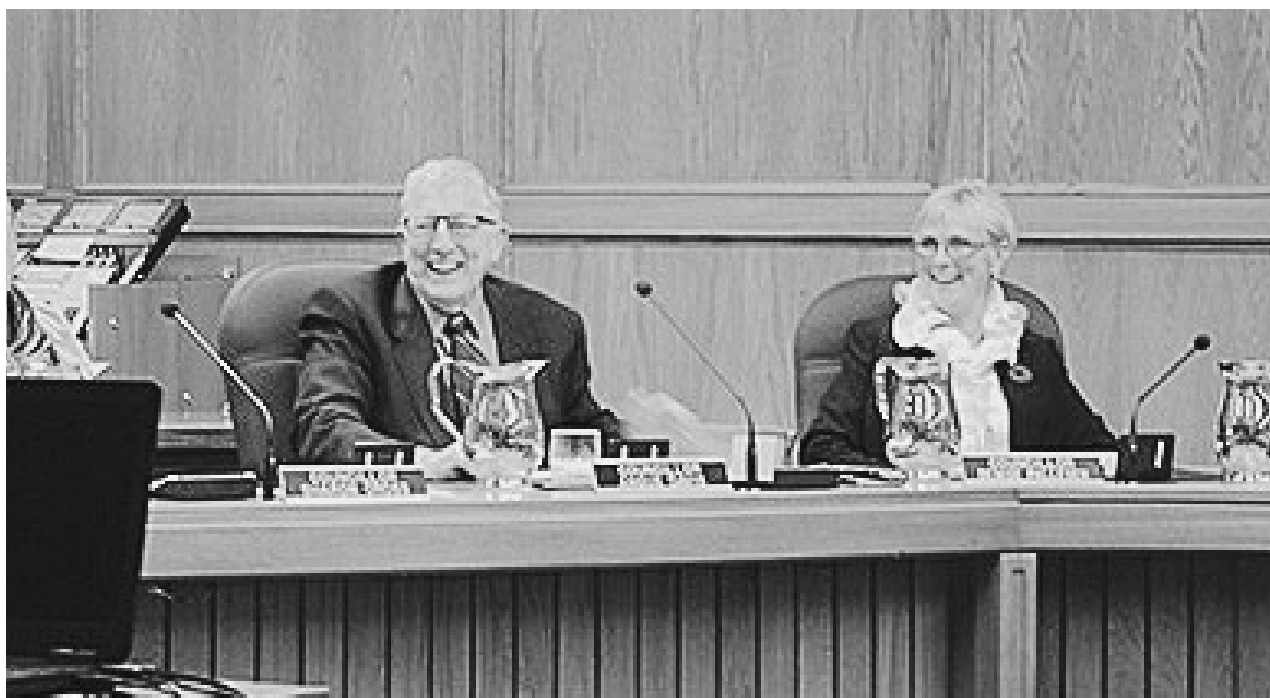
This year the CBIRH installed two new exhibits at the Cranbrook Board Office. The first is titled "The School That Coal Built" and features Rocky Mountain Elementary School (RMES) and the coal extraction industry of the Elk Valley. With a population of 3,000, most of the students of RMES in Elkford come from coal-mining families. This exhibit grew out of the work the Institute did on the history of this institution, the only elementary school in Elkford.

A second exhibit installed was titled "Cranbrook High School Girls' Bugle Band." Established in 1941 as part of the Canadian Women's Training Corps, the band then became sponsored by the Cranbrook High School in 1944. More than 1,500 Cranbrook girls have performed with the band, travelling widely to Vancouver, Calgary, and Ottawa, among other places. They were the school and the city's most well-known ambassadors.

The CBIRH looks forward to new exhibits being installed at the SD#5 School Board office in the future.



## The Passing of a Former President and Good Friend



**Angus Davis on Cranbrook city council with councillor Denise Pallesen; bottom lefthand corner (l to r) Wayne Stetski, unknown, Davis - Images courtesy of East Kootenay News Online Weekly (e-know.ca)**

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Angus Davis, storyteller extraordinaire, former Mayor of Watson Lake, Cranbrook city councillor, and President of the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) from 2015 to 2020. Angus was a man who loved life, his wife Arlene and the sharing of his own rich family history.

One of the items that Angus brought to the CBIRH was his father's incredible story of mining and exploration in B.C. This is available on our site as item 3000.0008, "The Memoirs of Angus Davis". This is a personal account of the growth and development of B.C.'s mining development in the interior of the province.

Angus Davis (Jr.) was a man who lit up a room with his enthusiasm and his eagerness to share his personal story. As well he helped to organize the storytelling events the CBIRH hosted and took part in the storytelling festivals at Proctor, B.C. Angus was a large presence and leaves a huge void.

We will miss him.



## Cranbrook Quilters' Guild



*Learning how to quilt -Collection No. 2000.0052 c. 1987 - Image courtesy of the CBIRH*

We never seem to run out of things to research or projects to work on. This past winter, we started discussions with members of the Cranbrook Quilters' Guild about preserving the history of the guild. Founded in 1985, the group has gathered Tuesday mornings at the Seniors Hall in Cranbrook.

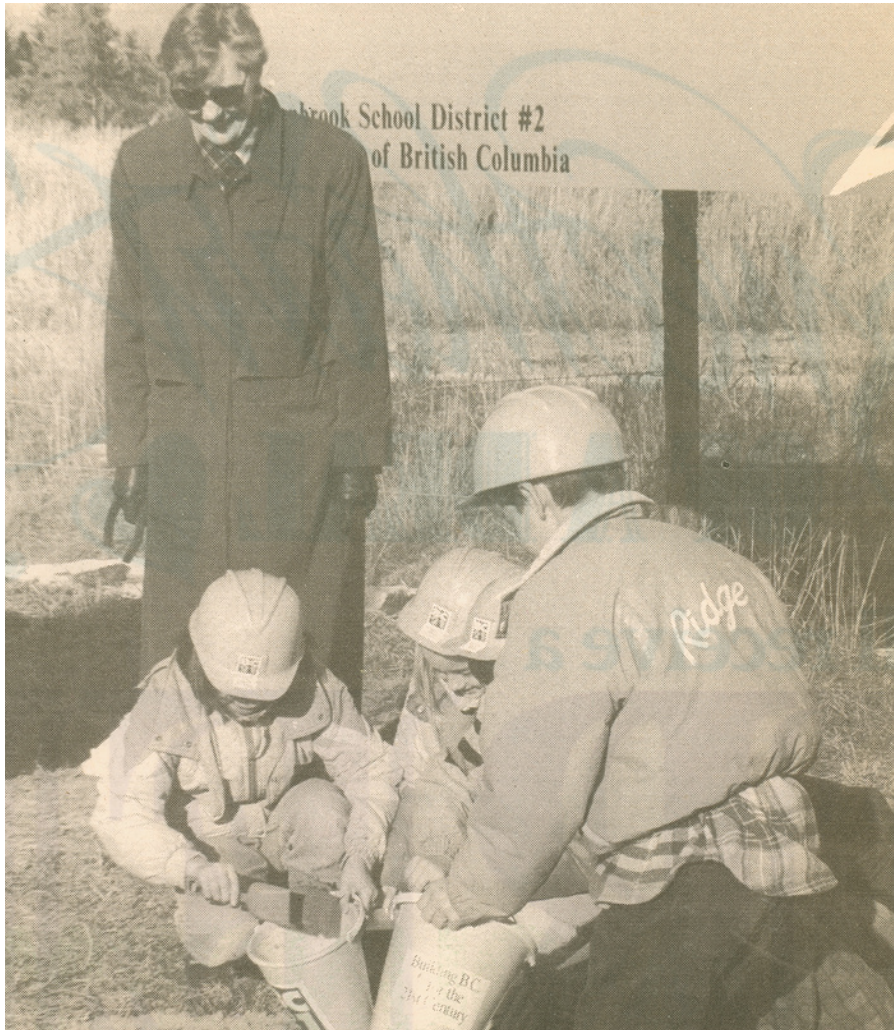
Institute staff was immediately drawn in by the community service consistently offered by these women. They support federal programs such as the Quilts of Valour for injured military personnel. Then there are quilts for the Transition House, the Oncology and Paediatrics departments of the hospital and quilts for babies and the old (430 since 2016). Reading the group's meeting minutes, there is mention of international programs of support partnered with Rotary International.

The current Guild president, Susan Little, arrived at our offices with boxes and boxes of photo albums and Guild documentation. So, why wouldn't we work as a partner in telling the group's history?

At this point, we have sketched out broad outlines of what the outcomes might be and have established a budget of more than \$10,000. Guild members have already put in many hours sorting through the exceptionally substantial number of photos, identifying images to be selected and themes to be considered.

Now we are in the fundraising stage. Grant applications have been submitted, a public appeal for donations has been made, and the Executive Director is working on a summer campaign to launch a Canada Helps appeal for public funds. All donations to the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History over \$25.00 and earmarked for the 'quilt history project' can receive a federal income tax deduction credit. This promises to be another great community-oriented history project, and the Institute is proud to be a partner in it.

## An act of Generosity makes all the Difference



**Anne Edwards oversees students in the ceremony for the construction of Kootenay Orchards School - Feb. 7, 1994, Collection No. 2006.0029 - Image courtesy of Cranbrook Daily Townsman and the CBIRH**

Organizations such as the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) are created to meet social needs, in our case, the reclaiming of the region's history. They are usually not blessed with a significant investment of funds and rely on volunteer help, grants, and sometimes monetary partnerships are established. It is always a struggle to keep a core staff person paid and the doors open. There are always other demands on people's time and resources.

Recently the CBIRH had the heavens open, and Anne Edwards, a past president of the organization from 2009 to 2014, bequeathed from her estate the magnificent sum of \$10,000 to support our work. Anne has left a legacy for our Board and other Boards to follow. With her, it started as a matter of belief.

Anne staunchly believed that local history was important and provided a beacon of contemplation – a chance to think of where we have been as a community and society. From that base, she thought we could create a more informed and better world.

Anne's gift makes the need for strong and thoughtful non-profit Boards real. When it comes to the basics of an organization, there must be people who care, support the work, and carry it into the future. We already missed Anne Edwards, but this final act of generosity gave us some extra energy to move forward with our projects to capture the past.