

Abbotsford Stories Project

Abbotsford senior citizens who love local history are invited to participate in a community-wide storytelling project on culturally significant places and heritage in the city. The Abbotsford Stories Project gives volunteers 65+ the opportunity to support local history, invest in the community, and represent their family's own stories and history in the area. The stories will be added to the society's growing archive of local stories, provide knowledge for free walking tours, and may feature in the virtual program "Stories to Spaces: Local Community Places."

The end product will be a virtual display of the stories collected and synthesized by the volunteers, celebrating the stories of their families and communities, and the places important to them. This thread between the past and the future will connect younger generations to the lived experiences and places of the past, illuminating the layers of the individual's story through local and individual heritage.

"Abbotsford is home to so many seniors who have fascinating stories. We want to hear from the folks who have memories of growing up here and also from those who chose Abbotsford as their home. What was the city like when you arrived? What made it become your home??"

Volunteers can choose to either interview other participants to hear their stories, or choose to tell their own story to another volunteer. By contributing to the project, participants will give back to the community, preserve local heritage, and help unearth untold histories in the area.

"I often hear people say that they lived simple lives and don't think the stories of their life are of interest to others. But it's exactly those stories that creates connections to place and to others- like a first date at the Teddy Bear Café, or meeting their best friend at a summer job. Places create communities; more than just a spot on the map, a place holds meaning through the stories and emotional memory of those who lived, worked, and gathered there."

The project is funded by the federal New Horizons for Seniors grant. Those interested in volunteering can contact Natalia Deros, Programs Manager, at HAS@heritageabbotsford.ca, or 604-853-0313.

About Heritage Abbotsford Society

Heritage Abbotsford Society is the registered charity which operates Trethewey House Heritage Site under a fee-for-service Agreement with the City of Abbotsford. The Mission of the Society is "to collect, record, preserve, and share the stories of Abbotsford". Functions of this mandate are to preserve, study and exhibit artifacts and archival material, and to educate and entertain the public. Operating from the Heritage Site, the Society provides heritage and youth educational programming and events to thousands of Abbotsford residents and visitors of all ages every year. Activities include tours of Trethewey House, and the Upper Sumas BCER station, exhibits and displays, including the one-room schoolhouse experience and the Heritage Gallery exhibits, along with walking tours, heritage-themed events and workshops, interpretive educational and outreach programs, and summer camps for youth and children. For more information, please visit www.heritageabbotsford.ca.