



Remembrance is a Form of Meeting

**Bamfield Memorial Tree Pavilion
Grand Opening**

On Saturday June 22nd, 2013, the break in the first summer rains brought men and women out in straws hats and boaters to the Strawberry Tea and Bake Sale in Bamfield's Centennial Park. This year's tea was hosted by the Memorial Tree Committee to celebrate the grand opening of the Memorial Tree Pavilion. The new pavilion became a joint venture between the Memorial Tree Committee and the Centennial Park Board with generous donations made by the Bamfield Community Affairs Grants in Aid.

The first dedication of the Memorial Tree monument at the Community Hall occurred on Remembrance Day November 11th, 1996. An idea was seeded by a former cable station employee to have a memorial record of the people of Bamfield. Kaye Monrufet and Marjorie Mick envisioned a carving of a windswept tree. A solid cedar slab donated by George Monrufet was transformed into just such a tree, carved in relief by Al Porter. The original rock base was made by Pat McNamara. John Mass and Flemming Mikkelson built the shelter roof with shakes donated by Wade Gaylord. The Memorial Tree committee included: Ebba Jennings, Majorie Fowler, Lorraine Hegstrom, Jimmy Baird, Irma Cashin, Kaye Monrufet and Marjorie Mick

Nancy Hendry took over the responsibilities of the Memorial Tree committee from Ardie Logan when Ardie left Bamfield. The other members of the committee included Steve Clarke and Hedy Demontigny.

When the Bamfield Community Hall was sold it became necessary to move the Memorial Tree from its original site outside of the hall. Rather than just relocating it close to the information centre in Centennial Park, Nancy Hendry envisioned the monument housed under an open-aired structure where the Memorial Tree monument could not only be featured, but be a place where visitors to the park might sit after viewing the monument, or after working in their allotment in the community garden, or simply to enjoy the view over the park. Nancy Hendry and Eileen Scott walked the park to find the optimum location which is where the Memorial Tree is now situated.

The chosen site and project idea was posted for the community to weigh in on and then site preparation began. There were several design ideas discussed between local builders and the building inspector which stalled the project. In the end Louis Druehl and Eric Hopkins produced a design for the pavilion, and Louis pushed the project though the building inspector's office which launched the project in earnest.

The following people were employed to work on the project: Bob Purdy for site preparation and gravel; Johnnie Blue (Altorf) and son Carl Altorf carpenters who built the

structure; Fred Garcia K&F Roofing completed the roof and installed the sky lights; Bob Baden's Bamfield Builders for keeping up with supplies. Bamfield Builders also housed the Memorial Tree monument itself during this time of transition and where the monument itself was restored.

And to the following people, we are indeed grateful for their generosity of spirit to volunteer their time and efforts:

Louis Druehl and Eric Hopkins for architectural designs; Rod Coots and his excavator to bring in gravel to build a road to the site; Phil Roberge for the use of his Bobcat that almost sank in the mud and for the use of his ladders; Brain Masson for his excavator, ATV and trailer for the final haul of gravel; Pat McNamara for his assistance mounting the Memorial Tree; Mark Stokes for donating cedar shakes for the roof; Bob & Jim Bowker for help in moving the shakes; Jane Morrison for beginning the landscaping design, clearing alders and planting Japanese cherry trees, and Rose Janelle president of the Community Hall Association for donating a church pew. Finally, the committee owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Steve Clarke. He oversaw the project, worked hour for hour with the carpenters; he shoveled and raked all the gravel, cleaned up the Memorial Tree monument, and generally schmoozed and bartered favours right up to the last week before the opening to get the project to completion for the opening day.

The funding from Grants in Aid – Bamfield Community Affairs matched by the Centennial Park Board made this project a reality. Thanks to Hedy Demontigny for the years she served on the committee. Hedy has decided to step down.

Anyone interested in adding a "leaf" to the Memorial Tree to remember a Bamfielder who has passed is encouraged to look on Bamfield Historical Society website and follow the link to the Bamfield Memorial Tree. The committee is also looking to expand its membership. Please direct questions to Nancy Hendry (250) 728-3119.

Since the grand opening Centennial Park completed more work on the structure by adding stairs and a floor to the pavilion. Malcolm Richards and Jane Morrison built the terraced rock garden. Benches bearing memorial plaques were also added by the park, and can be purchased from the park.

Author's note:

This is an edited version of an article written for the Bamfield paper to commemorate the opening of the new Bamfield Memorial Tree Pavilion.