

Museum History

The museum was conceptualized back in 1987 and incorporated in 1992. It officially opened in 1994 and was run by a group of 30-40 volunteers in the community. In the last 15 years, the CSRD has provided a \$10,000 annual operating grant. The museum is located on Lafarge's mining property. There is 4 parcels of land totaling 2.8 acres.

The land was bought in 1990 by LaFarge after the "Gypville", previous Gypsum mine was shut down. This is the site of Gypsum mining that started in 1925 first by tram, then in the 1940s brought down on horse & cart and dumped onto the train. The Railway chute is a remnant of one of these towers.

We are the only museum in Western Canada that is a former Gypsum mine. The rest are gold, silver, copper. Gypsum is used for Gyproc and fertilizer.

The museum contains historical documents, pictures and archives dating all the way back to 1898.

New Parking Lot

Parking lot was moved due to safety concerns of people coming off the highway at the old entrance. The new parking lot has been issued a permit by Ministry of Highways and this is the entrance we are required to use. They do not want us using the old exit. The Museum sign needs to be moved over to the new exit. There is a billboard sign attached to the fence. This could be moved closer to the highway or a new location so people can see it.

In the email, there is a list of accessibility grants as well as a quote for paving from the EV Chargers up to the highway.

The EV chargers annual fee is paid up for three years. In the email is the contact info and login for Electric Avenue, the company who handles the chargers. We are registered on Natural Resources Canada so anyone with an electric vehicle can find us and there is now EV Charger Signs on the Hwy installed by Ministry of Highways.

The container is full of Halloween decorations and is owned by the Historical Society. LaFarge requires us to maintain access to the railway in the event they want to start using railway again. This is why the land originally not used and made sense for a parking lot.

The parking lot requires some solar lighting for the evening and some more gravel. LaFarge will bring more free gravel when they haul in the summer if you ask.

Bistro/Info Centre Entrance

The Sonya McGill Bistro was originally built in 1994 as a workshop and dedicated to Sonya McGill on her passing in 2013. Sonay was a jack of all trades and spent a lot of the time in the workshop and working around the museum grounds.

In 2023 the workshop was converted into a new entrance for the museum complete with an info center. The bistro was upgraded to its own 200amp panel which runs the bistro, ev chargers and exterior plug on the Hamer cabin. The sewage pipes installed were upgraded and a Y connector put in so a future bathroom could be added on highway side of building. Currently the water line has heat tape in it but requires an insulated box to be installed around it. We currently have a food retailer license with Interior Health and apply for the 14-day annual temp permit so we can serve food at designated events or fundraisers. The Bistro made \$10,000 between June 10 and October 31st. Fires hurt us this year as we had little attendance in late July and August. Our biggest success, not including the haunting, was Sunday breakfasts. We averaged around \$800 a breakfast.

We were finalizing the set up of the info centre with BC Destination. Once their requirements were complete, they will be putting up Info "I" on the highway to let people know they can stop. All staff/volunteers working in the info centre are required to do a free course. They do offer applications every year for some funding, but funding is max 15,000 a year.

Hamer Cabin

The Hamer (pronounced Hay-mer) is an old homestead from 1898 that was moved to the museum.

The Cabin was originally put on cement pads which have sunk into the ground and is causing some rot on the logs of the cabin. The cabin needs to be lifted or dirt dug out around from it and likely the logs will need replacing. There is also decommissioned wiring running inside the cabin as well on the ends of it that needs to be removed. The new upgraded plug is down at ground level.

The roof needs to be redone with proper slide prevention done as it is causing the facia to fall off. The front facia needs to be replaced.

Blacksmith shop

The blacksmith shop was made out of an old shop in the area. The entire building needs to be gutted out, sprayed down and the blacksmith items replaced. The building is full of marmot feces. The electrical has been decommissioned with the upgrades in 2023 so also needs to be removed.

Barn

Barn was made out of an old shop in the area. The building was gutted out in 2022 and interior redone. Barn display items have been put in this year. The roof still requires some cedar shake repair. There is a pile of Cedar Shakes behind the Garage that are usable.

Railway chute

The British Columbia Gypsum Company was incorporated in 1913 to quarry gypsum at Falkland BC. GM Dawson reported the presence of gypsum in that locality in his report to the Geological Survey of Canada in 1889. The mine was made viable in 1925. This entire area is remnants of the old gypsum mine from back in the 1920-40s. In the 1920-30s, They would tram it down, and in the 1940s would horse and cart it down to railway tracks and it would get dumped into a crusher and then dumped into a train car to head down to the Fraser Valley where it was freighted to Liverpool. In 1928, the property was acquired by Canada Gypsum and Albastine Company and then again in 1958 by Domtar and in 1990 to Lafarge.

Path – the path has been restored so you can walk around the entire structure. It requires some gravel to make it more friendly for walking.

Structure – the sitting platform up top needs to be replaced as it is rotting. A number of the beams are starting to decay and if the structure is to be restored, likely most needs replacing. The ramp going towards the train needs new support beams underneath. The top part is solid but needs a wash to remove the growing moss

The concrete is solid, no decay and no cracking.

We have been provided a picture in 2023 what it use to look like so we could restore it as close to possible.

LaFarge - LaFarge has offered to provide us with some old mining equipment to help revitalize the display as well as some funding to do information kiosks explaining the history of gypsum mining, how it's done and what it's used for

Store

Store was built in 2017 with Canada 150 grant to be a replica of the old McClounies (Falkland Store-Canco)

The store has electrical plugs only. The wiring in it and running to it from the LaFarge building is up to code.

There is a rubber door sill and concrete glue that needs to be installed. This is to help from water going into the store and leaves blowing in. Currently the concrete pad has sunk in the front, so we get winter snow melt in the store. The store needs a drainage trench dug around the front entrance with it draining towards the garage and forest area.

Once water issued fixed, the board wanted to move all the store items that are in the main museum store display into the store and free up some display space in the main museum for other displays.

Garage & Truck

Unsure of the date the garage was built. The structure itself is in good condition. It is full of manuals, parts, etc and this building needs to be cleaned up and organized. Not sure what is in the large filing cabinets.

The trees need to be trimmed back from the roof of the building and a door strip needs to be replaced. Currently there is a door strip in the garage that can be installed to stop the leaves from blowing in under the door.

Behind the garage and over the fence is an old concrete structure. This use to be one of the horse/vehicle ramps that would go out to the railway. There is a picture in our archives of what it looked like before it was dismantled.

The truck is in good condition and was to be repainted. The tires still hold air and we have tire conditioner in the shop for all the vehicles, etc with rubber wheels. We were quoted \$5000 for a repaint and the engine will still steer in neutral.

The hydro line between the store and the garage is not buried to code. Be careful when digging up anything between the store & garage (where truck is currently parked)

Logging display

The logging display was developed with Riverside (now Tolko Armstrong) there is items in there with the Riverside stamp on it as well as old logging items including log stamps. This building was slated to be expanded on the eastern side to make room for all the items with the leftover Tolko 2x4's.

Currently there is also mining items mixed in with the logging artifacts as they were being preserved until a proper mining display could be developed. The signage inside the display needs to be redone and repaired.

The forest next to the display building is a representation of all the different trees that grow in the area. The trees need to be thinned out and signs put up to what tree species the tree is. The wood rack was built on the side of the display building so that we could protect the wood we had for future use.

Milk shed

This is an old shed from the Mudry property. The roof needs to be redone. NOTE: the barrel that is beside it is full of toxic material we assume. It is not rusting, and we have not moved it.

Mudry cabin

Mudry cabin is originally made from the wood from the old Falkland railway station water tower. It was taken apart by Mr. Mudry, who worked for the railway, and built into a house when the railway station closed.

The electrical in this building is powered from the sub panel coming out of the basement to the church and as far as we know is not to code.

The tree limbs growing over the roof of the cabin need to be cut back and the roof itself needs to be replaced before it starts leaking. The steps into the building need to be replaced.

The cabin needs to have a retaining wall built up on it's one side and the back side as the original dirt has washed away and it's in danger of slipping. Otherwise the building is solid.

Tractor Display

Tractor tires need air. This building is in good condition.

Train Display

Half of the train deck needs replacing. Half was done this summer. Proper wooden stairs need installed for people to step up onto train.

Train ceiling has detached on west end of train. Looks like the metal pieces holding ceiling up are missing. Train needs to be painted. Cloverdale paint color and type is in email provided by Kamloops railway Society.

Farming equipment display

The wood walkway needs to be replaced. It is Starting to break and warp.

The atrium was taken down and plans to rebuild a 20x15 covered gazebo space that looked like a rail station waiting area was planned.

Most of the farm equipment needs signage to be redone and all needs either a coat of rust paint or converter paint.

Brick display

The pile of bricks up by the old parking area are bricks from the basement of the community hall of its old chimney when wood heat. There is also bricks by the Lafarge building. There is a mixture of bricks from the Falkland Brick Company (around 1946-48) A covered display with info was to be erected.

Beside the bricks, is the remnants of Falkland first post office that was originally located down by cedar hill.

Church

Church was built in 1902 and originally located where the ranch restaurant is now. The roof needs some shingles reattached and fascia boards replaced. Back stairs need one more step added due to ground settling. The doors need door guards installed, which are in the church. Electricity is run through sub panel in basement which is connected into the main panel of the museum building. There is heat in basement but not in the church. Basement has been cleaned out and artifacts have been moved into display areas and some that didn't get sorted are in the new Leaf building.

Tut Fire Tower

This was built in the 1950s and was brought down off the mountain. Ministry of forests donated it as fire towers were decommissioned. In 2021 the stairs and decking was replaced and some of the broken windows. The west and north side of building needs replaced. Will need 4 pieces of plywood and some paint.

There is a few documents in there from when bc was a dominion and not a province. We constantly have fire tower clubs reach out to come see our items.

The cart by the tower is an old logging cart. It's wooden wheels need new wood.

Leaf Building

The Leaf building was built this fall and has no power or electricity. It was meant to be a replica of Leafs Hardware which is where the library is located currently. The siding from the building is the old siding from the library. The building still requires a railing as due to location the one end is high off the ground. Stairs also still need to be installed. Shelving needs to be put up inside so things can be put away and room made for riding lawnmower.

Main museum

The main museum is an old machine shop from the gypsum mine. The front area where books and archive info is located was added on as was the outdoor bathrooms. Gas and water shut offs are located in furnace room.

Electrical panel and kitchen sink drain were updated this year. The outdoor bathrooms are winterized but will require new toilets in near future. Drain Flow is who has done all our plumbing and heating work and is familiar with museum.

Baseboard heaters are deactivated except in the archive room and the inside bathroom. If you keep door propped open between museum and kitchen you don't need to worry about icing up.

The willow tree stump by outdoor bathrooms is rotten and needs to come out. The concrete has also cracked and needs to be replaced. The siding is starting to deteriorate.

LaFarge building

This building is remnants of old service area of gypsum mine. This year the electrical panel was updated to code. It is attached to panel in main museum building. There is currently 5 plugs.

One of the breakers feeds power over to the Store. This is all done to code.

Eternity and gas line is also run over to Lafarge for future renos. It was the goal of the board for the last 5 years to build in the space to use as a multi use space and display things as main museum is over crowded.

The one piece of cracked concrete was replaced this year so the floor would be able to have a skim coat. The retaining wall is deteriorating and the roof will need to be replaced. There is quotes in the email to have this building redone.

Hwy Equipment

The highway Equipment is from 1920 to 40s and used to build roads in the area. It was relocated to front of property this year to make a nice green space by Lafarge building. The roller is too heavy to move. We received a quote of \$1200 to have it lifted up by rest of Equipment.

Grounds

There is two water spigot, one by church and one by bathrooms. One by church controls the outdoor water taps at church, by Leaf Building and in farm equipment display. One by bathrooms controls outdoor taps by bathrooms, Lafarge garden and the big garden area between Hamer cabin and Lafarge building. The tap and pipe is leaking and needs replaced at

the bottom tap by the brown bridge. There is lots of sprinkler piping, taps, etc in leaf building workshop.

A water main shut off was installed this year. The water line comes in from highway by Tut Tower, then goes under the building where the front office was added, around the septic system and into building.

The septic and drywell is located between main building and Lafarge. It was tested and registered last year with interior health and is good condition. Report is in black filing cabinet in archive room

There is also an updated utilities map in filing cabinet so future board knows where the gas, water and electrical lines are.

Financials

See attached financials

Accounting - Quick books subscription is \$64 a month and someone will have to provide a credit card for payment. It is online platform and is connected into our bank account so will auto upload transactions

Bank - Board wanted to move to Sascu for grant opportunities and also cause they will give non profits a credit card. This didn't get done due to amount of projects on go. Vantage one services vernon and area non profits.

Our only source of funding is currently a \$10,000 Grant in aid from the CSRD. They provided funding for bistro/info center in hopes we could become self sustainable. Community works museum plan is located on Google drive and in filing cabinet for review.

Lease - We have a 20 year lease that is good until 2042.

Insurance - Our insurance for the property only insures the bistro, main museum and it's contents. In order to ensure other buildings it has to either have to code electrical or no electrical at all. Quoted price on insuring all the buildings we could was \$5000. In past they have not insured the buildings as our lease states if the museum burns down, that the lease is cancelled.

Payroll Summary – Payroll summary is complete and ready to be sent in. owe govt' 8500 in payroll.

CRA online – Denise removed as of November 4th so new board will have to submit payroll summary, file for gst for 2022 and 2023 and pay outstanding payroll remittances

Grants

Due Dec 15th – Shuswap community foundation intake 2. Apply for more money for Lafarge

Due Jan 3 – family day grants. Link in email

Due January – student employment application. Previous board was going to apply for two students for 2024 at \$18/hr

Due Jan 30th - Canada's Tourism Growth Program (TGP) link in email

Also working with cultural spaces, bc arts council and bclc for grants

Email with list of funding g agents for accessibility grants

Grants that require municipality to apply, since we not incorporated, we can apply with the csrd for funds. They are considered our local level of government.

Memberships

BC Heritage

BC Museum Association

BC Federation of Museums

Accessioning

Documentation – proper accessioning agreements have been started and done from 1993 to around March 2001. These binders are located in the front office on the shelves with all the books.

Accessioning – nothing has been accessioned since 2020. There hasn't been much received in the last couple years since the museum training and the understanding of what and how things are to be received (explained in policy and procedures)

Denise is willing to come in and train everyone on how accessioning is done.

Digitization – the boards goal was to get everything into a database and online in our one drive or SharePoint

UBC has a grant and there are a lot of our pictures and newspapers they have uploaded online. They send quarterly reports showing how many people have accessed them. Contact info is in emails

Policy and Procedures

The bylaws are out of date and are the original ones from 1992.

Enderby Museum provided us with their museum policy and procedures to tweak as we needed. These are the same ones that are also utilized by the Vernon Museum

Denise provided the board with the policy and procedures that was written for the FDCA to be tweaked in accordance to what we need.

None of these updates have been done to date.

Website & Social Media, Online Items

We have a secured domain of www.falklandheritage.ca at Host Papa and have created emails for the board executive if they choose to use it.

Denise has been unable to finish website and is happy to complete. Cost was \$278 and is good until Feb 2026 with annual fee of \$50 for website backup and protection

www.hauntingoffalkland.ca is our second website. Annual fee is \$300 and is with WIX. You could move to something like Host Papa as WIX tends to be expensive.

Facebook – we have a Facebook page

Instagram – we have an Instagram account

Trip Advisor – we have a Trip Advisor account as this is required by both BC Destination and Shuswap Tourism to promote us.

Microsoft License – we have a grant from Microsoft for free office products until 2032. We get a zero value invoice once a month.

The accounts are falklandheritage@falklandhistoricalsociety.onmicrosoft.com (Admin account) and info@falklandhistoricalsociety.onmicrosoft.com

The Laptop has been set up with the the info account on it and also the falklandheritage@gmail.com on it.

Newspaper – we are to be taking over the Falkland News starting January 1st and are to be charged for copies for using the FDCA machine. No billing to date has been done for 2024 advertising.

Upcoming Projects - economics

Falkland Market – they were interested in using museum for their market. Current people running it are unable to organize. There is approximately 18 vendors and they pay \$10 a table.

Shuswap Tourism Farmgate – We are slated to be the midpoint of the Area D Farmgate tour.

This tour is designed to create agritourism in our Area and support local home based businesses and local businesses that have agri-products such as honey bee and BC Brine, boreal gardens, etc we will get a highway sign announcing we are part of it and get free listing

on the farmgate website. There will be a map on the site and it will highlight what we are and our info.

Morgen Matheson from Shuswap Tourism will be the contact on that project.

Sleepovers in the Park – we have been asked by many people about doing sleepovers in the park. It was something the board was looking at doing once all the repairs and updates had been done to the LaFarge and Bistro buildings.

Falkland Elementary – The principal would like to start doing tours at the museum again with the local children instead of going to the Okeefe ranch. Important that new residents and kids of long-time residents learn their history. The annual funding amount is around \$6000 and we would have to make a simple meal and interactive fun.

Falkland Stampede – The museum runs the parking at the Falkland Stampede every year. Annual revenue is between \$4-5,000 for the weekend. Requires set up starting Wednesday night and collecting fees Friday – Monday. Dwayne Ricard has always been a big supporter of the museum and let us use his property for parking. A report was submitted to the Stampede Manager about things we'd like to see done to make the event run smoother for everyone.

Workshops - It was the direction of the board once repairs were done to the LaFarge and Bistro to start doing monthly or bi-weekly breakfasts, workshops, etc that would bring people into the museum and subsequently buying drinks at the bistro. Some of the ideas was game night, book club or book reading, paint nights, photography, music jams, etc.