



THE HARLEQUIN

Our quarterly newsletter (spring, summer, fall & winter) features nature, society news, events, and items of interest. For information, visit our website, www.vffn.ca

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE: Our website & newsletter are open to all members to contribute short articles, photos or anything of interest to the club. vffnbc@gmail.com
Attn: Mary

Summer activities, although plentiful, are such that the club is not actively involved; hence the spareness of news. However, VFFN has had some notable new outing, such as the trip to Ginty Pond in Cawston, led by Lee McFayden who is always a wealth of information and the trip up to Nickel Plate Water Treatment Centre. Equally exciting, was the road trip up and down from the mine with incredible views of the Similkameen Valley.



Don't forget to read the write ups under "Past Outings" on our website, vffn.ca The fall promises to be just as exciting in Speakers and field trips. Take advantages of all the activities that VFFN has to offer!

There are new changes in our executive. Lisa von Lipinski will assist Peter Antonick. She is the lady who will be sending you reminders of upcoming field trips; Stella Holliday replaces Joan Kelly as Secretary and Judith Sloan replaces Joan Kelly as historian and Janis Wright as Publicity Person.

EVENING PRESENTATION

JUNE 14, 2016

SPEAKER: WENDY HAWKES

TOPIC: Ancestral Connections: First Nations Ancestral Burials & the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)

Wendy Hawkes is a member of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band and works as the Natural Resource Referrals Coordinator. She is the first person you deal with when it comes to Ancestral Burials and the HCA.

The connection between ancestors and descendants is a very strong one in the First Nations' Community. When one introduces oneself, one does so by reciting one's parentage, going back four generations! That way people know who you are and where you come from.

Everyone has a role in the society, and everyone has a connection with nature. A people's characteristics are embodied in four chiefs which are **Bear** who represents animals, **Bitterroot** which represents roots or food below the ground, **Berries** which represent food above ground, and the **Salmon** which represents food in the water.

At all festivals, a spirit dish is set aside for the ancestors. There is an ongoing relationship between Ancestors and Descendants. The Living must ensure that relatives are buried in a proper manner, proper place, and protected from desecration. Failure to do this brings harm not only to the living but to the dead as well. "The Dead need to be sheltered, fed, visited, and feasted. Smelqmix-Syilx inherit this obligation. It is a tangible expression of a powerful continuity." (Wendy Hawkes)

So the connection is not broken with death; instead it becomes more pronounced. That is why when a burial ground is disturbed it becomes a big issue. Sometime, it become violent as it was in the Oka Crisis or it can be resolved amicably. This is where the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) comes in. It set a procedure to deal with such matters. It allows for the government and First Nations to reach a resolution. However, unless the government acts in good faith, the matter can become contentious. The information that Wendy presented gave us a deeper understanding and appreciation of a culture in our valley. It was an evening of enlightenment.



ITEM OF INTEREST

STONEROSE FOSSIL CENTRE--Republic, Washington

We made a visit to Republic, Washington to see the StoneRose Fossil Centre which dates similarly to that of Princeton Geological Period, the Eocene Period, which goes back 50 Million years ago. Republic, Washington, no larger than Princeton, is located in Eastern Washington about half a day's drive from here.



The Fossil displays were very interesting, especially since their find include plants and insects and one in particular which resembles a rose but is not a rose; it is closely related to cotton, okra, or hibiscus. The name “Stonerose” refers to the abundance of plants from the rose family that occur in the Republic flora.

The museum opens at 8:00 a.m. and already there is a steady lineup of tourists waiting to go in. The main attraction is what the museum has to offer. They provide tourists with the unique opportunity to go digging for fossils. For \$10 per person, you receive a beer carton, a chisel, and a hammer. You are then directed to a slope (Boot Hill) about 2 blocks away where you are allowed to hammer at the rock in hopes of finding a fossil (s). When you are finished (there is no time limit) you return to the museum with the borrowed tools and the friendly staff explains what you have found. You are allowed to keep the fossils you find, unless it happens to be a unique one then they keep that one.

I was amazed at the interest the visiting public had for this activity. This holds great possibilities for our museum since Princeton also has fossil beds within walking distance of the museum.



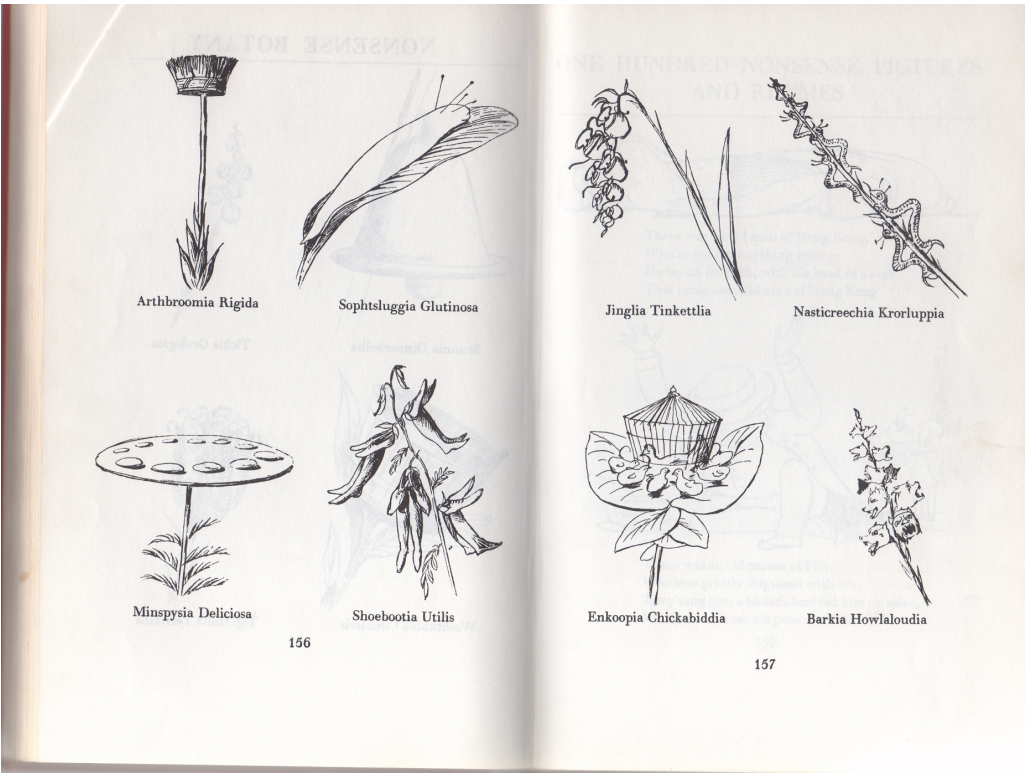
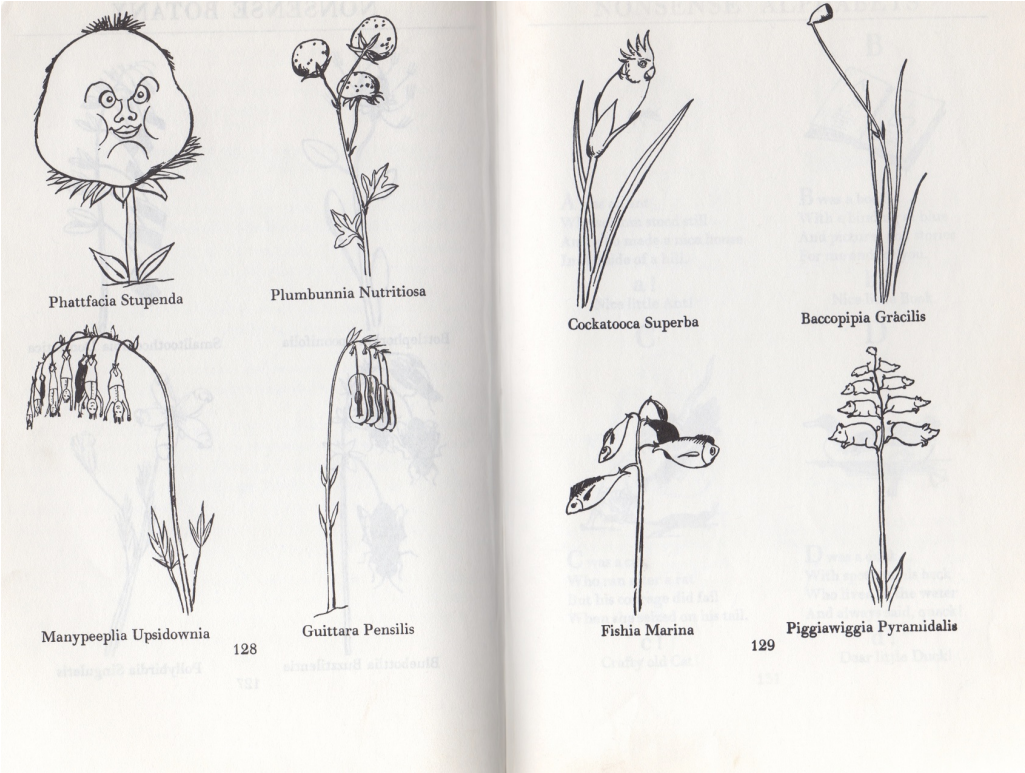
BOOT HILL



INTERESTING CRITTERS



NONSENSE BOTANY, courtesy of Edward Lear



KEEP SMILING!