

**MSA Museum Society
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MAYOR AND MRS. BRAUN GET PREVIEW OF TRETHEWEY CHRISTMAS HOUSE

November 26th, 2015 - On November 25th Mayor Henry Braun and his wife Velma were treated to a “sneak peek” of Trethewey House all decked out in its holiday best. Christina Reid, MSA Museum’s Collections Manager toured the Mayor and Mrs. Braun around the house and interpreted the collections pieces and their relevance to the History of our region. Abbotsford’s most important early industries are represented in the Arts and Crafts Trethewey House. It was built in 1919 and finished in 1920 with the finest fir lumber produced at the Abbotsford Lumber Company mill on Mill Lake. The bricks used in the chimneys and fireplaces were made with clay mined on nearby Sumas Mountain and processed at Clayburn Village, B.C.’s first company town.

Trethewey House was designated as a heritage site in 1983, and is now operated by the MSA Museum Society which will soon merge with The Reach Gallery Museum. It has been a Labour of Love for staff of the soon to be amalgamated organizations as they rolled up their sleeves to create a 1920’s Christmas House while returning many of the artefacts to their rightful place in the historic house.

"This time of the year is always special at Trethewey House, but this year, decking the halls has had a deeper significance than ever." says Reid. "This stately home, which symbolizes the many facets of Abbotsford on so many levels, has regained its rightful place as the jewel in Abbotsford's crown. After what amounts to a few rough years in the long lives of the house and the collection, it feels wonderful to be able to return the appropriate collections pieces to this place, where they can be displayed on behalf of all of Abbotsford's citizens. I am incredibly excited to embark on this new adventure."

Kris Foulds, Collections Manager at The Reach echoes Christina’s excitement. “As one whose personal history includes both organizations, I am “happy dance” excited about the impending amalgamation of the MSA Museum Society and The Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford!! I am looking forward to the benefits of bringing the collections together, but more importantly, the expertise and passion the combined staff team will contribute to preserving and sharing local history for the community!” “Beautiful Trethewey House has its own history but when the artefacts are returned it will be able to tell so many more stories and represent the community as a whole.”

“Trethewey House staff have done an amazing job decorating for the holiday season,” said Mayor Henry Braun. “This location is a treasured part of our local history and it is the perfect time of year for visiting with the family. I am proud to see this part of our heritage on display for all residents to appreciate.”

Trethewey Christmas House opens for public tours on Monday, November 30th until December 18th. During the museum’s “Happy Heritage Holidays” event they will host a free Carolling and Movie night on December 8th (space is limited for the movie so please call ahead) and then on December 12th, it’s fun for the whole family at the annual “Old Fashioned Breakfast with Santa” Tickets are \$8 each. Available at Eventbrite or by calling the museum office. 604.853-0313