

PITT MEADOWS MUSEUM COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT

Bringing Technology to the Community

The **Pitt Meadows Museum** has created a custom-built [Community Mapping Project](#) using innovative technology and historical context.

The project has created an **interactive map**, available to people living in or formerly from Pitt Meadows, and encourages the public to add their stories and memories of the past. The software, built on the existing Google map structure, allows the contributor to upload their story, up to 5 images, a video and even a SoundCloud file. Each addition to the map is viewed by the system as a unique article, and therefore can be moderated through the back-end content management system. The unique map includes special features like custom markers for designated heritage buildings and design stylings to match the rest of the website. The addition of more

custom markers will add to the playfulness of the site and inspire curiosity to explore.

The interactive map encourages the public to add their stories and memories of the past.

SilverServers is an innovative, community oriented tech company who partnered with the Pitt Meadows Museum. SilverServers' tech-first approach allows the project to follow the highest contemporary SEO standards – meaning that each new contribution to the map will be properly indexed and forever found by people searching for somewhat obscure information such as “flood-gate installation in the 1920s”. This makes the project an extremely

valuable source of information, not only for interested locals but also for researchers and other people who are searching for specific topics.

In the future, the project will branch out to support the web hosting fees by offering sponsorship locations on the map to supportive businesses and organizations in the community, creating win-win opportunities and a sustainable platform. Kid-friendly ideas such as Easter Eggs or a scavenger hunt hidden within the map will add to the map's versatility.

This project was supported by the *Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities and their Contributions to Canada* grant program.





Project Organizers:

Keagan Nagy, Rebekah Abebe and Petra Maior are Museum Assistants at the Pitt Meadows Museum.

Jennifer Chernecki is an Emily Carr University Graduate who studied painting and relational aesthetics. She has been working at the Pitt Meadows Museum since 2004.

Leslie Norman has been the Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives since late 1995. During that time the Museum has grown from a few rooms in an old ranch style house to two heritage buildings on Harris Road.

SilverServers Inc. is a software development team based in Kamloops, serving clients throughout Canada and worldwide. The team builds custom content management systems with a focus on organic search engine optimization.

Photo: *The Pitt Meadows General Store, ca. 1921.*
Photo credit: Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives

Photo page 24: *Buildings Through Time exhibit at the General Store, Pitt Meadows Museum.*
Photo credit: Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives