



Volunteer Information

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Welcome

Welcome! Thank you for joining the Huble Homestead volunteer team!

The goal of the Huble Homestead Volunteer Program is:

- to get people actively involved in the upkeep and promotion of the Huble Homestead Historic Site, and
- to increase awareness of the site and its history.

Mission Statement

The Huble Homestead/ Giscome Portage Heritage Society exists to educate, provide hands-on experience, share, and promote the historical significance of the Huble Homestead, Giscome Portage, and surrounding area.

About the Society

The Huble Homestead is a historic site located in the Giscome Portage Regional Park and operated by the Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society. The Huble Homestead is a living historic site that offers tours of heritage buildings such as the Huble House, Salmon Valley Post Office, and the Animal Shelter. Visit replicas of the original General Store, Trapper's Cabin, Barns, Blacksmith Shop and the First Nations Fish Camp; all aspects of the site represent a time in our history that the Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society has proudly preserved on behalf of our community, our heritage, and our history.

The Society was created in 1984 to preserve the Huble House on its original site. As a result the Giscome Portage Regional Park was established in 1986 and the Huble house was declared a designated heritage building by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. After countless hours of work by dedicated volunteers, the site was officially opened as a living heritage site in 1989. Since that time the Society has successfully restored and reconstructed several heritage buildings significant to the area.

History of the Huble Homestead

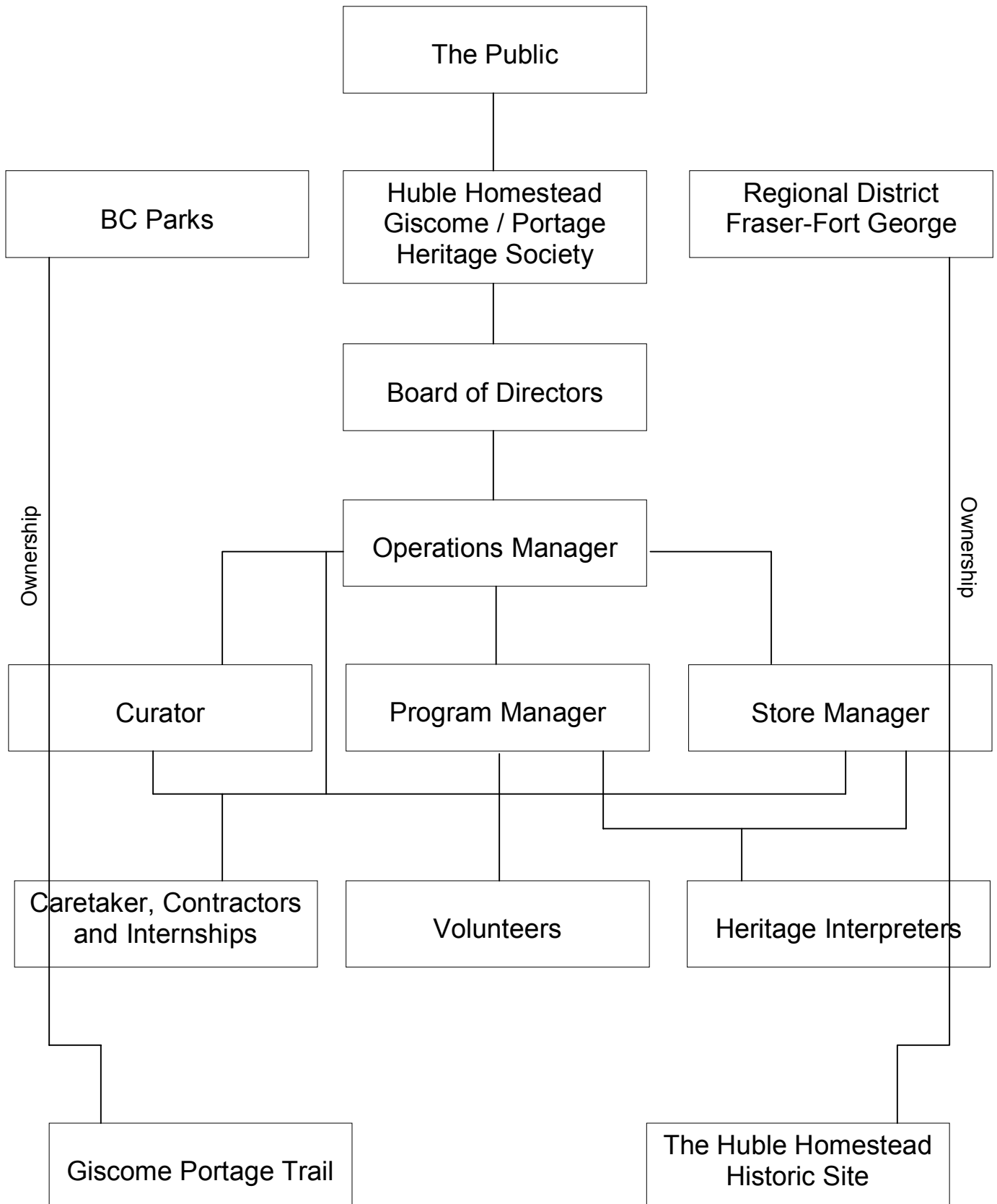
For thousands of years the Giscome Portage Trail has been a trade route for the First Nations of North Central British Columbia. The trail, known by local Carrier as Lhedesti, covers an 8 km stretch from the south-flowing Fraser River to Summit Lake, which marks the beginning of the Peace River System that flows north. The first known non-native to cross the portage was John Robert Giscome, in 1863, for whom the trail is now named.

In 1904 Al Huble and Ed Seebach formed a business partnership and started up a trading post at the southern end of the Giscome Portage, which did a flourishing business freighting, guiding, surveying, and fur trading. They recut and rebuilt the old trail which was then used to transport freight north to Summit and McLeod Lakes.

Al married Annie Huble in 1911 and brought her back to Giscome Portage. He built the distinctive squared log house in 1912, which became home to Al, Annie, and their seven children. As business boomed and settlement in the area increased, partners built a General Store, a blacksmith shop, and even had a post office before a roadway from Prince George to Summit Lake in 1920 caused river traffic to diminish, and the Huble family moved into town.

The property was sold to Mrs. Josephine Walker Mitchell in 1929, who formed a dude ranch that offered a wild-west experience to visitors. After Mrs. Mitchell sold the property it passed through several owners before being purchased by the province in the 1970s for use as a community pasture. The Regional District of Fraser Fort George obtained 54 acres of this land in 1986, and turned the area into a Regional Park and historic site.

Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society Organization and Structure



Becoming a Volunteer

A volunteer is a person who donates their time and skills without pay. Huble Homestead requires volunteers in many capacities, some of which require more training than others, including:

- Crafts and Games Leader
- Greeter
- Tour Guide
- Cook / Food Service Assistant
- Labourer
- Booth Helper
- Traditional Skills Demonstrator
- Restoration Assistant
- Director
- Committee Member
- Artifact Registrant
- Computer Technician
- Clerical Assistant

The process for becoming a volunteer is as follows:

1. Complete Volunteer Application
2. Submit satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and references (depending on position)
3. Visit the office for Orientation and sign Volunteer Agreement and Oath of Confidentiality (all volunteers)
4. Visit the site (on-site volunteers) or the office (office volunteers) for training
5. Begin work as a volunteer in your chosen position

What You Can Expect

As a valued volunteer with our Society, you can expect:

- To be treated with respect and courtesy
- To be supported in your duties and provided with an opportunity to learn new skills
- To be presented with a description of duties and outline of expectations
- To be educated in relevant policies and procedures to ensure the safety of you and others, and that the Society will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of volunteers, staff, and visitors
- To be recognized and thanked
- To be awarded a free membership after completing 10 hours of volunteer work

In return, we ask that you:

- Support our aims and objectives and act as an advocate of the Society
- Are open and honest in your dealings with us
- Treat visitors, staff, and other volunteers with courtesy and respect
- Maintain confidentiality of all privileged information that you are exposed to as a volunteer
- Let us know when we can do something to improve the service and support you receive
- Communicate any safety concerns to the Site Manager immediately
- Follow the instructions and supervision of on-site staff

Costumes

Volunteers are provided with reproduction period costume. The time period the site represents is rural 1915 (1905 – 1915). If you need to borrow a costume from the Society, please try to arrive 15 minutes early for your shift so you have time to find a costume, which are located in the Staff Cabin.

Women's outfits may be dresses or a combination of blouse and skirt. Shawls and aprons are permitted, but not required. Try to wear dark socks or stockings, keep jewelry and make-up to a minimum, and wear long hair up and in a loose bun if possible.

The Society does not currently have many costumes for men. Typical men's costumes include a button-down collared shirt in white, stripes, or solid colours. Dark dress-cut pants were common, but blue denim jeans or bib overalls are acceptable. Narrow suspenders are permitted, but not required.

The Society also does not provide footwear. Granny-boot style footwear for women is best, but both men and women should wear black or dark footwear, not running shoes, sandals, or anything overtly modern.

For More Information

Welcome to Huble Homestead! We're looking forward to having you as part of our team! To obtain a Volunteer Application Form, job descriptions, and information on orientation and training sessions or other aspects of the Society's operations, please contact:

Krystal Etter
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