



The Museum Post

Web Page www.kitimatmuseum.ca E-Mail: info@kitimatmuseum.ca

Kitimat Museum & Archives

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Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 p.m.
Saturday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays

Winter 2017-2018

Year in Review and the Way Forward

It is important to reflect on the year just passed and to consider the way forward, as one informs the other. In 2017, the Museum welcomed 7,630 visitors, 11 class groups (181 students) were given a tour, and 2,859 children participated in a museum program. Our facility and programs continue to be popular. Our path in the next year will concentrate upon important collections work in the museum and archives, and in exhibitions.

Haisla Heritage Collection Display Redesign Update

The photo mural installation is complete and consists of two images by Allan Colton—one banner image of the forest canopy made from 32 images stitched together, and a larger floor to ceiling image from the Coho Flats Trail area featuring one massive culturally modified tree. This mural is made from 56 images stitched together. Allan did an amazing job of capturing beautiful forest light and detail. As planned, the mural is scene setting—a backdrop that provides some geographic context to the many Haisla artifacts displayed in the three cases and the eulachon harvesting equipment area.



Ab Morrison-Hayward, Archives Assistant, Haisla Nation Council, will be working with Museum staff to compile and digitize a Haisla community collection. These images will be available to the Haisla community later in the year for personal use and research purposes, and for viewing on the iPad in the Haisla heritage exhibition area.

Work will continue on the information panels and artifact labels. Teresa Windsor, Cultural Community Coordinator, Haisla Nation Council, and newest Museum Board member, will assist Museum staff. Later in the year, the Museum will add a commissioned art piece from Haisla artist Burton Amos.

Elevator

The Museum has been successful in its application to the Province of BC, Community Gaming, receiving a capital project grant of \$84,000 for a lift to the second floor. This accessibility lift has a 1,000 lb. capacity and enough room to accommodate a scooter. It will be added onto the exterior of the building on the northwest side (CIBC side), making use of the main floor unused entrance. The lift will open directly onto the Upstairs Gallery.

The Museum is one of only three BC museums to receive a grant and one of only 60 projects funded from all BC sectors. Construction will begin in June with completion date anticipated for September 18, 2018. The District of Kitimat will provide the matching funding for the project, tendering, and oversight. Many thanks to the District of Kitimat Council for its financial support, and Haisla Nation Council, the Age Friendly Committee, Retired Teacher's of Kitimat, and private citizens who provided letters of support for this important Museum building upgrade.

Digitization and Digital Management

Internal reorganization of digital assets, digitization, and digital collections on the Museum's website will be priorities in 2018. Over the years, the Museum has amassed a collection of its images and audio visual archival materials in digital form. Donors have also provided a number of digital images for the Museum's collections. All of these digital assets need to be relocated to a central location on the Museum's file server and confirmed with correct accession numbers for future ease of access. Many popular images may need rescanning and others scanned for the first time. Additionally, five digital collections with historical information could be published on the Museum's website. They are:

- 1) *Living Landscapes, Memories of the Project*, a significant oral history project completed by the Museum in 2004 for the Royal BC Museum website
- 2) *Kitimat's First Sixty Years* featuring 60 images of activities, 1954 to 2014, created as an anniversary project for the District of Kitimat in 2013
- 3) *Settling In: 50 Years of Kitimat History*, created to celebrate Kitimat's 50th anniversary in 2003

- 4) *Kitimat Skates*, created for the travelling exhibition *Lace Up!* on display in 2017 from the Canadian Museum of History
- 5) The Haisla community collection

Housekeeping

Back room storage on the main floor needs a redesign for best utilization of this small space. A plan will be developed to house supplies and financial records, and include cupboards, open shelving, and a place for cleaning supplies and the main floor ladder. Currently, shelving is unfinished plywood on metal shelf brackets, and all are open. The water pipe running through the space for the upstairs sink may need relocation and covering in efforts to reduce the chance of water damage. The Max Patzelt photograph collection will be moved out of the chair/table storage and relocated to the main floor office with the Museum's other photograph holdings. Reference clipping files will be relocated into the back room storage. Regarding collections in the second floor storage room, archival materials spread throughout the storage bays will be consolidated in an assigned space in that storage room. Records will be created and updated in the Museum's database for all materials and will include new locations.



Exhibition Maintenance

Once the Haisla information panels are completed and installed, a small case for Haisla artifacts and contemporary arts will be added to the main floor exhibition space, adding to the presence on the main floor of Haisla cultural content. The *City of Tomorrow* and *Settling the Valley* exhibitions will receive label revisions and photographic updates. A

re-write and production of the three panels for the Delta King exhibition will also begin. The Museum also has one temporary exhibition case for the Upstairs Gallery that needs a new acrylic top.

Louise Avery, Executive Director

Planning Meeting for the North West Photo Fest

Come help us plan Photo Fest

We need you!

**Thursday, February 15, 2018
at 7:30 p.m. in the**

Museum Upstairs Gallery

Come see what Photo Fest is all about. We will be planning the events: proposed guest instructors for the August 11-12 photography workshops at Riverlodge, evening reception, wrap-up dinner, exhibition at the Museum, and photo walks.

For professional and amateur photographers who want to know more!

Spring Break Programming Ages 3—9

Cultural Crafts from Around
the World

Stay tuned
Watch our Facebook page
for details and dates



IN MEMORIAM



Ramon (Ray) Brady
1944 - 2018

Born in Portsmouth, England, Ray came to Canada at the age of 13. He immediately took an active role in all athletics: boxing, basketball, track and field, cross-country skiing and soccer. In 1965 Ray married Ruth Stockman and they welcomed daughters Monica and Leana.

Mayor Ray Brady wearing the chain of office, ca. Dec. 7, 1984, Max Patzelt collection
KMA no. 1998.1.5745

Prior to getting an electrical apprenticeship and working with TL & T Electric, Ray worked at grocery

stores Shop Easy and SuperValu. Ray was active in the Jaycees, the Canada Day celebrations, and served as secretary for the Kitimat and District Soccer League. At age 23 he made a presentation to city council to advocate for grass for the soccer fields instead of dirt. This was his first introduction to city council.

Over the years, he served on many community boards including the Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Library Board, Commission for the Disabled, and the Advisory Theatre Committee.

In 1973, Ray served for 11 years as elected alderman. In 1984, he was elected mayor of Kitimat and served two two-year terms; after which he returned to his previous position as alderman. Ray retired from city council in 2008. Ray Brady's political career was built on his belief that "Kitimat's interest must come first – that is the job of Kitimat's City Council", and his agenda was to make Kitimat a home of which we all could be proud.



Mount Elizabeth student government:
B(L-R): Mr. Neufeld, Lois Richards, Bonnie-Lynn Busby, Janet Spitz, Mr. Robinson
F(L-R): **Ray Brady**, Ulrich Schaeffer, Naomi Nishi, Gerhard Kehl, ca. Apr. 26, 1964, Max Patzelt Collection, KMA no: 1998.1.88



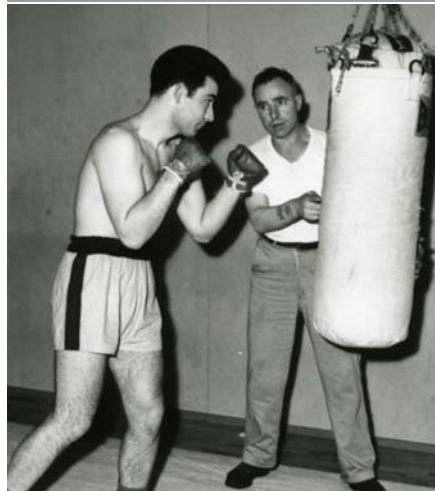
1975 Municipal Council: F(L-R): Alderman Tom Smith, Alderman Joe Banyay, Alderman June Bernauer
F(L-R): **Alderman Ray Brady**, Alderman Fran Buschert, Mayor Paul Monaghan, Alderman Max Patzelt. Photo taken after Brady, Buschert, Monaghan and Patzelt took the oath of office Monday. ca. January 9, 1975, Northern Sentinel Press Ltd Collection, KMA no. 2005.8.4824

FEBRUARY FLASHBACK



Past Kitimat winters are notorious for being wet and slushy with heavy snowfalls followed by heavy rains, as shown in this photo from the Kitimat Museum & Archives holdings. ca. Feb. 1971, Northern Sentinel Press Ltd Collection
KMA no. 2005.8.7600

EARLY KITIMAT BOXING



Unidentified boxer and coach at the YMCA
ca. Feb. 23, 1961, Max Patzelt Collection
KMA no.1998.1.8317

Boxing was one of the sports that Ray Brady enjoyed when he moved to Kitimat. In 1956, the boxing club was housed in a 20x20 foot construction shack at the Anderson Creek Camp. In 1960 the club moved to the Y.M.C.A. and consisted of 8 divisions. Three local boxers held

Provincial Championships, one of which was Bantamweight, Ray Brady. Boxers from Kitimat would compete with boxers from Prince Rupert and Prince George, as well as boxers from the Armed Forces Base in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Many people in the KMA collection photos, such as the two photos above, remain unidentified. If you recognize someone, contact the Kitimat Museum & Archives so we can update our information.

Acquisitions

Our first acquisition for 2018 is from M. Jean Lunny of Comox BC. Jean sent three boxes of slides taken by her father John McLachlan. John arrived in Kitimat in 1953. Jean writes: "He was 23 years old and like so many newcomers, he was an immigrant seeking a better life from the war torn life he had grown up in." She continues, "My father worked in Alcan's Property Department for almost 40 years. He started out as a land surveyor and cartographer in the town's early years and ended his career as a Senior Legal Draftsman."



John McLachlan, Alcan Property Department truck, ca. 1954. KMA No. 2018.1. Lunny Collection

Art and Education Updates

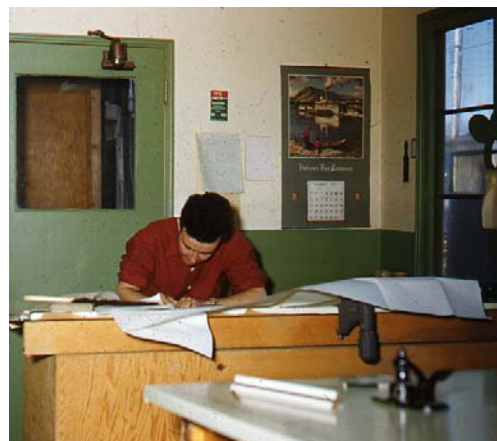
Museum instructors and volunteers provide educational Museum programs to schools and students in the community. Museum in the Classroom (MITC) art workshops build on art concepts learned from previous classes and years. Museum Explorers programs offer curriculum-based learning experiences through the use of artifacts and activities in the following subject areas:

- Woodland Wildlife
- First Nations
- Fossils & Geology
- Boys & Girls of the Kitimat Valley

The Museum Explorers classroom visits are presented by Reid Nelson who brings his teaching experience to the sessions. Assisting in the classroom is Magda Machula, a recent UBC graduate, Bachelor of Arts, who is also assisting with the art workshops. The Museum in the Classroom art workshops are being led by Chelsey Swedberg who is currently completing her degree in Fine Art from the University of the Fraser Valley. You can find more information on the individual programs at:

www.kitimatmuseum.ca/schools

In the donation, Jean included her father's letter of employment offering him a position as 'Draughtsman' in Kitimat at \$325.00 per month. She also sent his letter of acceptance, as well as his introduction form, a letter advising him of his 'regular



John McLachlan, Alcan Property Department office located in Nechako Centre, ca. 1954. KMA No. 2018.1. Lunny Collection

employee' status, and his job description as of September 1956. The Alcan Property Department was responsible for housing acquisition for employees and facilitating housing purchases and rentals. The Department was originally located in Nechako Centre before moving to Century House in the lower City Centre.

Now Showing

Jan. 12 to Feb. 24, 2018

**'Think Happy Thoughts'
an Art Exhibition by Zöe Gielens**

Visit the Upstairs Gallery and enter a colourful place full of fun, wonder and whimsy. Zöe, a local Kitimat artist, works with watercolours, acrylic, and ink. This show, filled with a sense of play, is sure to delight people of all ages.



Chelsey Swedberg leading a 'Museum in the Classroom' session at St. Anthony's School.