



Kitimat Museum & Archives

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# The Museum Post

Web Page [www.kitimatmuseum.ca](http://www.kitimatmuseum.ca) E-Mail: [info@kitimatmuseum.ca](mailto:info@kitimatmuseum.ca)

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

## Fall 2018

### Working Together

The BC Museums Association recently asked BC museums to submit feature articles for the RoundUp, a BC Museums quarterly magazine—the theme, Reconciliation & Repatriation for the winter issue, publication date December 2018. In the article Haisla Nation Community Cultural Coordinator Teresa Windsor and Museum Director Louise Avery explain elements of exciting new cultural work undertaken, and details of a continuing and historical relationship.

The Kitimat Museum & Archives and Haisla Nation have had a long association dating back to 1969 and the opening of the Museum. In 1972, Curator Gisela Mendel documented the oolichan harvest at the sumgas (Old Town) on Kitimat River (above right), and in 1984, Curator James Tirrul-Jones worked with the Kitimaat Village Council on an archaeological research project on the site. Over many years, the Museum has commissioned cultural/art pieces from master Haisla and Henaaksiala basket weavers and carvers including a canoe by master canoe builder Tom Nyce Sr (below right).

The relationship has been close and not so close as relationships go. However, both government and museum maintain a positive, respectful, and open working relationship. Today, a positive relationship in this time of reconciliation is so important - working through obstacles and consulting along the way.

Correct and significant cultural information will be installed on exhibition panels in the Haisla heritage display in the Upstairs Gallery. The Museum has met with the Haisla Nation Council (HNC) to reaffirm its relationship and the Museum has been given permission to use Haisla published material and a territorial map as the cultural sources in the new exhibition.

Haisla documents and images collected by the Museum continue to be accessed by the Haisla. Recently, the Museum gave 652 images in digital form to HNC for increased access by Haisla community members. Ab Morrison-Hayward, Archive Assistant with the Haisla Education Centre, Culture and Language Program, spent two days per week at the Museum through the spring and summer of 2018, scanning the Haisla Heritage Image Collection. His position was funded by HNC but included working at the Museum two days per week scanning images. A Memorandum of Understanding for use of the Haisla

Heritage Image Collection will soon be signed by Museum and Council.

Teresa Windsor writes: “our relationships with various community members are growing in a positive direction....In August of 2017, I was appointed to hold a seat on the Kitimat Museum & Archives Board. At first, because it was an appointed, honorary position, I was not able to vote at the table. Seeing that as a barrier to a progressive relationship, I asked how to become a voting member. I’m happy to report, that I am an active voting member of the Kitimat Museum & Archives Board. It has been a great opportunity to network with others in our community and to get an understanding of why an advisory board is critical to the functioning of any organization.

It has been a most welcoming experience to join forces with the Kitimat Museum & Archives, to embrace our histories, and to plan for a united future. It gives me hope for Haisla to have a more thorough, collaborative and engaging future with our Kitimat neighbors.”

An agreement has been made that in this age of reconciliation, the Haisla Nation will be at the entrance to any new museum facility. Haisla artist Lyle Wilson is providing a substantial gift to the Museum – a retrospective of his work over many years. For current and future work between the Museum and Haisla Nation Council, Teresa has provided guidance to the Museum by reviewing its First Nations program for grades 3-8. We have also spoken about current program work with Haisla cultural education including an artifact cart, and exploring how the Museum can assist with programs delivered in Kitimat’s elementary schools. We continue to step with care into our future together and are honoured that our relationship continues.



## Recent Acquisitions

The Museum has received a number of interesting donations since summer. Lyle Wilson, Haisla artist and master carver, has begun the process of donating a comprehensive cross-section of his work including wood carvings, and silver and marine ivory jewelry. To date we have received:

- **SAHNIS** (Supernatural Water Grizzly Bear), a sterling silver bracelet
- **THE ESCAPE (MIYA)** (salmon) with lure and broken fishing line), a marine ivory pendant with silver backing and bezel
- **GA-UCH** (Raven), a small maple paddle
- **THE PADDLER**, an oak figure with a yellow cedar base. This figure was the maquette for Lyle's large red cedar sculpture commission currently on display at the BC Sports Hall of Fame.



L-R: "The Paddler", "Ga-uch", "The Escape" and "Sahnis" - art work by Haisla artist and master carver Lyle Wilson Collection KMA No 2018.19



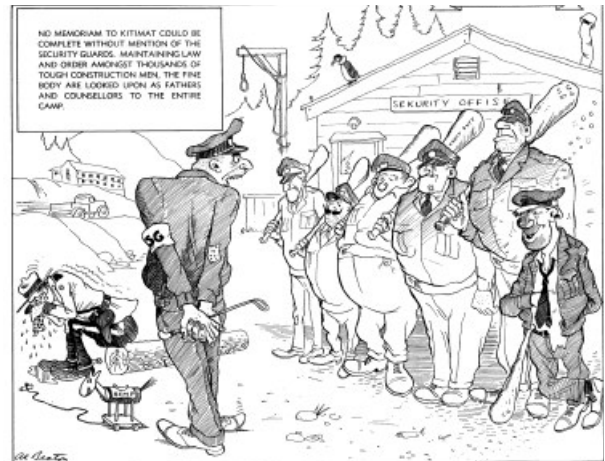
Setting the last spike, Kitimat Canadian National Railroad grand opening ca. January 20, 1955. Kerr Collection KMA No. 2018.20

Flora Kerr of Terrace, BC has donated a collection of nine black and white photographs from the opening of the CN Railroad in Kitimat in 1955.

Katie Ferrante from the UBC Museum of Anthropology donated the Vink Haisla language papers. Hein Vink was a linguist from the University of Leyden, Netherlands. He and his co-author Aert H. Kuipers worked closely with former Curator Gisela Mendel to document the Haisla language (Haislakala) and create several documents for educational purposes.

We received from Lorie Parr a copy of the Kitimat Adventures board game, an Al Beaton pillowcase, and two cups and saucers depicting the Delta King.

Allen Veasey brought in several commemorative items accumulated during his career with Rio Tinto/Alcan. Of note is a



"O.K. NOW, WHICH ONE OF YOU BASTARDS SWIPED THE EVIDENCE IN THAT BOOTLEGGING CASE...!!!"  
*I nearly gamed Security Police at the start.*

Memories of Kitimat by Al Beaton ca. 1953. Unknown annotator. Armstrong Collection KMA No. 2018.28

Kitimat Modernization Project (KMP) Pallet Storage Building plaque (one of only 24) commemorating the first concrete poured on KMP), a KMP acrylic plaque (Notice to Proceed), and a KMP first pot room concrete pour plaque.

From Richard Armstrong, Bath, UK we received yet another copy of an Al Beaton cartoon book. There were three editions created and the Museum has many copies. This one, however, was annotated by an unknown Alcan worker who then sent the book back to family still living in the UK. Richard Armstrong found the book in a donation received by 'Julian House' - a homeless hostel and charity shop.

Also received:

- Coulter Electric thermostat from Mike Avery
- Floating fish knife - Kuldo Motors from Fred Taylor
- Four framed photographs and one framed certificate from the District of Kitimat



## Research Department

A few months back, we had a request for information on a past Kitimat resident, Alice Ann Bacon, nee Pitcairn. The question was, do we know when Alice Pitcairn was crowned Miss Kitimat, and if there was any other additional information they could include in her obituary.

Our finding aids revealed that we had one photograph of Alice Pitcairn in our Northern Sentinel Press Collection. Pitcairn, representing the Kitimat Firefighters Association and competing against 17 entrants, won the title of Miss Kitimat at the Dominion Day festivities of July 5, 1956.

This particular 1956 Dominion Day event was the biggest Kitimat had seen with thousands of Kitimat residents enjoying the festive and sporting events, and handsomely decorated commercial floats. Twenty-four-year-old Alice had moved to Kitimat only three-and-a-half months prior, and was employed by the B.C. Telephone Company as a business representative. Upon forwarding these findings, the person who made the initial request sent us some further information on what Alice went on to achieve in her librarian career.

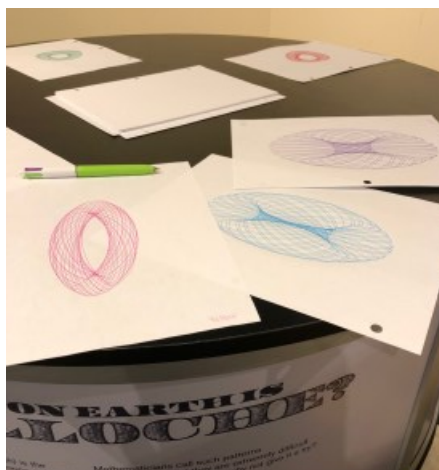
After receiving her BLS degree in 1962, Alice became the Lower Mainland Coordinator for the BC Library Services Branch, the role in which she was to have a major impact on public library development in the Province. Alice was instrumental in setting up and managing the province-wide Taped Books Service and also played a significant role in the establishment of the Greater Vancouver Library Federation in 1975. For these and other contributions, Alice was presented with the rarely-bestowed Helen Gordon Stewart Award and named an Honorary Life Member of the BC Library Association (BCLA). Alice was an adjunct professor in the 1990s at UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS).

*If you have a question about Kitimat's history, come in and ask us!  
We also provide photo reproductions  
\$10 [plus tax] per image  
printed on photo paper, or sent digitally.*



The BCLA established the Alice Bacon Professional Development Award in Alice's honour. It is given to financially support members of the BC library community who would otherwise be unable to attend the annual BC Library conference.

"Photo showing Miss Kitimat 1956, Alice Pitkaren [Pitcairn], Miss Firefighter" ca. 1956  
KMA no. 2005.8.682  
Northern Sentinel Press Collection



"Louise Avery, Executive Director of the Kitimat Museum & Archives is a natural when it comes to making guilloché at the activity station.  
[see image at left]

**Come in and see the show,  
and try your hand at making  
decorative guilloché!**

Exhibition ends Saturday,  
November 24, 2018

## CURRENT EXHIBITION

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY  
**now showing**

**VOICES FROM THE Engraver**

POST A LETTER OR BUY YOUR LUNCH  
WITH ART? YOU DO IT EVERY DAY.

SEPTEMBER 21 TO NOVEMBER 24, 2018  
AT THE KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Bank of Canada / Musée de la Banque  
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY / MUSÉE CANADIEN DE L'HISTOIRE Canada





# Calling All Crafters and Artisans

The Kitimat Museum & Archives is seeking vendors for its Artisan Christmas Gift Store, November 30 to December 24, 2018.

Showcase and sell your handmade items in the Kitimat Museum's Upstairs Gallery. To participate in our Store, fill out the 2018 entry form and deliver it to the Kitimat Museum with payment. Deadline to register is Friday, November 16, 2018.

In previous years we have displayed a variety of crafts including quilted items and table runners, jewelry, woven scarves, furniture, soap and bath salts, creams, home decor items, shoulder bags, cards, knitted wearables and stained glass.

More details at [www.kitimatmuseum.ca](http://www.kitimatmuseum.ca)

THE  
KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
**ARTISAN CHRISTMAS  
GIFT STORE**  
NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 24, 2018  
**VENDOR  
REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN**  
Register by  
November 16th  
*Come sell your unique, handmade items at  
our Artisan Christmas Gift Store*  
**\$55**  
Vendor fee\*  
This is your chance to showcase and  
sell your products to the public for a full  
three weeks before Christmas!  
For More Information, call 250-632-8950  
[www.kitimatmuseum.ca](http://www.kitimatmuseum.ca)  
\*Participants must have a current Museum membership (1 year single: \$9.00)



**NOVEMBER 30, 2018, 6:30 - 9:30 pm**  
**Christmas  
OPEN HOUSE**  
**Stop by the courtyard for a  
FREE HOT BEVERAGE**  
+ Christmas shopping  
in **3 locations!** **SALES!**  
**DOOR PRIZES!**  
PROMOS,  
PRIZES  
& SAMPLES!  
Opening of the Artisan  
Christmas Gift Store!  
HANDICRAFTS!  
MUSEUM  
GIFTWARE!  
CONTINUING  
BLACK FRIDAY SALES  
FEATURING 25% off  
on all regular priced  
store merchandise!  
(excluding shapewear and  
consignment items)  
Kitimat  
CITY CENTRE  
For the Diva in You  
ph: 250-632-2889  
Vitality Centre  
ph: 250-632-2289  
Kitimat Museum & Archives  
ph: 250-632-8950

## An open house in three locations!

The Kitimat Museum & Archives, along with For the Diva in You and Vitality Centre will have a Christmas Open House on November 30, 2018 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

There will be free hot beverages to enjoy as well as promotions, sales and samples at Vitality, continuing Black Friday sales at For the Diva in You, and the opening night of the Christmas Gift Store in the Upstairs Gallery of the Kitimat Museum & Archives.

It's going to be an evening of fun in downtown Kitimat, stop by and enjoy some local shopping for everyone on your list!

## MEMBERS GET 15% OFF

when shopping in the Museum Gift Store  
[excluding consignment & sale items]  
Memberships start at \$9/yr. (single)  
and are a great way to support your  
local community museum.