



The Museum Post

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Kitimat Museum & Archives

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**Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays**

Spring 2019

2018 Year in Review and the Way Forward

In 2018, the Museum welcomed 8,041 visitors, gave seven class tours to 115 students, and delivered museum programs to 3,328 children. Twenty-one donations were received into the artifact collection including a large Haisla basket from the Grant family, and *Canoe Ride*, a digital print by Ab Morrison-Hayward purchased for the museum's contemporary art collection. Work continued with graphic panel production for the Haisla heritage collection display redesign in the Upstairs Gallery. The Museum also welcomed Ab Morrison-Hayward, Archive Assistant, Haisla Education Centre, to digitize and centralize Haisla community image holdings within the Museum's archives. Approximately 650 images in digital form were given to the Haisla Nation Council for increased access by Haisla community members and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Museum and Council for use of Haisla community images. To further digital management, the Museum also hired a technology assistant for entry of photographic records to the Museum's database, increasing accessibility to Museum holdings. Work BC provided 24 weeks of partial funding for this position.



Museum Board Chair Robin Rowland and Chief Councillor Crystal Smith signed the MOU between the Museum and Haisla Nation Council on November 9, 2018. Joined by Museum Executive Director Louise Avery and Haisla Community Cultural Coordinator Teresa Windsor.

Museum Turns Fifty—On October 9, 1969, the Kitimat Centennial Museum opened its doors. Planning is now underway to celebrate with a party on the opening date. Come celebrate with us!

Haisla Collection—Exhibition Redesign—Cultural information panels and community images are nearing completion. Haisla Language and Culture Teacher Vera Wilson at the Haisla

Education Centre assisted staff with the text and images for nine panels. Journalist Sian Fullerton has volunteered her time to edit text and assist with caption writing. The Storyteller system will be used to produce the panels. A digital viewing station (iPad and stand) will feature community images and documents including a territorial map and *The Meaning of Reconciliation—Haisla Nation History*, and eventually audio clips. A small case for Haisla artifacts and contemporary arts has been added to the main floor exhibition space, adding to the presence on the main floor of Haisla cultural content.

Museum Lift—Construction of an external lift to the second floor will begin this summer. The District of Kitimat matched the funds received from the Community Gaming Instructure Grant and additional funds from Canada Cultural Spaces Fund are anticipated.

Digitization and Digital Management—Internal reorganization of digital assets, digitization, and digital collections added to the Museum's website continues. The website had to be moved to a new host unexpectedly, but adding image collections to the website remains a priority. These include *Memories of the Project: Kitimat's First Sixty Years*, *Settling In: 50 Years of Kitimat History*, *Kitimat Skates*, and a selection of Haisla community images.

Exhibition Maintenance—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 will receive a new acrylic top.

Upcoming Temporary Exhibitions include:

- ◆ High School Student Art Exhibition, May 10—June 8
- ◆ Tango Seduction: Dwight Magee Photography, June 14—August 3
- ◆ Local Lens, August 9—September 28
- ◆ Northwest Artists, October 9—November 23
- ◆ Christmas Gift Store—Artisan Crafts, November 29—December 24

Recent Acquisitions

Over two years, Haisla artist Lyle Wilson is making a significant donation—a comprehensive cross-section of his art work—to the Museum. As part of that donation the Museum has recently received a silver Sun pendant, a silver Raven's Light pendant and brooch, and a Raven bone ring (2019.2). Received last year, *The Paddler* carved figure, silver bracelet, bone pendant and maple paddle model (2018.19) are now on display in a small case at the Museum's main entrance. Eventually, a catalogue booklet of the full donation of art work will be published by the Museum, providing information on the pieces, Haisla culture, and Lyle's reason for the gift.

Jean Lunny donated a collection of black and white negatives (1967 Dominion Day celebrations) and three Al Beaton cartoon books—*Kitimat 51*, *Memories of Kitimat*, and *Visitor's Guide to Kitimat*. She also included a photocopied biography of her father John McLachlan. Mr. McLachlan arrived in Kitimat in 1953 and worked for Alcan in Engineering and the Property Department until his retirement.

To accompany the Delta Queen model on our main floor, the Vancouver Maritime Museum donated five black and white photographs of the Delta Queen's model builder Harry Cook. He is seen putting finishing touches on the model, and conducting the first sailing of the motorized model.

Debbie & Ken Allison sent five VHS tapes of classroom field trips by Lord Alexander School, Kemano. They include:

- Pole raising ceremony, Kemano, 1989
- Seekwyakin Family Day, Alcan KCP
- Barkerville Grade 5, May 1993



Smeltersite, mid 1950s. KMA No. 2019.6

- Children's Christmas Concert, 1995
- Christmas Concert 1990, Lip Synch, 1991

We received from Duncan Robertson a large (29" x 40") colour photograph of the Alcan smelter and surrounding housing. Mr. Robertson's parents, David and Joan, moved to Kitimat in the mid 1950s. Duncan was born in the Smeltersite Hospital. He



Haisla cedar baskets—diagonal pattern created by Minnie Wilson and vertical three-line pattern created by Angeline Wilson. KMA No. 2019.7



Townsite Camp, 1953. KMA No. 2019.8

writes, "I was told that my mother was brought to the hospital by fire engine, that I was delivered by Dr. Duncan and Dr. Murray". His father went on to work for Alcan as a Regional Sales Manager in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dirk Mendel donated two large woven cedar baskets created by Haisla master basket weavers Minnie Wilson and Angeline Wilson. Both were collection by Dirk's mother, former Museum Curator Gisela Mendel.

Linda Van Dyke donated a black and white photograph of Townsite Camp 1953. In the early days of construction weather and the resulting mud was definitely a factor.

Ria Dyck (Veen Huizen) via Barb Campbell donated thirteen colour photographs of the Alcan smelter casting area.



Alcan Casting at the smelter, no date. KMA No. 2019.9

Art Workshops

by Angela Eastman

Annual art workshops for students—ages 5 to 11 and grades K to 6—fill a visual arts gap in the education system. Students are introduced by the arts instructor to basic art forms and techniques in watercolour, oil pastels, crayon, charcoal and pencil crayon. Subjects explored include still life, landscape, abstract, birds and animals, figures and faces, and perspective.



When I began working at the Museum in 1993, I was introduced to the Museum's program of art workshops. Tables were set up in the gallery and classes would bus to the Museum from five elementary schools. Several artists in our community

would provide instruction in clay, watercolour and oil painting, using Museum supplies.

By 1998 when it became apparent that schools could no longer afford field trip costs we decided to take the workshops to the schools. Since then, art instruction has been in the classroom, with popularity and costs steadily increasing year by year.

The Museum has been fortunate to have several talented artists working with the children to develop their artistic skills. Eileen Hutson worked with us from the inception until 2013, followed by Kristen Caruana (2014), Casey Braam (2015-2017) and Chelsey Swedburg (2018-2019).

In 2019, our four elementary schools took advantage of the workshops. In total 94 classes received instruction, a total of 1,883 students. Teachers were given the opportunity to book more than one workshop, and workshops were also offered to the parents who home school in our community.

Funding the Museum in the Classroom Art Workshops as our program has come to be called has been challenging. In the early days each child would bring a loonie from home for each workshop. Corporate and service organizations contributed through sponsorship but this dollar amount fluctuated from year to year.

In 2019 program costs were subsidized by the School District (\$2.00 per child) and a combination of monies from the Kitimat Community Foundation, BC Gaming, and corporate and service organization funders. This funding allowed a reasonable wage rate for the instructor and assistant, and a budget of \$575 for supplies.



Eileen Hutson, 2008.

Visitor's Corner

by Denis Pedro



Al Regehr, visiting the Museum from North Bend, BC.

One of those funny coincidences...

In April, a research request came in, for photos of "ships arriving in Kitimaat Village and Kitimat—CPR or Union Pacific ships or other ships." For broad subjects like these, it helps to have a fuller idea of exactly what to look for.

For this search, I was in conversation with a colleague to learn more about what types of ships frequented our

area in those years. I was informed that the *Camosun* was an example of a CPR ship that would dock in this area. No sooner had we mentioned the *Camosun*, than a man approached the front desk enquiring if we had any information on when the *S.S. Camosun* was in a storm. We all had to laugh at this funny coincidence, as it was the very topic that was being discussed.

The man was Al Regehr, and he was visiting Kitimat with his wife, Lorna. Al told us that from 1952 to 1956, he was the second cook on the *S.S. Camosun*; which he enjoyed greatly. Although there was the one time in 1954 that the weather in the Douglas Channel turned very stormy, very fast, leaving the *S.S. Camosun* stranded, and requiring towing assistance.

This experience stood out to me as it was a good example of life lived behind the research—the people behind the stories.

The Kitimat Museum & Archives would like to thank our Museum in the Classroom 2019 Sponsors:

- CityWest Cable & Telephone Corp.
- Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd.
- Envision Financial
- Fusion Eyecare Inc.
- Kitimat LNG
- McElhanny Consulting Services Ltd.
- Remax Kitimat Realty
- Rotary Club of Kitimat
- Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch 250
- Streamline Mechanical L.P.
- Unifor Local 2301

From the streets and Milongas of Buenos Aires*Tango Seduction*

**Showing June 14 to August 3, 2019
in the Upstairs Gallery of the Museum.**

There is no opening reception for this exhibition.

"The Argentinians are very passionate about their beloved Tango and rightfully so. To them their Tango is a sacred institution.

It is not a dance easily learned. It has rules and it has structure and takes months to learn.

Couples don't learn this seductive dance together but rather each has their own teacher.

Watching how the Tango plays out is like bearing witness to a mating game. The senior male, more experienced dancers

have no shortage of younger partners who desire to dance with them strictly based on their known experience."

Dwight Magee

Visit the Kitimat Museum and see what this dance embodies; the drama, the silent cues...the intensity. Through images captured by Kitimat photographer, Dwight Magee, on his 2018 trip to Buenos Aires, experience 'Tango Seduction'.



Call for Entry Framing Info

Participants are welcome to submit 'gallery-wrap' canvases, or if you have a print, but do not have a frame, the Museum has exhibition style frames in two sizes you can use.

- ◆ 16x20" frame, with a mat window of 11x14"
- ◆ 20x24" frame, with a mat window of 14x18"

The images supplied to us must fit the supplied mat window sizes above.

If your print is an irregular, or custom size, we can use it with our frames, providing the outer edges of your mat fit the full size of our frames (16x20", 20x24")

What is the Theme

There is no theme, other than what you perceive through your camera lens - your local surroundings, your community, your interests.

Entry forms are available at the front desk and online at www.kitimatmuseum.ca

PHOTOGRAPHERS CALL FOR ENTRY Local Lens

An exhibition of Northwest Photographers



The exhibition will showcase work by local photographers of all skill levels. Photographers are encouraged to include a written statement about their pieces.

Deadline to register: Friday, July 26, 2019

Entry forms are available online at www.kitimatmuseum.ca
The Museum has frames available for use.
For more information contact 250-632-8950

