



Kitimat Museum & Archives

The Museum Post

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

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

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Fall 2019

Happy 50th Birthday KMA!

The Museum celebrated its 50 years with an evening event on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 and a Family Day on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Dignitaries including District of Kitimat Council and long-time Museum friends were present to celebrate the official birth date, October 9, 1969. Sammy Robinson who was present at the 1969 opening, greeted everyone and shared his memories and a blessing in Haislakala. The Museum acquired its first artifact from Sammy—the yellow cedar pole that he began carving at home and completed at Expo 1967 in Montreal. Mayor Phil Germuth later spoke about the Museum’s long relationship with the District of Kitimat. Museum Director Louise Avery spoke on the value of the Museum to the community of Kitimat over five decades and displayed for everyone the British Columbia flag retained from that event. Only this one photograph exists of the Museum opening—taken by Max Patzelt 50 years ago. If anyone has photographs of the opening and would like to share them with Museum staff, we would be very pleased to copy them.

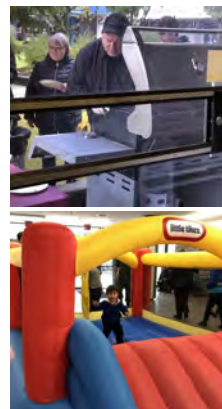
On October 9, 1969, the Kitimat Centennial Museum opened its doors. The next five decades welcomed countless community members and visitors to programs and events. Distinctly Kitimat collections—artifact and archival—were created with the help of many donors. Relationships were established with individuals, community groups, and governments.

On Saturday, October 12, 2019, to thank the community, the Museum held a barbecue—hot dogs, hamburgers—ran children’s activities and served cake. *Adventure Fox* was created for the event by artist and Museum staff member Magda Machula. She and her assistants helped children colour and “bling out” *Adventure Fox*—something to take



home with them. They also had fun on the bouncy castle provided by the Kitimat CDC and played with the giant games provided by Kitimat Leisure Services. Many thanks to both the CDC and Leisure Services for their donations to the event, Special Olympics Kitimat for providing expertise in cooking and serving lunch, and the Royal Canadian Army Engineer Cadets Kitimat for providing supervision on the castle and games.

It was wonderful to mark our 50th in this way! Thank you everyone for attending and making it special for us!



Upcoming Milestones

Strategic Planning 2020—2030

In progress is a ten-year strategic plan for the Museum's way forward. Heritage planning consultant Donald Luxton & Associates www.donaldluxton.com have been retained to create a strategic plan for the Museum's future physical space needs and potential partnerships. On November 1, 2019, an initial meeting was held with District of Kitimat Council members (Haisla Nation Council postponed until a later date), and a strategic planning session for Museum Board and Staff. Another meeting with Board and Staff, a meeting with the Haisla Nation Council, and the final report will follow in Spring 2020.

Donald is now completing the research and writing of the draft report for review. This report will be reviewed by the Museum Board and Staff and shared with District of Kitimat Council and Haisla Nation Council for comment. Donald Luxton & Associates have considerable experience working with BC governments and museums on community arts, culture, and heritage planning.

It is understood by all that the current Museum facility is inadequate for programming (exhibitions and workshops) and administration. In museums, the "rule of thumb" is 30% public space to 70% behind the scenes. Currently the Museum exists as 70% public space and 30% behind the scenes, and both are far too small. Donald Luxton is respected at the top of his professional field in British Columbia.

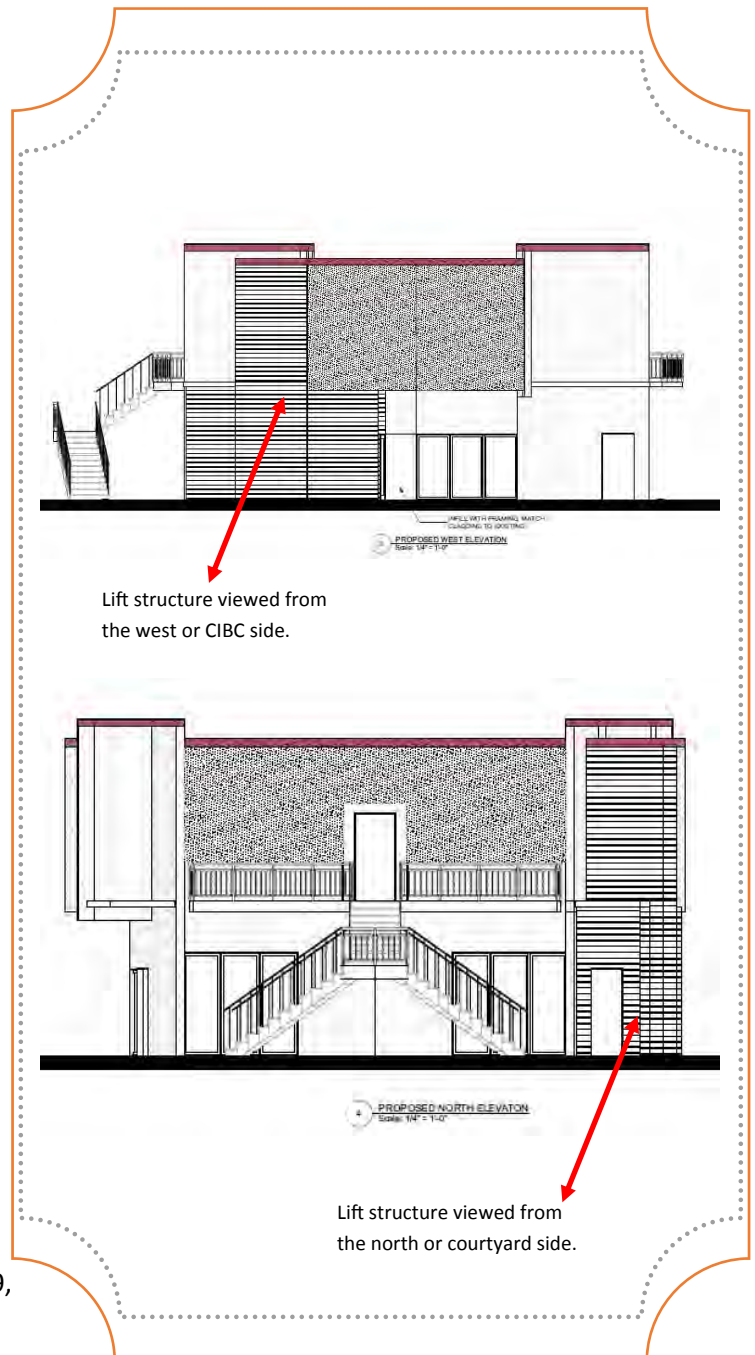
Museum Lift—completed by May 31, 2020

On December 20, 2017, the Museum received \$84,000 from the BC Community Gaming Infrastructure Grant for a mechanical lift to the second floor. Additional funding of \$133,925 was received in 2019 from Canada Cultural Spaces Fund. With \$99,000 remaining, the District of Kitimat completed the funding needed for the project. Zanron Fabrication & Machine Co. Ltd. www.zanron.com will complete the project by May 31, 2020.

The lift, equipment, and materials will be ordered in 2019, and work will begin mid-March 2020. The 2-3 person lift

will be added onto the north side of the Museum beside the tree and across from CIBC. Breakthrough will occur at the end of April into the Upstairs Gallery beside the office. A display wall will be added in the temporary gallery to reclaim space lost by the addition of the lift. The main floor door—opposite the main entrance—will be the landing for taking the lift to the second floor. Air conditioning will be added on each floor.

We are so pleased with this anticipated and wonderful gift of increased accessibility in our 51st year!



Recent Acquisitions

By Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections

In August we received several items from Lyle Wilson as part of his significant donation of artwork spanning his impressive career. Lyle has chosen to gift to the Kitimat Museum & Archives a cross-section of his work. His most recent donation includes the *Qolun/Ikstookoya* pole, the *G'gsglox* pole, a soapberry spoon, a boxwood spoon, large and small *Ga-uch* ceramic bowls, and the *Fishing for Moo-ga-jew (Halibut)* blue glass plate.



Qolun/Ikstookoya pole carved by Lyle Wilson KMA# 2019.74.1

The District of Kitimat has donated a commemorative tri-lock ingot, stamped with the dates 1954 and 1994. This was cast by Alcan (now Rio Tinto) to mark its 40th anniversary.

Max Patzelt added to his donation of photography equipment—two cameras, a TLR Yashica and Pentax MVI. His full collection contains many cameras including a large box Rembrandt studio camera and tripod, and all of the photos he took during his long career as Kitimat's photographer.

On behalf of sisters Terry Voitchovsky and Tracy Coghlin, Len Gibson donated 38 colour

slides of the smelter and Kitimat's early community life. These slides were taken by Art and Ollie Coghlin, Kitimat pioneers. Art worked for Alcan in the early days but left to start his own business, Coghlin Hardware, located in Nechako Centre. Coghlin Park, named after Art and Ollie, is located on Haisla Boulevard, overlooking the Douglas Channel.

While hiking along Kitimat River, Tam Smith found a stone tool lying in the riverbed. Some research identified the artifact as a grooved adze. Often large and created for heavy duty work, the grooved adze would have been set onto a handle cut from wood and lashed into place with wetted sinew which became taut when dry. The grooves would have held the strands of sinew rigidly in place to prevent slipping. In Hilary Stewart's book, *Artifacts of the Northwest Coast*, 1973 two grooved adzes like this one are listed on page 50 and ascribed to Tsimshian and Haida. This stone tool may have been made locally, received in trade, or been lost by Haida or Tsimshian in the area.

Kay Williams donated husband, Moses Williams' personal belongings and records including his World War II army uniform, Army Soldier's Service and Pay Book (1945), and discharge certificate—displayed in the Upstairs Gallery through November. Moses Williams (1918-2001) was born in Kitimaat and conscripted there in 1945 for WWII. Moses was not shipped overseas as the war in Europe ended September 2, 1945. These WWII artifacts are unique for the Museum as they



Smeltersite housing ca. 1955, Len Gibson Collection. KMA# 2019.80



Stone tool, identified as a grooved adze. Donor: Tom Smith. KMA# 2019.81

relate the military history that impacted the Haisla before construction of smelter and town. It is the one and only uniform at the Museum of a veteran whose home was in this area.

The impact of the donation is apparent. The image of the uniform and records on display for Remembrance Day and published on Facebook received 66 shares, 106 likes, and 5,605 people reached. Additionally, a number of residents visited the Museum to see the uniform.



Upcoming Exhibition - Scream of the Forest, by Robin Rowland Photography

Artist's Statement

The Scream of the Forest, An Exhibition by Robin Rowland

It was a cool, early spring day on April 22, 2011. I was walking along the sidewalk here in Kitimat in what is usually called the Cormorant Gully or the Cormorant Play Bush. I happened to glance at an old stump. I noticed that the stump had a very unusual knot. The knot had a face, a face that immediately reminded me of The Scream, the famous series by Edvard Munch. That day I didn't have a camera, so I shot the screaming knot with my Android phone.

On April 23, I returned with a camera, I took a few photographs of the knot. I got home and when I viewed the photos on the computer, a tormented face was staring back from the monitor. Since I almost always carry a camera with me on my walks, I began a project where I photographed that face day after day, month after month, summer, fall, winter and spring for the next eight years.

It was probably sometime in 2012, that I first came to see the tormented, screaming face on that stump as emblematic of the environmental crisis facing our planet. So, I began calling the project "The Scream of the Forest" or alternatively "The Forest is Screaming".



Image of the screaming knot, April 23, 2011



Edvard Munch *The Scream* 1893, oil, tempera and pastel on cardboard National Gallery Oslo, Norway

The Scream of the Forest will open with a reception on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. and a talk by Robin on his study.

Community Event - Christmas Open House

Open House in Two Locations

Shop local and find gifts for everyone on your list!

On Friday, November 29, 2019, 6—9 p.m., the Museum joins Love Kitimat, City Centre Mall, and For the Diva in You boutique for Winter Fair in downtown Kitimat. City Centre Mall merchants and Love Kitimat will host Christmas activities at the Mall, and the Kitimat Museum & Archives will open its annual Artisan Christmas Gift Store, in the Upstairs Gallery (continues until December 24). Just down the lane in the lower City Centre courtyard 'For the Diva in You' boutique will host its fantastic Plaid Friday sales to complete your Christmas shopping. Visit all three locations for Winter Fair!

***Shopping, refreshments, prizes
and fun for everyone!
Let Kitimat help you to get into the
Christmas spirit!***

KITIMAT CITY CENTRE MALL FROM 6 TO 9 PM

WINTER FAIR

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
29, 2019

**VISIT OUR OPEN HOUSE
IN THE COURTYARD AT WINTERFAIR!**

KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
Opening night of the 2019 Annual Artisan Christmas Gift Store - find local handmade items and select sales of museum giftware. Did we mention FREE HOT CIDER...
For more info call 250-632-8950

FOR THE DIVA IN YOU
Find Christmas cheer and Plaid Friday SALES on a variety of clothing and accessories in a range of sizes from XS to 3X! *For more info call 250-632-2889*

6:00 to 9:00 PM

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE DISTRICT OF KITIMAT AT 250-632-8900