



The Museum Post

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

Kitimat Museum & Archives

**293 City Centre
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6
(250)632-8950 (tel)
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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 2019—2020

2019 Year in Review—50 Year Milestone Reached

In 2019, the Museum welcomed 7,823 visitors, 8 class groups (110 students) were given a tour, and 3,206 children participated in a museum program. Users included residents of all ages, visitors to Kitimat, District of Kitimat, Rio Tinto, Kitimat LNG, LNG Canada, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce, environmental and land use consultants, archaeologists, students, and those interested in smelter construction history and their own family history.

Museum visitation has remained steady over the last decade, peaking at 8,520 visitors in 2013. In collections for 2019, the Museum received a variety of donations—from Haisla carvings to early Kitimat photographs—and many donations were added to the Museum's database. 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. Moses Williams (1918-2001) was born in Kitimaat and conscripted in 1945 for WWII. The uniform and records are unique for the Museum, having no other materials from the war years.

Marking the Museum's 50th Anniversary



Max and Isobel Patzelt (on left) posing with Sammy and Rose Robinson (on right) at the 50th

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

Haisla Heritage Collection Display Redesign

Haisla Culture and Language Teacher Vera Wilson, Haisla Education Centre, assisted the Museum in completing the nine information panels for the Haisla Heritage Collection display

area. The panels are now in production and will be installed within the next month. Standard approved spellings of Xa'islakala words are included. The iPad station will be installed soon and host Haisla community images, maps, and documents. For more Haisla content on the main floor, a small case at the entrance features art pieces by Haisla artist Lyle Wilson and a basket by Angeline Wilson.

Lyle Wilson Donation

For many years, Lyle Wilson has spoken of establishing a presence at the Kitimat Museum & Archives with his artwork. The Museum is incredibly honoured to accept in donation a retrospective of his carved and painted works into the permanent collection. Over the months these art pieces will be incorporated into the Haisla heritage collection now on display. A booklet will be published on Lyle's pieces, artistic career, and Haisla culture.

Strategic Planning

Heritage planning consultant Donald Luxton & Associates (<http://www.donaldluxton.com>) has been retained by the Museum to create a strategic plan for the Museum's future physical space needs and potential partnerships. Initial meetings were planned with District of Kitimat Council and Haisla Nation Council, and a strategic planning session was held for Museum Board and Staff. Another meeting is planned for 2020 where the final report will be reviewed.

Digital Management—Continues

The Technology Assistant David Gabel continues creating and checking database records for the Museum's archival photograph holdings. He is assisting with duplicate clean-up, and reducing the Museum's digital record backlog. Online, the Museum plans to add further virtual collections/exhibits. Visit <http://collections.kitimatmuseum.ca> to see progress made in sharing images.



A section of one of the panels for the Haisla Heritage Collection Exhibit.

Museum Priorities for 2020

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, the District of Kitimat will complete the funding needed for the project. Zanron Fabrication & Machine Co. Ltd. (www.zanron.com) will begin in March of this year and be completed by May 31, 2020.

Strategic Planning 2020—2030

In progress is a ten-year strategic plan for the Museum's way forward. The second meeting is planned for the spring with heritage consultant Donald Luxton & Associates. Donald has completed a first trip, October 31—November 2, 2019, and is now completing the research and writing of a 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.

Digitization and Digital Management—Continues

Internal reorganization of digital assets, digitization, and digital collections added to the Museum's website remain a priority. Over the years, the Museum has amassed a collection of images and audio-visual archival materials in digital form. Donors have also provided a number of digital images for the Museum's collections. Work includes: centralizing digital assets on the Museum's file server, deleting copies, assigning accession numbers, and creating/updating digital records for future ease of access. Holdings awaiting digitization include photographs, VHS magnetic tapes, film, and cassette tapes. Digital assets will be added to permanent gallery exhibitions and online.



Current Delta King permanent exhibition on the lower level of the Kitimat Museum.

Exhibition Maintenance

Planned for 2019 but carried over to 2020, the *City of Tomorrow* and *Settling the Valley* permanent exhibitions on the Museum main floor will receive label revisions and photographic updates. A re-write and production of the three panels for the *Delta King* exhibition is now in progress.

Temporary Exhibitions Planned for 2020

Dates subject to change.

- ◆ *Scream of the Forest*, Robin Rowland Photography, January 10 to February 29
- ◆ Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art: Student Art 2020, March 6 to 28
- ◆ **Gallery Closed for Museum Lift installation, April 3 to May 2**
- ◆ MEMSS Insights: Student Art 2020, May 8 to June 13
- ◆ The Art of Martha Wertz, June 19 to August 1
- ◆ Visual Connections, Art & photography, August 7 to September 12
- ◆ TBA: September 18 to October 17
- ◆ Kathy Ouwehand Photography, October 23 to November 21
- ◆ Artisan Christmas Gift Store, November 27 to December 24

Back Entrance Replacement and Space Redesign—Carried Over

Back room storage on the main floor will receive a redesign for best utilization of a small space and the 1969 back door will receive a replacement. District of Kitimat funding is now in place for both. 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. New flooring will be added to the downstairs main office and back room.

Anderson Farm Implement Treatment

The Kitimat Heritage Group has salvaged old machinery once used at Anderson Farm. In October, Rio Tinto airlifted a number of found relics from the site of an abandoned shed.

All wood and leather had disintegrated over time with only metal remaining.

The Museum plans to hire a contractor to treat the metal with *Fluid Film*, a rust

resistant coating. Heritage Group members and Museum staff will assess the pieces for outdoor display.



Believed to be the outbuilding that housed Anderson Ranch farm equipment, ca. 1950s.



Kitimat Heritage Group members with the recovered farm equipment from the outbuilding, ready for treatment.

Left to Right:

Peter Ponter, Walter Thorne, Grant Foranet, Alan Sheil and Frank Knapton. 2019.

Recent Acquisitions

By Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections

In late 2019 the District of Kitimat (DOK) donated several boxes of photographs and documents accumulated during the course of business by the Economic Development Office. These files were part of an outreach to industry, businesses and film companies in an effort to promote the community and encourage business and industry to consider Kitimat as a vibrant and growing community—a great place to invest!

The District of Kitimat also donated a lovely plaque given to the DOK from Rio Tinto (Alcan), made from sandblasted glass, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the town of Kitimat in 2003.



50th Anniversary Plaque, 2019.82.

Lorna Daniel from Prince George sent a small paper album of twelve photographs and negatives. These were taken by her father James Daniel between August 19 and 30, 1955.

Lorna wrote: *“He was an articling student with A.P. Gardner and Co., an accounting firm in Vancouver and, we assume, had been sent to Kitimat to do an audit of something....There was no road between Terrace and Kitimat at that time. According to my brother, Dad flew to Terrace and got a train to Kitimat. It was a one passenger car tacked on to a regular freight train as there was no passenger service for Kitimat.”*



Early town construction, ca. 1955

Grant McDermid donated a yard stick, ca. 1955 that is labeled ‘Kitimat Townsite’, and was possibly used in the Smeltersite School. This school operated from 1952 to 1955.

Gisela Mendel to Be Honoured

The Museum will honour its first curator Gisela Mendel with the naming of the area dedicated to displaying fossils and geology specimens in a drawer unit in the Upstairs Gallery—the Gisela Mendel Geology and Fossil Collection Area. The display area will receive panels of geological and paleontological information for visitor orientation to the region. Daughter Frederika (Rika) Lyne made the donation in her mother’s name to the production of the panels after her visit to the Museum during the 50th anniversary celebration on October 9, 1969.

Questions to be answered include: How was the area formed? What is the evidence of plate tectonics (i.e. presence of southern oceanic life, the ammonite)? Are there different ages of geological formations here? What signs are left from the last Ice Age?

Gisela Mendel was first curator of the Kitimat Centennial Museum, 1969—1981. She was not only responsible for showcasing the local art and history of the area but building a strong and varied permanent collection of artifacts and archival items, the basis for future curators to build on. One area that received Gisela’s intense scrutiny was the fossils of the region including Copper (Zymoetz) River, a 150 million year old fossil bed, Jurassic Period, east of Terrace, and Driftwood Canyon, a fossil bed from the Eocene epoch (56—34 million years ago), northwest of Smithers. The plan was to collect regionally in efforts to get the bigger picture of how the land was created.

The Museum followed this collection with the publication, “Geology of the Northwest Mainland,” by Allen Gottesfeld (1985). Thank you Rika for your donation. Work on the panels will begin later this year.

(clockwise) Gisela with the fossils at Copper River, 1976 (76.15.16); pick hammer and ammonites, 1971 (71.70.3); Rika Lyne’s visit to the Museum, with Louise Avery (right), 2019; Gisela in the 1970s.



Questions Asked and Researchers Met

by Denise Pedro, Research & Marketing

The Museum often receives queries on family members who were once Kitimat citizens. A family member writes: “my grandparents, Albert and Catherine (Cay) Crozier, owned a supermarket and men's clothing store. I wondered if you had any photos of my grandparents or either of their stores in your historical records...” The Croziers were in Kitimat from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The Museum did have two images to send. Reminiscing on Al Crozier, staff remembered that at one time if a suit for graduation was purchased from Al's Menswear, the purchaser and his grad partner would receive dinner for two at a local restaurant, The Little Brown Jug. The Museum also has in its artifact collection a coat hanger, suit, bag, and a 1972 calendar from Al Crozier Ltd. The family would like to know the name of Al Crozier's grocery store. If any of our newsletter readers know, please contact the Museum.

Others seek images and information on Kitimat sites and buildings. One request was for images of the exterior of City Centre Mall, showing entrances and the layout before the Mall was expanded in 1974. Another was for information on

Kitimat's original landfill—down from Kitimat Iron, turn right to Goose Creek. The Museum database was instrumental in providing the information as a search of research requests identified that this question was asked in 2003. Information was sought then and recorded in the database for later reference. It is wonderful when searches produce quick results!

Local author and historian Walter Thorne has a new book out—Kitimat Chronicles 4. He and wife Susan with Museum Director Louise Avery were on hand this weekend at the Terrace Heritage Day, Saturday, February 22, 2020 to talk about Valley history and published works including Chronicles. The fourth book of this popular series is now available at the Museum.



Spring Break Cultural Programs Registration Now Open



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Cultural Arts & Crafts 2020

Ages 3-5 - 10:00 to 11:30 am
Ages 6-9 - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Monday, March 16	African Giraffe (3-5) am Mini Mad Things (6-9) pm
Tuesday, March 17	Australian Koala (3-5) am Australian Boomerang (6-9) pm
Wednesday, March 18	Pyramid Painting (3-5) am Hamsa Amulet (6-9) pm
Thursday, March 19	Peace on Earth Wreaths (3-5) am (6-9) pm
Friday, March 20	Brazilian Carnival Mask and Toucan (3-5) am (6-9) pm
Monday, March 23	Japanese Koinobori Fish (3-5) am Japanese Cherry Tree Painting (6-9) pm
Tuesday, March 24	Mexican Sopes and Marshmallow Flags (3-5) am (6-9) pm
Wednesday, March 25	First Nation Bentwood Boxes (3-5) am (6-9) pm
Thursday, March 26	Chinese Egg Carton Dragons (3-5) am Chinese Tambourines (6-9) pm
Friday, March 27	Paper Plate Weaving (3-5) am Finnish Stick Weaving (6-9) pm

For more information call 250-632-8950 Register at the Kitimat Museum
\$7.00 each (\$5.95 with a Family Membership) Phone-in registration with credit card only

Xmas Bird Count Report 2019

Saturday, December 14th was perfect for birding. Six parties went into the field for a total of 16 birders and 12 birders watching feeders. Total species count was 67 – a new high for the day. The total number of individual birds was 5,620 – second highest number of birds recorded in the Count. Some of



the highlights were high counts for Northern Flickers, Steller's Jays and Purple Finches. No Eurasian-Collared Doves were seen and the count for Chestnut-backed Chickadees was very low. Unusual species seen and counted were one Wood Duck, one Redhead Duck and one lone Snow Goose. Usual winter resident birds remain consistent with 1,000 Canada Geese, 700 Mallards, 11 Great Blue Herons, 15 Trumpeter Swans and 500 Dark-eyed Juncos. *April Macleod*