



The Museum Post

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

Kitimat Museum & Archives

293 City Centre
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6
Tel (250) 632-8950

Monday to Saturday, 12—4 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays

Summer 2020

The Museum is following recommended guidelines of physical distancing and operating at limited visitor capacity.

Museum Kids' Summer of Adventure

What an unbelievable summer! Even though the programs are a bit smaller than last year, we are still having so much fun. This summer, we focus on Kitimat and Haisla history as well as exploring places such as Portugal and even outer space! The children are always greeted with a smiling face, albeit behind a mask. Despite COVID-19, the summer education program team maintains a fun and engaging environment. The team is made up of 3 members: Kevin Eastman, Madison Hauki, and Rosie Reschke. While safety is always our number one priority, having fun is definitely high up on the list.

Some of the activities included learning Egyptian hieroglyphics and writing them on clay tablets, looking at fossils, and exploring Kitimat's hidden treasures. Kids ages 3-5 enjoy developing their crafting skills and their knowledge, by learning about the world around them. Kids ages 6-9 get to hone those skills and go on fun outdoor adventures with the team.

Inside the Museum, the children see fun posters with pictures from last year's programs as well as interesting facts about the current summer program leaders. The team's leader, Madison, told students all about her adventures in Japan and gave the kids an origami lesson for our Awesome Origami day. They even got to take home their own jumping frog! The summer still has lots in store. On our Geo Hunter day, the children will be learning all about rocks while painting their own to take home.

Our last day is filled with mystery and adventure as the kids get to be sheriffs for the day. An artifact from the museum has been stolen, but luckily the thief left clues behind for the kids to follow. During this scavenger hunt, the kids get to use number decoder wheels, invisible ink, and the power of observation to find the missing artifact.



Left to right: Madison Hauki, Kevin Eastman, Rosie Reschke



**Make sure to check out our new
YouTube channel for digital content!**

Remembering Angus Macleod

Angus was an attentive and fun-filled Museum member for many years. Museum staff first got to know Angus when wife April joined the Museum Board of Directors in 2003 and daughter Maureen worked for the Museum as a summer student in programming in 1999. He and April attended Museum events together, with Angus always ready, willing, and able to help

out. Angus was a person of action, not necessarily one for meetings. When the Museum had a task, he was there. Case in point, Angus was there when the Museum Heritage Committee salvaged the kerosene-powered winch believed to be originally owned by George Anderson (settled in 1898) from the Kitimat River estuary. In 2006, Museum volunteers including Angus moved the pieces with a combination of people power and a “come along” winch in preparation for airlifting. The “stump puller” is now on display at Heritage Park, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce.

Angus loved heritage and storytelling. He performed at a spoken word evening at the Museum in September 2010. His wit was fully on at that gathering, and he loved the experience, continuing to request a repeat of the evening. Each Christmas, Angus’ Scottish heritage was honoured when he conducted his annual heather delivery in town. Museum ladies each received a sprig of heather for good luck, protection, and admiration, and then assisted Angus with his purchase of a gift for April, listening to a good



Angus Macleod at the spoken word evening, September 2010.



Angus helping the Museum Heritage Committee salvage the kerosene-powered winch in 2006.

story or two during the visit. When Angus stopped to talk, he would often deposit candy – Werther’s caramels – into hands held out, at his request. The Museum was pleased to carry Angus’ books’ *The Wee Folk* (2014) and *Gone to Toodoggone* (2018) in its gift shop.

The Museum and Kitimat has lost a generous, great friend. We will miss you Angus.

Anderson Farm Equipment Project

The Kitimat Heritage Group has met twice to discuss the salvaged antique farm equipment once used at Anderson Farm (1898 – 1926). In October 2019, Rio Tinto airlifted a number of found relics from the site of an abandoned shed.



Photo courtesy of [Luxton Antique Farm Equipment Club](#), Langford, BC

A member of the Luxton Antique Farm Equipment Club, Langford, BC has identified the equipment as a horse-drawn, single bottom (furrow) moldboard plough, the rear axle of a farm wagon, and a horse-drawn sickle-bar mower. All are in very poor condition with pieces missing – not one is complete.

The equipment had to be stored outdoors during the winter months which resulted in additional rust. Zanron Fabrication Machine Co. has generously agreed to help us, providing expertise in removing the rust to prepare the equipment for treatment with Fluid Film, a rust resistant coating. Funding has been received from the District of Kitimat for this cleaning and treatment.

Once stabilized, the pieces will become part of an outdoor public art sculpture for Kitimat, location to be determined, though some might be transferred to the Museum for indoor display. An artist knowledgeable in metalwork will be hired to create the sculpture. The outdoor display will be similar to the “stump puller” retrieved from the Anderson Farm land by the Heritage Group in 2006 and now on display at Heritage Park, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce.

A technician is also needed for treating the equipment with Fluid Film, and an indoor location is required for the upcoming winter months. The Museum can accommodate some pieces, but not all.

If you know of an artist, technician, or an indoor space for storage of all the equipment, the Kitimat Heritage Group would like to hear from you.

Recent Acquisitions

By Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections

As expected during the Covid 19 crisis, having closed our doors for almost three month, we have not received many acquisitions.

One donation, brought in by JGC Fluor BC LNG JV, was excavated from an area approximately 50 m north of archaeological site GaTe-5, during the course of the LNG Canada Export Terminal Project. These objects were likely associated with the Anderson Ranch. Included in the collection are one stoneware fragment, likely from a storage container lid, a small pottery fragment and three pieces from what was possibly an iron cooking stove.

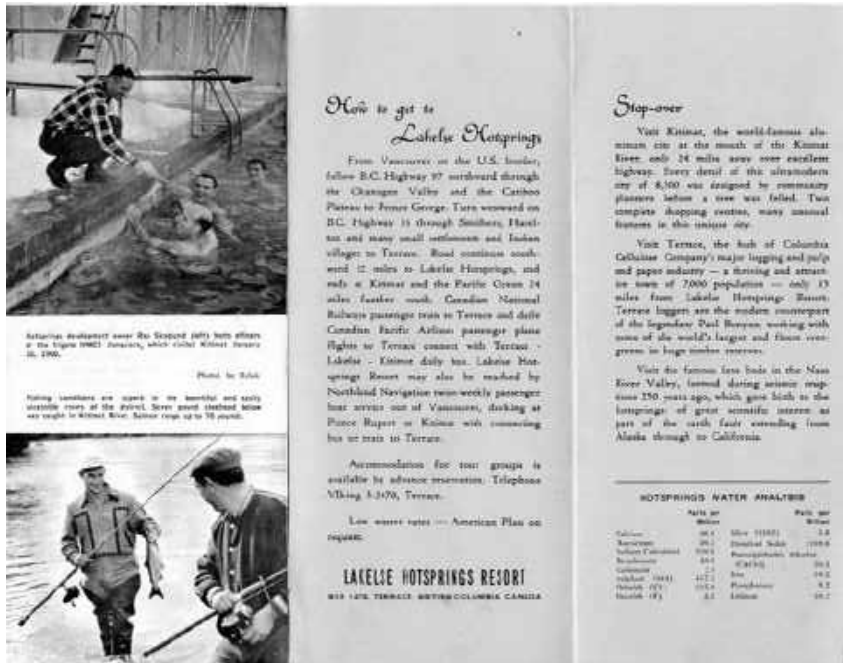
George Anderson, former Methodist Missionary and teacher, built a ranch—including a house, a barn for animals and another quite a distance from the ranch house for his haying equipment—across the bay from Haisla, beginning in 1896. He married his third wife, Martha Walker in 1900. Martha was also a Kitimaat Mission worker at the time of her marriage and together they planned to make a substantial living from livestock rearing. Their daughter, Elizabeth wrote 'Kitimat, My Valley', a story of her life growing up on that ranch. The Andersons left the Kitimat Valley in 1926. In 1937 James and Edna Alexander came to operate the ranch but it was soon evident that the remote location made commerce of produce and livestock difficult. The Alexanders left the valley in July of 1941.



KMA No. 2020.10.1 & 2. Stoneware fragment (right) and pottery shard (left), likely from the Anderson Ranch.



KMA No. 2020.10.4 Possible iron cook stove fragment, likely from the Anderson Ranch.



KMA No. 2020.11 Lakelse Hotsprings Resort Ltd. Brochure—interior view. Photo top left shows Ray Skoglund (checked shirt) with patrons in the 'hot pool'.

In July we received a promotional brochure for Lakelse Hotsprings Resort, from Marion Egan. The brochure was created by then owner Ray Skoglund. The natural hot springs located on Highway 37 has a volume of 6,000 gallons of 186° water every hour. In 1910 Bruce Johnstone developed the property, building a guest house, tourist cabins and bath house. In 1929 a second hotel was built. In 1958 Ray Skoglund bought the land and developed a luxurious resort including two swimming pool—one with mineral waters up to 140°, the second larger pool that was cooler.

The resort boasted a fine-dining restaurant as

well as a fast-food café. Also offered was Therapeutic Clay (at the undeveloped springs), Roman Baths, Camping & Trailer accommodations and Trail Rides. The Skoglund family owned and operated the Hotsprings as a family business. Ray sold the business in the mid-sixties, and it changed hands twice until in 1985 when Bert Orleans bought the property, developed the water slides and maintained the resort. Mr. Orleans is the current owner.



Do you have photographs, documents or items that you think should be part of the collections at the Kitimat Museum & Archives? The Museum regularly accepts, through donations or bequests, objects that reflect Kitimat history. Call Angela Eastman for more information or email aeastman@kitimatmuseum.ca

Collections Assistant



Evan McCracken,
Collections Assistant, 2020

Hey everyone, I'm Evan McCracken and I've spent the past couple months as Collections Assistant for the Kitimat Museum and Archives. I am an International Relations student at University of British Columbia. I moved to Kitimat in May from the town of Elkford, where I previously worked the Summers at the coal mines. Being an athlete and avid fisher, I have found the Kitimat area's trails, facilities, and fishing an easy adjustment.

As Collections Assistant, I have gotten to know the rich and extraordinary history that envelops this area. From the interesting endemic history of the Haisla to the industrious marvels and achievements of Alcan and the 20th century pioneers. The Kitimat-Kemano project is an industrial wonder of the modern world and I find its story fascinating.

As the Collections Assistant, I enjoy improving accessibility to the artifacts and archives. Handling and dealing with artifacts that are products and catalysts of the area's history is a truly a unique job experience. The density of the Kitimat Museum and Archives' inventory is surprising and I encourage everyone interested in visiting to view the compact and well curated exhibits. Being given the opportunity to spend the Summer as Collections Assistant to the Kitimat Museum and Archives has certainly been a special experience to add to my resume and I look forward to my further weeks here.

Research

By Denise Pedro

In late July we received the following question:

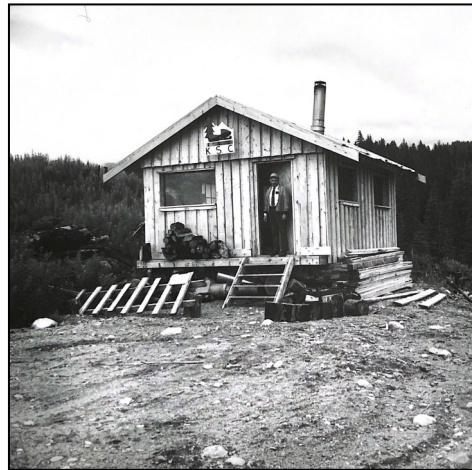
Is there anywhere to find info on the old Kitimat ski hill back off the Wedeene Mainline. No one seems to remember it.

Answer: In 1971, Steve Stevenson, the Kitimat Alpine Ski Club President and other local ski enthusiasts got together to plan a clubhouse and ski facility to the east of Kitimat up South Hirsch Mainline FSR (Forest Avenue). They received permission from the provincial government to use the Crown land and the road leading to it. The District of Kitimat agreed to send in a bulldozer to clear the hill as well as providing a \$1,500 grant to help fund the project.

With volunteer help the slopes were groomed; B.C. Hydro donated two rope poles, and seven trucking firms hauled in the gravel at no cost. Atom Motors donated a V-8 engine and

Elizabeth Secondary School helped to rebuild the motor. Equipment and supplies were either donated or purchased at nominal charge. Alcan donated the building and the Club turned it into a chalet. Northland Navigation hauled the dismantled building to the site at no charge and volunteers reassembled it.

The 800-foot ski hill served beginner and expert skiers for five years, until 1978 when the site was hard hit by vandals. The chalet was torn apart, the tow equipment was dragged out and exposed to the elements, and many tow parts went missing. The extent of the destruction was too great to warrant rebuilding; the ski hill never recovered and over time the memory of it faded.



Cabin At The Top Of The New Ski Hill, July 27, 1973. Patzelt Collection.
KMA No. 1998.1.7419

Note : In the 1990s there was a development study done for the Alpine & Ski Club to build a ski facility and Clubhouse on Clague Mountain that was begun, but never completed due to varying factors.

Now Showing

Art & Photography Exhibition

VISUAL CONNECTIONS



SHOWING

August 7 to September 12, 2020

Kitimat Museum & Archives Upstairs Gallery



Open Monday to Saturday: 12 pm to 4 pm
Admission by Donation
Kitimat Museum & Archives
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COVID-19: The Kitimat Museum is following recommended preventative measures, and limiting visitor capacity.