



# The Museum Post

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

**293 City Centre  
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6  
(250)632-8950 (tel)  
(250)632-7429 (fax)**

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

## Spring 2021

### From the Director's Desk

*Louise Avery*

As staff wait for the return of visitors to the Museum, a number of interesting and much needed online and permanent exhibition projects are moving forward.

#### On This Spot

Staff have gathered many archival Kitimat images for an online offering created by On This Spot, a Vancouver-based digital company with a website and mobile App. "Then and now" Kitimat photographs will be accessible on the company website and on a phone/tablet App with accompanying historical information. When restrictions lift, the Museum will welcome a photographer to take the "now" photos on the same spot where they were originally taken up to 58 years ago. On This Spot staff will then blend the "then and now" photos in an artistic and impactful way. A camera drone may also be used as many of Kitimat's photographs were taken at elevation.

#### Searchable Collections Now Online

For many years, museums have readied their collections for accessibility and searchability online, given the number of potential virtual users. That is exactly what we have done. You are now invited to search our collection holdings at the Kitimat Museum & Archives Online Collections (<https://collections.kitimatmuseum.ca>). This access is a huge step for the Museum and much needed as the majority of our audience continues to be online given the pandemic and gathering restrictions. Images and audio visual offerings such as interviews and film will be added over time. Additions to the searchable database and editing is ongoing. We have just begun. Stay tuned!

#### Delta King Research

Three panels of the Delta King display are receiving a rewrite. The sternwheeler Delta King was brought by the Aluminum Company of Canada to Kitimat in 1952 to provide living accommodation for smelter and town construction workers. In my search for images I was in touch with four archives in the USA. I also attempted to

contact Stan Garvey, author of "King & Queen of the River: The Life Stories of the Delta King and Queen" (1995). Staff had heard that Stan is now 94 years old, living in a senior's community somewhere in California. He visited the Museum in 1999 for an author's talk and book signing. A number of images came from Stan's personal collection. Unfortunately, I have not yet tracked him down, and other suitable images will be used. Definitely, staff is flexible and often works with Plan B. I also needed an image of the Delta King being towed from San Francisco to Victoria, BC, and Yarrows Ltd. shipyard by the Island Navigator, April 1952. That search led me to the [British Colonist](#) online, Victoria's paper since 1858.

Although I did not find the image I needed, there were other articles and images of the Delta King's journey to Kitimat.

#### Haisla Heritage Collection & Other Display Areas

Staff have completed the artifact labelling for the Haisla Heritage Collection. All that remains is to proofread, print, and install them. Additionally two labels—one for the pole by Sammy Robinson, and one for the case at the main entrance—are complete and waiting to be printed and installed. Once the Museum is free to incorporate touchable information stations, the iPad will be added to the area and feature documents such as the Haisla territorial map and reconciliation document.

In the downstairs exhibits, the displays "Kitimat: City of Tomorrow" and "Settling the Valley" will receive replacements for faded photographs, and artifact labels. Once this work is complete, I can move on to creating interpretive panels for the Gisela Mendel Geology and



Fossil Collection area. Gisela's daughter Rika Lyne recently sent some BC and regional geological information originally collected by her mother. All are useful resources in creating and presenting the geological forces and fossils of the region.

### Working with the Kitimat Heritage Group

I continue to attend regular meetings with the Kitimat Heritage Group—a dozen enthusiasts and residents who advocate for heritage in our town. Chaired by Walter Thorne, four meetings occur annually and new members are always welcome. Recent advocacy work by the Group has included conversations with District of Kitimat Council and Staff on Kitimat's heritage walkway system and the Kiwanis Clock, and signage for the Haisla Centre Forest Lands along Lahakas/Albatross. As well, Group members continue to work on a remedy for the CN Station. The CN Station is one of two municipally-designated heritage sites in Kitimat currently in limbo given that CN Rail will not allow refurbishment.

### Walking the Corduroy Road

The second municipal heritage site is the Corduroy Road, created by Rudolf Braun (1885—1956). On Sunday, May 2, 2021, Walter Thorne led a site visit of the Braun Farm and walked the Road.

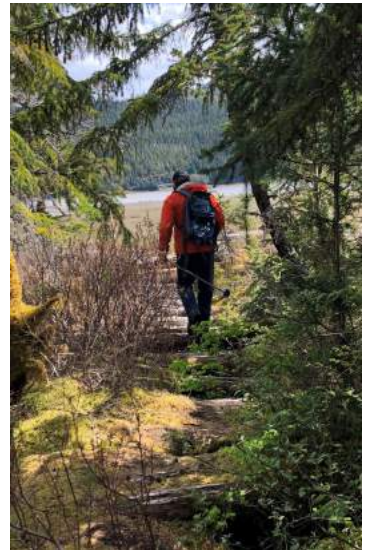
Rudolf farmed 160 acres on the shore of Minette Bay, 1912—1939. A one-room cabin and Corduroy Road leading to the shoreline, were constructed by him during his land clearing for garden and livestock including 30 head of cattle. The Road was made from cedar logs laid tightly parallel to each other (akin to corduroy cloth) across the roadbed. Mostly sheltered by the surrounding forest, Braun's Corduroy Road weathered well over many years. Braun used the road for access to the water and his boat the *Minnette* at his wharf. He would load his boat and sell milk, cheese, and garden produce to settlements along the Douglas Channel and beyond. Most of the wharf is now gone except for some silvery cedar logs where shoreline and forest meet.

### Kouwthpega Sculpture

The Kitimat Heritage Group is in the process of coordinating the creation of a sculpture for Kitimat. To create the sculpture, the Group has commissioned Chris Gielens, given his metalwork artistry. *Kouwthpega*, large flat fungus commonly growing on trees in the Kitimat River estuary, is the name of the Anderson Farm Ranch which operated 1898—1926 by George Anderson and family. The Kitimat Heritage Group has met with Chris and has a plan. The farm machinery—parts from a sickle bar mower,

plough, and hay wagon—will be reconfigured by Chris into a metal sculpture of a horse, the primary hauling energy of a turn-of-the-20th-century farm. The plan is to have the sculpture installed beside the Anderson Farm stump puller at Heritage Park, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce, in the fall.

(below) Anne Berrisford listens as Walter Thorne shares Braun Farm details. (right) On the Road.



## Join the Museum Board

The Museum Board of Directors seeks to fill one position on the Board. If you would like to be an active part of Museum planning and policy, join our seven-member Board team.

You will:

- Be an active voting member of the Museum by annually purchasing a membership.
- Attend one regular meeting every second month (the fourth Wednesday). These meetings are generally one hour in length in the evenings.
- Attend additional meetings called by the Board Chair.
- Attend Museum events such as receptions and speaking engagements.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting, this year, May 26, 2021 7:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. At the meeting, we will officially welcome you to begin your 2-year term.

Contact the Museum Director at 250-632-8951.

## Recent Acquisitions

By Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections

Ruth Brady brought in seven scrapbooks from the Kitimat chapter of Beta Sigma Phi for the years 1971 to 1990.) Beta Sigma Phi is an International Womens' friendship network. It is the largest organization of its kind in the world. The membership is made up of women of all ages, usually beginning in their twenties or thirties and staying active for their entire lives, building friendships that last a lifetime. Beta Sigma Phi was very active in the community, purchasing hospital equipment, sponsoring Miss Kitimat contestants, hosting fundraisers and much more.

Over one hundred photographs and reports from Eurocan Pulp & Paper Ltd. construction ca. 1971 were donated. These accompany the 35mm film donated in 2019 by Worley Parsons.

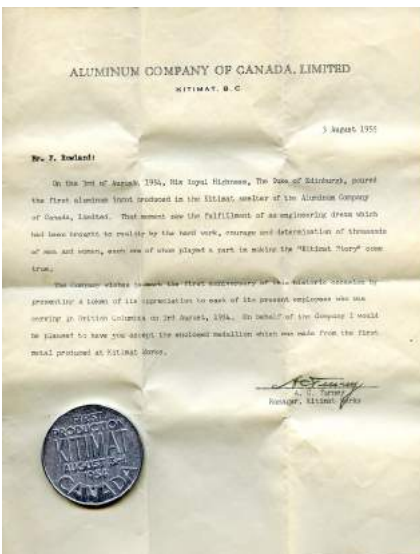
Seven photographs were received from Dale Bell. These are logging photos taken by Max Patzelt in 1970. The truck in the photo was owned by Saunders Hauling Ltd. Saunders hauled for Friell Lake Logging and closed up shop in Kitimat in the mid-1980s.

Brian Emmerson sent along a bicycle license and receipt for the purchase of the license from the municipality. In 1959, a bicycle license cost 50 cents.

On behalf of the Rowland family Judi Christou sent along a First Pour commemorative medallion with an accompanying letter. The letter to Mr. F. Rowland reads: "On the 3rd of August, 1954, His Royal Highness, The Duke Of Edinburgh, poured the first aluminum ingot produced in the Kitimat smelter of the Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited. That moment saw the fulfillment of an engineering dream which had been brought to reality by the hard work, courage and determination of thousands of men and women, each one of whom played a part in making the 'Kitimat Story' come true.



Three men posed in front of a Saunders Hauling Ltd. truck. These men are unidentified—any information on who they are would be appreciated. Bell Collection KMA No. 2021.13.1



Commemorative First Pour medallion and letter. Donor: Judi Christou KMA No. 2021.15

The Company wishes to mark the first anniversary of this historic occasion by presenting a token of its appreciation to each of its present employees who was serving in British Columbia on 3rd August, 1954. On behalf of the Company I would be pleased to have you accept the enclosed medallion which was made from the first metal produced at Kitimat Works." The letter is signed by A.C. Turney, Manager, Kitimat Works.

Brad Markert donated a 'Kitimat Kal' figurine that belonged to his parents Russel and June Markert. 'Kitimat Kal' was a popular mascot for fishing derbys and July 1st celebrations in the early 1960s. His original fishing rod has not survived but is replaced by a very clever modification.



The Museum also received crude bauxite and alumina samples from Jamaica—donated by Cyndi McIntosh. In the 1950s and 60s Jamaica was the primary source of bauxite and alumina for the Kitimat Smelter.

(left) Crude bauxite and alumina samples from Jamaica in Gerber baby food jars. Donor: Cyndi McIntosh. KMA No. 2021.24. (right) Kitimat Kal plaster figurine. The fishing rod is a modified metal piece. Donor: Brad Markert. KMA No. 2021.23

## Research

Our latest research request pertains to sorting out fact from fiction. A person came to the Museum to find out whether Hirsch Creek was once known as Clearwater River, back when Kitimat was being considered for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and parcel lots were for sale.

The majority of information and finding aids collected in the Museum holdings stem from when the aluminum plant was being surveyed and constructed, and not much from the early settler years. As the town progressed and grew, the Museum collected published materials and photos that have helped document the growth of the area, but not from those early days. Hirsch Creek Park, as we know it now, is named for John Hirsch, a BC Licensed Surveyor. Prior to 1910, when Herbert Naden Clague was assessing the valley for the provincial government, Hirsch was also surveying the region for potential benefits.

The person asking the question did have an image of marked lots surrounding Clearwater River. It matched the lots and Hirsch Creek identified in the McElhanney survey map of 1985 and confirmed that Hirsch Creek was once known as Clearwater River. Our recommendation was to contact the BC Land Title & Survey Office for verification and further information.

### Nature Sketch Program

The Kitimat Museum & Archives Presents  
**Nature Sketch 2021**  
Funded through the  
Robert Bateman Foundation

"Encouraging outdoor exploration through art, minimizing depression and anxiety caused by nature deprivation, and getting children off their screens and into nature." John Bateman

The Nature Sketch program is an outdoor nature program for youth that focuses on sketching and observing wildlife habitats in unique ecosystems. Guided by a sketch artist and a naturalist, this program encourages children and teens to connect to natural environments in their local community using a pencil and a sketchbook. Participants can bring anything they would like for the sketching session, ie: chair, binoculars, camera, water and/or food, and dress for the weather.

**AGES**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>AGES 8 to 12</b><br>June 12 & 26<br><b>Set I: Morning</b><br>10:00 to 11:30 a.m.<br>or<br><b>Set II: Afternoon</b><br>2:00 to 3:30 p.m. | <b>AGES 13 to 18</b><br>June 5 & 19<br><b>Set I: Morning</b><br>10:00 to 11:30 a.m.<br>or<br><b>Set II: Afternoon</b><br>2:00 to 3:30 p.m. |
|--|--|

Each participant signs up for both sessions in a set of their age group, either Set I or Set II. Each session is 1.5 hours.  
The programs will run with a maximum of 10 participants and a minimum of 5, per age group.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

Register by contacting the Kitimat Museum by email [info@kitimatmuseum.ca](mailto:info@kitimatmuseum.ca) or call 250-632-8950

There is no cost to the program. All artist supplies will be provided.

**THE BATEMAN FOUNDATION**  
*Nature Sketch*

**Bateman Foundation** SKETCH CANADA

## Now Showing

### Monochrome Musings

by Margaret Trenn Photography

Showing: April 3 to June 5, 2021

"Black and white images can transcend reality, transforming images into a realm that is neither abstraction nor the reality we are most familiar with. My intent is to take you on a journey where shadow, contrast, tones, shapes, texture, and composition combine to convey the emotion of the subject in the absence of colour."

Margaret Trenn

Find out more about Margaret's photography at:

[www.margarettrennphotography.com](http://www.margarettrennphotography.com)



'Mother's Guidance', by Margaret Trenn, was selected as a finalist for the 2020 Skeena Wild Photography and Film Festival. Now showing in the Upstairs Gallery until June 5th.

## Page Turner!

# BOOK SALE ON NOW!

### At the Kitimat Museum

**40% OFF\***

\* Select Titles

293 City Centre | Accepted Payment: Debit | VISA | MasterCard

Learn more at:

[www.kitimatmuseum.ca/book-sale-at-museum](http://www.kitimatmuseum.ca/book-sale-at-museum)