



Kitimat Museum & Archives

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

The Museum Post

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

**Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm
December 13—23, 10 am to 5 pm
December 24, 10 am—2 pm
Closed Sundays and Holidays**

New Christmas Hours

Fall 2021

2021 Year in Review

Pre-Covid, the Museum welcomed over 8,000 visitors annually. In 2020, the pandemic reduced our annual visitors by 4,000. Staff are working hard to reach our visitor number once again. Reopening—getting back our visitor number—is ongoing. The Museum is anticipating completing 2021 at 5,000 visitors.

Museum Activities Continue

The Museum has cancelled the Cultural Arts & Crafts Spring Break programs for two years now, but plan to offer them in 2022. Museum in the Classroom art



workshops, Summer of Adventure, Museum Explorer's programs and temporary exhibitions continued, but with lower attendance. Revenue was also lost in the gift shop, commission sales, and donations at the door.



Funding has been received from the BC Arts Council and Canadian Heritage to assist the Museum in recovery from closure and in reopening. Summer students increased content with craft and tour videos on the Museum's YouTube Channel to share displays and

programs in a virtual way. Crafts include weaving and false fossil making. Tours relate Kitimat's natural and community history. Funds were spent on a tripod, gimble, and lights for filming. The Museum also filmed artist Stan Bevan explaining his Northern Wood Cuts, the first show of 2021. The film is featured on the Museum's YouTube Channel.

Online Collections and On This Spot

The Museum invested in the On This Spot history app where a historical photograph is matched with the present-day photograph. These match-ups are viewed online. On This Spot also developed two walking and one

driving tour. Both images and tours include a large amount of historical content. The Museum also invested in making its existing collections database searchable on its website through the Discovery Interface at <https://collections.kitimatmuseum.ca/>

Collections Management

Staff hours have increased for collections appraisal, arrangement, and description, and improving finding aids for increased public access.

Lyle Wilson Donation—A Retrospective

Haisla master carver and artist Lyle Wilson has added to his significant continuing donations of over 30 carvings, paintings, ceramics, and jewellery, in the past 4 years.

Lyle's *ikstookoya* eagle frontlet in yellow cedar will be featured in the book, *Time to Wonder: A Kid's Guide to BC's Regional Museums*, Volume III along with the Museum's first artifact, the pole carved by Sammy Robinson, and the button for the official opening of the Kenney Dam in 1954.

Temporary Exhibitions Scheduled

Our *Living Languages*—a travelling exhibition from the Royal BC Museum and First Peoples Cultural Council—was showing in the Upstairs Gallery, September 17—November 20. Located beside and complimenting the Haisla heritage collection area, the exhibition presents the realities of language loss by Indigenous Nations given the impacts of disease and residential school on language and



culture. Thirty-four languages are endangered within the boundaries of what is now known as British Columbia, including *x̱a'islakala* and *x̱enaksialakala*.

More Emergency Funding Received

To lessen the impact on operations, the Museum has received from the BC Arts Council, \$76,000 in emergency funding. Additionally, Canadian Heritage, Museum Assistance Program, will provide \$61,000 for reopening. A part-time Collections Assistant position continues, and exhibitions, programs, and operating expenses receive much needed support.

Museum Lift Opened

The new lift was officially opened February 4 by Kitimat resident Annie Hall and Mayor Germuth. Visitors who cannot climb the stairs are now enjoying full access to the Upstairs Gallery, including mothers with babies in strollers/ carriages. Longtime resident Dorothy Egan was able to take her scooter upstairs, and Haisla elder's coordinators Marilyn Furlan and Nelson Grant visited, and plan a visit by Haisla elders when the group is meeting once again.

Haisla Heritage Collection Display Redesign

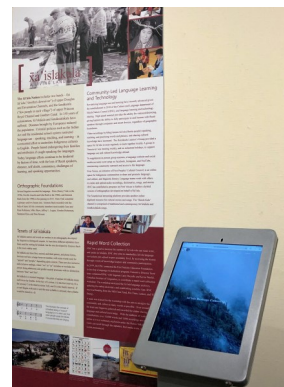
The nine information panels for the Haisla Heritage Collection display area are now installed and Lyle Wilson's

recent donation of art pieces from his career are now featured. The iPad station hosting the Haisla territorial map and reconciliation document was recently installed in the Upstairs Gallery. Artifact labelling will be added soon.

Strategic Planning

Meetings with District of Kitimat Council and Haisla Nation Council were held following the completion of the Museum's Strategic Plan 2020-2030. The Plan outlines the Museum's space limitations and proposes a shared facility with the Haisla Nation. On April 27, 2021, at a duly convened meeting of the Haisla Nation Council, Council voted unanimously to explore a shared facility with the Museum. The Memorandum of Understanding in draft form has now been sent to the Haisla Nation Council for review. The Strategic Plan and its Executive Summary will be published on the Museum's website soon, and permission to publish on the District of Kitimat and Haisla Nation websites will be sought.

The public will be asked to submit comments. Work is now proceeding on a landing page and comment form for the Museum website. It is hoped that the HNC and DOK websites will link to the landing page and provide public access to the Plan.



Upcoming Exhibition

Visit the Upstairs Gallery

January 14th to February 26th, 2022 for

The Art of Wendy Hagen-Dennill

"My name is Wendy Hagen-Dennill, and I have been painting and drawing since I can remember. I am a self-taught artist and work in Watercolors and Acrylics. My art room is my sanctuary and what flows through me to the canvas is based purely on emotion.

I love painting abstract but recently I have enjoyed portrait painting and landscapes. The act of painting fills me with a sense of peace and contentment. I believe this reflects in my work. You can view a great deal of my work on Pinterest under Wendy Hagen-Dennill "My Art" page."



'Low Tide', Watercolour



'Tides Out', Watercolour

Recent Acquisitions

Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections



Railway line grading, ca. 1952.
Gerri Farina Collection
KMA No. 2021.35.19



Housing at 'Riverside' camp, near Riverlodge ca. 1955. Jacob Lubbert Collection KMA No. 2021.36.1

Gerri Farina donated a series of thirty-one photographs from 1952. The photographs were taken by her husband Joe Farina. Before Joe arrived in Kitimat in 1954 he worked on the grading project for the Terrace-Kitimat Railway line. From Gerald Farina we received three photographs—Special Train to Kitimat, Eurocan Ground Breaking and Alcan Officials, Coasters - Kitimat-Kemano August 3, 1954-84 (3), Lynemouth Smelter, Ticket - Trail of '55 Kitimat or Bust - Special Train, and a Kitimat sticker. All were part of Joe's collection of Kitimat memorabilia.

A donation of photographs was received from Jacob Lubbert, recent Northern Sentinel Press editor. He brought in a collection of images that belonged to Harry Harnoth from Edmonton. Harry's father Wolfgang (Hans) Harnoth immigrated from Germany to Kitimat to work at the smelter in 1955. While in Kitimat he met and married his wife Shirley and the two lived in Kitimat until 1958. Hans was very active in men's soccer and Shirley was

employed as a cashier at a convenience store.

Sandra Capezzuto donated Aluminum City Telethon buttons, Elks Lodge albums and photos. Bev Engen donated items including a training manual for the Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd., Montreal with accompanying letter from B.C. Project Manager Percy E. Radley, February 26, 1954 recommending that it be used in the absence of a training manual for BC. This one was used by new hires in Quebec.

Bev and Carl Whicher donated some items from Bev's dad, Ken Haun, including an aluminum plaque and Teletype message. The Hauns lived in Kemano, 1955-1969. In 1961, a major rock fall occurred in the tunnel delivering water to the turbines in the Kemano Powerhouse. Inspection and repair were needed. J. T. (Dale) Madill, Manager of BC Power Operations, and Ken Haun, Assistant Superintendent, Power Operations, inspected Penstock 2 together in a rubber raft, June 1961. The raft was recommended by Alcan head office, Montreal as the safest method to ride down with the water. To communicate, a hammer would be used on the penstock, a series of blows signaling stop, open the valve, and danger. The latter would not be needed "as there will be no danger." The raft had got hung up in the flat portion and had to be pushed along to the next incline.



Dr. Dorothea Bower and Mr. Jack Fountain

Magda Machula, Collections Assistant



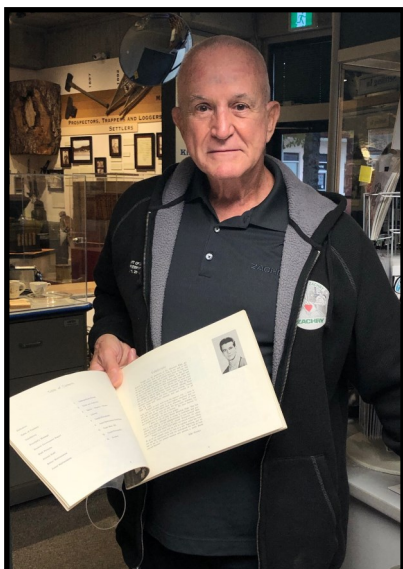
Mary Richmond Collection, KMA No. 2002.50

While working through our collections, a photo recently came up that piqued our interest. The photo had never been properly accessioned, and only contained a note with some basic information. We

looked deeper into the couple's history and learned some interesting facts about Jack Fountain and Dorothea Bower.

Dorothea came to Kitimaat for mission work. She was a doctor, having received a degree at Trinity Medical Collage in Toronto in 1904, and as a woman, this was an unusual

profession for the time. She was well liked by the people in Kitimaat, and became close with the Anderson Family, often visiting their ranch as a respite from her duties. It was there she met Jack Fountain, a surveyor of lumber prospects. He arrived one night exhausted and ill, with his arm in an advanced state of devil's club poisoning. Dr. Bower was called in to treat him, and managed to save not only his life, but his arm as well. It was from this incident that the two fell in love, and Jack asked Dorothea to marry him for saving his life. The engagement was not taken positively by those who knew them though. Jack was a kind and humorous man, but 10 years older and not religious; not considered a suitable match for Dorothea. But despite opposition and risk for her reputation, the two were married in 1910 in Ontario, and later moved to Vancouver where this photo was taken.



Stopping By

Recently Mike Fletcher of Houston, Texas, a previous Kitimat resident was visiting Kitimat, and stopped by the Museum with a request. Mike, whom once attended Mount Elizabeth Secondary School, was wondering if the Museum had a copy of the 1961 school yearbook. It just so happens there are several editions of yearbooks in the collections, ranging in years. Mike was class valedictorian of his graduating class and greatly enjoyed looking back on his 'words of advice' to his peers.

Lookback at 1960-61

Source:

'<http://mountelizabeth.cmsd.bc.ca>, Fred Taylor

Mr. Roy Berry in command and Ulrich Schaffer is Prime Minister of Student Government. Grade 13 is now senior matriculation and has 9 students. We now have a junior curling club! John Fortier's rink to the "A" in the first half-season and Jimmy Mitchell's rink captured the "A" for the second half. The "Chieftains" are still having trouble with Prince Rupert this year. 43 grads that year and your valedictorian was Mike Fletcher.

CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE

No matter who you are shopping for, you'll find a gift for them at the Artisan Christmas Gift Store at the Kitimat Museum & Archives. From November 26th until December 24th you can find pottery, quilted and knitted items, soaps and more, all created by local artists. Find quality gifts created by local artisans and enter our gift basket draw at the Kitimat Museum Artisan Christmas Gift Store. COVID-19 protocols will be followed, and masks are required.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturdays: 12 pm to 4 pm

Sundays: Closed

EXTENDED HOUR

During December 13th to 24th

Monday to Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

November 26 to December 24, 2021

SHOP LOCAL at the KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

ARTISAN

CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE

Find something for everyone on your list

Hand-crafted items made by local artisans and artists - as well as Museum giftware

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Saturdays: 12 pm to 4 pm

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www.kitimatmuseum.ca

VISA MasterCard

SHOP LOCAL

Upcoming Exhibitions for 2022 (subject to change)

January 14 to February 26: Wendy Hagen-Dennill (Art)

March 4 to April 2: Freda Diesing School (Student Exhibition)

April 8 to May 7: Kelly Marsh (Photography)

May 13 to June 11: MEMSS Insights (Art)

June 17 to July 23: Stan Bevan (Art)

July 29 to September 3: Martha Wertz (Art)

September 9 to October 15: Made by Hand (Artisan Exhibition)

October 21 to November 26: Kathy Ouwehand (Photography)

December 2 to 24: Artisan Christmas Gift Store

Exhibition Opportunities

Artists and guest curators are welcome to submit proposals to mount art exhibitions or community history exhibitions. Direct all enquiries to Angela Eastman, Assistant Curator