



Kitimat Museum & Archives

**293 City Centre
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Ph: 250-632-8950**

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
Closed Sundays and Holidays**

Winter 2021-2022

Museum Strategic Planning Next Steps

Museum Strategic Plan 2020-2030 is now published on the Museum's website and shared by the Haisla Nation Council and District of Kitimat on their media sites. The Executive Summary identifies key points:

- * The Plan establishes vision, goals, strategies and actions for the facility for the next ten years.
- * The initiative will refresh operations and programming, and strengthen capacity as a hub for arts, heritage, and culture.
- * The current building is aging, has size constraints and seismic deficiencies, lacks accessibility and visual transparency, and has inadequate mechanical and electrical systems.
- * The Museum has reached the limits of what can be achieved in the current building.
- * Even with significant investment, the current building will not overcome its space limitations.
- * Through consultation, positive comments about the renewal and the meaningful inclusion of the Haisla have been heard.
- * The rate of cultural change and the high cost of construction indicate that a museum must be multi-purpose, reflective, and responsive to changing conditions.
- * There is opportunity to become a unique high profile destination tied to the larger tourism opportunities of Northern BC.
- * A shared facility of 20,000 square feet would provide new opportunities for storylines, collections, and programming.
- * Eleven implementation steps are outlined for a renewed facility.

If you have not had a chance to read and comment, please do so. We welcome all your comments, questions and concerns at kitimatmuseum.ca

The next step is to hire our strategic plan consultant to work on the feasibility study. The 150 Time Immemorial Fund Program, Heritage BC will provide funding.

The \$30-million program "aims to advance reconciliation and learning; promote a diverse and inclusive society including honouring underrepresented and marginalized communities in BC history (Indigenous people, black people, and people of color (IBPOC), members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, people with disabilities, and women), and support resiliency into the next 150 years."

The funding stream, Community & Heritage Planning Projects, focuses on communities working together to preserve local heritage values. Up to \$40,000 will be made available to projects including feasibility studies that expand collective heritage and get cultural heritage infrastructure projects "shovel-ready." The market will be researched, the vision, space, and location identified, and a financial analysis completed. Design goals, governance and implementation will also be identified.

Exploring a shared museum facility between the Haisla Nation Council and the Kitimat Museum & Archives



HAISLA NATION

On April 27, 2021, the Kitimat Museum & Archives' Strategic Plan 2020-2030 was presented before Haisla Nation Council. Council voted unanimously to explore a shared facility. You will find both the Executive Summary of the Plan and the full Plan, for your review, **online at:**

www.kitimatmuseum.ca



REVIEW AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK

This online feedback is part of the exploration for the next step, the feasibility of a shared facility. Location, facility size, and potential funding sources will be explored next.

For more information call 250-632-8950

Kitimat Heritage—Kitimat Citizen Arv Sestrap

Arv Sestrap was the District Rep for the Canada Life Assurance Company in the 1950s, but he was most noteworthy as Kitimat's outdoorsman—registered professional hunting/fishing guide and outfitter with a marine charter on the motor vessel *Sharjan*, with a floating lodge at Hawkesbury Island on the Douglas Channel.

Past Kitimat resident Ted Invictus requested to view four images of Arv Sestrap in the Museum's archives. Ted remembers Mr. and Mrs. Sestrap well and shared his memories for this newsletter. He writes:

"The set up—A wee lad of 15 is recommended by the Principal of Mount Elizabeth High School to go over to Partridge Street and meet Mrs. Sestrap who wanted [the house] back steps painted. With nary a jingle in my jeans, I was that kid. That's how I met her husband Arv who then invited me down to a place where, when the tide was out, we could scrape barnacles off and paint from boot top to keel [his boat] before the incoming tide. Next was towing the barge with hotel down to Hawkesbury for the season. Mostly salmon. Some killer halibut. Dungeness for twenty meant me pulling traps, high grading the males, and cleaning/gutting the salmon into a hole into the ocean. Learning how to start the generator when I had neither mass nor muscle, in one season found me no longer building up a sweat should I fail again and the old man had to come and assist. He knew what he was doing. Memories of his fierce support when in his absence, a guest took double the allowed salmon. The guest went home with none. No tip for me that week, but happy to live the life of caring. The silence when the generator was off I still seek to this day. In between guests, rising and falling with the tide, belly full of Mrs. Sestrap's Dungeness souffle left, so in her absence, I would not go hungry. Some 15 years later paddling my canoe from Juneau to Vancouver I stopped in at Hawkesbury Island but no evidence of Arv's operation remained."

The Museum has known of Arv Sestrap for many years, but Ted's request provided an opportunity to share. The most unique guiding opportunity for Arv was being photographed with Prime Minister John Diefenbaker who was assisted—bait and tackle—by Arv in catching a fish on the Kitimat River during Diefenbaker's visit to Kitimat in 1959.

He was an avid salesman on the beauty of BC and the Northwest region, and went on a California tour with his sports fishing and tourism slides and soundtrack for "World's Most Beautiful Scenery." Arv also made the

films, "Beautiful British Columbia" and "The Source of a River." He was President of the Rotary Club of Kitimat in 1965. Before arriving here, Arv worked in aviation and prospected in the Arctic.



(above) Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and Arv Sestrap, casting on the Kitimat River, 1959. Northern Sentinel Collection KMA No. 982.90.1.14



Arv Sestrap (right) unloads the catch from a fishing trip, Sharjan Marine Charter. Max Patzelt Collection KMA No. 1998.1.8469



Arv cleaning fish, Jean Lunny Collection KMA No. 2018.2.190

Recent Acquisitions

Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections

The last quarter of 2021 was quite busy with three interesting donations received. In past newsletters we have reported on the large, significant donation made by Lyle Wilson to the Museum. Lyle visited us this fall and brought in several new pieces to add to that donation. They include:

- Eagle - Acrylic on red cedar, maple frame, 14.5 x 14", 1995
- Silver Pendant/pin - Spindle Whorl, open edition cast
- Silver pin - Loon - casting line commissioned by UBC Dept. of Ophthalmology
- Silver pendant - raven - re-graved and textured
- The Trapped Salmon - glass and aluminum
- Haisla Dalinix W. Gilwa, framed pencil on BFK Rives Paper
- Orca & Frog - Marine Ivory
- JUHQWIN GILWA WAWES (Eulachon Canoe Mountain) - mixed gold, engraved pendant



The Trapped Salmon, Lyle Wilson
KMA No. 2021.45

Former Kitimat resident Bob Guy, now of Thunder Bay, donated his uncle's Kitimat Works Sports Association 'D' Shift Sports Club jacket. Robert Vogel came to Kitimat



Green "D" Shift KWSA jacket owned by Robert Vogel, ca. 1960s. Donor Bob Guy. KMA No. 2021.50

around 1960 to work at Alcan as a millwright apprentice. He played commercial league softball pre-KWSA (Kitimat Works Sports Association). He left Kitimat and moved to Prince George to work at the Northwood pulp mill.

KWSA was created to address the recreational needs

of Alcan employees. In 1956, the fledgling association convinced Alcan's management that lunchtime recreational activities were a top priority for employees.

As a result, the company was persuaded to provide such lunchroom amenities as checkerboards, cribbage boards, and reading racks. This branched out to include individual teams that were formed from the different potline shifts and work areas. The teams participated in sports such as soccer, softball, hockey, lacrosse, and bowling. Fishing, golf and curling tournaments were organized and Christmas parties were planned. By the 1980s the association had become an umbrella organization that provided funds, encouragement, and support to special interest clubs. Its representatives were the leaders of these clubs, all of which were expected to have at least 75 percent Alcan membership in order to qualify for KWSA funds which were provided by the Aluminum Company of Canada Ltd.

One of my 'wished for' artifacts, a piece of slag (also called a spill), was purchased by the Museum in 2021. Slag was formed when molds would get plugged; the aluminum dripped and hardened. These sculptures were taken home by workers and repurposed as lamps and other decorative items, and given as retirement gifts or kept as mementoes.

The Museum would like to have a detailed "how to."

So far staff know about the wire on the float in casting, that sculptures were formed suspended vertically from the dip tube, and that creating them could be dangerous. If you know, please consider writing us a full description on how these early sculptures were created.

To reach out with more information you can contact the Museum at 250-632-8950 or email info@kitimatmuseum.ca



Slag sculpture, KMA No. 2021.48

Additional Acquisition & Commission

Artist Sam Shaw has sold a number of pieces at the Museum in the last few years. Before Christmas he brought in a carved yellow cedar canoe with a design of a double-finned Orca and Wolf, one with abalone, red cedar paddles and poles included. The Museum has now acquired this special Haisla design carved piece for its collection. The canoe will be installed in the contemporary artist's case in the Upstairs Gallery, Haisla Heritage Collection.

Artist Burton Amos is now completing a commission for the Museum—Frog Mother, paint on paper, which blends Haisla bentwood box form line and button blanket designs.



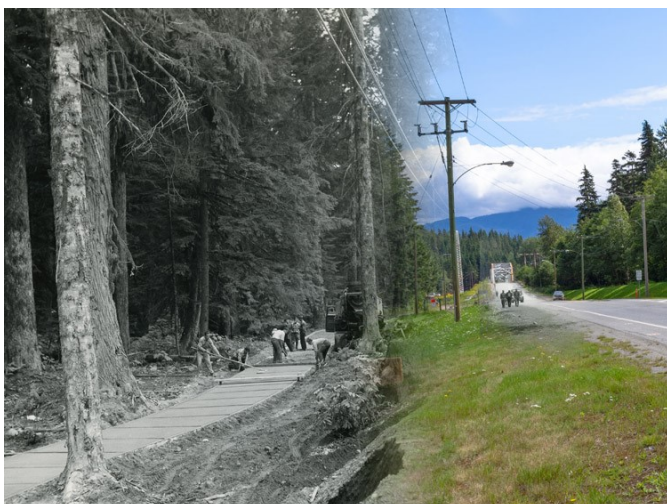
The Museum is pleased to accept both unique artistic Haisla design art pieces into its collection.

Kitimat Featured On This Spot in Canada

Kitimat Museum & Archives has partnered with On This Spot to develop three walking tours examining the town's intriguing history as a planned community. There are over 50 fantastic "then and now" photo sets to complement the history.

Discover Kitimat's history with the On This Spot app!
<https://www.onthisspot.ca/cities/kitimat>

Download the app onto your phone and enjoy. You can take a walk around Nechako Centre or City Centre, or take the driving tour along Haisla Boulevard and down to Hospital Beach. Enjoy the historic "then and now" images such as this one (above), that give glimpses of community construction and activities in the 1950s, and what On This Spot looks like today.



Spring Break Programs are back! Registration opens February 28th!



Register for 1 - or more!
Ages 3-5: 10:00 to 11:30am
Ages 6-9: 1:30 to 3:00pm

Spring Break Cultural Arts & Crafts 2022

| Month | Date | Theme | Activities |
|-------|------|---------------|--|
| March | 21 | Africa | African Giraffe (3-5) am Mini Mad Things (6-9) pm |
| | 22 | Australia | Koalas (3-5) am Boomerangs (6-9) pm |
| | 23 | Egypt | Pyramid Art (3-5) am Hamsa Amulet (6-9) pm |
| | 24 | Peace Day | Peace Hands Wreath (3-5) am and (6-9) pm |
| | 25 | Brazil | Tucans (3-5) am Carnival Masks (6-9) pm |
| March | 28 | Japan | Koinobori Fish (3-5) am Cherry Tree Painting (6-9) pm |
| | 29 | Latin America | Sombreros (3-5) am Worry Dolls (6-9) pm |
| | 30 | First Nations | Bentwood Box (3-5) am and (6-9) pm |
| | 31 | China | Chinese Dragon (3-5) am New Year Drum (6-9) pm |
| | 01 | Finland | Paper Weaving (3-5) am Stick Weaving (6-9) pm |

COVID: As per the BC PHO
Masks are required
293 City Centre, Ph: 250-632-8950
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Register at the Kitimat Museum & Archives
Phone-in registration with credit card only
Each program is \$7.00 (\$5.95 with a Family Membership)