

**293 City Centre  
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6  
Ph: 250-632-8950**

**Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm  
Closed Sundays and Holidays**

## Spring—Summer 2022

### Museum Feasibility Study Begins for a Shared Future Space

*“A shared facility of 20,000 square feet would provide new opportunities for storylines, collections, and programming.” Strategic Plan 2020-2030*

*“A shared facility would benefit both the Museum and the Haisla Nation—we need a larger space and the Haisla Nation would have a space for bringing cultural belongings back to its Territory.” Louise Avery, 2022*

In the Strategic Plan 2020-2030, eleven implementation steps are outlined for a renewed facility. The Museum is now at Stage 2, undertaking planning including a feasibility study. Funding of 60% has been received from the Heritage BC 150 Time Immemorial Fund Program. The remaining 40% will come from the Museum, District of Kitimat, and Haisla Nation Council.

Senior Heritage Advisor Donald Luxton and his Team (David Jensen and Kathy Curry, Exhibitions and Janet Leduc, Audience Engagement), met with leaders and citizens in two communities the week of May 16. The Team spoke with many including Chief Jasee (Sam Robinson), Elders, Museum Members, Government Staff, and Industry Representatives.

The approach and focus of the museum facility of the future is a shared space and history. Stories will be told from a variety of perspectives—cultural, social, political, environmental, and economic—in both exhibitions and programming, and with artifacts, both tangible and intangible (song, dance, and oral history). Finance, staffing, governance, and maintenance will be shared. The Museum will be renamed, operate independently from government, but be funded by two communities. Location is being considered, but the majority of those asked to date have encouraged a downtown Kitimat location. A new name and vision will need to be created for the facility to begin fresh and unique.

So much of what we could do in the Museum is limited by our current space. The new larger space would have the potential to enlarge on the following stories:

- \* Haisla and Henaksiala cultural heritage, language, and community histories.
- \* Residential school/colonization impact.
- \* Kitimat town history and multiculturalism.
- \* Ocean and forest.
- \* Territorial agreements and land management.
- \* Sustainability of the land, Kitlope Conservancy, Kitimat River, industrial development, and climate change.

All story content would be planned cooperatively. There would be space for archives, collections storage, visual arts shows, and performance. The facility would be equipped with multi-purpose space for programming and gatherings. There is anticipation that the facility would have many cultural activities and events throughout the year. An outdoor gathering space could be included with access to cooking facilities. With a garage on the grounds, the Museum could finally house the Fire One 1956 fire engine and 1954 Jeep, the District's first fire fighting equipment, currently in a bay at the Fire Hall.



Above: David Jensen and Janet Leduc in conversation with Chief Jasee Sam Robinson at his carving shop.



Right: (l to r) Consultants David Jensen, Donald Luxton, Janet Leduc, and Kathy Curry with Museum Director Louise Avery.

## Data and Display—History Access and Visual Arts in 2022

### Digitization Continues

The searchable archival and artifact collections database is now available through the Museum's website and is updated monthly, given new records added and existing records improved and maintained. The database is a living finding aid. Additional records are added to the database each day given current staffing levels.

### Permanent Exhibition Maintenance

Allotting staff hours to permanent exhibition updating and creation has proven challenging. The priority continues to be updating the *City of Tomorrow*



Updated panels newly installed.

and *Settling the Valley* permanent exhibitions on the main floor. Labels will be revised and discoloured photographs replaced. A re-write and production of the three panels for the *Delta King* exhibition is complete and installed. Recently added are two small panels for the Haisla heritage collection—one welcoming visitors to Haisla territory and inviting them to visit the collection upstairs, and the other for the first artifact at the Museum, 1969, a pole carved by Sam Robinson.

### New Permanent Exhibitions

The Museum will honour its first curator Gisela Mendel by dedicating the geology and fossil area after her. The display area will receive panels of geological and paleontological information of 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's intense scrutiny was on the fossils of the region, and most of the collections in the drawer unit are from her collecting activity.

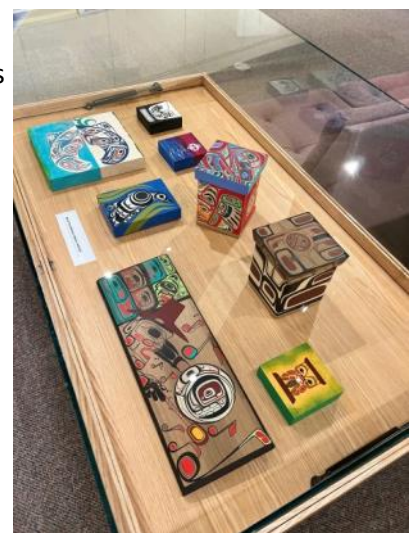
The information contained in the Museum's publication, *Geology of the Northwest Mainland*, by Allen Gottesfeld (1985), will be the primary source for the panel information.

### 2022 Temporary Exhibitions:

Wendy Hagen-Dennill Art, January 14—February 26  
Freda Diesing Art: Student Exhibition, March 4—April 2  
Kelly Marsh, Ice Coast Photography, April 8—May 7  
Katherine Johnsen, INSIGHT ~ MY INSPIRED and PASSIONATE journey with "The Muses" May 13—July 16  
Martha Wertz Art, July 22—September 3  
Community Art & Photography, Sept 9—Oct 15  
Murray & Kathy  
Ouwehand Photography  
Oct 14—Nov 19  
Christmas Gift Store,  
November 25—24

Artist Paul Windsor (Haisla, Heiltsuk) is now displaying some of his artwork in the Museum's new cases, Upstairs Gallery. The Museum plans to purchase two pieces for its permanent collection— *The Trail of the Wildest* and *Heritage Spirit Child, Inner Child Inner Song*. Paul explains that this piece represents a young person singing and drumming the songs alive. Behind him embedded in the Earth are his ancestors. Music notes emanate from his presence as he drums and sings. His drum, the Moon in the Sky, is also woven with a Raven, representing that history and the Legend of the Moon, and the Blackfish, killer whale and fish clan crest design:

representing our Matriarch passage (*June 22, 2022*).



(above) *The Trail of the Wildest* (2018) and (below) *Heritage Spirit Child, Inner Child Inner Song* (2019), cedar plank in the foreground.

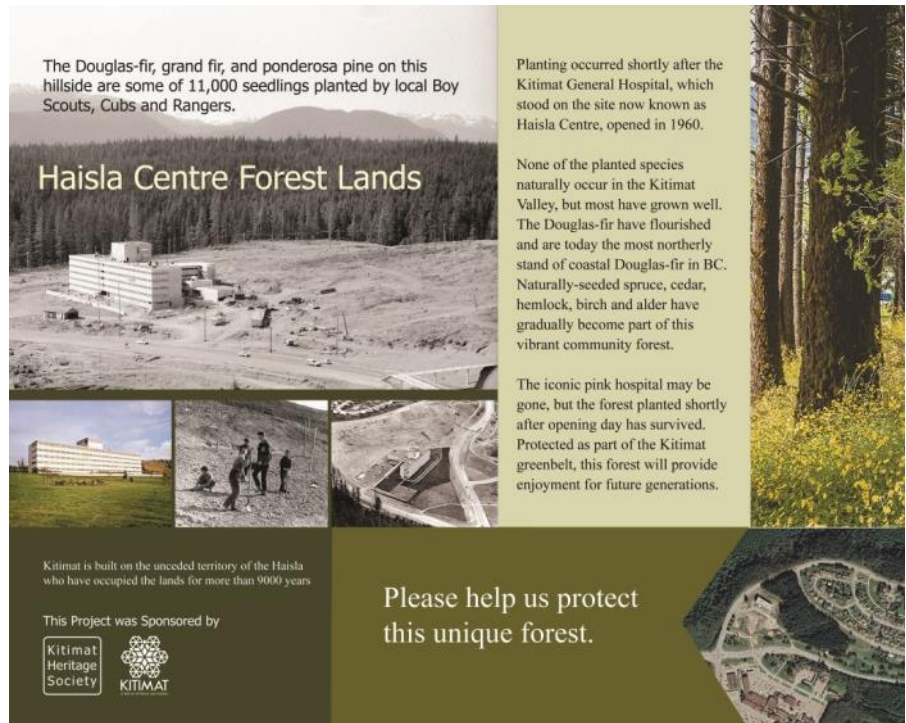


## Kitimat Heritage Group News

Since first proposed to Council, May 6, 2016, the Kitimat Heritage Group has worked with the District of Kitimat to publish two information signs at Haisla Centre that feature the heritage forest on the slope.

Here is the proposed sign to be erected in two sites beside the forest—one at the Overpass entrance, and the other on Lahakas Avenue. Installation date to be determined.

The Kitimat Heritage Group formed in 2007 in response to Kitimat's need for heritage advocacy. Heritage is anything that is agreed to be worth keeping, preserving, and protecting to explain the human activities of residents or their predecessors, establishing sense of place.



The Heritage Group meets three times per year, and undertakes various projects and presentations. Our next meeting is in September 2022. If you are interested in joining the Group or learning more about its heritage activities, please contact Louise Avery at [lavery@kitimatmuseum.ca](mailto:lavery@kitimatmuseum.ca)

Forest image courtesy of Paula Keech, Aerial from Google Earth. Additional images from the Kitimat Archives.



On June 14, 2022, the District of Kitimat held a Girder Launching Ceremony for the Haisla Bridge Replacement Project. Museum Director Louise Avery attended on behalf of the Museum, having assisted District staff with historical information and images (upper left) of the current Haisla Bridge, opened in 1954. In those early days of Kitimat construction, the all-wood bridge (foreground) was replaced by the million dollar steel bridge called "Kitimat River Bridge." In 1977, it was officially renamed "Haisla Bridge." Now the new Haisla Bridge on the upstream side of the current bridge will replace the aging one. The new



bridge will be a girder bridge—no trusses. Given environmental considerations, the steel girders will not be lifted into place, but winched across the Kitimat River. The Museum will have to ask for a rivet or two for its collection.



## History Repeats Itself—Old Bridge, New Bridge

## Recent Acquisitions

*Angela Eastman, Programming & Collections*

We have received several interesting collections in the past few months. David Ingram donated five handmade posters from the 1970s. The Kitimat Women's Centre was advertising Plant Care, Outdoor Gardening, Services, an evening with a Hypnotist and The Goat Cellar Coffee House.

Margaret McNay from Victoria sent a collection of slides taken by her father James McNay. James worked for the Alcan payroll department between 1951 and 1953. Margaret wrote "To fill some of his free time and to show his family where he was and what Kitimat was like, he spent many hours walking in the area with a 35mm Kodak camera."



Amphibian airplane descending to land on the Douglas Channel at Smeltersite. Bunkhouses in the background. Margaret McNay Collection. KMA No. 2022.3.

Catherine Ocsovai donated a collection of items that belonged to her father Ernest Edward Johnson, a former Alcan employee. These items included:

- 1957 facts Booklet
- Aluminum City Platter
- Rent Receipt
- Three postcards - Delta King, Smeltersite and Anderson Creek
- 1956 Plan of Assisted Housing
- Authorization of Check-off (Union Dues)
- CN Rail Freight Advice - Electric Stove
- 40th Anniversary Kitimat-Kemano Alcan plastic bag

Peter Dzuiba brought in a Kitimat Yacht Club patch. The Kitimat Yacht Club was formed in the early 1950s and by 1954 was hosting scheduled races and guest speakers. Members had a dock and clubhouse at Smeltersite, located at the basin of the graving dock by the Alcan Wharf.



Francesca Iacobelli (left) receiving the Gift Agreement form from Angela Eastman, Collections & Programming (right).

Francesca Iacobelli traveled to Kitimat from her home in southern Ontario to bring five photographs of her grandfather Onorio Iacobelli, a Kemano worker 1952-55. Francesca was very interested to see the area that drew her grandfather to work so many years ago.



Onorio Iacobelli on the skip tram landing, Kemano ca. 1952 Francesca Iacobelli Collection KMA No. 2022.9

Francesca wrote: "Onorio Angelo Iacobelli came to Canada for the first time on September 23, 1951, arriving in Halifax, to find work on an immigrant visa. His passport indicated his profession was "Farmer". He first went to Toronto, where so many other immigrants from his part of Italy had settled. Because he went back to Italy in December 1955 and then returned to Canada on May 31, 1956, we believe he was working at Kemano sometime

between 1952 and 1955...We believe that the Kemano camp probably had a photographer who was paid by the workers to take photos of them, given how nice the photos are! Nonno mailed the photos to his family in Italy. We believe Nonno must have been very proud of his work and of these photos!"

Kitimat Yacht Club Patch. Donor: Peter Dzuiba. KMA No. 2022.7



## Recent Acquisitions continued

Former Kitimat residents Pat and Robert (Scotty) Grieve dropped by for a visit and brought with them a Northern Electric Company Ltd. hand-cranked, wall mount telephone used in the Kemano Powerhouse Tunnel. The telephone was given to Scotty by tugboat "Kitmano" skipper Capt. Frank MacDonnell.

Pat and Scotty lived and worked in Kitimat for many years. Scotty arrived in 1955 and was employed by the District of Kitimat as a mechanic and later as Chief Mechanic. He also served as a School Trustee and was active as a member of the Kitimat Gyro Club and the Kitimat Masonic Lodge. Pat worked as an esthetician and was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Association. They

currently make their home in the Okanagan and assist with the planning and implementation of the bi-annual 'Kitimat Reunion.'



Telephone used in the Kemano tunnel. Donor: Pat & Robert Grieve. KMA No. 2022.21

## Museum Board of Directors 2022—2023

Sheila McInnis, Chair  
Arthur Renwick, Vice Chair  
Gerry Leibel, Treasurer  
Janice Gibbons  
Katherine Johnsen  
Marilyn Furlan  
Michelle Cross

At the Annual General Meeting on May 25, 2022, Robin Rowland stepped down from the Museum Board after serving the Museum as Chair and Past Chair for ten years (2011—2016 and 2018—2022).

A sincere and heartfelt thank you Robin, for all your assistance in governance over these many years. Farewell to Janice Gibbons who joined the Board in 2021. She and her family are moving out of the community. In July, there will be a vacancy on the Museum Board. Please consider joining us!

## *Thank you to our Museum in the Classroom Sponsors!*

- 101 Industries—A Division of CIMS
- Dal monte's Wood-Craft Ltd.
- Envision Financial—First West Credit Union
- Knights of Columbus Kitimat Council
- Re/max Kitimat Realty
- Rotary Club of Kitimat
- UNIFOR Local 2301
- Zanron Fabrication & Machine Co. Ltd



St. Anthony's School pastel workshop exploring the world of fish and their habitat.

Thank you to our Museum in the Classroom Sponsors for 2022. The financial assistance we have received has allowed this popular program to continue. 2022 has been very successful with 1,734 children participating in 82 workshops.

## Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Month



Jeffrey Legaic, Haisla Nation, ca. 1975

Martha Wertz

presents

A Tribute to Emily Carr

at the Kitimat Museum & Archives

July 22nd to September 3, 2022



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293 City Centre, Kitimat BC  
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Open Mon to Sat: 10 am to 5 pm, closed Sundays

## INSIGHT ~ MY INSPIRED and PASSIONATE journey with "The Muses"

by Katherine Johnsen

Showing until July 16th (EXTENDED)

*Katherine Johnsen: Master Kaizen-Muse  
Creativity Coach, Meaning Maker, Artist, Writer,  
Muse Is In Facilitator, Fine Arts Specialist*

Johnsen writes, "For a long time, I surrendered my creative calling and held my creative breath. I was waiting for the gift of time, space and a spark of ignition. My creative dreams both haunted and beckoned me and I would push them away to fill my life with other things. My exploration and connection to "The Nine Modern Day Muses (and a Bodyguard)" by J. Badonsky, initiated and re-vitalized my creative spirit and it soon validate that I was on the right path to living a more creative life."



**Extended to July 16th!**