



Kitimat Museum & Archives

**293 City Centre
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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**

Spring 2023

Museum News

Winter Newsletter

The winter got away on us! Our apologies. The Winter 2022-2023 newsletter was delayed due to holidays and retirement, causing a significant reduction in staffing. Instead, we offer the next Museum Post—Spring 2023.

Thank You—we will miss you!

On March 9, Kitimat Heritage Group members, District of Kitimat councillors and staff gathered at the Museum to



say farewell to friends Walter and Susan Thorne. The Thornes are long-time Kitimat residents who moved on March 14 to Vancouver Island. Retired teachers—for many years teaching at Roy Wilcox School—Susan and Walter are also founding members of the Kitimat Valley Naturalists. Walter chaired the Museum Board of Directors 2002—2006, assisted with the installation of two natural history displays of birds and animals, and was founding member of the Kitimat Heritage Group. He also wrote a column, *It's Our Heritage* for the Kitimat Northern Sentinel and published his writings with co-author Dirk Mendel in four *Kitimat Chronicles* books, still selling in the Museum Gift Shop.



Walter is deeply connected to history and historical research, and continues to champion knowing the past. He and Susan have also given their time to advocate for the environment through the Kitimat Valley Naturalists over many years. Susan continues as President of the organization.

Kitimat has benefited greatly from the Thorne's community work. Thank you and we will miss you!

Feasibility Study

The Study for a shared Haisla/Kitimat Museum facility will soon be available! The consulting team led by Senior Heritage Advisor Donald Luxton has completed a first draft. Once it is reviewed by Museum staff, the Study will be published on the Museum website and shared with CEDI. The Community Economic Development Initiative partnership between Haisla Nation Council and the District of Kitimat Council hopes to move forward soon with the exploration of a shared museum facility for Kitimat. Here are some next steps:

- Publish the Study and hold presentations on the results.



- Decide on the site. Lot 14 (District land) and Haisla Centre (Haisla land) are under consideration.
- Identify the Steering Committee. This Committee could be the Sub-Committee with CEDI or a separate entity.
- Create the Master Plan. Find funding to create architectural and engineering plans and a business plan.
- Identify the financial commitment from two governments to provide both capital and operational funding. This initial funding commitment will leverage funds from the private and public sector.
- Name the new shared facility as a new entity. Governance is a 50/50 split between two communities.
- Write and share foundational documents such as a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual respect and cultural safety.

Angela Retires After 29 Years!



The passage of time for Museum staff has been quick and here we are, saying goodbye to our Collections & Programming Manager Angela Eastman. As the longest serving employee ever at 29 years, Angela began working for the Museum in 1993 under the direction of Curator Montserrat Gonzalez and continued with Louise Avery in 1996.



Louise and Angela began putting in place a computerized collections management system. The 286 computer was replaced by four



networked computers and a database to keep track of all the Museum's artifact and archival holdings.

Existing programming such as Museum in the Classroom Art Workshops, in place in the 1990s, became annual Museum offerings to

elementary and home schools. More annual programming was created including the Spring Break programs, Museum Explorer's Programs, and the Museum Kids' Summer of Adventure. All continue to this day.

Although we miss our co-worker and friend, she will be with us for birthday lunches and some contract work. For Spring Break Angela led one week of multicultural programs and will be available to assist with the delivery of Museum Explorer's programs. She also has agreed to be involved with the Steering Committee for a shared Haisla/Kitimat museum facility.

Kitimat Turns 70!

On Friday, March 31, the town of Kitimat turns 70 and we have lots of history to share. The District of Kitimat will be hosting a number of activities during the year including a pop-up display on Friday, March 31, 2023, 12 noon—4 p.m. at City Centre Mall.

Come by to view the Museum's slide show, see some municipal and Haisla artifacts including the mayor's Chain of Office, and enjoy some refreshments provided by the District of Kitimat.

The slide show features a number of activities and events for Kitimat and Kitimaat Village including sports, performance, culture, Delta King Days, Haisla events, Elders' Christmas Party, and parades. The display will identify where to view the origin story of the Haisla Nation.



Retrace the steps of the very first Haisla in this telling of the Nation's origin. Link: <https://haisla.ca/haisla-origin/>

The 70th Anniversary acknowledges that Kitimat is on the unceded, ancestral Territory of the Haisla Nation.

Canadian Museum Policy

The Department of Canadian Heritage wants to know what Canadians think. While consultation continues with heritage stakeholders, the federal government also wants to capture Canadians' views and expectations on current and emerging priorities in the heritage sector through an online survey.

Learn more and take the survey here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/renewal-museum-policy.html>

Recent Acquisitions

Holly Peterson, Collections & Programming



This March, the Kitimat Museum & Archives welcomed Holly Peterson to our team as the new Manager of Collections & Programming, succeeding Angela Eastman. Holly is originally from Alberta, but has spent the last three years as the Assistant Curator at the Bulkley Valley Museum in Smithers, BC. She studied History at

the University of Calgary, then took a year-long course in Museum Studies at Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario. She has worked at multiple different heritage institutions across three provinces, and is excited to be starting a new position in Kitimat.

We have added quite a few items to our collections since last fall. Over 80 photographs of Kitimat and Kemano in the 1950s-1970s were donated by James Stewart, Meg Walker, and Pete Dziuba. Meg's grandparents, Rev. John and Marjorie Nute, lived in Kitimat in summer 1977, when Reverend Nute served as pastor of the Kitimat Presbyterian Church.



Kitimat Pennant. KMA No. 2022.36

From Mike Phillips comes a Kitimat pennant originally purchased by his father Walter James Phillips, Chief Engineer on board the steamship *Princess Norah*, in the 1950s. This vessel, later known as the *Queen of the North* and *Canadian Prince*, sailed to many communities along the B.C. and Alaska coasts (including Kitimat) between 1929 and 1964. The triangular, dark blue pennant reads "Kitimat" in cursive writing and is decorated with a picture of a moose feeding in a swamp.

Two commemorative plaques have recently been added to our collection. In September we received one from Lucy Borges celebrating the Kitimat Hospice's 20-year anniversary in 2012. More recently, Jo Ann Hildebrandt donated a plaque with the names of all Preceptor

Gamma Epsilon Girls of the Year from 1983 to 2002. Preceptor Gamma Epsilon, a local chapter of the international sorority Beta Sigma Phi, annually selected a Kitimat girl or woman to honor for her contributions to the community. The plaque is made of dark brown wood cut into a roughly heart-like shape and is adorned with yellow roses painted by 3-time winner Margaret Kelly in the 'tole painting' style (traditional folk art of decorative painting on wood or tin).



Preceptor Gamma Epsilon Commemorative plaque. KMA No. 2023.6

An equally eye-catching set of candlesticks and an ashtray stand (right) were donated by Cheryl Groves. These items were handcrafted by Norm Hansen, a millwright from Kemano, using aluminum, wood, and cylindrical rock core samples from the surrounding mountains.



Ashtray holder and candlesticks made by Norm Hansen. KMA No. 2022.34.1-2

Mike Avery brought in a unique assortment of items, including a watch made to commemorate the recent modernization of Rio Tinto Alcan, a photograph of what may be the first Farwest bus to serve Kitimat, and a speaker and microphone set owned by the Kitimat Judo Club around the 1950s or 60s.



Speaker and microphone used by the Kitimat Judo Club. KMA No. 2023.2.1a-b

Collections & Programming continued

Many people in Kitimat must recall Lilo's Tuck Shop, a corner store at Nechako Centre which catered largely to children and teens. When the shop closed its doors in 1990 after 33 years of business, a group of local young men created a hand-painted sign to proprietor Lilo Landsberg, a special parting gift. It was signed by many of those who had frequented the Tuck Shop throughout their youth. A heartfelt and personal piece of Kitimat history, this sign was at the dump when it was discovered and gifted to the Museum by Al and Rena Hummel. Thanks to you both!



Lilo's Tuck Shop sign. KMA No. 2023.5.1

Finally, documents from the Kitimat Valley Naturalists Club were donated by Susan and Walter Thorne, long-time members of the Naturalists and contributors to the Museum. Their donation includes studies and reports used by the Naturalists for reference, as well as materials actually produced by the club, such as meeting minutes, member lists, and correspondence from the late 90s. The Thornes have recently moved away from Kitimat and will be greatly missed by the community.

The Kitimat Museum & Archives Presents

Dappled Sunshine on My Soul:
How I Learned to Capture my Energy in Resin
By Gavin Byrne

Showing April 6th to May 6th, 2023
in the Upstairs Gallery

ABOUT THE SHOW
This show is a platform to share my energy with others. By encapsulating my energy in each piece, I hope to evoke a feeling in my fellow humans that allows them to see beyond the surface of people. I'm trying to help people understand that as a person with a disability, I am so much more than what you see on the surface.

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The District of Kitimat has partnered with the Kitimat Museum & Archives to celebrate incorporation day with a pop-up museum display in City Centre Mall from noon to 4:00 p.m. on March 31. The Mayor will attend to chat with visitors at noon that day. Hope to see you there!

Some milestone moments in our history



Incorporation, March 31, 1953



Opening of KIR, 1964



Tamitik Sports Complex, 1980



Friendship Pole raising, 2018

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KITIMAT WE'RE TURNING 70

March 31

Celebrate the District's birthday with a pop-up museum display in lower City Centre Mall, with refreshments
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



April 2

Paint the Ice at Tamitik Arena! Bring the family for this free event. No skates required but helmets a must. Concession open and free cupcakes
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



PLUS, FREE DROP-IN AT ALL LEISURE SERVICES FACILITIES FROM MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2

We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work within the unceded territory of the Haisla Nation