



293 City Centre, Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6
Ph: 250-632-8950 | www.kitimatmuseum.ca

The Museum Post

Summer 2023

Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm
Closed Sundays and Holidays
(Summer Hours: June 1 to August 31)

Summer Update—Tending to History

National Indigenous Peoples Day—June 21, 2023

On June 21, 2023, National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada, changes were made to the Museum's main floor display of settlement and Residential School history. Two photographs of Kitamaat Mission staff were changed to images of girls and boys attending the Day School at Kitamaat. A statement has been added to acknowledge the years of trauma and genocide faced by Indigenous People during the Indian Residential Schools years in Canada. It states:

Truths – Trauma, Genocide

The horrors of colonization are still felt today with people mourning culture and language loss. The church and state acted to control the lives of all Indigenous people. Bans on speaking one's language, gathering for a feast, fishing, and land ownership, were meant to erase culture. All Indigenous children had to attend residential school, dismantling families. Many of those who died there were buried in unmarked graves. Disease decimated populations. Cultural belongings were destroyed or confiscated and collected by government and church officials and private collectors.



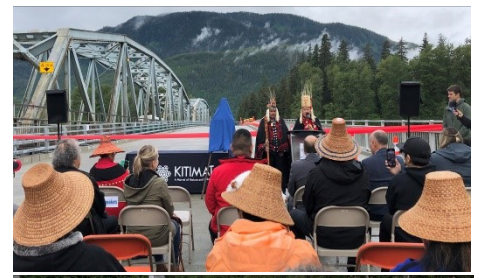
To learn more:

Visit nctr.ca/records/reports
National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation
University of Manitoba
To seek 24-hour support and crisis referral services:
Call 1-866-925-4419
National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

Haisla Bridge Grand Opening

In Kitimat's 70th year, the Haisla Bridge replacement is nearing completion. On June 17, Kitimat Museum & Archives attended the Haisla Bridge Grand Opening. The Haisla Elder blessing was delivered by Elder's Liaison Marilyn Furlan, and Chief Jasee, Sam Robinson and Jake Duncan spoke for the Haisla Nation.

Representatives from all levels of government and industry followed with speeches. Reconciliation was identified as an important occurrence with the creation of this new Bridge, linking Haisla Territory and heritage with the town and industry, a new way forward. The Bridge artwork, eight aluminum panels in the Bridge walkway rail, were unveiled—eight Clans of the Haisla Nation—Salmon, Wolf, Crow, Raven, Eagle, Blackfish, Frog, and Beaver. The eight panels were created by artists Paul Windsor (Haisla/Heiltsuk) and Nathan Wilson (Haisla). Paul Windsor spoke and delivered a message from Nathan Wilson. Haisla Braid Singers drummed and sang several songs.



Courtesy of Steven Stannus

Museum Kids' Summer of Adventure

Museum programming students Victoria Stenson, Donald Dikoue, Ellen Abreu, and Kelly Ferguson are offering up lots of great fun this summer. Many spaces are still available in the 6.5 weeks of programming for ages 3 to 9. In Week 4, Museum Kids will learn about animals around the world, Week 5 is a journey around town to learn about different careers, Week 6 has feathers, weather, fireworks, and rockets, and Week 7 is water fun. With Kitimat's hot weather, those last few days will be a welcome treat!

Follow the adventures on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/summerofadventure/>



Brochures and taffy were handed out at the Canada Day Parade.

Feasibility Study Published

[The Study](#) for a shared Haisla Nation/Kitimat Museum facility is available! The consulting team led by Senior Heritage Advisor Donald Luxton has now completed the document that can now be accessed through www.kitimatmuseum.ca.

Next step—Haisla Nation Executive Council and District of Kitimat staff will meet to create a Memorandum of Understanding. Investment when and how much must be determined by both communities. The Museum Project is a multi-step process that will require time. A decision must be made on the site. Lot 14 (District land) and Haisla Centre (Haisla land) are two of four sites under consideration.

Additionally, CEDI (Community Economic Development Initiative partnership between Haisla Nation Council and the District of Kitimat Council) will be involved in the decision making.

Review the Action Plan on pages 51-52. The Project is now in Stages One—Five. CEDI will figure prominently in the journey forward for the two communities. For Stage Four,

tours will be planned to regional facilities. To begin, Museum Board Vice Chair Arthur Renwick (Haisla Nation member) and Museum Director Louise Avery will visit Haida Gwaii in September 2023 to present the Study at the BC Museums Association Conference. They also plan to explore Saahlinda Naay - the Haida Gwaii Museum.

One Look Back to the Spring...



Pop-up display at City Centre Mall by the District of Kitimat and the Kitimat Museum & Archives featuring artifacts for public viewing on March 31, 2023.

On Friday, March 31, the Town of Kitimat turned 70. The District of Kitimat and Museum partnered to create a pop-up display on Friday, March 31, 2023, 12 noon—4 p.m. at City Centre Mall.

The Museum's slide show was on display as well as some municipal and Haisla artifacts including the mayor's Chain of Office and Lyle Wilson's model house post with Qolun (Beaver) and Ikstookoya (Eagle).



A crowd gathers to view photo highlights from over the years. You can view the slide show on the KMA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es9eiW5B3Rc>

Our new acquisitions since March include an array of merchandise and memorabilia related to local places, businesses, and organizations. If you visited the Museum during Anna Cullen’s recent art show (May 12th-June 10th), you may have seen some of these items on display in our New Acquisitions case upstairs:

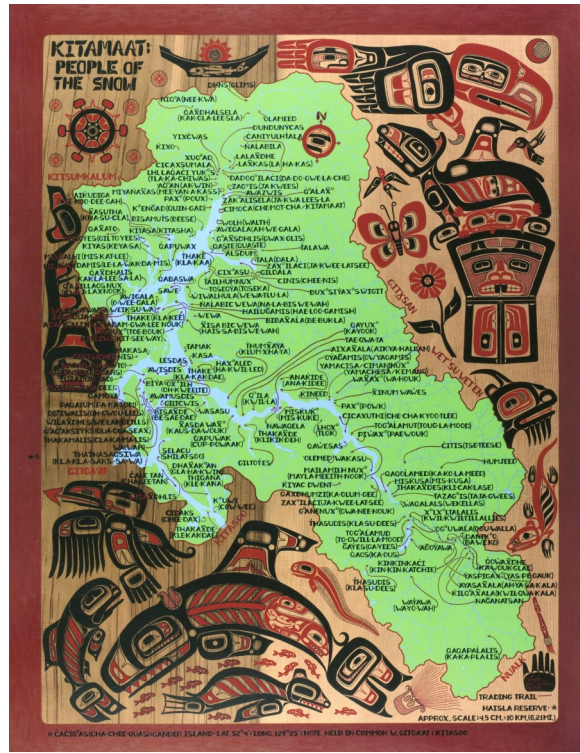
- A Kitimat-themed tea set decorated with images of the Alcan smelter and the *Delta King* riverboat.
- A Rio Tinto corkscrew and Covid-19 face mask.
- A bag advertising the defunct regional airline Hawkair.
- A pin from the Ol’ Keg Pub (now Chilly & Dancer’s).
- A patch for Farwest Bus Lines, bearing the phrase “Kla-How-Ya,” or “hello,” in Chinook jargon (a pidgin language developed by West Coast First Nations and European traders in the 19th century).
- A patch for the Aluminum Workers Council, a short-lived trade union representing Alcan workers in Kitimat from 1954 to 1956.



L-R: Farwest Bus Lines badge (KMA No. 2023.11.8), postcards for Kitimat and Kitlope (KMA No. 2023.11.9-11), Aluminum Workers Council patch (KMA No. 2023.21.1).

George Stokes from Smithers brought in three colour slides taken by his father John, a Federal Fisheries employee who visited Kitimat by float plane in 1956. These pictures give us a glimpse of familiar locations as they looked from a bird’s eye view, nearly 70 years ago. Two of them can be seen at right. The left-hand photo shows Nechako Centre and Oriole/Osprey Streets in the foreground, looking across Kingfisher Ave to Gyrfalcon Ave and beyond. The right shows neighborhoods along Nalabila Blvd., including Wren, Teal, Swallow, Starling, Swan, and Mallard Streets.

Left: KMA No. 2023.12.1-2. Photos have been cropped and enhanced to improve colour and clarity.



“The Soul of the Traditional Haisla,” Lyle Wilson, acrylic on cedar, 2011.

Lyle Wilson’s stunning hand-painted cedar map of the Douglas Channel (above) will be on display beside the Haisla heritage collection, on loan from Haisla Nation Council. Entitled “The Soul of the Traditional Haisla,” it includes around 150 Haisla place names from across the traditional territory. In Lyle’s own words, “the Northwest Coast art style has its roots in local environments. This painting draws on memories of people, places, and events that I experienced in different parts of Haisla traditional territory, and includes history, politics, language, and tradition in its map format.” (*Paint: The Painted Works of Lyle Wilson*, 2012). Unfortunately, due to limited space, the map is currently not on display, but it will be hung in our upstairs gallery once our Quilting exhibit ends in late July.



History Resource

On June 1st, the 1931 Canadian Census became publicly available for viewing online. Federal censuses have been held every 10 years since 1871 and every 5 years after 1956. Basic statistical data, such as the populations of towns and cities, is published within 2 years of the census-taking, though the full, detailed results are withheld for 92 years due to privacy reasons. This information is of great value to historians, researchers, and genealogists, and provides an intimate glimpse back in time to the Canadians of yesterday. It also reflects the prejudices and limitations that have shaped, and continue to shape, our society.

The 1931 census lists 434 people living in Sub-Districts 31 and 59, comprising the Douglas Channel and nearby coastline. The majority of the population—327 people, mostly Haisla—lived at Kitimaat Village. The rest were scattered throughout logging camps and tiny settlements up and down the Channel, with only 18 at 'Kitimat' itself, then a mere handful of farms. The population was 70-75% Indigenous.

The Census is not yet searchable by name, but can be browsed page-by-page at Library and Archives Canada's website: <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index1931>. To find Kitimat/Kitamaat Village, select "British Columbia" under Province, "Skeena" under District, and "Unorganized Territory, No. 31" for Kitimat/Douglas Channel or "Indian Reserves, No. 59" for Kitamaat, under Sub-District.

Upcoming Event

**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, July 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Gallery**

Come meet some of the artists and enjoy refreshments. "Made by Hand," a community exhibition will shine a spotlight on the creativity and skill of Kitimat-area artisans. The pieces on display were all handcrafted by locals and took a significant amount of time and technical expertise to create.

The show will run from July 28th to September 2, 2023, on the second floor of the Museum. The Upstairs Gallery is wheelchair-accessible. For more information visit www.kitimatmuseum.ca

A diverse array of mediums, from painting to woodcarving, glassworking to cedar weaving, are represented. Come out and see for yourself what human hands can make with the right amount of time, knowledge, and ingenuity!

Now Showing



The Kitimat Museum & Archives Presents
2023 Quilt Show and Sale By the Kitimat Quilters Guild
June 16 to July 22
Come and view beautiful quilts made by members of the Kitimat quilting community

WIN one of 3 Prizes!
Tickets: 3 for \$5.00
Purchase at the Kitimat Museum & Archives (cash only). Proceeds fund making quilts for community needs.

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Raffle Tickets are still available! 3 for \$5.00



"Made by Hand - a community exhibit showcasing works of art designed and created with skill and artisanal spirit"

THE KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PRESENTS
A COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

Made by Hand
SHOWING July 28 - September 2, 2023

Opening Reception Friday, July 28, 7:30 pm in the Gallery
Everyone Welcome



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Admission by Donation - Gallery is Lift Accessible