



293 City Centre, Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6  
Ph: 250-632-8950 | [www.kitimatmuseum.ca](http://www.kitimatmuseum.ca)

# The Museum Post

## Fall 2023

Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm  
Saturday, 12 noon—4 p.m.  
Closed Sundays and Holidays

## From the Director's Desk

### Feasibility Study - Update

The District of Kitimat presentation was made on May 23, and the presentation to the new Haisla Nation Council was made on June 27. Chief Councillor Crystal Smith identified that the HNC Executive would meet with the District of Kitimat. The Study is a multi-step process, and an important first step is the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments. It could include defining the working partnership between the two governments, funding, and a timeline. A site must also be identified before further planning work can proceed. A draft is now under review.

The approach and focus of the museum facility of the future is 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 and be funded by two communities.

The Feasibility Study can be viewed at <https://www.kitimatmuseum.ca/shared-facility/>

Museum Board Vice President Arthur Renwick and Museum Director Louise Avery (below) presented the Feasibility Study for a shared museum facility at the BC Museums Association Conference in Haida Gwaii, September 26-29 before an enthusiastic audience. We received many positive comments, and an invitation to present on November 29 in an online webinar to the Association members. A plan will soon be formulated to have a spring tour by both Councils and Staff of regional Indigenous museum facilities. We also toured the Haida Gwaii Museum with its beautiful collection of Haida traditional cultural belongings and a variety of contemporary displays.

The Feasibility Study has opened some doors, increasing opportunities to provide additional services.

Earlier in the year the Museum obtained additional funding from the BC Arts Council - a new initiative providing funds to equity-deserving groups. The Museum provided \$7,500 to the Haisla Nation Culture Camp to hire an additional assistant. Remaining funds will be spent on Haisla Culture and Language Program's archival and educational work. This funding will be given again in 2024.

The Museum has a Haisla-English Dictionary on index cards—hand written and manually-typed *xá'isla'kala* with corresponding English words. The Dictionary is believed to be the work of Elders sharing their words with Museum Curator Gisela Mendel who recorded the words on cards in black ink, circa 1970-1975. Gisela was a non-linguist, but had a great love for recordkeeping, classification, and organization. One of the *xá'isla'kala* speakers providing words may have been teacher, Elder, and knowledge keeper Ivy Maitland. Linguist Hein Vink, Netherlands, gathered words circa 1975-1980 during his time with *xá'isla'kala* speakers. His words and notes are in green ink.

Museum staff will digitize the cards and provide the file to the Culture and Language Program for its ongoing critical language work.



## Braun Family Revisited

In 2017 the Museum assisted with an enquiry from Austria. Was Rudolf Braun a long-lost ancestor, and brother to the researcher's grandmother? Rudolf Braun settled for a time on the shore of Minette Bay, 1912—1939. The Museum was able to put the person in touch with Christel Green, Rudolf's eldest daughter who lived for most of her life in Prince Rupert. After corresponding together, Christel passed away in 2018. The researcher reconnected with the Museum this year, asking to speak directly with one or more Braun descendants. Did we know anyone to contact? The Museum had one contact on Vancouver Island, and both descendants are now in touch via email with one another.

A wonderful outcome to the enquiry was the digitization of selected poetry and a book by Rudolf Braun, donated by the Braun Sisters to the Museum in 1984. The book is titled, *The Hazardous Though Alluring Life of an Alpine Guide*, 1956. Rudolf Braun's poetry is both deeply emotional and introspective. He longed for his past. Here is one of his poems.



## Farewell Marg—Kitimat Will Miss You

After many decades, long-time resident Marg Irvine has left Kitimat for the southern Interior of BC. Her energy as a teacher, followed by her volunteerism with the Kitimat Heritage Group, Retired Teacher's Association, Kitimat Hospice, Heart & Stroke, Kitimat ACT, Girl Guides, and Kitimat Concert Association is noteworthy.

A few of us gathered at the Museum to wish her well. She remains a champion of Kitimat history and a great fundraiser with the annual cake draw for Kitimat's Annual Community Telethon which raised over \$3,000 each year.

Marg always had something on the go! Hopefully she will be able to take a break in her new home.

## Musings at the Bay

When old Sol departs, and calls it a day,  
I sometimes stroll down to the bay;  
There, with the sea splashing at the rill,  
I let my thoughts drift away at will:  
I think of pre-, days of Kitimit-gone,  
The wise, and foolish things I have done,  
I think of childhood days; Mother's hand,  
And of Canada, the new and adopted land:  
I think of friends I left behind,  
And of people here, all so kind;  
Yes, the times I like best are at the bay,  
When I let my thoughts carry me away.

Rudolph Braun

**The Way Forward for a Shared Museum Facility**  
with the Haisla Nation & Kitimat Museum

November 29th  
12:00 - 1:00 pm

BC MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

## BCMA Webinar: Location [Virtual]

**The Way Forward for a Shared Museum Facility with the Haisla Nation & Kitimat Museum & Archives**

**Register Today!** <https://ow.ly/Z9Vv50Q390g>

Kitimat Museum & Archives has completed a Feasibility Study for a new shared museum facility for the Haisla Nation and District of Kitimat. The way forward is taking what has been learned and finding ways and means to create a unique facility that serves the people of the area. Work has already begun in many of the Museum's operations and governance.

Join Arthur Renwick and Louise Avery for this expanded conversation to learn more!

## Collections & Programming

Holly Peterson, Collections & Programming

Welcome back to Collections Corner, where we share some of the new additions to our artifact and archival collections over the past few months.

At the start of August, we received a number of items from Rani Scholz, belonging to her late husband, Wolfgang. Many Kitimatians will remember Wolf, who served as a radio DJ at countless weddings, dances, graduations, and more. Rani kindly gave us a hand-painted sign for Wolf's DJ company, Wolf Werner Services. We also received a photo of Wolf at work, and one of his TDK reels with pre-recorded music.



Wolf Werner Services sign  
(KMA No. 2023.30.1)

More recently, we were visited by Joanna and Charlene Smythe of Prince George, whose father James was the first RCMP officer stationed in Kitimat. He served at the Smeltersite from March 1952 until September 1953. The Smythes showed us two photos of James in uniform, of which we made digital copies, and gave us 18 pictures taken by their father during his time here. These show, among other things, the interior of Kitimat's first police station, the early Kitimat guesthouse, a police patrol vessel at the wharf, Alcan's security guards, the very muddy road between Kitimat and Terrace, and mountain scenery near Kemano. Some of James' uniforms have been donated to the Kitimat RCMP Office and were displayed at the Museum for the month of November.



Above: James Smythe, late 1940s (KMA 2023.37.2) Below: RCMP patrol vessel at Kitimat (KMA 2023.37.7), mountain pass and transmission tower near Kemano (KMA 2023.37.16).



Several hundred Special Olympics photos from the 90s and early 2000s were recently brought in by Angela Eastman on behalf of Ruth Brady. This collection, which has not been fully processed yet due to its size, showcases sports such as bowling and snowshoeing, as well as events like parades and awards ceremonies.

Other recent donations include:

- Pin from the Kitimat Halibut Allocation Task Force, a group which lobbied in 2011 to allocate a larger share of the yearly halibut catch to recreational fishermen (also from Angela Eastman).
- Several photos of Farwest buses and a Canadian Pacific plane at the Terrace airport (Mike Avery).
- Three plastic bags from Erwin Jewellers, a business open in Kitimat from the early 1950s until 2002. (Magda Machula)
- Commemorative plate of the Haisla United Church (Mike Avery)

In addition to receiving new accessions, we have also transferred two items to other institutions where they would be better appreciated. This is a natural and healthy part of managing a Museum's collection, as we have limited space and do not need to hold on to materials that are not relevant to our area. We sent a large photograph of wheelchair-accessible vehicles in Kamloops to the Kamloops Museum and Archives, and school newsletter from September 1940 to Magee Secondary School in Vancouver. Thank you to both those institutions for providing these items with a new home!



## Museum in the Classroom Art Workshops are back for 2024! Attention teachers: book now!

We are happy to announce that our art workshops will return in January. A new art instructor and assistant will join us. We look forward to another year of fun and creative artistic exploration!

## Now Showing—Until Nov. 18

'Coffee and Doodles', a mixed media exhibition of illustrations by Charlotte Philtjens is showing in the Museum until November 18<sup>th</sup>. In this exhibition you will find a collection of whimsical images shared by Charlotte, and while some are created with traditional watercolours, you will also find a variety of charming digital images. Among the exhibition is a table with postcards and books, featuring Illustrations by Charlotte, available to purchase. Stop by and see her work for yourself!



Charlotte Philtjens

*Charlotte's art is directly inspired by her everyday life of homesteading, mothering and living an altogether different lifestyle. Her illustrations and stories inspire her own children with adventures and wonder. She hopes you will see her art through your inner child's eyes and enjoy it as much as she does.*

Find about more about Charlotte online at:

<https://charlottephiltjens.com>

Charlotte will also be one of the vendors at the 2023 Artisan Christmas Gift Store.

The Kitimat Museum & Archives  
PRESENTS

# Coffee and Doodles

Mixed Media Illustrations by Charlotte Philtjens  
OCTOBER 20 to NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Artist Charlotte Philtjens  
[www.charlottephiltjens.com](http://www.charlottephiltjens.com)

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Accessibility-Friendly Building

## Christmas Gift Store Open House!

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5 pm, in the  
Museum Upstairs Gallery

Since 1998, the Museum is the best place to show support for local artisans, and shop local in Kitimat!

*Find handcrafted items such as original art, bath and body products, home décor, jewelry, knitting, quilting, pottery, soaps, stained glass and more!*

After shopping, enter a draw to win a gift basket featuring items from participating vendors to be drawn on December 22, 2023.

The Artisan Christmas Gift store will continue until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Find more information on hours of operation on our website at:

<https://www.kitimatmuseum.ca/christmas-gift-store>

**Note: The Museum will be closed until 5 p.m. on November 24<sup>th</sup> to prepare for this event.**

### ARTISAN CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE

**This the Season to SHOP LOCAL!**

Opening Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.  
and continuing until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Nov 24 to Dec 9:**  
Mon to Fri: 10 am to 4 pm  
Sat: Noon to 4 pm

**Dec 11 to 22:**  
Mon to Fri: 10 am to 5 pm

**Special Hours:**  
Sat. Dec. 16: Noon to 5 p.m.  
Sun. Dec. 17: Noon to 5 p.m.  
Sat. Dec. 23: Noon to 4 p.m.

Art, Candles, Cards, Crochet, Home Decor, Knitting, Pottery, Quilting, Soaps, Stained Glass, and much more!

Featuring over 30 Vendors to Shop From!

Something for everyone on your list!

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