



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

The Museum Post

Fall 2024

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

From the Director's Desk—Priorities for 2025

Collections Work

Three months in 2025 will be freed up in the Upstairs Temporary Gallery to expand the Museum's storage area and work on the Museum's collection. This inventory work is critical collections management and record keeping. Artifacts and records having no documentation will be researched and added to the Museum's collections database, then re-housed safely while maximizing storage. Some materials not fitting the Museum's mandate will be deaccessioned and removed from the collection.



The following exhibition schedule identifies these collections work periods as well as the diverse and interesting visual arts shows planned.

Temporary Exhibitions Planned

Exhibition info can be found online at <https://www.kitimatmuseum.ca/exhibitions>

- Collections Work, January 2 – February 21
- Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art, February 28—April 5
- Yingna Wang Art, April 11—May 10
- Insights, MEMSS Art, May 16—June 14
- Ice Coast Photography, June 20—July 19
- Joseline Light Art, July 25—August 23
- Illana Hamilton Art, August 29—September 19
- Collections Work, September 22—October 20
- Andréa Guldin, Art, October 24—November 22
- Artisan Christmas Gift Store, November 28—December 24

New Permanent Exhibitions

Put on hold the last two years, work will proceed on assessment and maintenance of permanent exhibitions. Images need updating, drawer sliders need assessment and repair, and natural history displays need cleaning, setup, and information review.

In the town history area on the main floor, discoloured images will be replaced. Two history panels recalling transportation on the Alcan Project will be created. Panel work and area planning continues on the Gisela Mendel Geology and Fossil Collection area. In the two existing natural history display areas, panels could be created for woodland wildlife on the main floor and wetland waders on the second floor.



Heritage Walkway Signage Project

In 2008 and anticipating the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, four interpretive signs for the Museum's circle tours on Kitimat's heritage walkways were created by the Museum and District Economic Development. Both are working together once again to replace



these four signs with updates. The signage highlights the historical content of the built environment, 1950s on, and will include new additional information of Haisla Nation Territory, land use, and culture. Economic Development is consulting with the Haisla Nation Council on content. The project will be expanded to include smaller points of interest signs placed along the circle tour sidewalks, for those wanting more history. Heritage BC will fund half of the project through its Heritage Legacy Fund.

Right: Coghlin Park viewpoint, location of the heritage signs.



Fall Activities...

BC Museums Association Conference, September 24 – 27, 2024

Museum Board Vice Chair Arthur Renwick and Louise Avery attended the annual Conference Gathering, this year on Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George. This year's conference featured two days of knowledge exchanges on a variety of topics including Mentorship, Community Relations, Tourism & Marketing, Educational Programs and Delivery, Navigating and Preventing Burnout, Grant Writing & Storytelling, What is AI, Exhibition Development & Design, Building Effective Boards, and Communications. These two days were quite intense with discussion. There were two concurrent sessions on September 25 – "Professionalizing Your Small Museum on a Budget," and "A Carceral State of Mind: Colonial Justice and Freedom Struggles in Canada & the United States." Louise Avery attended the first session and Arthur Renwick the second. On Friday, September 28, Louise participated in an excursion to the Ancient Forest /

Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park.



Tour photo of Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park. Courtesy of Louise Avery

Northern BC Museums Conference

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, Holly Peterson and Louise Avery attended the Northern BC Museums Conference held at Heritage Park Museum in Terrace. Holly presented on the Facility Assessment the Museum received this summer from two conservators from the Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa. Louise spoke on the Feasibility Study for a shared facility which is currently under review with the District of Kitimat and Haisla Nation Council.

As this is the first annual conference, the attendee group was small. Representatives from Heritage Park Museum, Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site, the Stewart Museum, and the Terrace Historical Society were in attendance. Many great conversations were had about the value of museums and culture.

After the presentations, guests participated in a 'Learning Market' in which each attending organization displayed a small table of their publications, pamphlets, and other material.



Thank you to Curator Quinn Beblow for organizing this event!

The Dance Hall at Heritage Park set up for 2024 Northern BC Museums Conference. Courtesy of Heritage Park Museum.



Collections Corner

As it has only been a few months since our last newsletter was published, we don't have many new items to discuss in Collections Corner. Nonetheless, every one of them is greatly appreciated!

They include:

- Around 4000 digital photographs of the Aluminum City Telethon, taken between 2010 and 2019 by Brian Lennox.
- Various Alcan documents collected by Ralph Reschke: booklets, pamphlets, reports, and a few postcards and photographs.
- Documents and bag from the opening of the new Haisla Bridge and this year's Truth & Reconciliation Dinner and totem pole raising - collected by Museum staff.
- Rio Tinto 70th Anniversary booklet and bag - collected by Museum staff.
- Group photos of Council from 1980 to 2011 - from the District of Kitimat.
- Art catalogue from Lyle Wilson's 2016 exhibit at the Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery in Vancouver, "Haislakala: Spoken from the Heart."
- 2 gold-plated Kiwanis Club pins, from Maria Knight.



Above: a look at some of the panels from B.C.'s Marvellous Mushrooms, on display at the Kitimat Museum & Archives until November 23rd.

B.C.'s Marvellous Mushrooms!

Our latest traveling exhibit, "B.C.'s Marvellous Mushrooms," arrived in Kitimat on September 12th and will be on display until November 23rd. This exhibit, produced by the Royal B.C. Museum, showcases the wonderful diversity and many uses of mushrooms in our province.

To give the exhibit a little local flair, we included framed photographs of mushrooms from our archival collection, including some taken by the Museum's first curator, Gisela Mendel, in the 1970s, as well as some taken by current Museum staff. We also set up a display case with our own mushroom-related content, including a larch polypore (or quinine conk) specimen found at Kemano River many years ago. This odd fungus grows on trees such as spruce, larch, and fir in old-growth forests. Finally, we put together a short pictorial scavenger hunt for young children and two worksheets for older grades.

On the evening of October 24th, the Museum hosted a Zoom chat with Andy McKinnon and Kem Luther, authors of the handbook *Mushrooms of British Columbia* (2021), on which this exhibit is based. The talk was held at the Kitimat Public Library, with a visit to the Museum afterwards to view the exhibit. Andy and Kem, who joined us virtually from Metchosin, Vancouver Island, recounted the process of making the book, from narrowing down which of B.C.'s 3000+ mushroom species to include, to having to create some common names for species known only by their scientific names, to selecting anecdotes and trivia to liven up the reader's experience. They also shared many of the excellent photographs that they and others had taken to illustrate the book. Turn-out was high, with 27 people joining us in-person and 4 more virtually (not including Museum and Library staff). Thank you to Kem and Andy, to Peter Ponter of the Kitimat Valley Naturalists, and to Sam and Shawn from the Library for helping this happen!

Museum in the Classroom & Explorers

Our **Museum in the Classroom** art workshops and **Museum Explorers** educational programs have returned for another year of learning and fun!

Museum in the Classroom art sessions will be held in local schools from January to March 2025. Booking forms for teachers will be available by mid-November.

Museum Explorers kits - Woodland Wildlife, Fossils & Geology, and Boys & Girls of the Kitimat Valley - are available to book at any time between now and the end of the year.



Upcoming Gallery Closure

The temporary display area of our Upstairs Gallery will be closed to the public from January 1st to February 28nd and September 22nd to October 20th in the new year so staff can carry out some much-needed collections rearrangement and reassessment. This was one of the strongest recommendations of the Facility Assessment done by the Canadian Conservation Institute last summer. It will help ensure that our collection is stored safely and has room to grow.

The upstairs permanent exhibits - our Haisla Heritage Gallery, wetland display, and geology & fossil cabinet - will remain fully accessible to the public.

We will also be able to bring eight local and regional art shows (as shown on page 1) to the public throughout 2025, despite the temporary gallery closures.

Thank you for your patience!

Christmas Gift Store Open House!

November 29th, 2024, 5-8 p.m., in the Museum Upstairs Gallery

Ever since our first Christmas Gift Store in 1998, the Kitimat Museum has been the best place to shop local during the holidays!

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

The Store will remain open until December 24th, 2024. Find more information on hours of operation on our website at: <https://www.kitimatmuseum.ca/2024-artisan-christmas-gift-store/>

Please remember to bring your own reusable bags!

Note: The Museum will be closed until 5 p.m. on November 29th in order to prepare for this event.

KITIMAT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

2024 Artisan Christmas Gift Store

Opening November 29th at 5 pm
And continuing to December 24th

This Christmas Shop Local

Shop from a variety of handcrafted items:
Art . Candles . Cards .
Ceramics . Glass . Home
Decor . Jewelry . Knitting .
Quilting, Soaps, and More!

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Ph: 250.632.8950
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Second-floor accessibility via lift

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