

CONNECTIONS

Winter 2011 - 2012



A wintery scene on the Grantham's Landing wharf. A close-up of a man standing beside his horse which is harnessed to a sled loaded with hay bales. Two children are sitting on the hay. Heavy snowfall lies on the wharf. SCMA Photo # 3620

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THE SUNSHINE COAST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES WILL BE CLOSED FROM DEC 18TH, 2011, THROUGH TO JAN 3RD 2012.

AT THIS TIME WE WISH OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF A VERY JOYFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON

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Report From the Board of Directors

Challenge and Opportunity

Mike Clement

The current global economic situation has had a trickled down effect to the point where it is beginning to impact us. Local government, tax payers and donors (quite rightly) have reined in and re-examined all aspects of their spending affecting our ability to find the increases in funding that we hoped for to continue expanding our programming and services. We are having to work harder for the funding that we receive. We are re-working old, and inventing new and innovative fundraising programs.

While progress is being made to obtain permanent and appropriate storage, those items that we currently have in storage will continue to suffer with temperature and humidity issues and the problems associated with those conditions until a solution is found. Your board is working with partners to raise funds for a permanent solution and are looking at perhaps spending some of our building reserves to improve the existing space we have until sufficient capital is raised for long term storage.

An exhibit of our collection of Squamish Nation stone artifacts entitled “**Pieces of the Past**” opened in October. Our staff worked very hard to initiate the planning process that eventually led to the collaborative efforts of the SCM&A and the Squamish Band to complete this project. We are very grateful for the co-operation, professional assistance and funding received from the Squamish Nation, Elders, Chief and Council, the Squamish Cultural Coordinators and their partners for assisting our staff to put the display and opening ceremonies together.

The results of the various elections around the coast are just coming in as we write this article. It would appear that there are changes coming in some communities and the return of incumbents in others. We have had a great deal of support from all corners of local government over the past few years. To those who will not be returned to office for one reason or another we would like to sincerely thank them for their hard work (particularly at SCR D budget discussions) in providing us with a sustainable funding formula. We look forward to continuing dialog with those to whom the torch has been passed.

For the New Year, initially we will concentrate on storage issues while we look at creating new exhibits, improving in our existing exhibits and the continued expansion of educational programs and access to our material through web based programming. We also have a commitment to assist our partners in Egmont, Sechelt and Pender Harbour to achieve realistic goals for improvements to heritage facilities or programming in their communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working staff and volunteers for the work they do both on and off the clock in supporting heritage/museum/archival/educational issues in our various communities. Without their efforts those lessons, stories and secrets of the past would be hidden away forever and leaving us all to wonder just who we are, where we came from and how we move forward. Learning the lessons of the past can help us build on past successes or avoid repeating past disasters.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.



From the Manager's Desk

Celebrating the Success of Kwekwwinmut / Pieces of the Past

Kimiko Hawkes

It's important that we recognize our progress and take pride in our accomplishments. I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of our newly installed exhibit, *Pieces of the Past: Squamish Stone Artifacts from Ch'kw'elhp and Schen'k*.

The idea came to me in 2008, when I first started working here as the Manager/Curator. I saw great potential in the collection of First Nation artifacts but also recognized that we needed input from the source communities in order to properly interpret and display them. Thus began a long process of first getting an Aboriginal Material Collections Policy in place, meeting with community representatives to create partnerships, researching and developing the database, and building on this knowledge to develop not only an exhibit but also a sustainable relationship of collaboration and co-management.

It required patience and perseverance to see the idea through from start to finish. It took commitment and dedication to accomplish what seemed like the impossible. And for all those involved, it necessitated skilled communication and compromise. Throughout the process, it has been enlightening to collaborate as part of a team working towards a common goal. It's a powerful lesson in today's world: great things happen when people work together!

I want to thank those who made up this team. The Archaeological Society of B.C. and Dr. Rudy Reimer were incredibly generous with their time and expertise. Squamish Councillor Julie Baker and Squamish Education Department Head Deborah Jacobs were key members of the Advisory Committee who worked with the Squamish Elders and Band Council members to ensure the project was a success. Guest Curator Damara Jacobs-Morris was a joy to work with and brought boundless enthusiasm to the project. My colleague Matthew Lovegrove went above and beyond his role as Assistant and pieced together a soundscape for the exhibit that adds a rich layer to the visitor experience. And of course, the support of the Museum's Board of Directors was invaluable.

We couldn't have done it without the volunteers that offered their time and expertise to prepare the museum for the installation. Thanks to Dan Gillis for his ingenious design and construction; to Mike Clement and Ken Goddard for their carpentry efforts; to Ian Thomson, Sue Thompson, Ann Watson and Makiko Kitama for their hours of painting; to John Phare, Michael Hawkes and John Hawkes for all the heavy lifting; to Bill Fletcher, Nina Bell, and Kellie Bonicci for helping out around the Museum; and to Elaine Jackson, Gordon Jackson, Faye Fiedler, Lorraine Goddard, Mike Clement, Sharon Venechuk and Carol Service for helping with the Opening Events.

There were businesses that contributed as well. Thanks go out to Starbucks for their donation of coffee and tea, to Diana Kosiba of Gibsons Florist for her wonderful floral arrangements, to The Brick for their staff discount, to West Coast Log Homes for their donation of a beautiful wooden bench, and to Ken Goddard for his generous discount on his handmade chairs and bench for additional indoor seating.

After many months of preparation, opening the exhibit was such a thrill. This hidden history went from a dark corner on the second floor to center stage of the Museum. The stone artifacts went from being simple tools to being windows into the past that allow us to gain a deeper understanding of Squamish ways of life. The Squamish Chief, dignitaries, and Elders all spoke of no longer being invisible in their own territory, of coming home, and of deep history and connection. It was profoundly moving to be a part of this and was definitely a highlight in both my personal and professional life.

I celebrate this exhibit. I celebrate the process. I celebrate the building of a partnership with the Squamish nation based on co-management and collaboration. I celebrate the Museum's role as a vital part of our community – a place to connect with people, objects, and ideas that have the potential to inspire. Come visit, celebrate with us, and be inspired!

Christmas at Herbert Whitaker's Hotel



Circa 1912-1913 -- Christmas party in Herbert Whitaker's Hotel. The standing man in the centre is Mr. Bennett who worked for Herbert Whitaker. The girl, centre left facing camera, is Edie Morgan (later Mrs. Stanley Delong) who lived in the hotel in 1910 and worked for H. Whitaker in his store and post office in 1917. Photographer unknown.

Photo courtesy Helen Dawe Collection, Sechelt Community Archives.

Before World War I the scattered villages of the Sunshine Coast had few residents especially during the winter. The summer 'casuals' had left for their houses in the city leaving settlers to entertain themselves.

At Christmas the tiny village of Sechelt took on a festive air. Parcels and letters were eagerly anticipated with the arrival of the Union Steamship. Deliveries included holly, narcissi (a favorite Christmas flower) and Japanese oranges at 35 cents a box. The settlers were made up of loggers, prospectors, hotel employees and a teacher who were invited to attend a Christmas concert at the first residential School of the Sechelts. The school's brass band played and the children took part in plays and singing carols. Afterwards the guests would return to their homes using coal oil lamps.

Another tradition was started by Herbert Whitaker, who would issue invitations to the residents to have Christmas dinner at his Sechelt Hotel.

This was indeed a treat because of the elaborate wallpaper and lace curtains inside the dining room. Mr. Whitaker collected beautiful paintings of local scenery and it was rumored that one of the painting that hung on the wall in a gilded frame was the work of a member of the now famous Group of Seven. It was given to Mr. Whitaker as a payment for a hotel bill.

In the dining room stood a decorated tree, from which Santa would hand out presents, candy and nuts. These were purchased by generous loggers of the area. In these early times, memories were made from one or two small gifts. It was more of a time for people coming together that made the season special.

Information for this article was obtained from Helen Dawes Sechelt - Harbour Publishing.

11th Annual Antiques Roadshow

Ian Thomson

The Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives is once again hosting the Antiques Roadshow at the Sunnycrest Mall on Saturday February 25th 2012. Our team of appraisers from Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast will be on hand to tell you what your items are worth.

As well as traditional antiques, the items you bring in could be collectables such as coins, stamps, books, baseball cards or your great aunt's button collection. Unusual pieces could be anything from swords to salt and pepper shakers. Last year we even saw a church pulpit.

This year we are encouraging people to bring in any historical papers, photos, tools, knick-knacks or items that relate to the history of the Sunshine Coast. What do you have sitting on your bookshelf or in a box in your basement or attic?

We have a limit of 3 items per person for each appraiser visit but you can go through the gate as many times as you like. If you can carry it into Sunnycrest Mall we will appraise it for you.

Please join us from 9:30 to 4:00 on February 25, 2012.

Community Storage Project

The Museum Board is working with other Not-for-Profit community stakeholders, under the facilitation of Town of Gibsons Councillor Gerry Tretick, to try and resolve a problem of inadequate storage for these group's physical assets. A proposal is being considered to build a storage facility on Town owned land on Henry Road that would provide good quality storage for the many community groups involved. This project is in its early stages. We will be looking for help in the following areas:

Fund raising
Project management

Building Contracting
Building design

Early estimates on costs are in the range of \$400,000 to build a two story 40 x 80 foot building. Any help or suggestions are gladly accepted. **Contact:** tretick@telus.net or 604 886-0663



How To Become an Exhibit Sponsor

It is not too late to become an exhibit sponsor for the current year May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. Your donation helps to preserve, promote and present the history of the Sunshine Coast.

Bronze Level	\$100	Name in Newsletter
Silver Level	\$200	Name in Newsletter and in-house brochure
Gold Level	\$500	Name in Newsletter, in-house brochure, on website and on display at the Museum.

Your support is greatly appreciated!!

Glimpses of Summer 2011



With this season's stormy weather, it is an interesting contrast to consider a winter storm causing extensive damage to Herbert Whitaker's wharf on the Trail Bay waterfront at Sechelt. The piledriver is on wharf for repairs. White building housed steam donkey to power piledriver.

New Technology & The Heritage Landscape

Matthew Lovegrove

I have got some good news for you. Your Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives is the small museum that other villages and towns across the country dream about. *Come again?* In other communities, stereotypes of the museum are sadly true, but at the SCMA there is an excitement stirring that is helping to redefine our role in the lives of Sunshine Coast residents. I have been working at the museum for a little under a year now as the Curatorial Assistant and I am very excited to be a part of this thriving regional heritage destination.

It is a misconception that history remains hallowed and preserved only in the past; it is in fact alive and plays a vital role in the future that we create. Nowhere is this more evident than at the intersection of history and new technologies.

I am currently working on a project which will allow users to download a heritage walking tour application to their mobile device (Blackberry, iPhone etc.) This tour will guide users through Lower Gibsons and highlight various historic sites and stories throughout their journey. My interest in this type of interpretation is to explore new ways to tell old stories and to help strengthen the users' connection to their surrounding landscape. Dedicated volunteer Gordon Jackson and I are also exploring ways to integrate geocaches along the tour route. Geocaching is a popular hobby that uses global positioning system technology to locate specific locations on the landscape. When the geocacher reaches this location, they will find a small plastic or metal box which contains a token as an award. In our case, the geocache would be located at a spot of historic relevance along the tour route and contain information about the history of that site. Think of it as a treasure hunt with a historic twist!

Keep an eye out for a tentative launch of the digital heritage walking tour in early Summer 2012. I will see you out there on the historic trails.

Newspaper Digitization Project

The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives is proud to announce that we are one of twenty-one successful recipients of the 2011 B.C. History Digitization Program (BCHDP) funding awards. The digitization program, an initiative of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, was launched in 2006. It provides matching funds that help libraries, archives, museums and other organizations digitize unique historical items, including images, print and sound material.

We have received a \$10,000 grant to put towards the creation of a comprehensive, publicly-accessible digital database of newspapers from the Sunshine Coast region. During Phase I, the issues of the Coast News/Sunshine Coast News in most urgent need of preservation (1945-76, 1983-87, and 1989) will be digitized and made available in an easily accessible web-searchable format. The original copies exist within the SCMA, but they are extremely fragile and off-limits to researchers because of their delicate condition. If they are lost, they will be lost forever. This project will permanently protect this important archival treasure in digital form and provide public access to this valuable resource.

The issues to be digitized cover 37 years during a period of tremendous growth of our coastal community. They provide information of outstanding natural, historical, scientific, artistic, archival and informational value to many segments of the Sunshine Coast population. Moreover, by providing easy public access to these archival records, we will encourage researchers to study the area, market the community, and promote tourism using a deep knowledge about the community's unique history and strengths.

We are actively fundraising for this project. If you would like to make a donation towards this very worthwhile endeavor, please contact the Museum.

The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives Society

is a non-profit society registered in the Province of British Columbia. The Museum exists and survives thanks to the generosity of its supporters:



Sunshine Coast Regional District Town of Gibsons District Municipality of Sechelt

**- open throughout the year Tuesday to Saturday -
- from 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. -**

Membership

Under our Constitution and By Laws, the membership year is from May 1st to April 30th. Those members who attend the Annual General Meeting are asked to renew their membership at the door. Those who do not attend occasionally fall into arrears. Mailing individual reminder letters to every member who is in arrears results in high postage costs, and we would rather put that money into improvements within the Museum. So we would greatly appreciate it if all members would renew their membership on schedule.

New members are always welcomed, and our staff will happily accept applications for membership, which will be accepted by the Board of Directors at their next regular meeting, as provided for in our Bylaws. For that reason, new members who apply for membership at the time of the Annual General Meeting, while welcome to attend the meeting, will not be allowed to vote.

As our members now know, a high percentage of our annual funding now comes through the SCR D by means of a tax levy across the Regional District. So we are less dependent upon membership fees to run the Museum, but in order to continue to receive that funding we must demonstrate continued and growing membership, as a sign that we are serving a broad spectrum of the regional population.

If you are uncertain as to the status of your membership, and cannot locate your membership card or the tax deductible receipt issued when you last renewed, you can call the Museum and our staff will be happy to tell you the date to which you are "paid up". They will also be happy to accept your renewal, and a tax deductible receipt will be issued by our treasurer.

Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives Society

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Phone & Fax: 604-886-8232

For Office Use Only

Cash: _____ Cheque #: _____

Receipt #: _____

Card Issued: _____ Posted: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

DONATION

NAME: _____ DATE OF APPLICATION/RENEWAL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

I would like to be a volunteer:

I would like to read my Newsletter online:

My Interests include:

Greeter Program

Research

Fund Raising

Special Projects

Single Membership: \$15/year

Family Membership: \$20/year

*Membership Dues are payable yearly on May 1st
A receipt for amounts over \$10.00 will be issued for Tax Purposes*