



SUNSHINE COAST
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

SPRING 2024



xwesam Roberts Creek Community Association t-shirt (1990?). The artist was Heather Passmore (aged —) who won a contest to have her design on the t-shirt!

The Spirit of Community

Down at the Museum, we have a whiteboard mounted in our main gallery space where visitors can write down their impressions. Recently, we posed the question: *Why do you visit Museums?* Among the many insightful answers, one visitor's comment perfectly captured the importance of regional heritage museum in our communities.

Continued — next page

In This Issue

- 2024 AGM
- President's News
- Ch'kw'elhp Genealogy
-
- Sunshine Coast UFOs!





Community spirit on parade in Lower Gibsons, May Day Parade (date unknown)

Continued from front page

The visitor wrote: ***I visit Museums to Learn about the Heart and Soul of a Place.*** Every day for about a week, I would glance at the whiteboard as I worked on exhibits, and this comment always stood out and resonated with me for the rest of the day.

When people first come to the Sunshine Coast, many begin their trip by visiting the museum. In many ways, we are a repository of stories that provide insight into the way people have lived here since time immemorial. From our exhibit and event partnerships with Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh and shíshálh Nations, to our exploration of diverse settler stories from maritime to local farming, and everything in between, the SCMA is the best place to discover the heart & soul of the lower Sunshine Coast. Over the years, we have been working hard to craft a unique and positive visitor experience, welcoming our visitors on a learning journey into the spirit of our community. When someone walks through the doors at the museum, we are excited to share the stories of our community, and we often join our visitors on this learning journey.

We invite you to pop-in to visit the SCMA and explore the amazing spirit of the Sunshin Coast community. *See you at the Museum!*

Matthew Lovegrove, Curator/Manager





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Join us for our AGM on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024** from the comfort of your own home! This year's virtual meeting will take place on Zoom from **7:00pm - 9:00pm**. Learn about all of the exciting news at the Museum, vote for a new Board of Directors and hear about our plans for the upcoming year. We will be sending out meeting information via email, or call the Museum to receive details on how to access the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

SCMA Photo 190



ch'atlich Secht , 1950. Wharf Street looking north

President's Corner with Larry Penonzek

Another busy year for the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives. Membership has steadily increased along with the number of visitors. We have had a number of successful events throughout the year and one of note was the our **Membership Appreciation Night**, which was very well attended. It was an enjoyable meet and greet evening, highlighted by Laura Millar's presentation. Thank you Laura and kudos to our events committee for putting it all together. The partnership with other heritage groups on the Sunshine Coast continues to be a vital asset. Our first tenure with **Secht Community Archives** has worked very well and we hope this will continue with an upcoming renewal. We have also collaborated with the **Gibsons Landing Heritage Society** with the desire to provide a path for heritage building designations within the Town of Gibsons. The SCMA will be attending as many community events as possible this spring and summer which are held along the coast and we encourage members to attend and also give us a hand with booth setup and operation. The few points noted here are a very small portion of what is required to operate a vibrant museum. So I would very much like to thank the SCMA staff, volunteers, and our Board for all the hard work and dedication they provide. Also a huge thank you to members, special donors and of course, the local governments for their very generous support, which allows us to provide a high quality of service for our community. Information on how to become more involved with the SCMA and how to join us for the AGM is in this newsletter. Please join us.



Thanks to our 2023 Donors

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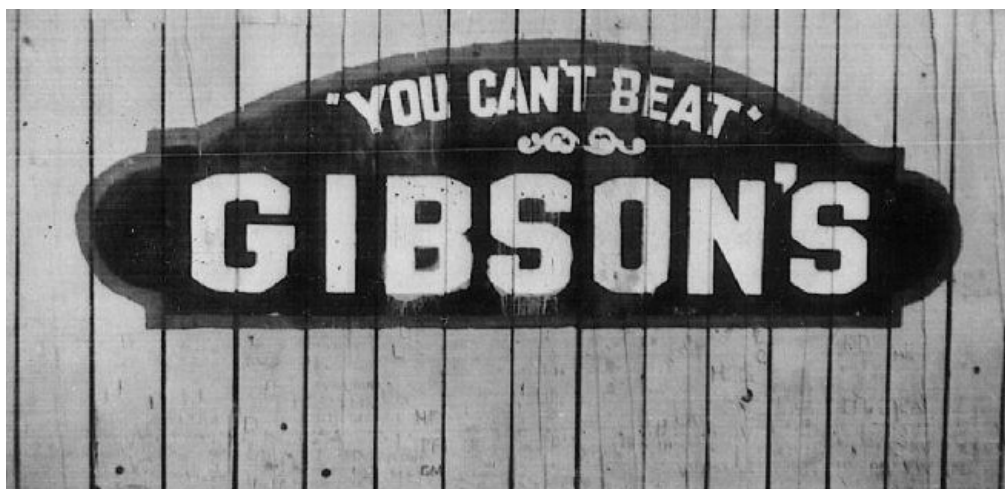
Eve Johnsen

Pamela Proctor

Thelma Tait



Gibson's Landing, Gibson's, or Gibsons?



SCMA Photo #2093: The sign painted by Kathleen Godwin on the wharf at lower Gibsons in the 1920s.

What's in a name? While Gibson's Landing, Gibson's, and Gibsons were often used interchangeably in the early to mid 1900s, the name **Gibsons** was approved on July 3, 1947. The Geographic Board of Canada approved this change after a letter was written to them from the Gibsons Board of Trade. The Board of Trade had announced their intentions in the newspaper previously.

According to *The Gibson's Landing Story* by **Les Peterson**, it was "in 1947 [that] local businessmen petitioned the Postal Department, and succeeded in having the name of the Post Office address shortened from Gibson's Landing to Gibsons."

It was thought that Gibson's Landing did not reflect the growth of Gibsons in the time since the Post Office was first built. At this time, it was the landing itself that seemed unnecessary. While some of the newspaper coverage mentioned that it was a nostalgic name, there was no documentation of push back against the name change from Gibson's Landing to Gibsons. In fact, it was suggested that other local names such as ___ should also be shortened. Even after the change was registered with the government, the Gibson's Landing name still appeared in print for some time. Including the apostrophe is an ongoing issue we still see today!





Syexwáliya and Tiyáxeltxw (centre) with visiting relatives, Ch'kw'elhp 1913 Vancouver Archives AM54-S4-LP 192.1

Ch'kw'elhp Genealogy

In February, we were delighted to host **ḷ'atxa'mat Fran Nahanee** for **Ch'kw'elhp Genealogy**, a presentation on her family ancestry from the Ch'kw'elhp area (Gibsons). In preparation for the event, Fran would often reach out to her cousin, respected Skwxwú7mesh language teacher and genealogist **Xwachtenat Kathy LaRock** to confirm names, relations, and pronunciation. For many years, the only names in our collection associated with the above image were “Howe Sound Jim” and “Aunt Sally”. Through Fran’s work with Kathy, we learned that their traditional names are Tiyáxeltxw and Syexwáliya, and that the man on the far right might actually be one of Fran’s relatives! We also learned from Fran about the importance of ancestral naming in Skwxwú7mesh culture, and how traditional names are given through ceremony and carried through many generations. At Fran’s talk, we were honoured to welcome **Tselsawanexw Aaron Williams**, who sang a song by Syexwáliya, over 100 years after the above photo was taken.

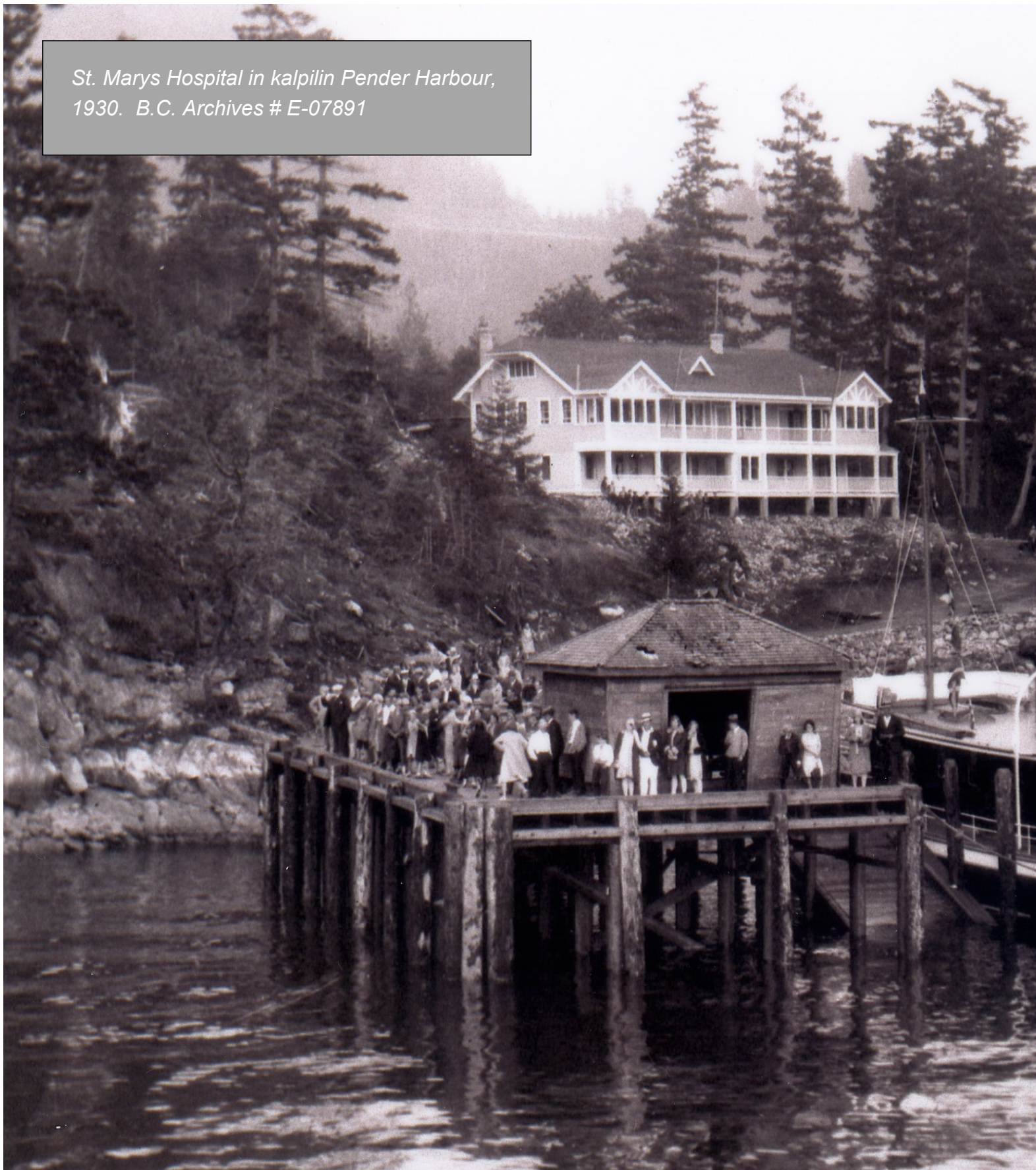
Get Involved!

There are many ways to get involved at the SCMA. **Volunteering** is a great way to contribute, with many volunteer opportunities available. Another way to get involved is to put your name forward to **join the Board of Directors** or one of our committees, where you can apply your skills to help shape the future of our organization.

Contact the Museum for more information!

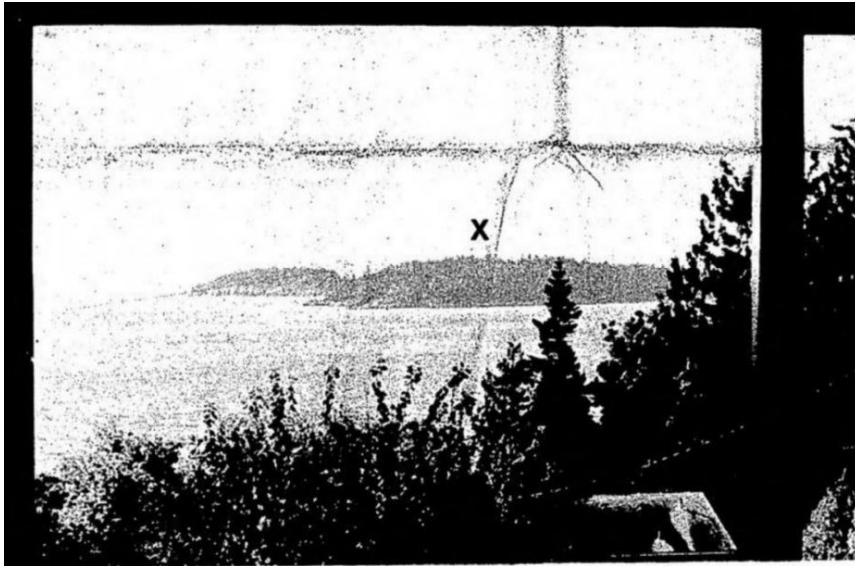


*St. Marys Hospital in kalpilin Pender Harbour,
1930. B.C. Archives # E-07891*





UFO Sightings on the Sunshine Coast



It was from this window of the Prince home in Davis Bay that four people saw the mysterious unidentified flying object last week. The X in the picture marks the location of the object. Whatever, it was the object was seen from several locations and by a number of people.

Coast News October 4, 1977

UFOs are a fascinating phenomenon that have continued to interest people for many years. A UFO is an unidentified flying object that cannot be immediately identified or explained. Upon investigation, most UFOs are known objects or an atmospheric phenomenon, and only a few remain mysteries. UFO sightings have been reported by people from all over the world, including residents of the Sunshine Coast.

The first newspaper report of UFOs on the Coast is from July 18th, 1947, in the *Coast News*. This first sighting occurred at 3:30 p.m. in Kleindale on Wednesday, July 9 and was witnessed by four men: Ronald Heed, Pete Klein, Henry Harris, and Rudy Hudon. The men report seeing a flying saucer or disc. The saucer was very high, travelling very fast and heading north. It was described as being silver-white. The newspaper article, titled "Flying Saucer Sighted at Pender Harbour", was very brief as are most of the local UFO reports that followed it. All articles were sure to include the locations of the UFOs and the names of those who witnessed them, but most were hesitant to speculate on the strange phenomenon.

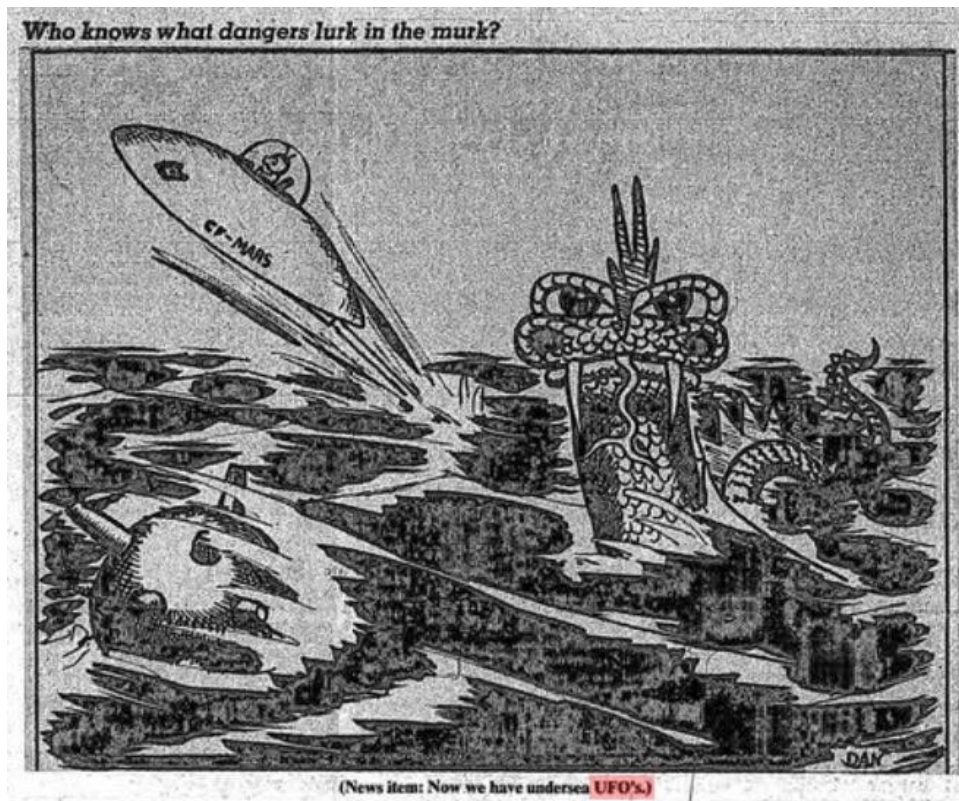
Locations on the Coast where the UFOs were seen include Pender Harbour, Roberts Creek, Porpoise Bay, Trail Islands, and Gambier, with most instances happening over Keats Island. There is little consensus over the appearance of the UFOs, with some being described as the stereotypical silver saucer, while others claimed they saw glowing spheres that were fluorescent orange or red, and some described soft lights of various colours moving unnaturally.

The strangest may be the "undersea UFOs" of 1968. These were the first and only reports of undersea UFOs. The reports discuss the theory that undersea UFOs were responsible for sinking two tugboats, the "Gulf Master" and the "Black Fir." The theory came about because of the report

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of extensive UFO activity above the water in the area, both before and after the sinking of the two tugboats. This theory was not seen as plausible by the authorities at the time, but was featured in a cartoon in the *Peninsula Times* the following week.

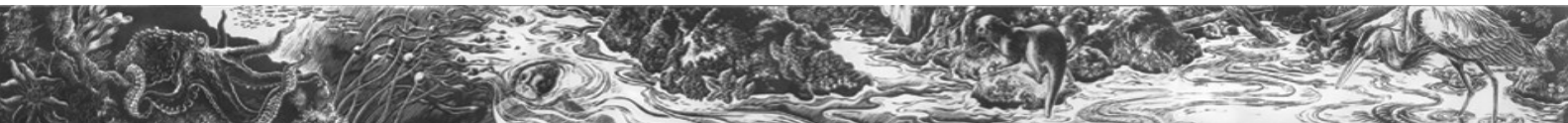


The most recent sighting recorded in a local newspaper was from the *Coast Reporter* July 16, 2020. The sighting happened on July 13 at 10:30 p.m. when Kristina Stoyko and some friends were sitting on Armors Beach in Gibsons when they saw three large glowing lights hovering in a triangle over Keats Island, two of the lights were white flashing and the one on top of the triangle red flashing light. The objects appeared to be still before taking off and flying over Gibsons. The group filmed the objects on their phones. Theories to explain this incident include everything from helicopters to drone users experimenting with light displays and train lights from Squamish.

These are just the sightings that were reported in the newspapers.

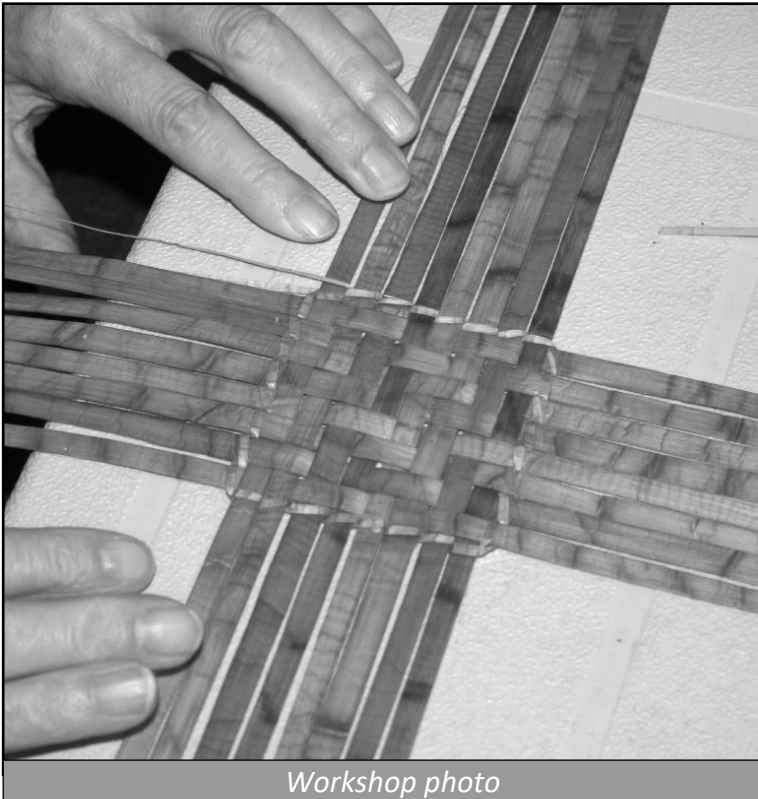
*To read the full version of this article,
visit the SCMA blog: sunshinecoastmuseum.ca/blog*

Enya Delaney, Museum Assistant



Museum Workshops

In early 2023 we met with well-known museum consultant Tim Willis. Over 2 days in February, Tim led us through a strategic planning workshop that served as the foundation for our 5-year plan. Board members and staff worked, with community feedback in mind, to outline goals for our continued growth. A big part of this workshop with Tim focused on having more workshops both for our local community and for ourselves as museum professionals.



We have since held several more weaving workshops here at the Museum. Tsawaysia Spukwus Alice Guss hosted a wool weaving workshop where participants were taught how to weave a headband using traditional Coast Salish weaving techniques, and learned about the importance of weaving to Skwxwú7mesh culture.

Jessica Silvey, owner of Red Cedar Woman Weaving Studio in Sechelt, shared her cedar weaving knowledge at our most recent workshop. Community members were able to practice their weaving and made cedar mats or baskets - Jessica taught two different workshops in one day!

As for staff workshops, I had the opportunity to attend an Emergency Salvage & Response for Cultural Institutions workshop hosted by BC HERN (British Columbia Heritage Emergency Response Network). The Kilby Historic Site held this workshop, where I was able to get hands-on training in strategies for saving museum collections after a disaster has occurred. Led by a volunteer group of conservators, BC HERN is working hard to teach museum professionals what to do after the worst has happened. This training encourages workshop participants not just to think of how they can prepare their own institutions, but to prepare themselves to help their peers in cases of emergency, and develop a support system for cultural institutions. It was a very engaging workshop and it was nice to connect with so many other museums across the province. Hopefully we will never need to use what I learned, but it is always best to be prepared!

Allie Bartlett, Curatorial Assistant





New 2024 Archival Greeting Cards!



Museum Membership Matters



Museum Membership

Your membership in the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives Society matters.

Along with new member benefits, we have also changed the dates of the membership year, which will now run from **January 1 - December 31**. Fees will remain \$20 for individuals and \$25 for family membership.

A membership form is included with this newsletter. If you aren't sure if you are up-to-date, please phone us at **604-886-8232** and we will let you know!

Membership plays an important role in supporting our work to preserve and present the history of the Sunshine Coast. Funds raised from membership are used to purchase preservation supplies, design exhibits, and host events down at the Museum. Continuing to building our membership is listed as a key priority in our new Strategic Plan under the *Raising our Profile* priority. Membership now comes with some great benefits:

- **Museum Gift Shop Discount** — Save 10% on all gift shop purchases including T-shirts, gift cards, books (excluding consignment items)
- **Greeting Card Set** — Members receive 3 archival greeting cards (\$15 retail price). New set of cards released every year!
- **Exclusive Members Only Events** — Exclusive access to members-only exhibit openings and events
- **Complimentary Admission**— Visit as much as you'd like!
- **Museum Services**— Vote at the AGM, conduct a research request





Feature photograph of paddlers from *Jordan Louie shíshálh Photography Exhibit*

Jordan Louie shíshálh Photography Exhibit

On any given day on the Sunshine Coast, you will find **Jordan Louie** enduring the elements to capture the people, places, and moments in his striking photographs of the Sunshine Coast. We are very excited to partner with Jordan in our latest feature exhibit that explores Jordan's passion for photographing shíshálh culture and candid moments of beauty in our community. Last summer, Jordan submitted an exhibit proposal to our *Community Collaborative Exhibit* call-out, and the resulting exhibit was mounted in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Arts Council at the Arts Centre in Sechelt. Building on the first pop-up exhibit, we reached out to Jordan to present an expanded exhibition with different photographs paired with objects. Items curated by shíshálh cultural ambassadors **Candace Campo** and **Jessica Silvey** will be featured, along with a very special item from the world famous Attack of Danger Bay Longboarding festival in *kalpilin* Pender Harbour. *Jordan Louie shíshálh Photography* runs until February 2025.



Connect with Us!

The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives is the regional Museum for the Sunshine Coast. Our collection includes photographs, archives, and artifacts.

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sunshinecoastmuseum.ca