



**AUTUMN 2020**

# BY UNION STEAMSHIPS ALONG THE GULF COAST RIVIERA



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### ***Pushing the Boundaries: Crises, Innovation, & Community***

Over the past 6 months, we have all been impacted by the far-reaching ramifications of Covid-19. During this time, something fascinating happened: the visibility of museums in mainstream culture skyrocketed. Wherever you turned, museums were being featured on the radio, social media was popping up with virtual museum tours, and television featured stories of archives documenting Covid for their collections. *Continued*



Howe Sound Co-operative Cannery feature exhibit at the Museum





# Sunshine Coast Museum at Home

*Elphinstone Class trip to logging site in Roberts Creek, 1937*

## ***Pushing Boundaries continued***

Museums were *everywhere*! I believe this speaks to our society's trust in museums to help make sense of their lives, and also gain a sense of normalcy during crisis times.

From March 17-July 2, the Museum was closed, but that doesn't mean we stopped working hard to connect with our community. We moved quickly to create *Sunshine Coast Museum at Home*, an online education portal for students, parents and community members to access free of charge from home. The website features a virtual tour, access to archival photographs, newspapers, and oral histories, and a history quiz for students. Since its launch, the portal has been widely used and very well received by the community. Concurrently, we began the process of rapid-response collecting to capture a dynamic snapshot of the Sunshine Coast during the pandemic. We took photographs to document the community response to Covid, made audio recordings of the nightly community celebrations, and worked with Christenson Village to record their residents' Covid experience. During this time, we also partnered with the Gibsons Public Art Gallery to collect digital images of local art created during the pandemic. Following all of this hard work in the spring, we then began to plan for our re-opening (*see next page*). We hope to see you soon at the museum!

**Matthew Lovegrove, Curator/Manager**





## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Join us for our 2020 AGM on **Wednesday, October 21, 2020** 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!*



## HERITAGE WEEK PROCLAMATION

Museum director Ian Thomson accepts the 2020 Heritage Week proclamation from Town of Gibsons mayor Bill Beamish. The theme of Heritage Week was "Bringing the Past into the Future" and ran from February 17 to 23, 2020.

## President's Message Mike Clement

A much delayed AGM this year means there is a lot to talk about. It's been an unusual year to say the least. If you are comfortable using Zoom I would encourage you to join our virtual Zoom AGM meeting at 7PM on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. If not, please let us know your concerns, thoughts or suggestions by dropping in or telling us by email. Your input is essential to our operations and programming. Even if you cannot make the meeting please use the form found in this publication to renew your membership and/or to make a much needed and appreciated donation to the Museum. Come in and speak to our staff about several rewarding volunteer opportunities.



## MUSEUM RE-OPENING!

During our closure, we spent considerable time planning procedures, purchasing infrastructure and designing signage to help visitors navigate the Museum safely. We are now operating with an 8 person maximum occupancy, with reduced hours. Many thanks to all board and staff members for their hard work in creating a safe and welcoming museum experience during re-opening.



# Thanks to our 2019 Donors

## Gold Level:

Jon Hird

Barrie and Frankie  
Stewart

Sunshine Coast Credit  
Union

## Silver Level:

Ian Thomson

## Bronze Level:

Elaine Jackson

Don and Shirley  
Morrison

Don and Sandra  
Cunliffe

Laura Houle

Blane Hagedorn

*... and many thanks  
to all others who  
donated to the  
Museum. We  
appreciate your  
support!*



*Jon Hird volunteering during Jan Poynter's mural installation, 2008*

## Donations that Make a Difference

Back in late 2018, we lost long-time volunteer and museum supporter **Jon Hird** at the age of 67. Jon volunteered in many positions over the years at the Museum, including his work as past board president, exhibit fabricator, building maintenance man — you name it, Jon did it at the Museum! But his generosity didn't stop there. As part of his estate, Jon bequeathed a very generous sum of money to the museum to continue the work that he believed in. This legacy gift will help ensure that we can continue to preserve and present the fascinating histories of the coast for future generations.

We would also like to highlight another unique donation to the Museum by long-time Museum supporter **Barrie Stewart**. Barrie contacted us as he was thinking of selling his 2007 Ford Ranger (which was in really great condition!) and donating the proceeds to the Museum. Working with Barrie, we were able to raise \$7900 for Museum operations. Many thanks to Barrie for this generous gift!

*If you would like to make a special donation to the Museum to support  
the work that we do, we would love to hear from you!*





*Helen McCall (far left) at an "Old Maid's Convention" of the Women's Institute, 1929*

### ***Helen McCall Exhibit*** Mother, Entrepreneur, Photographer

The Museum's newest exhibit features Gibson's first commercial photographer, Helen McCall whose quality and quantity of work reflect a sustained passion for her craft. As a divorcee raising children in the Depression, necessity may have been the mother of invention. When a colleague from Vancouver visited her darkroom, he was enthralled not only by her work but by the *way* she worked.

Unlike most photographers, Helen developed her film and prints at home without running water or electricity. Helen exposed her prints by using a sliding door that allowed lamplight (diffused by chamois cloth) to briefly enter as she counted aloud her exposure time. When developing these prints, a darkroom red light may have been achieved by means of a red cloth over another gas lamp or window.

Helen's daughter, Elinor says she used to call the darkroom "murder" in the summers... "black as sin", "airless", and "...a little hell-hole!" All the same, every roll of film was processed, every print developed, and all of it ready to be picked up the next day. Elinor says "She loved us kids and she would be taking pictures of us anytime we turned around. If we didn't turn around she took it anyway." Visit our *Helen McCall: Coast Photographer* exhibit today!



### **New SCMA Membership Fees**

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

You will notice that our membership fees have increased to \$20 for individuals and \$25 for family membership. The choice to increase our fees was made by the Board of Directors to bring our fees more inline with other organizations on the coast. You'll find a membership renewal form with this newsletter. If you aren't sure if you are up-to-date with your membership, please phone us at **604-886-8232** and we will let you know!





*Tlye-ah-huhm (Agnes Charlie) with her baskets in front of her Sechelt home, 1930s*

## ***Power of Names: Learning shíshálh Place Names***

The importance of place names in our lives is undeniable. There is a power in the names that we use that resonates deeply with our personal experience and understanding of the world around us. Recently, Sunshine Coast residents have been invited to learn original shíshálh Nation place names for select locations on the coast.

These names have existed within shíshálh culture for thousands of years, embodying a deep and abiding connection to this place. *ts'uḱw'um (Wilson Creek)* was an important village site to the Nation, while *salalus (Madeira Park area)* describes a coastal bay in the she shashishalhem language. To learn and speak these names is to play an active part in reconciliation, something we all can do with a little bit of practice. It is important to remember that honouring original place names will not erase the significance of settler histories; rather we are gaining a deeper understanding of this place from the shíshálh people who have lived here since time immemorial. Skwxwú7mesh Nation member Jana Nahanee Benson Nadler reminds us that the Squamish also have unique place names for coastal locations, including *Stelḱáya (Roberts Creek)*, which means wolf.

This is also an opportunity to acknowledge the harms caused through the residential school system where First Nations children were prohibited to speak their own language,

*Continued next page*





*Director Ian Thomson (far right) and Curator Matthew Lovegrove (3rd from right) accept Sunshine Coast Community Forest grant with other community organization representatives*

## **MUSEUM GRANTS SUCCESS!**

Thanks to the **BC Museum Association, SC Community Forest** and **Canadian Heritage** for awarding the Museum with grant funding in 2020. We are currently planning to retrofit our HVAC system to better care for our artifacts and archives. *Stay Tuned!*

### ***Power of Names continued***

including using traditional names. Despite this dark chapter of colonial history on the Sunshine Coast, the shíshálh Nation has shared these names with a generosity of spirit that is both humbling and inspirational. There is something very special about speaking these names that have existed here for thousands of years. It may take you a few tries, but in speaking them, you will be taking an active role in honouring the deep legacy of the shíshálh Nation within their traditional, unceded territory.

**Looking ahead**, we are currently planning to host a feature exhibit from tems swiya Museum on the Sechelt Residential School that operated in Sechelt from the early 1900s—1970s. We look forward to working with tems swiya Curator Raquel Joe on this important project!

**Matthew Lovegrove, Curator/Manager**

*Special thanks to ch'elkwilwet Raquel Joe  
and Jana Nahanee Benson Nadler*



# ***John Antle and the Anglican Columbia Coast Mission***

**Heather Passmore, Curatorial Assistant (alumni)**

In 1903 when the bodies of 4 nameless loggers were shipped back to Vancouver, a young seafaring priest from Newfoundland decided to take action against the brutality of remote living conditions along the Coast of BC. After sailing his handmade open sailboat roundtrip from Vancouver to Alert Bay in order to see firsthand, John Antle received a small grant from the Anglican Church to acquire the “Columbia” and the Columbia Coast Mission was born. The CCM’s mandate was to serve the medical needs of logging and Indigenous communities along the coasts of Vancouver Island and the mainland. Antle’s dream became a resounding success – Between 1904 and the mid 70s the CCM provided free medical care regardless of race, religion or creed from Pender Harbour to Port Hardy.

In the days before labour unions and universal health care, the mission was a godsend. Antle’s hospital ships braved storms, swirling rapids, roaring whirlpools and narrow passages along 20,000 miles of coastline every day of the year. Thousands of people were served annually. In 1905, one logging camp at Rock Bay had 500 men alone, and no first aid kit. At this time there were a total of 4000 men in 80 camps engaged in the most dangerous calling in Canada, with Vancouver as the nearest medical aid.

Between 1905 and 1930 the CCM opened hospitals at Rock Bay, Texada Island, Alert Bay, Carriden Bay and Pender Harbour (the original St. Mary’s). In 1931, just three of these hospitals had 7860 hospital days, 297 medical cases, 293 surgeries and 3088 outpatients. The CCM also built seniors homes, undertook dentistry and provided vaccinations and medical examinations of children. They conducted outpost clinics, gave pre-and post-natal care, and established well baby clinics for Indigenous mothers with a consequent reduction in infant mortality.

Practical, unconventional and bold, Antle prioritized social service over church services and he often clashed with Church and Government policies. Antle advocated for the continuation of the potlach. In the matter of residential schools, the CCM disputed Church and Government again. Antle saw firsthand that the creation of small village day schools was preferable to one large residential boarding school which alienated children from family and community.

***SCMA Photo #2303.** A postcard of the original St. Mary's Hospital in Pender Harbour. Chapel to the left. Built by the Columbia Coast Mission of the Anglican Church, it opened in August, 1930 and closed in 1964.*

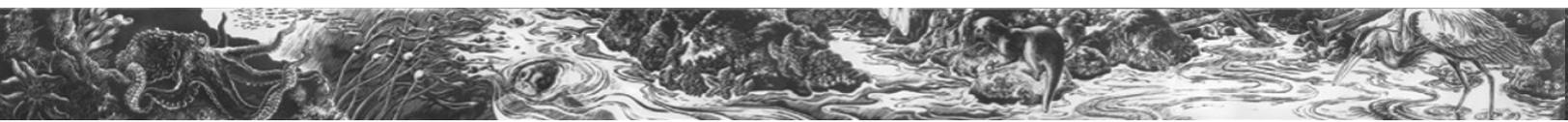
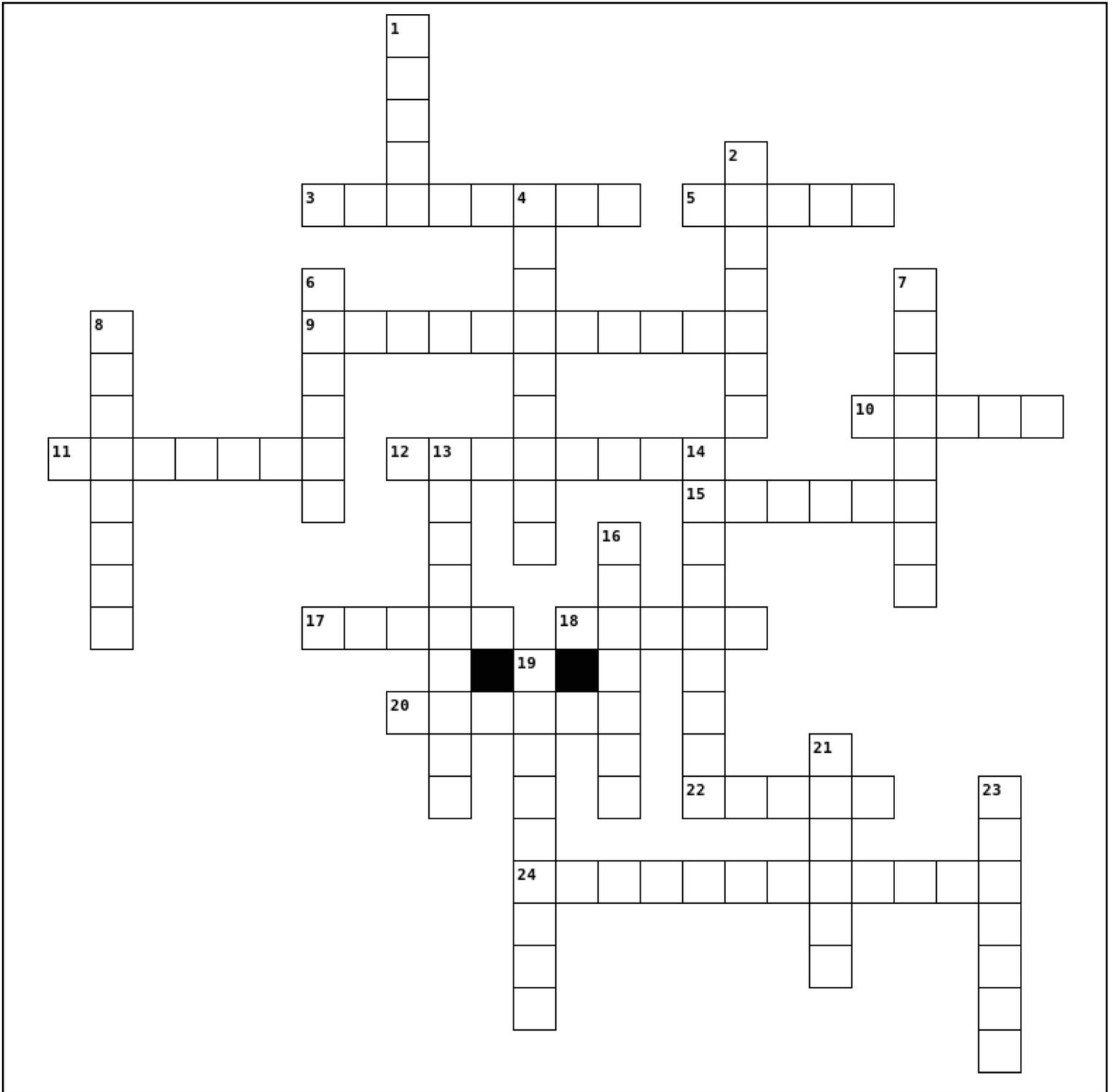


John Antle's mission recognized that isolation and loneliness could kill and the ships brought social and spiritual comfort, lending libraries of books, newspapers and magazines to isolated settlers. Lighthouse-keepers, prospectors, priests, loggers, teachers, fishermen and homesteaders looked forward to regular visits. Tales abound of settlers who had lost their wits simply through extended lack of human contact. The ships were famous for their Christmas parties and for bringing presents (and Santa) to children. The SCMA collection holds an annual record of purchases for one of the mission ships (kippers, marmalade and sausages for example) from a shop in Irvine's Landing.

Reverend John Antle retired around 1930, at the age of 65, but later served a parish on Mayne Island during WWII. In 1948 he set sail from Vancouver to the West Indies at age 83, but bad weather and ill-health stopped him enroute. In 1949, his funeral was held on the deck of the Columbia and his body returned to sea at Manson's Deep, off Bowen Island.



# Museum Crossword Puzzle!



# Museum Crossword Clues

## Across

3. Early hand loggers used these 2-person saws to cut trees
5. Name of one of the main characters in Beachcombers
9. The Howe Sound \_\_\_\_\_ Cannery made award winning jam
10. Long wooden chute used to send logs down to the ocean
11. This sea-faring family built iconic wooden boats such as the China Cloud
12. Early settler family in Sechelt who built a hotel on the waterfront
15. Location of Skookumchuck tidal rapids
17. First name of cafe owner in Beachcombers television show
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ Steamship Company served the Coast for many years
20. Name of the first doctor on Sunshine Coast, located in Gibsons
22. This type of "donkey" was used in early logging on the coast
24. Popular CBC television show filmed on the Sunshine Coast

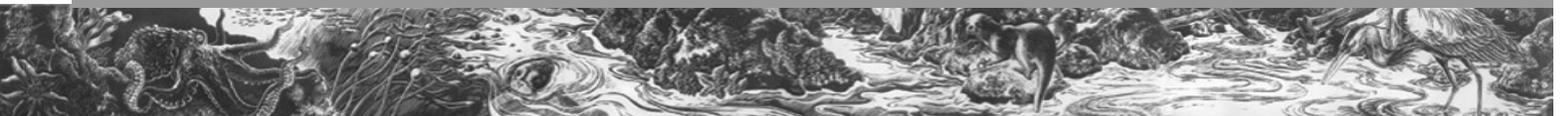
## Down

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Wiren was one of the prominent Finnish settlers in the Gibsons area
2. First Nation who became self-governing in 1986
4. Wife of George Gibson
6. She was an early photographer on the coast (last name)
7. First Nations ceremony banned by Canadian Government from 1885-1951
8. Name of the Nation whose traditional territory Gibsons is located in
13. Name of Hubert Evans small fishing boat, also known as a "double-ender"
14. Colourful and seemingly misspelled road name in Halfmoon Bay area
16. Name of Japanese family who farmed in Sechelt and ran the Settlers Supply Store
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Ferries began offering car service to the Sunshine Coast in 1951
21. This type of fish was instrumental in both First Nations and settler survival
23. Along with logging, this occupation supported early settlers

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTEST!

Fill out this Museum Crossword Puzzle for a chance to win a Beachcombers T-shirt! Use your local historical knowledge along with the Museum website to fill in the crossword. Then either mail in the finished crossword puzzle (address below), or take a digital photograph and send the picture to [scm\\_a@dccnet.com](mailto:scm_a@dccnet.com). You will be entered into a draw for a Beachcombers T-shirt. Thanks to the BC Museum Association for sponsoring this contest. **Deadline for Submissions:** December 1, 2020

**Museum Address: PO BOX 766, 716 WINN ROAD, GIBSONS, BC V0N 1V0**





Coast Salish Weaving Workshop with Jess Silvey, August 10, 2019

## Support for your Community Museum

We would love to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has gone out of their way to make a financial donation to the museum recently! During our three and a half month closure, we have lost substantial revenue from admission donations and giftshop sales, as well as cancelled public programming such as *Museum School*. Since our re-opening, we have experienced a 75% decrease in visitation and a comparable decrease in giftshop sales. These sources of revenue help us complete important projects such as the long-term preservation of photographic negatives, and the updating of exhibits with new text panels and images.

If you would like to make a special donation to support the museum during this challenging time, we appreciate it! There is a space on the enclosed membership form to fill out for *Special Donations*. Either mail in or drop off your donation to the museum where we will thank you profusely and give you a charitable tax receipt for donations over ten dollars. Thank you for supporting the Museum, we look forward to catching up soon!



## Connect with Us!

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

604-886-8232

scm\_a@dccnet.com

[sunshinecoastmuseum.ca](http://sunshinecoastmuseum.ca)



# See you at the Museum!

