



SUNSHINE COAST
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

SPRING 2016



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Museum Accessibility Renovation Update

With the start of 2016, we begin a new chapter in our evolution to become the **best community museum** in Canada. It is a lofty vision, but with a dedicated Board of Directors, talented staff, and an amazing community supporting us, there is no telling what we might accomplish.

January saw much movement in preparing the main floor exhibit space for the renovation—packing, discarding and storing all sorts of items from the workshop, archives and washrooms. From fragile archives that needed to be carefully preserved, to rusty old paint cans in desperate need of disposal, this was one of the most challenging tasks I have had in 5 years at the Museum. With every corner cleared, there were twenty more piles of items to process. Behind the scenes, the Universal Accessibility Project committee worked with architect Teryl Mullock ...





Photo-Collage of Museum Renovations

MUSEUM RENOVATION (con't)

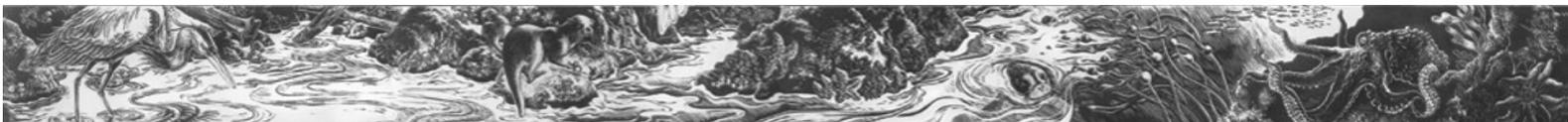
putting the project out to tender. We were very happy to accept Summerhill Fine Homes' bid, being aware of the high quality of work that they do. With the bid accepted it was officially **GO!** time, and with that a small army of volunteers worked tirelessly with last minute arrangements. Moving the heaviest of artifacts and dealing with the always prickly "unforeseen issues" that often seem to arise during renovation time, the teamwork demonstrated by Board members and volunteers alike was quite astonishing. Hats off to you!

On the first week of March, a crew from Solution Based Contracting hoarded off the Museum to remove large swaths of drywall and ceiling containing asbestos. They did a bang-up job and the following week Summerhill arrived to begin their 10 week renovation of the Museum.

It is very exciting to see our Museum transform from the ground up. With each new wall that gets framed, a new potential for connection with our visitors is born. As the Curator, I think of the new text panels, artifacts and experiences that will be housed in our newly revitalized space. With a more welcoming and accessible Museum, we move one step closer to our vision, and we invite you along for the ride. The Sunshine Coast Museum will reopen in early summer 2016, please join us for our grand reopening event to celebrate our more accessible Museum!

Matthew Lovegrove, Curator/Manager

*Accessibility is
a matter of
human
dignity...*

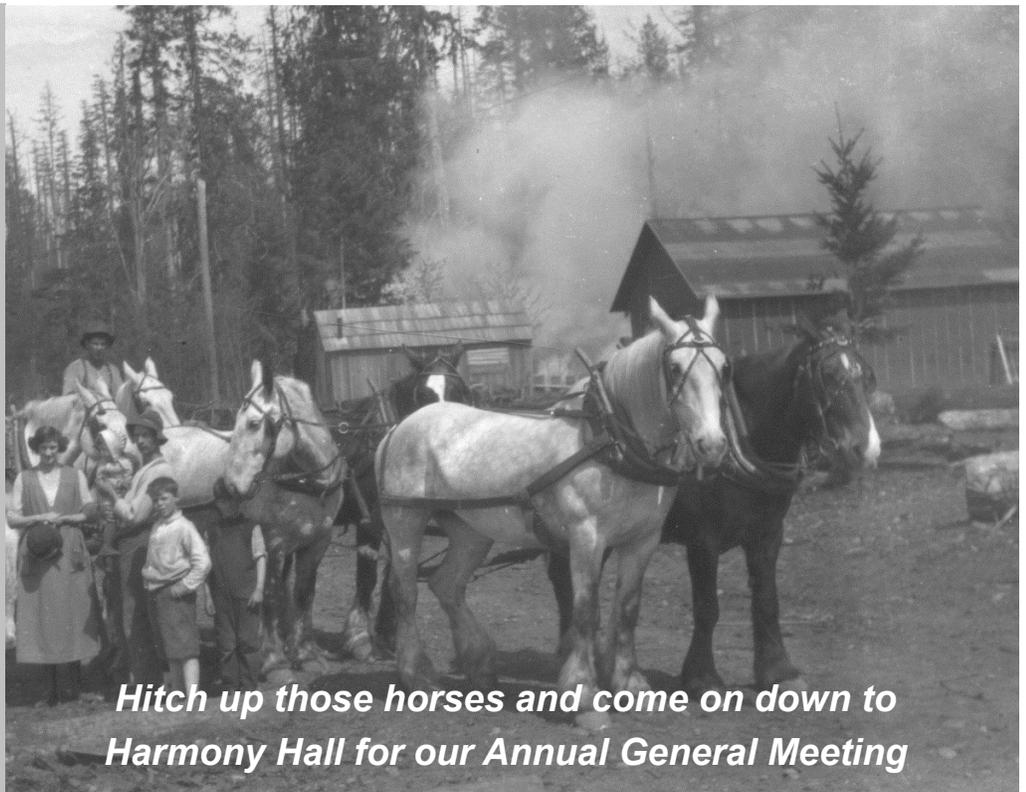


Sorry...
**TEMPORARILY
 CLOSED**

***Museum Closed
 For Renovations***

From March 1 to June 2016, the Museum will be closed to the public for the renovations.

During this time, staff will still be working hard to assist in your research requests and anything else museum related. We are best reached via email: scm_a@dccnet.com, or phone: **604-886-8232**. Leave a message if we are not here, and we will get back to you. Visit our Facebook page to see the progress as we post pictures of the transformation, or visit our website to keep in touch.



Hitch up those horses and come on down to Harmony Hall for our Annual General Meeting

#3404 McCall six-horse team pulling log over skid road.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Join us for our 2016 AGM on **Wednesday, April 20th**. Doors open at 7 pm. The AGM is from 7:30 pm to 9 pm at **Harmony Hall** in Gibsons. Learn about all of the exciting news at the Museum, vote for a Board of Directors and hear about our plans for the upcoming year. At the event we will be accepting new memberships and renewals. Harmony Hall is located at 686 Harmony Lane in Lower Gibsons (see map).



Ways to Donate

- Fill out the donation form of the back of this newsletter!
- We are happy to be a charity partner of **Changelt®**. This is an innovative way to donate to the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives when making an everyday purchase with your bank card (*Sunshine Coast Credit Union, BMO, and others*). Check it out at Changelt.com
- Donate online at **CanadaHelps.com**
Search: Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives
- We also accept **in-kind donations** of services, goods & construction materials from local businesses and individuals.
- **Volunteer!** Come to the Museum to learn ways you can share and grow your skills as a volunteer.
- Renew your Membership or recruit a new member!



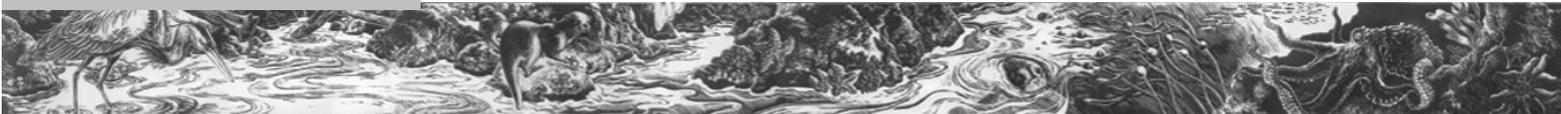
A sample of our collection: sunshinecoastmuseum.pastperfectonline.com

Search Our Online Photo Collection Today

We are very excited to announce the launch of our online photograph collection, a searchable database of over 7000+ images from the Museum's collection. While the database will be promoted to the public starting on April 20th, as a faithful Museum supporter, you are invited to explore this amazing resource today. The database is keyword, date and location searchable; it also features advanced searching options that will allow you to refine your search for photographs of interest. Another great feature is *Random Images*, which presents miscellaneous photographs for you to scroll through. It is great fun. You never know what kind of inspiring, artistic, or just plain entertaining photographs you might come across!

You will recognize community locations, buildings and perhaps even people within the collection. Users can also search a selected number of archival documents from the Museum collection and we will continue to add more archival records throughout Spring 2016.

Visit sunshinecoastmuseum.pastperfectonline.com to begin exploring the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives online photo collection today. (*Do not add www to the website address.*)



Coastal Heritage Happenings

15th Annual April Tools, Maderia Park Saturday, April 30, 2016

Come out to this family event at the **Madeira Park waterfront**. Adult teams build a boat in three hours using materials only revealed to them an hour before they begin, using only hand tools and cordless drills. Boats have to stay afloat long enough to get around the government wharf. There is a trophy race for the high school teams and the 'Fun Race' in which they do their best to dunk the oppositions' boat before they get around the course. The little kids get to build mini-boats all day long, then float them in a little pool.

2nd Annual Pender Harbour Days July 8 to 10, 2016

This community-wide event is a celebration of Pender Harbour's marine heritage with historical boats, land-based heritage displays, sailing competitions, arts fair and entertainment.

For more information please visit:



Curator's Corner by Matthew Lovegrove

As I sit at my desk to write you, hammers are banging, the table-saw is going and the walls are coming down at the Museum. And I couldn't be more excited!

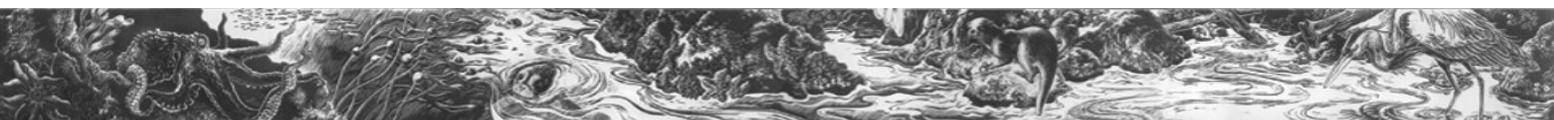


Today, we embark upon a massive renovation project to make our facility more accessible to all members of our community. The construction crew from Summerhill Fine Homes is here, and someone is yelling "*we're building history right now!*" And he is right—this renovation project is a symbolic and literal opening up of our Museum space to everyone in our community.

The main focus is to create a more accessible building for those with mobility challenges by installing a lift to our second floor, creating a wheelchair accessible washroom, and opening up the entrance to the Museum. But it is more than that. Among other destinations on the Coast, our Museum provides a place where people can develop a deeper historical connection to their community. To do this, we need a space that is accessible to everyone and a building that can properly showcase how amazing our shared stories really are.

Of course, this project wouldn't be happening without the generosity of the many people who have made financial donations and supported our **Adopt an Artifact** campaign (which is still ongoing). The SCR and Town of Gibsons also awarded grants to get the project off the ground, and substantial grants from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest's *Legacy Fund* and the Federal Government's *Enabling Accessibility Fund* sealed the deal.

Now Here We Go!



Many thanks to our 2015 Donors

Gold Level:

Government of Canada -
Enabling Accessibility Fund

Sunshine Coast Community
Forest - *Legacy Fund*

Sunshine Coast
Community Foundation

Donat Robert McMahon
In Memoriam (1908-2014)

Town of Gibsons
Don Morison/Telus
Canadian Museum
Association

Coral Eady
Elaine & Gordon Jackson
Pam Proctor & John Roper
Sharon Venechuk/CIBC

Silver Level:

Penny Allport
Helen Grenon
Barrie Stewart
Penonzek Land
Surveying

Bronze Level:

Celia Fisher
Marilyn & Vern Geisbrecht
Dean Goard
Harvie McCracken

***We couldn't do it
without your
support!***

Margo's Museum Musings

Before I began working at the Museum a year ago, despite having visited the Museum on numerous occasions, I had no idea that there was a Finnish community on the Sunshine Coast. Today, I have the opportunity to delve deeply into the Museum's collection of archives, artifacts and photos as we develop an exhibit exploring the Finnish settlers, researching their transition to the Sunshine Coast, their culture and politics, and their contribution to the community.

I began with the Museum's two "bibles": *The Gibsons Landing Story* and *The West Howe Sound Story*. But it wasn't until I came across a fonds that contained letters and documentation from the Kyto family that the Finns came alive for me. Holding (with white gloves on) a letter written in Finnish dated 1906 requesting a shipment of 12 Golden Grim and 12 Salome apple trees, I felt the voice of the Finns and their determination to make a life for themselves on the Coast. A letter noting the low price for eggs reminds me of how difficult it was (and continues to be) to make

a living from the land. Membership cards for the Social Democratic Party of Canada dated 1914 indicate their political beliefs—beliefs that would be challenged in WWI and WWII. Another letter, dated 1, November 1906 to Mrs. Kyto from a Finnish friend in Vancouver, reminds me how lonely settling in a new land can be, especially for women.



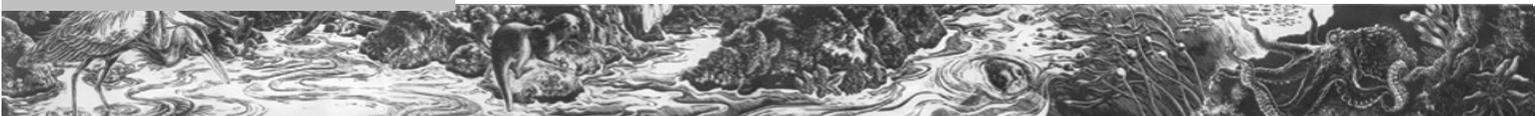
#2424 Finnish settlers
Sophia & Malakias Kyto

Each piece of paper raises a myriad of unanswered questions. These questions spark my imagination, especially as I walk down Reed Road where the Finns first settled. What I hadn't anticipated was how moved I would be by glimpsing into the problems and anxieties of settler life. Research nearly complete, it is now time to select what to include in the exhibit to best tell the story of this unique group of settlers. We'll keep you posted on our progress.



Artifact Alive!

Do your feet get cold when you're in bed? Check out this ceramic "bed pig" which was used to warm the feet of Slade family in their Keats Island cottage. I can only imagine that you'd need to be careful you didn't stub your toe in the night! SCMA 1997.017.01



Annual Antique and Collectibles Roadshow

This year's Roadshow was a great success. Held in Sunnycrest Mall on Saturday, February 13, 2016 the Roadshow drew more than 100 people with items for appraisal. The fundraiser brought in about \$1,400 which will be used towards programming and the *Universal Accessibility Project*. Two highlights were a 1940's comic book valued between \$2,500 and \$80,000 and a painting by artist William Kurelek valued between \$20,000 and \$30,000. You never know what will show up!



Brittany Broderson photo

Thank You For Your Service



The SCMA bids a fond farewell to Celia Fisher, who is retiring from the SCMA Board after serving tirelessly since 2011. A former teacher, school board member and SCRd director Celia brought a wide range of experience and expertise to the Board. During her tenure at the Museum, Celia sat on numerous committees. Her vision of a museum for all was instrumental in creating the Universal Accessibility Project, which is now underway. In addition, Celia has always made time to share her wealth of knowledge of Coast history with staff and the community. A heartfelt thanks to Celia and good luck. You have made a difference in making our Museum a more accessible and vital place within our community.

Thank you to Lorraine Goddard for her commitment and service as President of the SCMA Society for the past four years. Under her steady hand the Museum has continued to grow and expand its reach.

Gibson's Landing Historical Walking Tours

They're back! Through-out the summer, local historian **Dale Peterson** will lead walking tours of Gibson's Landing that explore the fascinating history of the ocean-side village. Born and raised on the Sunshine Coast, Dale will guide participants to historical points of interest such as Stonehurst and Pioneer Park Cemetery while sharing local history and stories. The tour ends at the Museum where you can continue your exploration of coastal heritage.

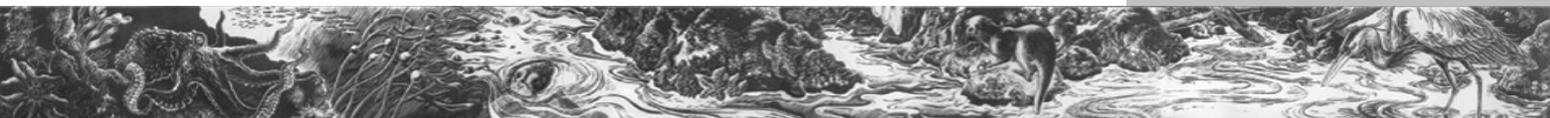
Call the Museum at 604.886.8232 or check out our webpage for dates and times.



Thank you to our Members

Your membership in the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives Society matters. Continued membership helps us to receive funding and support from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and provides you with the opportunity to provide input on our exhibits, programming and events. You'll find a membership renewal form with this newsletter. Many thanks to our members for their ongoing support.

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.





Springtime in the Garden

The Museum is fortunate to be fronted by a beautiful garden that is lovingly tended by two volunteers. Shelia Weaver and Rosemary Longstaff collectively put over 100 hours annually into weeding, planting and watering. There are three beds, each with its own growing conditions, which can be a bit challenging. The dry, narrow bed by the front door is perfect for grasses and bright orange California poppies. The next bed gets damp and soggy in the winter and dries out quickly in the summer, so heather, california lilac and cotoneaster fit the bill. The challenge in the side bed is finding plants that don't grow too tall (don't want to cover the Museum sign) while tolerating damp conditions. All of this means experimenting, moving plants here and there, seeing what thrives and what dies and filling in spots with colourful annuals.

Thank you to those who built the beds in the first place, to Board for their financial contribution and to Shelia and Rosemary for their steady tending of the plants.

Connect with Us

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

The Museum is closed to the public until June 2016 for renovations to make the Museum more accessible. Staff are still available for research and other museum-related inquiries.

604.886.8232

scm_a@dccnet.com



UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT DONATION FORM

Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

GENERAL DONATION

- Friend of the Museum Level \$1-\$99
- Bronze Level \$100-\$199
- Silver Level \$200-\$499
- Gold Level \$500 & over
- Amount: \$ _____

Payment Type

- Cash Cheque # _____
- Visa Mastercard
- Canada Helps Website

ADOPT AN ARTIFACT *Please call to confirm the artifact you would like to Adopt*

- \$1000 Level
- \$3000 Level
- \$5000 Level
- \$5000 + Level Amount: \$ _____
- Pay What you Can: \$ _____

A tax receipt will be issued for all amounts over \$10.00