



SUNSHINE COAST
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

SPRING 2025



Helen McCall photo of Gower Point, 1940. Colourized using artificial intelligence (AI)

The Importance of Community Archives

Increasingly in our society, the lines between truth and fiction are being blurred. Deep fake technology, online misinformation, and social media echo chambers are changing the way we see the world, and our place within it. Museums & Archives in our communities play a vital role in preserving authentic, evidential information that helps shape our perspectives. As we move further into a digital world that is polarized by readily-available misinformation, memory institutions offer a bedrock of stability and proof in our changing society.

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Gower Point Store

Owned and Operated

George W. Perreault

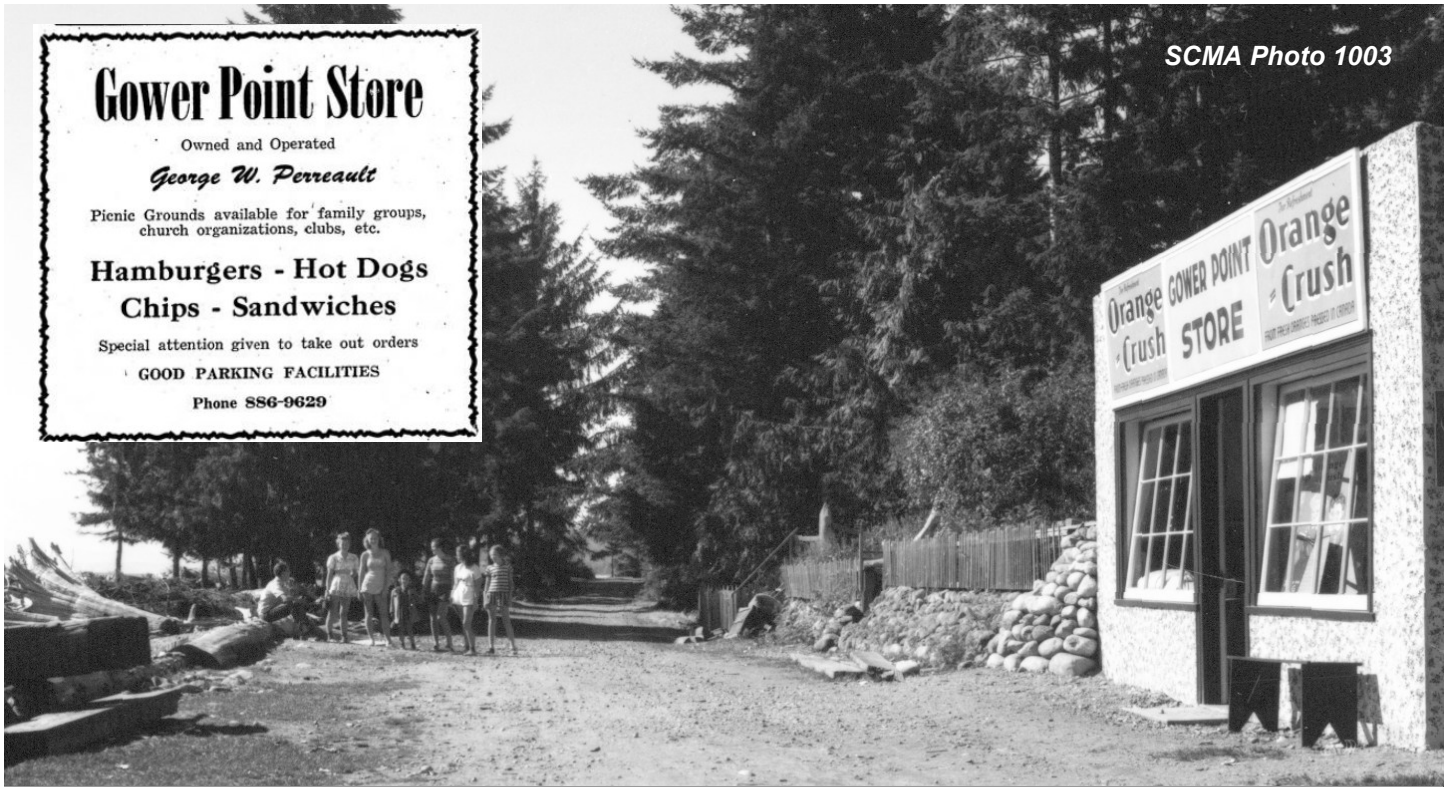
Picnic Grounds available for family groups,
church organizations, clubs, etc.

Hamburgers - Hot Dogs
Chips - Sandwiches

Special attention given to take out orders

GOOD PARKING FACILITIES

Phone 886-9629



*Authentic Records: Gower Point Store photo (1940s), Ocean Beach Esplanade, Gibsons.
Advertisement for Gower Point Store in Coast News, June 29, 1961*

Internationally recognized archivist (and Roberts Creek gumbooter) **Laura Millar** writes about the core role of the archivist: “once one person has used the evidence we protect, the record-keeper returns it to safe custody, as authentic and trustworthy proof, so that [other] people can access it and use it, for whatever purpose.” Laura gets straight to the point: archivists protect all information that is authentic and relevant, not only the information they see as valuable.

Consider the power of an archival document, whether it is correspondence related to Sechelt residential school or an early journal entry from a Japanese logger. Archival records contain the evidence we use to build our understanding of the past, and in turn, craft our vision of the future. Without them, we can easily be set adrift in a sea of misinformation. Our newsletter cover image was taken over 80 years ago, then colourized using AI technology in mere seconds. While it is interesting to see colour added to this iconic photo, consider how this type of technology could be used maliciously to alter archival records. Increasingly, archivists will have to be vigilant in their assessment of records to maintain a threshold of authenticity.

At the SCMA, we are privileged to work with a community that cares about its history. When you bring in your authentic archival records to donate, you are adding an important piece to our collective memory, improving the depth of our local knowledge and increasing the stories we preserve for future generations.

Matthew Lovegrove, Curator/Manager





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Join us for our AGM on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025** 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 4528



Stan Silvey with Olga Silvey, Pauline McNutt, Grace Silvey. Olga is holding her son Malcolm Douglas Silvey. skweláwtwxw Egmont, 1943

President's Corner with Larry Penonzek

This past year the SCMA has again increased the membership and we hope this will continue by setting new goals every year. Our visitation numbers are also very good. We now have a new audio/video system, installed by **Soundwerks**, which will improve our ability to host special events and presentations. I would sincerely like to thank **Bruinwood Estate Distillery, Rotary Club of Gibsons, SuperValu Gibsons** and the many generous community donors who supported this project. It is a wonderful asset to our museum. Existing displays are updated regularly and staff are planning for some new and interesting ones for the upcoming year. We also anticipate some important donations to add to our collection, which is exciting but also puts a burden on our limited space. Storage capacity is a constant issue and finding a solution may require a major funding drive. Our partnership with heritage groups on the coast is very important and we continue to support one another in our common goal. A special thank you to **Ann Watson**, who has managed the **Sechelt Archives** for many years and has now retired. All the best Ann from us all. The community events season is upcoming and we will be attending as many as possible. Members are more than welcome to give us a hand with booth setup and operation. Please give us a call if you are interested in helping out with events in Pender Harbour, Halfmoon Bay, Sechelt or Gibsons. The SCMA is on solid footing due to generous support from our members, special donors and of course, our local government. We sincerely thank you. I also would like to thank our staff, volunteers and the Board for their dedication and enormous effort in making us a "Great Community Museum".



Thanks to our 2024 Donors

Gold Level:

Halfmoon Bay Heritage
Endowment

Sunshine Coast Credit
Union

Bruinwood Estate
Distillery

John Roper & Pam
Proctor (Children of
War Book)

Barrie & Frankie
Stewart

Trudene Norman & Bill
Longman

SuperValu Gibsons

Kathryn Kelley

Noriko Kawaguchi

Lisa & Ralph Hilton

Anonymous

Silver Level:

London Drugs

Terry & Sandy McBride

Phil Burns

Sheila Rogers

John Preissl

Laura Millar & Brian
Arnold

Ken & Fay Fiedler

Laura Houle & Mark
Hiltz

Elaine Jackson



Archivist in Action: Ann Watson with the archival collection at the Sechelt Archives, Photo: Coast Reporter/Michael Gurney

Sechelt Community Archives

In 2024, I had the chance to join the team at the **Sechelt Community Archives** to work with **Ann Watson** as she prepared to retire.

Learning and working with someone with as much experience as Ann is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Ann is very thorough and detail-oriented, with a true passion for history, all qualities that make for a great archivist. She is also a very supportive teacher and has agreed to remain on-call in case I have any questions. The rest of the SCA team is just as supportive, with **Janet Ansell** our in-house computer expert, **Iris Loewen** our librarian, and **Laura Millar** our consulting archivist.

Not only am I getting more hands on archives experience but, with the support of the Museum board, I have also started my first online course. The University of Victoria course is Managing Archival Collections which, funny enough, was developed by Laura Millar. Her many publications about archives include the course textbook.

I am looking forward to becoming more familiar with the Archives and working to make our collection even more accessible.

Allie Bartlett, Curatorial Assistant



Celebrating the Legacy of Ann Watson

After decades of dedicated service, Ann Watson has retired from her role as the archivist at the **Sechelt Community Archives**. Ann's journey began with her love for history, which she taught in Canada, Scotland, and Zambia. Her passion grew during an archaeological dig in Vancouver in the 1980s, leading her to pursue archival and museum studies at **Simon Fraser University**.

One of the most memorable projects Ann undertook while working at the Archives involved a request from a professor in Berlin who was trying to identify the remains of Rosa Luxemburg, a revolutionary socialist with connections to the Sunshine Coast. This research inspired one of the many articles on local history that Ann wrote and published in the Coast Reporter.

When Ann took the helm of the Archives in 1997, she inherited a collection of 14 filing cabinets full of documents gathered by **Helen Dawe**, a Sechelt-based historian. Over almost 30 years, Ann witnessed the evolution of archiving, particularly the increasing importance of digital tools. Ann oversaw the digital preservation of photographs, audio recordings, and paper documents. Despite mixed feelings about digital preservation, she recognized the benefits for increasing public accessibility and broadening the reach to international audiences. "It is much easier for researchers to find information, [but] I still believe we have to preserve original textual records; they are the true historical documents and a tangible link to the past" noted Ann.

In 2023, Ann received the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** from **Heritage BC**. When asked what advice she would give to aspiring archivists, Ann shared "go out into the community, talk to the 'old-timers', keep good records, and visit other Archives." Ann Watson's legacy is a testament to her unwavering dedication to preserving history. Thank you, Ann, for ensuring that our community's past is accessible for future generations.

Siobhán Smith, District of Sechelt

More 2024 Donors!

Bronze Level:

Silas White

Lissa Forshaw

Gwen Willox & Wanda Selzer

Barbara Cattanach

Fred Inglis

Nadine Lowden

Donna McMahon & Clint Budd

Jon McRae

Elizabeth & Doug Plisson

Dona-lyn Reel

Richard Sand

Thelma Tait

...and many thanks to all others who donated!

Get Involved!

Volunteering is a great way to contribute, with many museum 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. We would love to hear from you!

Contact the Museum for more information!





WEST HOWE SOUND
REGATTA, 1937.

H. McCALL, PHOTO.





West Howe Sound Regatta 1937 held at Gibsons Landing. A microphone and speaker system were used to amplify music and announcements to the large crowd.
SCMA Photo 284



Summer Celebrations on the Sunshine Coast



SCMA Photo 4595: Canoe pillow fight at the West Howe Sound Regatta, 1932. Taken by Helen McCall.

Summer is when the Sunshine Coast comes alive! There have been a variety of different community celebrations over the years on the coast, with many of the most iconic events taking place when the sun is out and the weather is warm.

The **West Howe Sound Regatta** started in 1929 and would rotate between Hopkins Landing, Gibson's Landing and Granthams Landing, continuing until just after the end of World War II. The Regatta would last for a few days as people came together to enjoy summer games, including canoe tilting, balloon race, costume parade, and my personal favorite: the canoe pillow fight (*see above*). There were also many other fun games and activities, imbued with a spirit of friendly community competition. Within our archival collection, we house a number of fantastic archival photographs that depict all of the fun in action! [Click for Historic Photographs of Regatta](#)



The next long-lasting summer event that captured the imagination of the community was **Sea Cavalcade**, which started in 1969 and continued without pause until 2018, its fiftieth anniversary. Sea Cavalcade celebrations occurred over three days, and included many different activities, as observed in this newspaper advertisement from 1969.

The most spectacular part of Sea Cavalcade was the Boat Blow-up where a boat was blown up in the Gibsons harbour, although it did not always go smoothly. The 1979 Boat explosion created a shockwave that destroyed windows in multiple homes and injured one resident. Despite this accident, Sea Cavalcade and the Boat Blow-up tradition continued on for years to come.

For decades, Sea Cav was run by a dedicated group of community volunteers led by Gibsons' beloved **Conchita Harding**. While Sea Cavalcade ended in 2018, the summer celebration lives on in the hearts of community members who often share fond memories of the good times had at Sea Cav.

The good news is that Conchita is back to her community organizing magic, and will be hosting the **Gibsons Canada Day** celebration this year. Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon! In the meantime, make sure to mark on your calendar other fun summer events on the coast, including **April Tools** and the **Wooden Boat Show** in Pender Harbour, **Creek Daze** in Roberts Creek, **syiyaya Days** in Sechelt, and the **Halfmoon Bay Fair**. We will be attending many of these events with a Museum Booth, so make sure to come by and say hello!

Gavin Croteau, 2024 Summer Museum Assistant

GIBSONS FIRST ANNUAL

SEA CAVALCADE

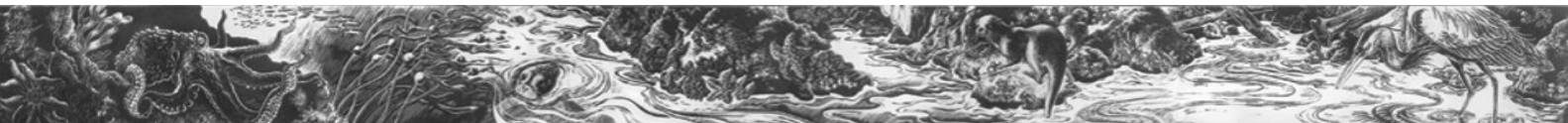
AUGUST 22, 23 & 24

<p>THURSDAY, AUG. 21 Official Opening by Premier Bennett</p> <p>FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 Paint-In Carnival Rides Kinsmen Cabaret Dance</p> <small>Tickets from Kinsmen, Committee or Coast News</small>	<p>SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 Trap Shoot Car Rally War of the Hoses Parade Ball Games Riding Display Bicycle Race Soccer Game Kiwanis Pancake Supper</p>	<p>Square Dance Teen Dance Miss Sea Cavalcade Kiwanis Boat Draw</p> <p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 Fishing Derbies <small>For Young and Old</small> Firemen's Water Sports Spectacular Tug Boat Race Sea Food Barbecue</p>
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Complete Programs on sale at all events
Deposit Coupon for Prize Draw

FUN GAMES PRIZES

Coast News August 20, 1969



Japanese Community History on the Coast

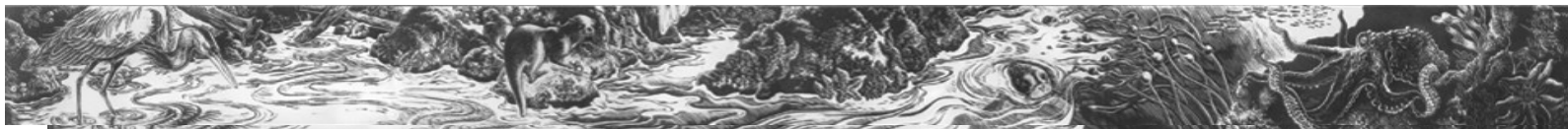


Community Builders: Jiro (Jim) Konishi and his daughter Agnes. The Konishi family farmed in West Porpoise Bay during the 1930s. Sechelt Archives Photograph 6.7.149

Do you know the Konishis? In 1920s—30s ch’atlich Sechelt, this wasn’t even really a question. Everyone knew the Konishis! Farmers, store operators, and all around community builders, the Konishi family was a vital part of the growing village before their internment in 1942.

We are currently planning a **coast-wide series of exhibits** to explore Japanese community histories of the Sunshine Coast (1900-present). With our partners **Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society**, **Egmont Heritage Centre**, **tems swiya Museum**, and **Sechelt Archives**, each organization will host a unique exhibit that shines a light on coastal Japanese history, focussing on community building, fishing/logging/farming, World War II internment, and the Japanese community today. We will be working with community members to curate these exhibits, and hope to partner with descendants of Sunshine Coast Japanese families who were interned. If you know anyone in your life that might be interested in speaking with us about Japanese community history on the coast, please be in touch!

While we are hard at work on exhibit development, make sure to drop by the museum this summer to see two beautiful quilts made by **Noriko Kawaguchi** that will be up for raffle, with all proceeds going towards exhibit costs. Thank you Noriko for this generous donation!



New 2025 Archival Greeting Cards!



Museum Membership Matters

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



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!





syiyaya Days Walking Tour with Talaysay Tours, Summer 2024

SCMA Photo 243 (altered)

Walk into History with Us!

There is a certain magic that occurs when you take a guided historical walk through a place you know well. As the stories unfold, you begin to sense the layers of history that are embedded in the landscape: voices of ancestors long-passed still seem present; events from 100 years ago seem as if they happened yesterday. In short, it can be a very meaningful and moving experience that changes the way you see your community!

Last summer, we hosted guided historical walking tours of Gibsons Landing with two well-known coastal guides. **Candace Campo** and her team at **Talaysay Tours** offered tours rooted in shíshálh & Skwxwú7mesh cultural knowledge, while local historian **Dale Peterson** focused on fascinating settler stories. We are honoured to work with these talented guides to bring Sunshine Coast history to life!

Keep your eyes peeled for more museum historical walking tour this summer, and come take a walk into history with us!



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

