

Winter 2017

What's *in*Sight

 ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Deviil@Sagey@brckow

A COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY
FROM ANCIENT EGYPT TO
THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM

PEAK PERFORMANCE
RACING CLIMATE CHANGE
IN BC'S ALPINE ECOSYSTEMS

**EXPLORING BC'S DIVERSE
COAST WITH CANADA C3**
THREE OCEANS, 25,000 KM

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MANAGING EDITOR

Jennifer Vanderzee
Marketing & Sales Manager

MAGAZINE COORDINATOR

Melissa Hogg
Membership & Marketing Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Erika Stenson
Head of Marketing, Sales & Business Development

Michelle van der Merwe
Publisher

Erik Lambertson

Corporate Communications Manager

Nathan Oickle

2D Graphic Designer

Annie Mayse

Editor

Shane Lighter

Photographer

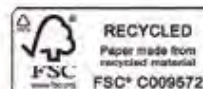
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COVER IMAGE

Detail from *Arctic Treasure* by Sergei Goshkov, a finalist in the Animal Portrait category of *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*.





Dear friends,

Good news—work has begun on our Learning Centre, which will break new ground by providing younger students, teachers and families with an engaging, digitally-rich, hands-on learning environment. This new centre will feature learning studios and spaces for experiencing the behind-the-scenes work of the museum, allowing us to quadruple the number of learning programs offered.

Located on the ground floor of the museum, the centre will provide a welcoming space for young people and enable greater opportunities for engagement with the museum's collections. It will also allow for less formal activities such as school holiday programs and a dedicated drop-in space for families. This centre is an important part of our vision to completely refresh the museum from top to bottom and put more of our research and collections on display.

We are still short of \$1,000,000 to complete this project and to cover the cost of Learning Centre operations. If you are able to support our vision and program of learning activities through a donation or legacy gift, please visit our website or contact our Development department.

I look forward to welcoming you to the museum's new Learning Centre in May 2018.

Yours,

Professor Jack Lohman, CBE
Chief Executive Officer, Royal BC Museum



1. The museum plays an important role in enriching young people's learning experiences. That is why we are developing a new Learning Centre and raising additional funds to deliver it.

2. The concept design for the Learning Centre's Digital Lab. Rendering by office of mcFarlane biggar architects + designers.

2.





Model boat with sail. Wooden model from Beni Hasan, ca. 1800 BC. Collection of University of Aberdeen Museums. Städtisches Museum photograph.

A Collaborative Journey

From Ancient Egypt to the Royal BC Museum

By Janet MacDonald, Head of Learning, and Michael Barnes, Head of Exhibitions

In June 2017 a team of representatives from the Royal BC Museum travelled to the cultural heart of Rosenheim, Germany. Our destination: the Lokschuppen Exhibition Centre, to visit an exhibition on ancient Egypt entitled PHARAO, which came highly recommended by Royal BC Museum CEO Professor Jack Lohman as a potential summer blockbuster. With an invitation in hand to help adapt the show for a North American tour, we were ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work with our new colleagues from Veran staltungen und Kongress GmbH Rosenheim, exhibition developers MuseumsPartner and curators from University of Aberdeen and the Roemer-Pelzaeus Museum Hildesheim.

In anticipation of an intensive two-day planning workshop with the exhibition's design and curatorial staff, our Royal BC Museum team (Dr. Scott Cooper, Vice President, Collections, Knowledge and Engagement; Head of Exhibitions Michael Barnes; and Head of Learning Janet MacDonald) spent the first day of our visit familiarizing ourselves with the exhibition. Our bulging orientation binders, filled with floorplans, object lists, thematic text and design schematics, were no substitute for the actual visitor experience. The superb quality of the artifacts, models, atmospheric soundtracks, sensory complements and design elements made for an exhilarating and thought-provoking orientation.

We were aware that the original exhibition on display at Lokschuppen was too large to fit most North American venues. Measuring nearly 1,500 square metres, the size of the



exhibition needed to be reduced by almost half. This required serious consideration, as the exceptional collections needed to remain intact. Reducing the size meant that we also needed to maintain the narrative thread, rearranging the thematic areas where necessary and stitching the story back together without losing context or flow. The curatorial team proved invaluable in guiding us through this process and the design team were able to bring forward architectural solutions and design options in our efforts to maintain the striking, atmospheric look and feel.

From a learning and visitor experience perspective, we wanted to ensure that the storyline was approachable and relatable for our audience. We have implemented a text strategy that layers the information, breaking it up into easily digested snippets. It is woven into captions around objects and pictures so that reading the final text becomes effortless for the variety of visitors who will no doubt flock to this exhibition. The translation of the exhibition text from the German has required some

editorial consideration and clarification from Egyptologists, and we continue to work with them as they virtually vet the text revisions.

Five months on, this international team continues to work together, adapting architectural elements to fit the gallery space, fine-tuning the interpretive layers of the experience and finalizing revisions to the storyline. We are also planning our marketing campaign and developing learning programs and activities as we prepare for the exciting year ahead.

The exhibition, now titled *Egypt: The Time of Pharaohs*, takes its visitors on a journey through the spaces of ancient Egyptian culture. The world of the pharaohs will come to life in this collaborative endeavour, and we look forward to its grand opening on May 18, 2018.

Left to right: Christian Tietze, Lokschuppen; Dr. Christian Bayer, Roemer-Pelzaeus-Museum, Hildesheim; Teresa Frank, MuseumsPartner; Dr. Scott Cooper, Royal BC Museum; Siegfried Brügger, MuseumsPartner; Janet MacDonald, Michael Barnes, Royal BC Museum; Neil Curtis, University Museums Aberdeen; Heinz Reese, MuseumsPartner; Laura Thiemann, and Dr. Peter Miesbeck, Lokschuppen.

Peak Performance

Racing climate change, biologists collect in BC's alpine ecosystems

By Erik Lambertson, Corporate Communications Manager

As global temperatures rise, British Columbians are enduring increasingly hot summers—and some destructive consequences, among them 2017's violent wildfire season. But Royal BC Museum biologists foresee another, longer-term threat: as temperatures rise, the flora and fauna adapted to cold, high-elevation alpine ecosystems are literally losing ground to rising treelines.

Temperature, not elevation, determines the position of the alpine treeline. As global temperatures rise, so will the treeline, and high-alpine ecosystems that cannot survive in the forest shade will disappear. This has

already been documented in some parts of the world. So, for the 18th summer in a row, Royal BC Museum scientists have conducted extensive fieldwork in BC's remote mountains, collecting specimens that document biodiversity and build a crucial scientific baseline.

BC's vast and varied alpine ecosystems have until recently been an underdocumented zone. They are often remote, and gaining access is challenging. The specimens that Royal BC Museum staff have collected from alpine regions over these years comprise a biological snapshot of ecosystems that climate change inevitably threatens.

This past June and July, Royal BC Museum botanists, earth scientists and entomologists visited Kluane National Park and Reserve in Yukon and three high elevation sites in the Atlin area in northwestern BC, including Atlin Provincial Park. At Kluane National Park, Royal BC Museum staff participated in a bioblitz (a short-term, intensive biological survey) at the invitation of Parks Canada and the Government of Yukon. The visit to the Atlin region was a Royal BC Museum field study.

Museum scientists note that they are "filling in the geographic gaps" by collecting

from these generally inaccessible areas. Because BC ecosystems are so diverse, museum researchers—particularly the entomologists—are optimistic that their collections from this summer's fieldwork will contain species previously unrecorded in BC.

Robb Bennett, a Royal BC Museum research associate, estimates that an astounding 20–30 additional species of spider are recorded in BC each year as a result of expeditions to previously unexplored regions. This is the eighth year of entomology collection efforts by Royal BC Museum scientists in the BC alpine.

For Royal BC Museum Curator of Botany Ken Marr, Curator Emeritus Richard Hebda and Botany Collections Manager Erica Wheeler, the cumulative result of 18 years of alpine collecting is the development of a globally-significant collection, digitized and published online for anyone in the world to study.

Fieldwork is physically tough, but it is essential to this museum. It's a time for boots, not suits, as biologists explore near-inaccessible regions, enduring often terrible weather and extremely long hours, working with colleagues in an interdisciplinary, collaborative manner.





The process bears fruit, although often not immediately. Although it is too early to announce specific findings in entomology and botany, Royal BC Museum entomologist Claudia Copley did uncover something fascinating during the Kluane bioblitz: a species of snail, *Vallonia cyclophorella*, common in BC but never before seen in the Yukon, according to researchers.

Copley, turning over stones in the alpine, was expecting to find spiders. “That’s the most likely thing to find under rocks in the alpine, spiders,” she told Yukon News. “Then whatever else is under there comes into the collection too.”

It takes time and specialized expertise to officially identify everything that has been collected. The snail, for example, wasn’t identified until Copley returned home and showed it to Kristiina Ovaska, a Royal BC Museum research associate with expertise in terrestrial snail identification.

After collected botanical species are identified, other Royal BC Museum staff photograph and digitize the collections and place the digitized images online—a boon to researchers the world over. Together with their colleagues in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations, Royal BC Museum botanists are undertaking a geospatial analysis using lists of species they have collected from BC’s mountains in order to identify geographic patterns of species occurrences. The list of species collected from Kluane National Park will be included in this analysis.

After all, as Wheeler notes, documenting biodiversity and making this information accessible to the public is simply part of the museum’s mandate. Research is a key component of our mission at the Royal BC Museum. It is how we unlock the secrets to this magnificent land and the cultures that have flourished here.

It is also how we can get a sense of what is at risk, what may thrive and what we are in jeopardy of losing as we race against the inevitability of climate change.

To learn more, visit the Research Portal at royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/research

1. Shannon Stotyn, Government of Canada Species at Risk Biologist, searching for specimens during the Kluane bioblitz.
2. Looking into Kluane National Park from the Ruby Range, just north of the Kluane Lake Research Station.

Support climate research that makes a difference to our planet.

To make a contribution today, contact us at 250-387-7222 or donate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Exploring BC's Diverse Coast with Canada C3

Three oceans, 25,000 km—and one exceptional experience

By Dr. Joel Gibson, Curator of Entomology

The Canada C3 (coast-to-coast-to-coast) expedition drew to a close in Victoria on October 28, 2017. Proposed and organized by the Students on Ice Foundation and its leader, Geoff Green, the expedition had travelled more than 25,000 km along Canada's three coastlines since leaving Toronto on June 1, 2017. Aboard the ship were artists, musicians, community and business leaders, politicians, athletes, writers, reporters and scientists—including me.

I was aboard the *MV Polar Prince* from Prince Rupert to Bella Bella as a part of the Canada C3 science team. My leg of the journey included a visit to the Haida Cultural Centre and Haida Gwaii Museum in Skidegate (Hlgaagilda) and to three sites within Gwaii Haanas. This beautiful area in the south of Haida Gwaii is protected through a unique cooperative agreement between the Council of the Haida Nation, Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. My Canada C3 colleagues and

I were able to visit historically, culturally and ecologically important sites like Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) and SGang Gwaay Llanagaay, which are accessible only by boat. Not only was I lucky enough to visit historic Haida village sites—I was also given permission to make the first insect and spider specimen collections in this region.

The Canada C3 expedition also visited the First Nations communities of Hartley





1. Joel Gibson uses his pooter to extract flies from his net at Khutze Inlet. Martin Lipman/Students on Ice photograph.

2. The Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole, raised at HIK'yah GawaGa (Windy Bay) in 2013. Martin Lipman/Students on Ice photograph.

3. Joel Gibson (with net) and the rest of the Canada C3 expedition team hike in along Khutze Inlet. Martin Lipman/Students on Ice photograph.





Bay (Gitga'at), Klemtu (Kitasoo/Xai'xais) and Bella Bella (Heiltsuk). Each community offered an opportunity to share experiences and concerns, as well as food, music, laughter and gifts. Hosts from each place led us on excursions to see wildlife (including Spirit Bears, Grizzlies, Humpback Whales and Orcas), local fish hatcheries, and cultural and historic sites. The insects and spiders collected in these regions will help Royal BC Museum researchers explore important questions. For example, what insects are associated with annual salmon runs on the central coast, and how have changes in salmon runs affected these communities?

Everywhere our ship docked, I shared the Royal BC Museum's role in researching and protecting diversity with expedition and community members. In these little-visited but exceptionally beautiful parts of BC I had a rare opportunity—not only to increase our knowledge of biodiversity, but also to make new friends who will become future partners in research.

Royal BC Museum Curator of Invertebrate Zoology Henry Choong was aboard the MV *Polar Prince* from Bella Bella to Campbell River. At the time of writing, Henry was still aboard the ship. We look forward to hearing more about his personal experiences in the future.

1. The MV *Polar Prince*, anchored in Klutz Inlet. Martin Lipman/Students on Ice photograph.

2. A humpback whale (*Megaptera novae angliae*) breaches in Gwaii Haanas. Martin Lipman/Students on Ice photograph.



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Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Grand title winners

A visitor favourite every year, *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* returns with a brand new selection of 100 of the most stunning images from around the world. From the adorable to the elegant, this exhibition showcases award-winning images that tell astonishing stories of our natural world while pushing the boundaries of technical skill. The 100 winning photos are back-lit on a large scale for maximum impact, a dramatic setting for some of the world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts. See the Wildlife Exhibition of the Year exhibition at the Royal BC Museum from December 8, 2017 to April 2, 2018.



MEMORIAL TO A SPECIES

Brent Stirton, South Africa
Grand title winner 2017

The killers were probably from a local community but working to order. Entering the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park at night, they shot the black rhino bull using a silencer. Working fast, they hacked off the two horns and escaped before being discovered by the reserve's patrol. The horns would have been sold to a middleman and smuggled out of South Africa, probably via Mozambique, to China or Vietnam. For the reserve, it was grim news, not least because this is where conservationists bred back from near extinction the subspecies that is now the pre-eminent target for poachers, the southern white rhino. For the photographer, the crime scene was one of more than 30 he visited in the course of covering this tragic story.

THE GOOD LIFE

Daniël Nelson, The Netherlands
Grand title winner 2017, Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Daniël met Caco in the forest of Odzala National Park in the Republic of Congo. A three-hour trek through dense vegetation with skilled trackers led him to where the 16-strong Neptuno family was feeding and to a close encounter with one of the few habituated groups of western lowland gorillas. In the wet season they favour the plentiful supply of sweet fruit, and here Caco is feasting on a fleshy African breadfruit. Caco, about nine years old, he is putting on muscle, becoming a little too bold and is often found at the fringe of the group. He will soon become a solitary silverback, perhaps teaming up with other males to explore and, with luck, starting his own family in eight to ten years' time. Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered, threatened by illegal hunting for bushmeat, disease, habitat loss and the impact of climate change. In his compelling portrait of Caco—relaxed in his surroundings—Daniël captured the inextricable similarity between these wild apes and humans and the importance of the forest on which they depend.

Kwädəy Dän Ts'inchj

Teachings from Long Ago Person Found

By Michelle Van Der Merwe, Publisher

Excerpts are from the Introduction to Part 1 and the Conclusions of *Kwädəy Dän Ts'inchj: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found*.

Exceptional discoveries often occur in exceptional places and under exceptional circumstances...

During one of the warmest years on record, three sheep hunters encountered human remains on a small icefield on the north side of an unnamed mountain in Tatchenshini-Alsek Park... Fortunately the hunters were aware of the potential

significance of the discovery and recognized their responsibilities. They quickly contacted the appropriate people, and the work set out in a respectful manner and in full collaboration with First Nations, scientists and government institutions in a way that made the project unique.

The remains those hunters discovered more than 17 years ago belonged to a young man who, on a late summer day many years ago, set out on a voyage through the mountains. He never reached his destination. But since his discovery, we have learned much

both from and about the man whom First Nations elders decided to call Kwädəy Dän Ts'inchj—Long Ago Person Found.

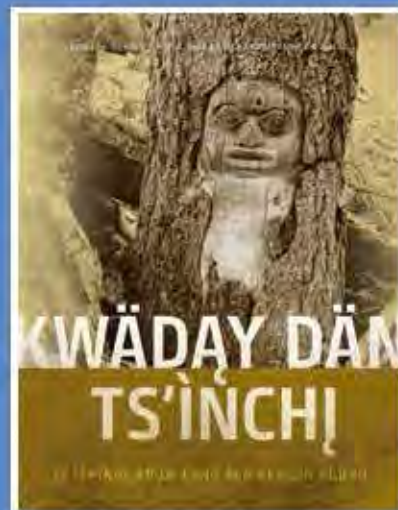
The Royal BC Museum's newest publication, *Kwädəy Dän Ts'inchj: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found*—released October 31, 2017—has been a decade in the making. With more than 60 contributors from across Canada and the US, and from as far afield as the UK and Australia, this long-awaited tome is a comprehensive and collaborative account that interweaves scientific analysis and cultural knowledge to describe a life that ended just as Europeans were about to arrive in the northwest.

The sheer volume of content and the wide range of subject matter, from First Nations history and traditional stories of glacier travel to botanical information from the discovery site and microbial DNA analysis that shed light on the Kwädəy Dän Ts'inchj man's origins, made getting this book

1.



NEW PUBLICATION



KWÄDAY DÄN TS'INCHJ

Teachings from Long
Ago Person Found

Edited by Richard J. Hebda,
Sheila Greer and
Alexander P. Mackie

Available online, at the
Royal Museum Shop and at
your local bookstore.

\$49.95

978-0-7726-6699-4

For more information on
Royal BC Museum publications, visit
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 ROYAL BC MUSEUM



2.



3.

“The Kwädäy Dän Ts'inchj discovery has brought back that part of our history that seems just like yesterday.”

– Ron Chambers, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

to press an enormous and challenging task. But it is also what makes it such a fascinating read.

As the volume editors so nicely conclude on behalf of all of us who had the privilege of seeing this lengthy yet rewarding journey that the Long Ago Person Found sent us on through to its end,

We hope that in its full form this book and the work it represents might serve as a model for future collaborations involving First Nations, the scholarly community, governments and institutions. Perhaps it might serve as a broad example to society at large. For are we not all communities of people with interests and histories of our

own, deserving of respect and understanding, while at the same time wanting to advance our own knowledge and skills in a world of rapidly advancing technology?

The Kwädäy Dän Ts'inchj project has taught everyone involved an enormous amount about ourselves, regardless of our respective cultural backgrounds... It has been an honour and a privilege.

1. Hunter Bill Hanton looking across the valley from the ridge above the discovery site. Mike Roch photograph.

2. Royal BC Museum Textiles Conservator Kjerstin Mackie inspects a fragment of material. Royal BC Museum photograph.

3. The wooden hand tool, now recognized as a knife, found with the man's belongings. Yulon Heritage Branch photograph.

Mundane to Mysterious

Sisters of St. Ann artifacts return from Quebec

By Carey Pallister, Province Archivist, Sisters of St. Ann Archives



Three years ago I embarked on a project that I both looked forward to and dreaded. It was an opportunity to have an in-depth look at the holdings of the Sisters of St. Anne Museum in Lachine Quebec and to work side by side with my colleagues. But the reason for this opportunity was heartbreaking: the museum was closing its doors, its collection to be dispersed.

My assignment was to select the objects relevant to and associated with St. Joseph's Province (the Sisters' designation for British Columbia, Alaska and Yukon). For a week I browsed databases, file cabinets and storage areas. Shelf by shelf, drawer by drawer, I marvelled at the collection amassed by the Sisters in the east; it was their story in three dimensions, their contribution to education, health care and the arts, and a testament to a congregation of religious women founded in Canada. But more than that, it was a success story—the story of Blessed Mother Marie Anne

Blondin, foundress of the community, her hardships, her burdens and her triumphs.

The Sisters of St. Anne were virtually self-sufficient; they grew their own food, made their own shoes and bound their own books. They were artists, seamstresses and embalmers. And they were missionaries. The evidence of all these talents and activities was there before my eyes, from the practical to the beautiful, the mundane to the mysterious.

Some of the artifacts coming back to British Columbia originated here in Victoria at the St. Ann's Museum. Opened in 1910, it was a true Victorian cabinet of curiosities, where taxidermy was displayed alongside a telescope from the SS Beaver, Chinese slippers and Bishop Durieu's mitre. When St. Ann's Academy closed in 1974, the museum collection was dispersed and the artifacts sent to Lachine and to the Provincial Museum, which would eventually become the Royal British Columbia Museum.

It was with great anticipation that I awaited the nearly 800 artifacts I had selected. They arrived in November 2016 accompanied by the museum technician who had so lovingly packed every one of them. During her seven-month contract, Sara Juneau catalogued and photographed the artifacts which were already part of the Sisters of St. Ann Archives' collection as well as incorporating the selections I had made in Lachine.

These artifacts are now more readily accessible, some in open storage where they can be viewed by researchers. They will enhance, enrich and contribute additional context to the archival documents in the archives, as well as preserving for future generations a tangible testament to the story of the Sisters of St. Ann in the west.

1. St. Ann's Museum at St. Ann's Academy, Victoria, 1940s. The museum was open from 1910 to 1974. William Brice Young photograph. SSA P0062.

2. This steamer stool, used by the Sisters on their voyage to Victoria in 1868 and in the pioneer convent, was returned to Victoria in 2017. SSA C0067.



Exit Through the Gift Shop

Dr. Richard Hebda and Dr. Kathryn Bridge
retire from the Royal BC Museum

By Scott Cooper, Vice President, Collections, Knowledge and Engagement

Recent months have seen the retirement of two remarkable members of the museum's curatorial staff: Dr. Richard Hebda and Dr. Kathryn Bridge.

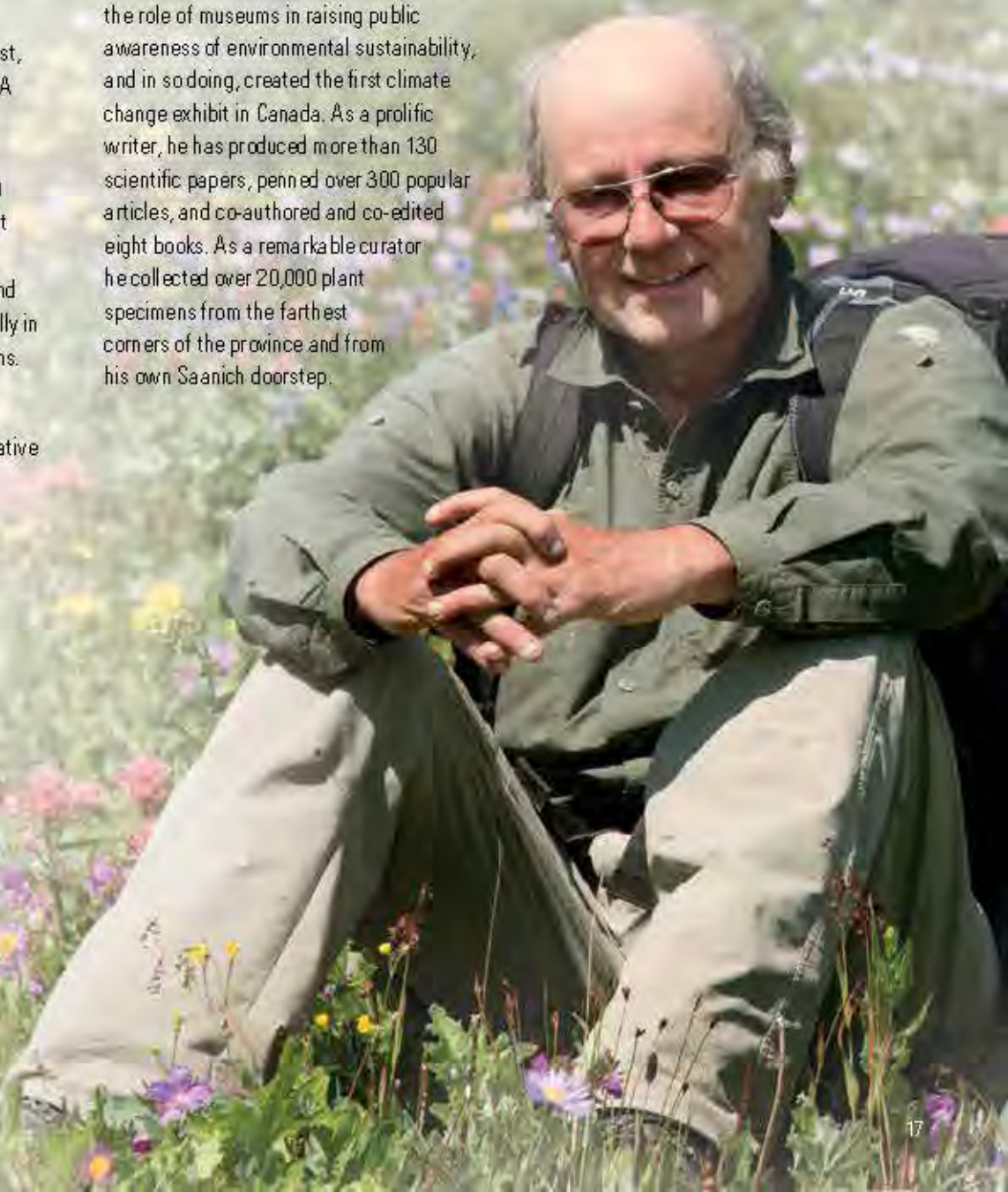
Dr. Richard Hebda, our curator of botany and earth history, retired in July after 38 years of exceptional service. He is a botanist, ethnobotanist, paleontologist, palaeoecologist and phytogeographer. A widely published leader in his field, Dr. Hebda has contributed groundbreaking work in palynology (the study of pollen) and palaeoecology (the study of ancient ecosystems). He has furthered the understanding of ancient landscapes and vegetation in British Columbia, especially in wetlands, forests and alpine ecosystems.

Famous for his work in environmental restoration and promoting the use of native plants, Dr. Hebda has mentored many students in the Restoration of Natural Systems program at the University of Victoria—a program he helped found. He was one of the key collaborators on the large research team investigating the Kwáday Dän Ts'ínchi discovery in northwestern British Columbia, the first ancient human body found on a North American glacier. Dr. Hebda has spearheaded the conservation of fossil sites in British Columbia (not least in his role as the de facto provincial paleontologist) and worked with NGOs to preserve the province's spectacular natural heritage.

Exceptional in his public outreach and a gifted teacher, Dr. Hebda has delivered hundreds of lectures and has inspired and encouraged many students to pursue careers in natural history and botany.

As a passionate activist he has advanced the role of museums in raising public awareness of environmental sustainability, and in so doing, created the first climate change exhibit in Canada. As a prolific writer, he has produced more than 130 scientific papers, penned over 300 popular articles, and co-authored and co-edited eight books. As a remarkable curator he collected over 20,000 plant specimens from the farthest corners of the province and from his own Saanich doorstep.

Richard Hebda as he appears in the book *Treasures of the Royal BC Museum and Archives*—one of the many museum publications to which he contributed.



Dr. Kathryn Bridge, our curator of history and art, retired in August after 39 years of similarly distinguished service. A prolific writer, speaker and presenter, Dr. Bridge variously—and often simultaneously—wore the hats of archivist, historian and curator, balancing the academic focus of publications with public presentations and exhibitions. She led both the curatorial and archives departments and was an adjunct faculty member of the Department of History at the University of Victoria.

Her research interest in British Columbia's colonial families has taken many forms, among them publications, exhibitions and presentations. *By Snowshoe, Buckboard and Steamer*, her book about the province's frontier women, won the 1998 Lieutenant

Governor's Medal for Historical Writing. She has written books on Sarah Crease and on mountaineers Don and Phyllis Munday, and she is currently revising a manuscript on pioneer children and childhood.

As a curator she developed some of the museum's most notable exhibitions, including *Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia* and *Family: Bonds and Belonging*. But it is perhaps her deep knowledge of the art and life of Emily Carr that is most notable. This knowledge has been demonstrated in her work as the curator of several popular Carr exhibitions and the editor of three museum-published books, as well as the introductory essay to the reprint of Carr's *Klee Wyck*.

It has been said that nobody should think of retiring from the world until the world is sorry he or she has retired. If that is true, then it may equally be said that both Richard and Kathryn enjoy impeccable timing. It is with some relief that their vast knowledge and experience of the collections they developed and the province they served will remain available to the museum with their appointments as curators emeritus and emerita respectively. The Royal BC Museum wishes both of them long, enjoyable retirements—they are very well earned.

Kathryn Bridge, curator emerita in the painting collection. The archives contains about 10,000 paintings, drawings and prints of British Columbia.



The Ties That Bind Canada

By Aidan Moher, Web Specialist and Content Developer

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation, the National, Provincial and Territorial Archivists Conference collaborated to create The Ties That Bind Canada, an online collection of 150 select images and stories. The photos in this collection give life to the stories of those who came before us to form and connect communities through the development of transportation links over land, sea and ice.

First Trip of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway" tells the story of how the Pacific Great Eastern (PGE) provided access to many parts of British Columbia.

In the early days of the 20th century, the only link to BC's vast interior was the Cariboo Wagon Road, which had seen better days and only went as far as Barkerville. The PGE's founders hoped to open up the interior of the province by building and operating a railway to provide inexpensive north/south transportation for freight, passengers and mail. The line grew in painfully slow stages, its development hampered by difficult terrain, the Great Depression and two world wars, as well

as ongoing financial problems. The delays resulted in nicknames such as "Province's Great Expense", "Prince George Eventually" and "Past God's Endurance".

As the line inched northward, it created the town of Williams Lake, which became the prime cattle shipping centre for the province. And in 1952, the Prince George line finally opened. Six years later, the line had stretched to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, in BC's northern Peace River district.

The completion of Canada's railway system and its effect on building our nation is not the only story—even today, movement of people and goods in remote areas of Canada relies on ingenuity and alternate forms of transportation, sometimes in very harsh conditions. First Peoples in Canada are the land's original explorers, finding ways to move from place to place in remote

areas like the northern edges of Nunavut where there are massive networks of trails developed by the Indigenous peoples who have been there since time immemorial.

Grab your train ticket or kayak and join us on a cross-country tour of Canada by visiting the Ties That Bind website: rbcm.ca/tiesthatbind

We hope you enjoy this selection from The Ties That Bind Canada.

First trip of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, 1958. BCA i-68582.

Support online learning and help make your museum accessible to everyone.

To make a contribution today, contact us at 250-387-7222 or donate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca



Restoring Balance

Reuniting Coast Salish art and oral history

By Aunalee Boyd-Good, Curious Contributor

Curious is an online publication and app that collects essays, research, archival items and photography from Royal BC Museum curators, archivists and other experts. Each issue of *Curious* engages with a particular theme that is important to British Columbia residents and visitors. In this issue, First Nations community members in British Columbia join Royal BC Museum staff to explore themes of belonging, self-discovery and community.

Raised in an art studio in Nanaimo, BC, Aunalee Boyd-Good developed a passion for art and entrepreneurship alongside her father, traditional Coast Salish artist William Good.

This passion and reverence for her family's art led Boyd-Good and her sister Sophia to create Ay Lelum—The Good House of Design (aylelum.com), a family brand of Coast Salish clothing. Now, alongside her father, Boyd-Good is working on a forthcoming historical information series.

This is an excerpt from her article, "Restoring Balance: Reuniting Coast Salish Art and Oral History":

According to my father, "it is impossible to separate art and history—it defines the culture." It is as though art and history were like a split-design that had been separated: although the components are different, they

are one and the same. With the artistic visual aspect of the culture being the missing link in a pre-digital era, he contacted museums all over Canada and the United States and was subsequently mailed copies of photos and sent facsimiles of Coast Salish artifacts. This led to visits to archival collections—such as those at the Royal BC Museum—where, with his knowledge of the stories and his artistic background, he was able to see the history in those pieces. He found artwork that was carved with stories that paralleled those he had been taught by his grandfather, and he was able to read the stories and see the written language in those ancient pieces. He found that every visual aspect of those art pieces carried significance, from their shapes and colours, their characters, their symmetry and asymmetry, their abstraction and their signatures. Through his teachings we can see that the traditional Coast Salish art form is a complex visual literary system, it is as he says, "A written language."

Having access to the Royal BC Museum and Archives enabled him to not only read the language but, in carving, he was then able to share the language with others. Over the years he has been able to practice the traditional way of cultural documentation through Coast Salish art and has preserved his grandfather's teachings for his own grandchildren, and has carved every one of our milestones as we've grown up. He takes great pride in sharing this artwork with the community, including a School District 68 instructional book in the 1990s called



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 **ROYAL BC MUSEUM**

Art the Coast Salish Way, carvings in the Nanaimo Museum, a recent panel for the City of Nanaimo called Sque-em, and with his clientele, which includes collectors from all over the globe.

Join Aunalee and the rest of the *Curious* contributors online at curious.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

1. William Good carving and painting the story of "Sque-em" on a panel for the City of Nanaimo, 2016. Red Cedar. Tricia Thomas (Salish Eye Productions; salisheye.com) photograph.

2. Steam bent boxes. Red Cedar. Ravens and Sun design by William Good, Grizzly Bear and Eagles by William Good, mini Bear box by Raymond Seward-Good (William's grandson, age seven) and Frog design by William Good, 2013–2017. Tricia Thomas (Salish Eye Productions; salisheye.com) photograph.



2.



Deck the Halls

Seasonal traditions at the Royal BC Museum

By Kim Gough, Learning Program Developer



Children, families, friends and even dogs can share the joy of the holiday season at the Royal BC Museum this year. Start the season off with a bang—or a bing-bong-bing—and take part in our 12th Annual Carol-Along with the Carillon. Bring your dog, your warm hat and your singing voice, and gather outside near the Netherlands Centennial Carillon for a one-of-a-kind carolling experience. The Newcombe Choir will lead the chorus, and our very own Provincial Carillonneur Rosemary Laing will play the bells from atop the carillon tower. The event will take place on December 3 from 4:30 to 5:15 pm. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Before there was a Santa Claus, there was a Father Christmas. You can meet him, resplendent in his burgundy robes and furs, and have your picture taken in Old Town. While you're there, enjoy the Victorian-themed decorations and take part in one of our special family activities. Father Christmas will be on site from December 1 to 3, 8 to 10 and 15 to 17, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Visits with Father Christmas are included with admission, though donations are welcome. Photographs are by donation.

More Victorian finery will be on display in Helmcken House. Walk through the doors of one of the oldest homes in British Columbia and into a Victorian Christmas

experience. The house will be beautifully decorated in period style—you'll almost smell the turkey on the table. You'll be greeted by volunteers sharing stories of the life and times of the Helmcken family, who lived in the house from 1852 to 1920. You can visit this historic site from December 17 to 31 between 12:00 and 4:00 pm. Visits to Helmcken House are included with museum admission or by donation.

Stop by this holiday season and make us part of your seasonal traditions!

Helmcken House and the Royal BC Museum will be closed on December 25.

Father Christmas in Old Town.

Museum Camp

Nurturing a love for learning

By Chris O'Connor, Learning Program Developer

When I work with a class as part of our Learning Labs School Program, I'll ask the students:

"How is learning at the museum different from learning in the classroom?"

They'll say: *"Learning at the museum is fun."*

At which point I turn to the teacher, shrug and apologize. But then we unpack that response. What is it about museums that makes learning especially fun?

Students often tell me that they appreciate hands-on exploration with real objects; they appreciate being immersed in history and biology within the galleries; they like having space to make their own connections; and they like being in an environment that sparks the imagination.

A school visit only scratches the surface, though.

This is why I am particularly proud of the kind of learning that happens during our camps. A culture of inquiry is at the heart of all we do here in the Learning department at the museum and, at our camps, we have a full week to explore in this way.

We offer camps during the spring and summer, inspired by our feature exhibitions. Campers have the opportunity to explore behind the scenes at the museum and to meet our knowledgeable and engaging staff. We make connections between the feature exhibitions and the core galleries, diving into project-based learning throughout the week. Facilitators respond to the needs of each camper, developing an environment where they feel safe to take chances and where their ideas are fully respected.

royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

In our constant effort to build a more dynamic learning environment for kids to grow into, we've developed a youth mentor program. This program allows older kids to take on leadership roles. Working with our camp facilitators, these kids build and run activities to help support the learning of younger campers. They give feedback from a youth perspective while continuing to build their own mentoring skill set. We currently have 20 amazing kids taking part in the program.

It is a joy to learn alongside all the extraordinary camp kids as they take part in this learning journey.

1. Campers behind the scenes with Invertebrate Collection Manager Hugh McIntosh.

2. Camp is a family affair. Two campers with their moms.



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What's *on*

For a full listing of what's happening at the Royal BC Museum, view our calendar online at royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/calendar

MUSEUM HOURS: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily
Closed December 25, 2017 and January 1, 2018.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

WONDER SUNDAY

Join us in the galleries for some fun learning. Sundays from September to May. Included with admission or membership.

World Celebrations

Learn about the different events celebrated by people from all over the world, from birthdays to festivals.

December 3, 10, 17 | 1:00–3:00 pm

Local Land

Victoria is situated in Lekwungen territory. Learn more about our city's surroundings through the *First Peoples* gallery and *Our Living Languages* exhibition.

January 7, 14, 21, 28 | 1:00–3:00 pm

Animals of Chinatown

Explore the museum's Chinatown, make paper lanterns and learn more about the animals of the Chinese zodiac.

February 4, 11, 18, 25 | 1:00–3:00 pm

KIDS' CLUB

Join us at the first Wonder Sunday of each month for a special behind-the-scenes tour just for Kids' Club members. Then join other families for public Wonder Sunday activities. Each month offers a new theme and topics to explore.

1:00 pm and 1:30 pm

Kids' Club is included with Royal BC Museum membership.

ADULT PROGRAMS

NIGHT SHIFT: WILD ROMANCE

Romance is in the air, but you don't need to be attached to explore the allure of instinct, passion and love.

February 10 | 8:00 pm – 12:00 am

\$35 per person

19+ | Two pieces of ID required for entry

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ALLAGES

11TH ANNUAL CAROL-ALONG WITH THE CARILLON

Gather under the Netherlands Centennial Carillon with fellow singers. Hot chocolate and cookies help to make the season bright, and the carillon will be lit for the holidays.

December 3 | 4:30–5:15 pm

By donation

FATHER CHRISTMAS IN OLD TOWN

Visit with Father Christmas in Old Town, have your photo taken and share your holiday wishes.

December 1–3 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

December 8–10 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

December 15–17 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Included with admission or membership

Photos by donation

CHRISTMAS IN OLD TOWN

Take in the sights and sounds of Christmas long ago. Marvel at the 4.5 metre Christmas tree, visit the wood-cobbled streets lined with festive garlands and see the shops decked with seasonal finery.

November 11 – January 9

Included with admission or membership

FASHION MACHINE 100

Fashion Machine 100 is a live performance event by Theatre SKAM that features 100 local children and youth remaking select audience members' outfits in less than one hour.

December 15, 16, 17 | 7:00–9:00 pm

\$10 per person | \$30 per family*

*Up to two adults and three youth (6–18 years)

HELMCKEN HOUSE OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Step through the doors of the oldest house in British Columbia still on its original site and experience what Christmas was like in Victoria over one hundred years ago.

December 17–31 | 12:00–4:00 pm

Included with admission or membership

EARLY SHIFT: GOING WILDLY INTO THE NEW YEAR

On the last day of 2017, join us in our *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition and *Natural History* gallery for a party fit for the king of beasts. Our annual family-oriented party takes a wild turn as the museum plays host to animal antics, musical mischief and forest frolics.

December 31 | 6:00–8:30 pm

\$24 per adult | \$16 per youth

Kids five and under are free.

LETTER-WRITING WEEK

New Year's is a great time to make a resolution to slow down, and what better way to do so than to put away your smart phone, sit down and write a letter at our letter-writing booth?

January 2–7 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Included with admission or membership

FAMILY DAY

Join us for photography-related activities for the whole family in the *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition.

February 12 | 1:00–3:00 pm

Included with admission or membership

LECTURES

LIVE @ LUNCH

By donation | Newcombe Conference Hall

John Lennon's Rolls Royce

Join Dr. Lorne Hammond, curator of history, for a glimpse at this vehicle's unusual history and recent expeditions.

December 6 | 12:00–1:00 pm

From Haida Gwaii to the Salish Sea Adventure and Research on the C3 Voyage

The Canada C3 (Coast to Coast to Coast) expedition was a 150-day journey from Toronto to Victoria via the Northwest Passage.

January 3 | 12:00–1:00 pm

Black Pioneers in British Columbia

In commemoration of Black History Month, Karen Alexander Hosahl of the Black History Awareness Society shares the history of her family and other black pioneers in the area.

February 7 | 12:00–1:00 pm

ACTS OF KINDNESS AND COMPLICITY: THE SILENCE OF BYSTANDERS AND EYEWITNESSES TO THE DISPOSSESSION AND INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

In this talk, distinguished oral historian Dr. Pamela Sugiman confronts the complexity and messiness of human relationships. She reveals a troubling silence concerning internment: not the silence of Japanese Canadians, but rather their friends, neighbours, classmates, teachers, co-workers, employers and religious leaders.

February 28 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Free | Newcombe Conference Hall

Information correct at time of printing. Subject to change. Please visit royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/calendar for most up-to-date information. Prices do not include applicable taxes.

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE

Helijet



The Royal BC Museum's Community Days are all about connecting British Columbians with how we all got here in the first place—and Helijet is proud to support this important opportunity for us all to connect and learn.

Although most people think of our highly-regarded passenger helicopter service when our name comes up, we're really in the business of connecting people. As the preferred choice for quick and safe travel between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, our Helijet flights are a regular fixture in the daily itineraries of many. Our frequent scheduled flights allow our passengers to practically eliminate the distance across the Salish Sea, saving the time needed to help maintain a healthy work-life balance.

The Royal BC Museum's Community Days are about keeping people connected to BC's past. Everyone is invited to take some time to reconnect with friends and neighbours and revisit their favourite exhibits. Learn from the long history of First Nations in BC and lose yourself in our endless seas and unique forests. Discover how early explorers committed themselves to long journeys by land or sea just to arrive on the West Coast before flight came along to bring the world closer. Wander through Old Town and explore how the Gold Rush helped propel the province's early prosperity and transportation.

As BC has grown, so too has Helijet. From our earliest days during Expo 86 through the '94 Commonwealth Games to Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Games, we've

expanded our passenger service options well beyond just Victoria and Vancouver. Today, we offer regular flights to Nanaimo and charters that head north along our scenic coast to Prince Rupert and to BC's famous fishing lodges in Haida Gwaii. Helijet has also been the sole provider of air ambulance service to the province of BC since the turn of the millennium.

The Royal BC Museum has become part of the fabric of BC, and we'd like to think Helijet has too in our own way. Please join us at the museum's Community Days as we take a breath, gather together and recognize the importance of taking time to connect with the friends, family and places we love.

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Please Help Us Create a New Learning Centre

We have imagined what is possible.
With your help we can achieve it.



Learning is at the heart of our mission. On-site, online and through community outreach, we are striving to do more than ever; to share our collections and expertise in new ways; and to reach more people every year. A state-of-the-art Learning Centre is the next step: it will help us realize our full potential as an engaging and accessible source of inspiration and learning for everyone, regardless of age or where they are in BC. Its construction will mark the beginning of our vision to transform our museum and archives for the 21st century, and it will be a treasure for generations to come.

To make this possible, we need to raise \$2,200,000—and we need you. With your help, 2018 will see the launch of our new Learning Centre, a vital hub where teachers, students and British Columbia's diverse communities can come together to further knowledge and understanding.

As an extension of our commitment to lifelong, dynamic, content-rich and high-quality learning, the Learning Centre will offer a unique opportunity for all learners to better understand the history of our province and to help shape its future.

You can help us turn this vision into a reality. Please support our new Learning Centre with a gift today! Contact our fundraising team at 250-387-7222 or donate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca



“The Learning Centre will be an immersive environment more like a laboratory than a schoolroom. Imagine a series of flexible spaces, colourful spaces, hands-on spaces and digital spaces where visitors connect to ask questions, have discussions and draw meaning.”

– Professor Jack Lohman, Chief Executive Officer, CBE, Royal BC Museum



1. The new Learning Centre will expand hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.
2. The museum offers a range of carefully tailored programs for children, adults and seniors from all walks of life.
3. Consulting with communities helps the museum incorporate diverse intercultural perspectives into the presentation of BC history.

Donor Form

YES, I want to help the Royal BC Museum create a new Learning Centre with my tax deductible gift of:

\$ _____

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I prefer the convenience of giving monthly using my credit card. Please take a payment on the 1st or 15th of each month in the amount of

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Please return the completed form and donation to the Fundraising and Development Department via our box office, or mail to Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria BC V8W 9W2.

You can also donate by phone at 250-387-7222 or online at royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/support.

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Wildlife Photographer of the Year

December 8, 2017 – April 2, 2018

Egypt: The Time of Pharaohs

May 18 – December 31, 2018

PH428506

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