



Featured image in the summer exhibit
"When Passion Makes History"
focusing on Henry Twidle's images of
the coast.

Museum at Campbell River **2025 Annual Report**

Gaxənc laḵa ʔəwinəg^wises sa Liḡ^wiḡdax^w

We respectfully acknowledge
the Liḡ^wiḡdax^w First Nation on
whose lands we work to
preserve, interpret and share the
collective human history of
North Vancouver Island.



A word from the Board President

The year 2025 was an exhilarating ride for us. One, in which I was continually reminded that while our exhibits tell the stories of the past, it is this community—our Members, donors, Staff and volunteers—that provides the heartbeat of this institution today.

It was a year defined by unprecedented community engagement and generosity. As a Board, our goal has always been to ensure the Museum remains a relevant, living space for reflection and discovery. Looking back at our highlights, I believe we achieved that, and more.

Our temporary exhibit gallery schedule was busier than ever this past year. We kicked things off with the Dinosaurs of BC, a travelling exhibit from the RBCM. This exhibit captured the attention of families and curious minds reminding us all that the history of our landscape dates back millions of years.

In the fall we shifted gears to the intricate exhibit featuring the works of the members of the Campbell River Friendship Quilters' Guild. This exhibit was a beautiful testament to the craftsmanship and patience found within our own community. The contrast between these two exhibits—the ancient and the artisan—perfectly captures the breadth of what we strive to offer here.

In 2025 we were also fortunate to see a surge in monetary donations. A major milestone was the establishment of the Haig-Brown Reserve Fund. This fund ensures that the Haig-Brown Legacy Program has the long-term resources it needs to flourish, continuing to connect history, ecology, and literature for generations to come

The Festival of Trees remains our hallmark community event. Seeing the museum transformed into a winter wonderland is a highlight for the Board every year, and the funds

I'd also like to thank our major funders, the City of Campbell River, the BC Arts Council, BC Community Gaming Grants and others for their important support.

raised through this event continue to be vital for our daily operations. Stay tuned for further enhancements this year.

The year was not without its challenges. Financially, we began 2025 projecting a significant deficit, which by its necessity became a central focus for both Staff and Board alike. As we progressed through the year, in each month's financial report the deficit became a little less severe. By year end there was still red ink, but one that could be better described as a shallow hole rather than the chasm that the year started with. Congratulations to Sandra and her staff for making it happen, and to the keen eyes of Board Treasurer Sarah Samson and the rest of the Board for keeping us all focused.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to our Executive Director and her dedicated staff, the army of volunteers who are so important to operations, and of course, fellow Board members. I'd also like to thank our major funders, the City of Campbell River, the BC Arts Council, BC Community Gaming Grants and others for their important support.

Most importantly, I would like to thank you - our members. Your belief in the importance of heritage and your amazing support over the years is why we are all here.

The Museum at Campbell River is more than a building; it is the keeper of our collective memory. Because of the successes and the challenges overcome in 2025, that memory is more secure than ever.

Again, thank you very much.

Dennis Fitzgerald

A word from The Director



Remaining optimistic in today's climate of increasing societal pressures and financial uncertainty isn't always easy. While the start of 2025 did not bring the usual sense of renewal we often feel at the Museum, the year ultimately unfolded in ways that reminded us of the strength of community and the importance of our work.

We were encouraged early in the year by receiving a grant to support a two-year project exploring the little-known history of Japanese Canadians in our region. Research is central to the Museum's mandate, yet it is often under-resourced. The "Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlements on Northern Vancouver Island" project has provided a meaningful opportunity to uncover and share stories that have long been overlooked, deepening our collective understanding of this region's past.

At the Haig-Brown House, the "Living Legacy Project"—introduced in place of the Writer in Residence program for one season—exceeded

expectations. We were honoured to welcome Celia Haig-Brown back to her childhood home to lead a series of events and dialogues. "Rivers and Relations" brought together Indigenous writers, artists, and members of the Haig-Brown family to explore the enduring influence of Roderick and Ann Haig-Brown. These thought-provoking presentations reminded us how remarkable Roderick and Ann were, and why their legacy remains so important to preserve.

That legacy was further reflected in the establishment of the Haig-Brown Reserve Fund. The inaugural donation by the Akeliatis family, made in memory of Anthony Akeliatis—well loved teacher and a former colleague of Ann Haig-Brown and a family friend—set a meaningful precedent. This fund will provide long-term financial stability to support programming and the preservation of the house and gardens. We are deeply grateful for this generosity and commitment to the future.

As noted by our Board Chair, a strong temporary exhibition schedule coupled with an excellent tourism season resulted in our highest attendance to date, with a 24% increase over previous years. It was particularly encouraging to see strong local engagement with our shoulder season exhibitions, *Dinosaurs of BC* and *Variations in Quilting*.

Collaboration also played an important role this year. In partnership with the Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River Arts Council, Tidemark Theatre, and the Maritime Heritage Society, we launched a coordinated social media campaign to raise awareness of the collective impact of arts and culture in our community. The response was positive and reinforced the value of working together to highlight how our organizations contribute to connection, creativity, and community identity.

This collaboration also served as a reminder of our roots. The Museum, like other cultural organizations in Campbell River, was built by the community for the community. This facility would not be here without the long-standing dedication and tenacity of the Museum Board and staff past and present.



This past fall, we said farewell to one of our most dedicated Museum builders, Dr. Robert Gordon, known to many as Bob. Serving as both a Board member and President from 1978 to 1996, Bob was a valued supporter whose vision, dedication, and hard work helped shape the Museum we know today. In October, we were honoured to host his memorial and are grateful to those who made donations in his memory.

While there are—and will continue to be—challenges ahead, 2025 demonstrated what is possible through optimism, collaboration, and community support. As we look forward, we remain focused on strengthening our financial position, strong community engagement and continuing to serve as a gathering place where people can connect, share, and learn.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our funders—the City of Campbell River, the BC Arts Council, and the BC Community Gaming Grants program—for their ongoing support. I also want to thank our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and community partners for their dedication and resilience.

Most importantly, thank you to our Members and supporters. Your continued belief in the Museum makes this work possible. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Sandra Parrish

ABOVE: Bob Gordon pictured with MLA Colin Gableman at the reveal of the plans for the new Museum building. BELOW: The Haig-Brown Family and supporters gather at the Haig-Brown House in recognition of Ann Haig-Brown's birthday. This was also the final talk in the "Living Legacy Project."



Values

Core Beliefs that Guide Our Conduct

Within this community gathering space we value:

Inclusiveness

We believe everyone's story matters. We actively foster relationships with the diverse cultures in our region, ensuring all voices are heard and respected.

Excellence

We are committed to high standards in all we do, adapting to meet the evolving needs of our museum and community.

Respect

We respect cultural and individual differences, honour Indigenous protocols, and embrace cultural diversity as a living and dynamic force. We believe that respect and guidance are reciprocal and non-hierarchical.

Integrity

We uphold honesty, transparency, and accountability in our stewardship, programming, and operations.

Stewardship

We care for cultural heritage to the highest professional standards and honour our responsibility with respect to reconciliation with First Nations.

Community

We are committed to building and maintaining thoughtful, informed, and collaborative relationships throughout our region. These relationships help us reflect the diverse perspectives of our community and promote mutual understanding, fostering a shared path forward.



"I have been volunteering at The Campbell River Museum for the last seven years. I am very proud of our Museum playing a significant role as a hub for social and cultural enrichment of our Campbell River community.

In 2025 the Museum continued facilitating many school programs, as well as offering traditional local and First Nation art and history workshops, craft events, writing workshops, historical boat tours, kid's summer camps, puppet theatre performances and many more.

Working at Visitor's Services has made me realize how much our Museum is appreciated by locals and many, many visitors from around the world."

- Anna Kubacki, Reception Volunteer

Our vision

For the Future

2025-2029

Four broad organizational goals were identified as strategic priorities at a planning session in 2024. These goals have become the basis by which we guide and evaluate our work. This report features key activities over the year centered around these four strategic goals.

1

Strengthen the Museum's reputation as a leading, vibrant museum

The Museum is committed to delivering an exceptional visitor experience and fostering community engagement through our exhibits, interpretation, public and educational programs. We prioritize a strong curatorial focus to ensure that our activities link with our mission and mandate.

3

Support strong leadership and human resources

The Museum recognizes the need for strong and informed leadership among the Board of Trustees and staff. We recognize that successful succession management is an on-going process, and we employ an integrated approach to identifying, developing and retaining capable skilled staff who can potentially transition to new positions.

2

Develop and support strong communications & partnerships

The Museum is committed to building strategic reciprocal partnerships that enhance its mission and expand its reach within the community.

4

Ensure long-term financial sustainability

Revenue diversification and sound financial planning and oversight are considered essential for the long-term stability of the Museum. As operational costs increase and established revenue sources diminish, we need to make smart financial decisions including seeking alternate sources of funding where possible, developing mutually beneficial partnerships and encouraging a climate of giving.

Strategic

Goal #1

Strengthen the Museum's reputation as a leading, vibrant museum

Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlement on Northern Vancouver Island

In February 2025, the Museum at Campbell River received a grant from the Japanese Canadian Legacy Society to undertake a research project investigating the contributions of Japanese Canadians on the North Island prior to their forced removal and internment in 1942. A team consisting of a Project Manager, Lead Researcher, and Research Consultant was assembled to carry out this work.

The project has been community-based, supported by three dedicated community advisors—Jill Ogasawara, Mitzi Ogasawara, and Mich Hirano, who have generously contributed their time, resources, and expertise, providing

invaluable insight throughout the process. The project has also benefited from a strong team of volunteers who assist with research and translation, including Marcia Wolter, Michiyo Bonar, Takahiro (Hiro) Matsuzawa, and Ken Nakano.

To date, the team has uncovered significant information about the early communities of Englewood and Port Alice, as well as the notable contributions of Japanese Canadians in these areas. The research has also deepened our understanding of families living in the Discovery Islands and the Campbell River region.

Throughout 2025, the focus was on research, with team members travelling to archives, meeting with family members of those who were forcibly removed, and spending many hours reviewing historical documents. In 2026, this research will be used to expand the signage around the Soyokaze exhibit, allowing it to more broadly reflect the contributions of Japanese Canadians. The findings will also be incorporated into the museum's archives, along with supporting documentation, to ensure this important work can continue into the future.

BELOW: Project Manager Tamasyn Kennedy, Curator Amy Vandal, and Lead Researcher Sarah Rempel pictured doing research at the Cortes Island Archives.



"The community advisors of the Campbell River Museum's project "Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlements on Northern Vancouver Island," wish to express our appreciation to the Campbell River Museum research team for their wonderful engaging work and to thank the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society for their funding and program support for the project. The breadth of the research carried out by the Museum team has brought about a surprising amount of information on the Japanese Canadian settlements on Northern Vancouver Island. The meticulous archival work, careful documentation of oral interviews, and thoughtful interpretation have greatly deepened our understanding of this important chapter in our region's history. We are looking forward to the next phase of the research project which will synthesize the information into interpretive panels to complement the existing Soyokaze exhibit. The community advisors appreciated the opportunity to accompany the CR Museum research team on field trips to Cortes to see the old homestead of one early Japanese Canadian immigrant and meet with local residents who shared heart warming stories of personal memories. The community advisors also wish to

thank the local volunteers who helped the CR Museum research team with interviews of relatives of former Japanese Canadian North Island pioneers and their help in translating correspondence between early Japanese Canadian settlers who were forcefully removed from their homes and their former neighbours. The archival and historical documentation provided by the Campbell River Museum research team gives us a glimpse of the social, economic and political conditions of the pre-war Japanese Canadian settlements on Northern Vancouver Island. Presenting these histories with accuracy and sensitivity through the interpretative panels will help foster education, dialogue, cultural understanding, and to some a personal connection with and within our Northern Vancouver Island community."

*- Thank you,
Jill Ogasawara, Mitzi Ogasawara & Mich Hirano*

BELOW: We gathered with our volunteers in December to celebrate the year. Left to Right Back Row: Sarah Rempel (Lead Researcher) Takahiro (Hiro) Matsuzawa (Volunteer), Michiyo Bonar (Volunteer), Marcia Wolter (Volunteer), Robert Critchley (Research Consultant). Left to Right Front Row: Mizuho Ogasawara (Community Advisor), Ken Nakano (Volunteer)





Steam Donkey

Built in 1916, the Empire Steam Donkey, located at the entrance to the Museum, was moved on site in 1994 and was meticulously restored by volunteers to working condition. For decades, it has captivated visitors with its story of technological ingenuity, immersing them in the tough realities of early coastal logging. After 20 years in the elements, the wooden sled that the donkey rests on has become rotten. Throughout 2025, volunteer Dave Hamilton has lead the project to source new logs, build and install the new sled.



Replacement logs were secured in 2025 with thanks to BC Timber Sales. The logs were felled and hauled by Night Train Contracting (pictured above) to their yard where work began on building the sled.

A special thanks to the community of volunteers who have been instrumental in moving this project forward.

Dave Hamilton
Tyler Cawley
Norm Kempe
Roland Doering
Jordan Degraaf
Rance Robazza
Chris Wickman
Bruce Visser
Dave Christian
Dennis Nelson
Pete Darwin
Brad Beaton
Casjen Kramer
Jesse White

"It's so good to see people come together and so willing the pitch in. The Museum is really good at bringing people together."

- Dave Hamilton, Sled Replacement Project Volunteer

Haig-Brown House

Living Legacy Project - River & Relations

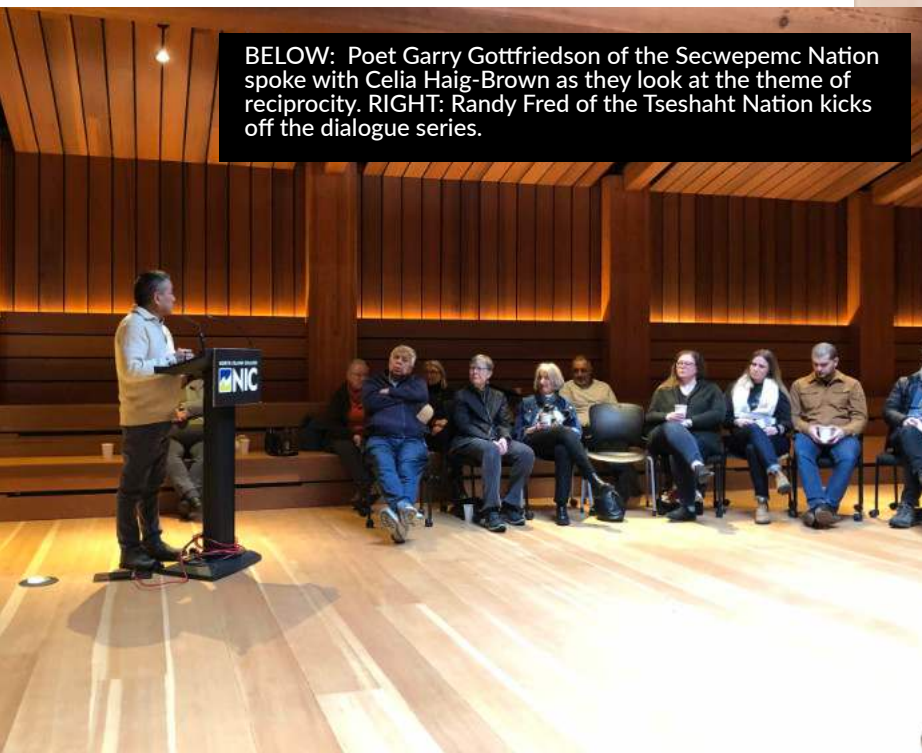
We were pleased to welcome Celia Haig-Brown, the youngest of the Haig-Brown children, to the river, house, and community that shaped her. This special "Living Legacy Project – River and Relations" replaced the Writer in Residence program for the 2024/2025 season. Working with the Museum Celia invited the community to reflect on the lasting impact of the lessons passed down by her parents, Roderick and Ann Haig-Brown.

Through a series of four public conversations and a workshop, Celia engaged Indigenous writers, artists, and Haig-Brown family members in dialogue around the theme "To be in good relation." Grounded in the "Four Rs" framework—Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility, and Return—the sessions examined practical ways of working and being together with respect.

Highlights included: conversations with Tseshaht publisher Randy Fred; Secwepemc poet Garry Gottfriedson; Haida artist SihlgYang/Desmond Bowker and Mary Haig-Brown; and author-photographer Alan Haig-Brown; with film screenings co-directed by Celia and her niece, Tsilhqot'in filmmaker Helen Haig-Brown. The final workshop focused on good practices in conducting respectful research and reflected Celia's decades of work with Indigenous communities and scholars.



BELOW: Poet Garry Gottfriedson of the Secwepemc Nation spoke with Celia Haig-Brown as they look at the theme of reciprocity. RIGHT: Randy Fred of the Tseshaht Nation kicks off the dialogue series.



Visitation

In 2025

In 2025, the Museum engaged a total of 25,958 participants. A highlight of the year was an 18% increase in exhibition visitors compared to the previous year, with total exhibition attendance reaching 16,518. These strong results can be attributed to an excellent tourist season, as well as a very popular dinosaur exhibit and highly engaging quilting exhibit.

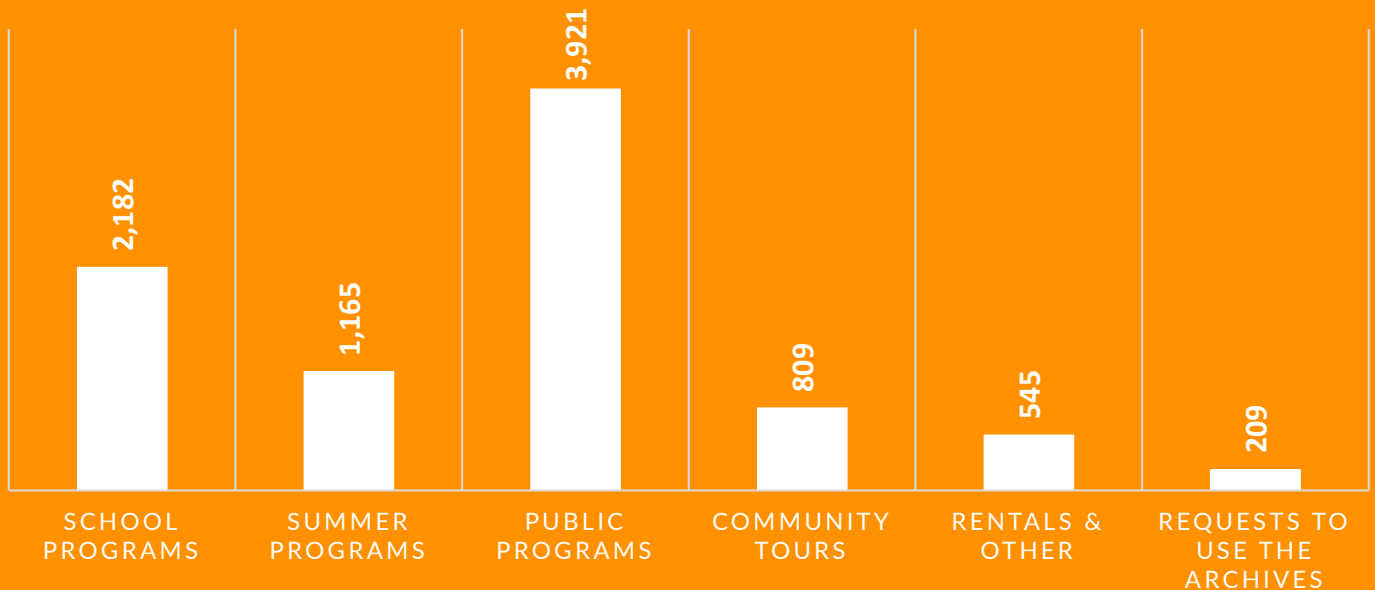
The Museum continues to also staff the Campbell River Hydroelectric Discovery Centre on behalf of BC Hydro and offer interpretation services at the Centre. The Centre saw 11,262 visitors, a 5% decrease from 2024 visitation.



25,958 Museum Users & Visitors

11,262 Visitors to Hydro Discovery Centre

Attendance records



Engaging Temporary Exhibits

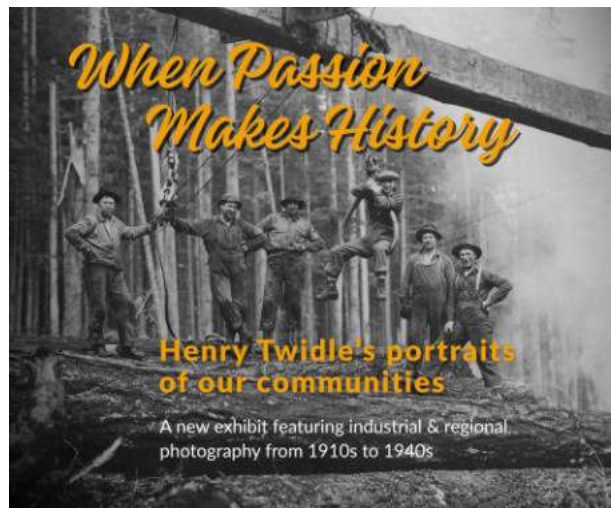
Mountain Dinosaurs of BC *February to June*

A travelling exhibit produced by the Royal BC Museum. Visitors to this exhibit had an opportunity to get up close and personal with “Buster,” the Iron Lizard of the Sustut River, and other dinosaurs that once roamed the province's highest peaks, densest forests and most remote river basins.



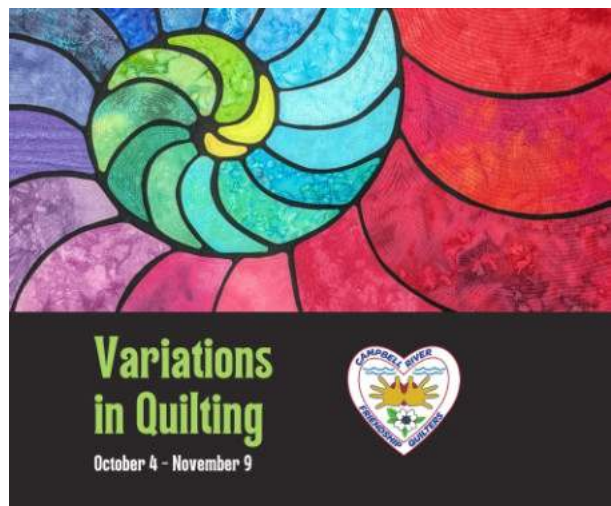
When Passion Makes History: Henry Twidle's Portraits of Our Communities *July to September*

This in-house curated exhibit showcased a selection of evocative images taken by Henry Twidle, a British immigrant who settled in Granite Bay with his wife Agnes from 1911 through to the 1950s. Known locally as an amateur photographer, Twidle captured striking images of life in the region. Although much of Twidle's photographic material was lost or damaged, we are fortunate that a portion of his images are preserved at the Museum.



Variations In Quilting *October to November*

Co-curated with the Campbell River Friendship Quilters' Guild, this exhibit celebrated the artistry, diversity and community impact of quilting. The exhibit featured a wide variety of quilts showcasing different techniques, styles, and personal expressions. From intricate heirlooms to bold modern designs, each quilt reflected the individuality and passion of its maker.





The Collection

One of our key responsibilities is to preserve belongings, objects and archival documents which document the human history of the northern Vancouver Island region. The collection forms the foundation for research, education and exhibits. It enables us to share the stories of this region.

Thank-you to the following donors who contributed to our collections in 2025.

Artifact and Archives Donors

Lois Appleby

Douglas Bruce

Campbell River Hospital Auxiliary Society

Rob Finch

Monty Harper

Irene Huntley

Claire Hynes

Kate Knappett

Joe and Linda Larche

Linda McDonald

Tammy McKenzie

Joyce McMann

Nanaimo Archives

Jonathan Vivian



Strategic

Goal #2

Develop and support strong communications & partnerships

Campbellton Loop

In the fall of 2025, the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association completed the Campbellton Loop, a 7.2 kilometre walking and cycling route that offers a new way to explore the community. The route features views of the river, estuary, as well as Campbellton's parks, industrial areas and residential neighbourhoods. Along the route, visitors find public art installations, "Quinny's Quest" activities, and interpretive elements. The Museum was pleased to contribute to this project by developing interpretive signage that introduces visitors to the rich history of Campbellton.

North Island Model Railroaders

For over 20 years, the Museum's first major event of the year has been the Annual Train Show. Presented in partnership with the North Island Model Railroaders, this popular event offers visitors a chance to experience the club members' meticulously crafted model train displays. Beyond sharing their passion, the members generously treat the show as a fundraiser, with most admission fees supporting Museum programs. In 2025 alone, the event raised more than \$3,800.





North Island College

Museum project staff working on our "Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlement on Northern Vancouver Island" were pleased to connect with staff from North Island College regarding our respective projects focusing on the history of Japanese Canadians on our coast. In addition to hosting the "From Mio" Symposium they are working on a book on the topic of Japanese Canadians on Vancouver Island. Museum project staff were pleased to share our research findings with the NIC team.

In August of 2025 Museum staff welcomed visiting scholars from Japan and Canada for a tour of the Soyokaze (pictured to the left). The scholars were presenting at the "From Mio" Symposium held by North Island College. Mio is a small seaside town in Japan with many roots connecting with the commercial fishery on the coast of BC.

2025 Media Partners

Campbell River Mirror
Campbell River Arts Council
Destination Campbell River

2025 Community Partners

Campbell River Friendship Quilters
Campbell River Whale Watching and Adventures
Campbellton Neighbourhood Association
Child Find BC
City of Campbell River
CR & District Art Gallery
CR Community Arts Council
CR Literacy
Destination Campbell River
North Island College
North Island Model Railroaders
Citizens On Patrol

Mainstream Biological
Laichwiltach Family Life Society
Midnight Shuttles
North Island Model Railroaders
PacificCare
Vancouver Island Regional Library
Elder College
Greenways Land Trust
REMax
Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club
Tidemark Theatre
VI Paleontological Society

Strategic

Goal #3

Support strong leadership and human resources

Our Team

Executive

Sandra Parrish, Executive Director
Catherine Knutsson, Executive Assistant Until May 2025

Curatorial & Education

Amy Vandal, Curator
Megan Purcell, Collections Manager
Ellie McKown, Education Manager
Alison Liebel, Promotions Coordinator
Selma Kennedy, Archives Research Centre Librarian

Financial

Tara Third, Accounting Technician
Connie Ritchie, Bookkeeping Assistant

Shop

Lori Geneau, Shop Manager
Marni Shuster, Shop Assistant
Teresa Wright, Shop Assistant

Visitor Services

Lorna Carlson, Visitor Services Coordinator
Edna Roberts, Visitor Services Assistant
Anna Kubacki, Visitor Services Assistant
Oda Blackburn, Visitor Services Assistant
Tom Kennedy, Hydro Discovery Centre

Summer Students:

Elizabeth Bettenson, Heritage Interpreter
Cyndie Safriuk, Heritage Interpreter
Ava Simard, Heritage Interpreter
Erin Yaklin, Visitor Services

Japanese Canadian Legacies Project Grant

Tamasyn Kennedy, Project Manager
Sarah Rempel, Lead Researcher

Contractors

Dave Ostler, Maintenance Technician
Dean Corkett, Exhibit Maintenance (Until February, 2025)
Shannon Proctor McLeod, Exhibit Maintenance
Clean Sweep, Janitorial
DJ Lawn & Yard, Garden Maintenance
Lorna Hallson, Garden Maintenance
Marjorie Greaves, Site Manager at Haig-Brown House
Mark Wunsch, Green Coast Media
Tamasyn Kennedy, Promotions Contractor
Robert Critchley, Research contractor

Board of Directors

Dennis Fitzgerald, Board President
Jack Turley, Vice President
Sarah Samson, Treasurer
Lewis Nguyen, Secretary
Brendan Mason, Trustee (Until June 2025)
Brittany Barker, Trustee
Lynn Geary, Trustee
Kerry McGourlick, Trustee (Until August, 2025)
Anne Koebel, Trustee
Brian Cruise, Trustee
Nicole Ramm, Trustee

Volunteers

The work of the Museum is complex, varied, and intricate, requiring the dedication of both skilled staff and volunteers. Our volunteers bring a breadth of skills and expertise, along with a deep passion for preserving the history of our region. They embody a strong sense of community pride and a curiosity about what the past can teach us. We are deeply grateful for their contributions of time and experience, which make possible the many activities and projects carried out by the Museum.

Education Program Docents

Pat Dodman
Jennifer Kerr
Steve Lackey
Rick McKown
Linda Mowatt
Sherri Mosseau
Clare Storrie
Tom Storrie
Catherine Ullstrom

Archives and Collections Volunteers

Marjorie Bawtinheimer
Pat Cross
Mike Cross
Emily Harrison
Jessica Madsen
Tony Van Bergen
Marcia Wolter

Steam Donkey Care & Maintenance

Peter Froemgen
Dave Hamilton
Cory Percevault
Gilbert Strebel
Paul Suurhoff
Marcel Van Zeeland

Visitor Services

Oda Blackburn
Carole Dorward
Anna Kubacki
Devon Lihou
Mason Lihou
Maja Senn

Shop Volunteers

Chris Chuppa
Laurie Earles
Lynda Harris

Japanese Canadian Legacies Project Volunteers

Michiyo Bonar
Mitsuru Hirano
Takahiro(Hiro) Matsuzawa
Ken Nakano
Mizuho Ogasawara
Jill Ogasawara
Marcia Wolter

Special Event Volunteers

Heather Greenwood
Tom Kennedy
Selma Kennedy
Nate Lihou
Andrea Lindsay
Patrik Lowe
Erika Loomis
Judi McMartin
Carlton Taylor

Outreach

Barbara Atkinson
Darcy Ellis
Steve Lackie



ABOVE & BELOW: Volunteer socials where we gather to connect volunteers from all departments, building community and swapping stories.

Volunteer Hours by Department

Archives/Collections	851.5
Board	225.75
Outreach	100.25
School Programs	889.25
Visitor Services	248
Shop	429.25

3,375.50 Total Volunteer Hours

Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlements on Northern Vancouver Island	127
Public events/Programs	504.50



Strategic

Goal #4

Ensure long-term financial sustainability

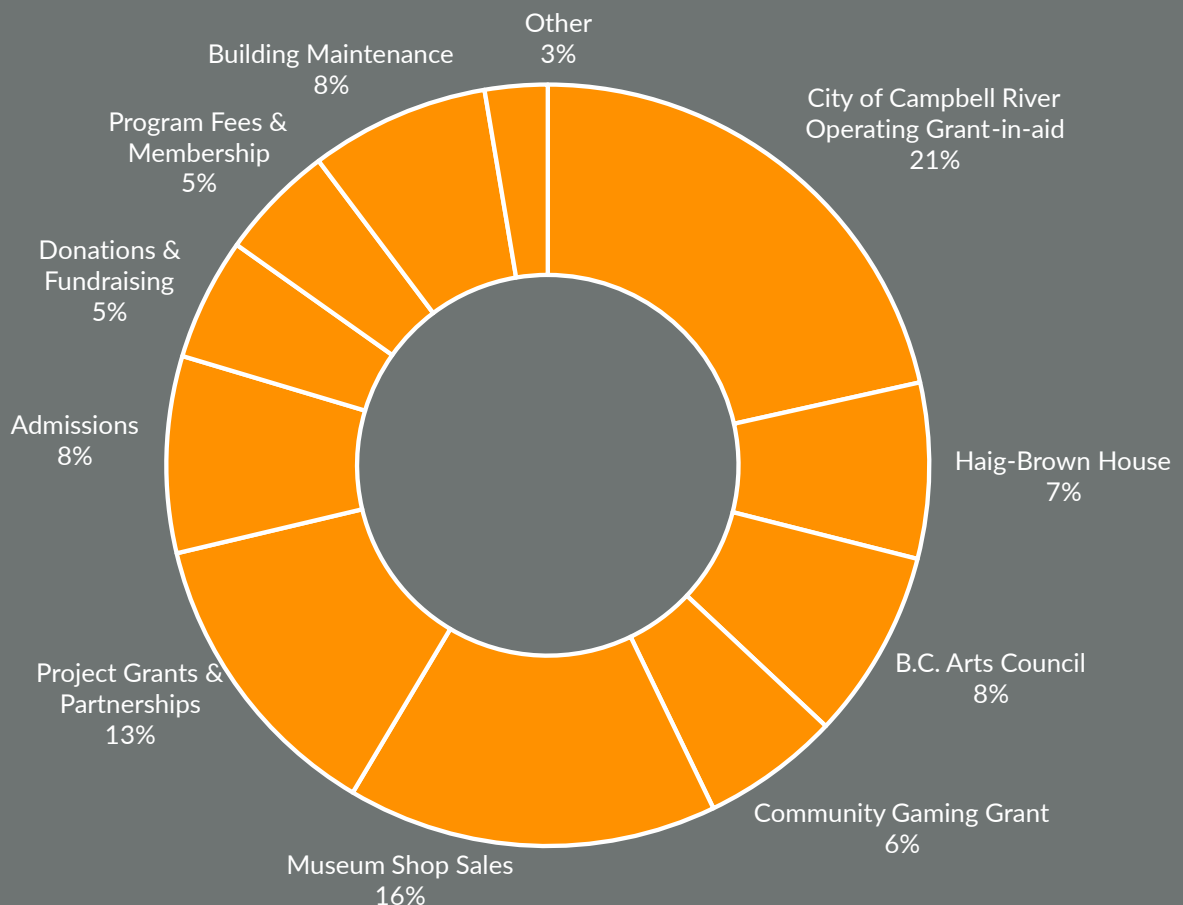
Operational Funders

- BC Arts Council
- BC Community Gaming Grant
- City of Campbell River
- Government of Canada: Young Canada Works
- Japanese Canadian Legacy Society
- Strathcona Regional District: Area D, Oyster Bay – Buttle Lake

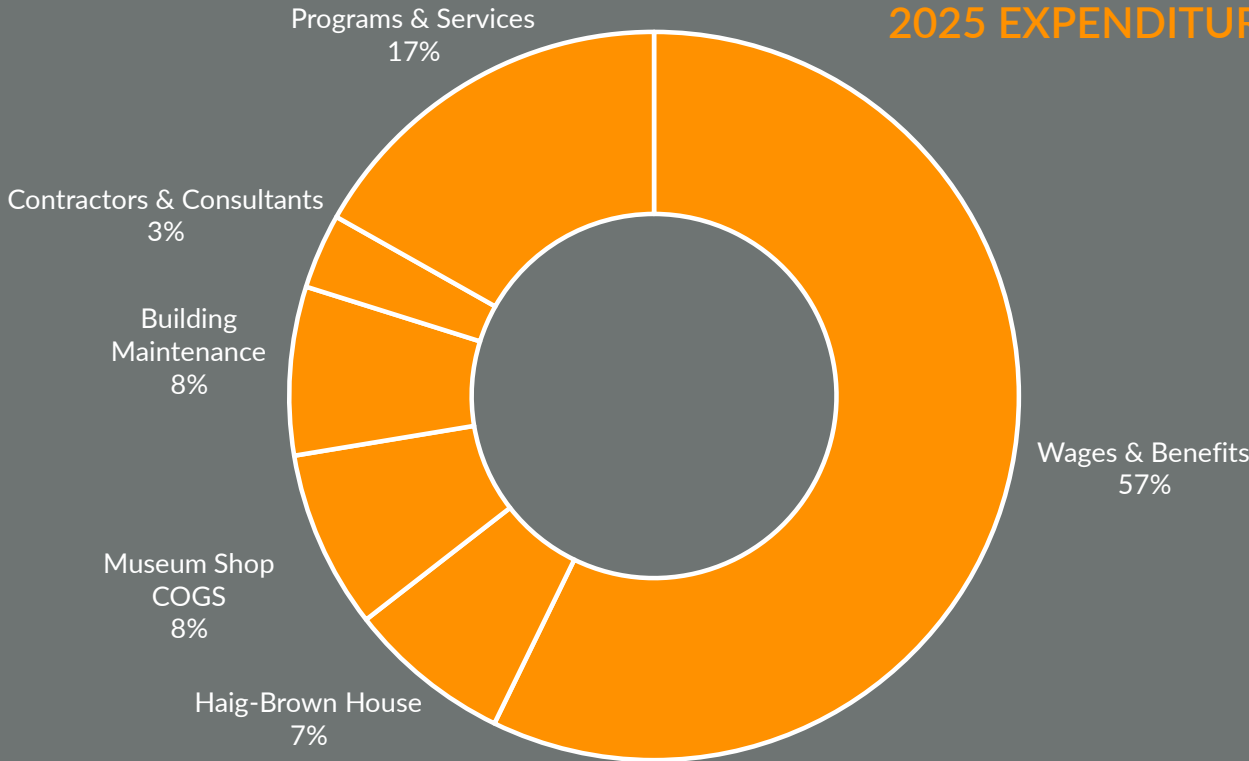
Project Grants

- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Japanese Canadian Legacy Society

2025 REVENUE



2025 EXPENDITURES



BELOW: The Carihi Interact Club, an arm of Rotary Club of Campbell River, made a donation to the Steam Donkey Sled Replacement project in October.



The Shop

2025 was a very successful year in shop sales and customer count! We added 12 new local artists either from Campbell River or close by on the island. Their items included art cards, jewelry of all sorts, children's books, and indigenous prints, carvings, and drums.

Always a highlight for the shop are the special occasions such as Museum Store Sunday, the Peel and Save Sale Event and The Christmas Gift Tour. This one-day Gift Tour started with 9 local artists setting up tables in the foyer to 18 artists in 2025. In 2026, this will be held for 2 days, with repeat artists and will take over the foyer and changing gallery that will be lined with Christmas trees just before they are decorated for the Festival of Trees.

Thanks to the shop staff and volunteers!

"This May I will have volunteered for the Museum at Campbell River for 24 years! I love volunteering for the Museum as I find it so inspiring and a wonderful contribution to our community. Hearing all the positive accolades from visitors and locals always makes me feel so proud to be an involved ambassador for the Museum.

- Lynda Harris, Museum Shop Volunteer



ABOVE: Shop manager Lori Geneau.



Haig-Brown Reserve Fund

At a special event in May, the establishment of the Haig-Brown Reserve Fund was announced to support the ongoing work of the Haig-Brown Heritage House, a vibrant community hub for learning, reflection, and inspiration. Through programs such as the annual Writer in Residence and the Haig-Brown Festival, the House continues to promote the values of conservation, literacy, social responsibility, community, and family that were central to the lives of Roderick and Ann Haig-Brown. The Reserve Fund will provide essential financial support for community engagement initiatives, as well as the care of the heritage gardens and preservation of the site's artifactual and archival collections. We extend our sincere thanks to the Akelaitis family for their inaugural donation in memory of Anthony Akelaitis.

"My late husband Anthony (Tony) Akelaitis was a teacher and historian. He believed that we must always remember where we came from and who built the communities that have shaped who we are. As a teacher he also believed that every one of us has something to give to make our communities and our world a better place. He strived to inspire his students to have thought-provoking discussion, experiences and to be the best that they could be. The Haig Brown legacy, home, garden and natural space reflects these ideals."

- Barb Akelaitis



Thank you to our Generous Museum Donors

We are extremely grateful to all our donors for their invaluable support. Your contributions play a crucial role in sustaining our mission and enhancing the cultural richness of our community. Donations help preserve our collections, support educational programs, exhibitions and outreach programs.

Monthly Donations: A Key to Long-Term Sustainability

Monthly donations to the Museum allow us to plan our budget with greater confidence, particularly in times of economic instability. Thank-you to those supporters who participate in our monthly giving program. No matter the amount, your donation helps.

Margo Cormack

David and Barbara Denz

John and Mia Frishholz

Linda Moore

Morgan Ostler

Don Poisson

Jay Stewart

Employee Giving programs

A special thank-you to Lynda Harris who not only volunteers her time to assist in the Museum Shop but participates in Royal Bank of Canada's Employee Giving Campaign. A former RBC employee, Lynda logs her volunteer hours through this program and directs the Museum as the recipient of a donation from the RBC.

Supporting Specific Events and Artifacts

Campbell River Fishing Co. - Soyokaze

C.R. Seafood and Lockers Ltd. - Soyokaze

Mainstream Biological Consulting – Haig-Brown Festival

Pacificus Biological Services Ltd. – Haig-Brown Festival



Creating a Lasting Legacy

Donations to the Museum and Robert Ostler Endowment Funds managed by the Campbell River Community Foundation provide the Museum with a reliable source of annual income. Stable funding such as this allows the Museum to plan for the future and sustain our activities. In 2025 this fund contributed \$5,842 to our operational budget.

Donors

Thank you to these generous individuals and organizations who made a contribution in 2025.

Andy & Karen Adams
Bruce Adams
Leona Adams
Andrea Akelaitis
Barbara Akelaitis
Eric Akelaitis
Andrea Carol Anderson
Bruce Anderson
Paula Anderson
Sharon Anderson
Shannon Baikie
Joan Bakker
Catherine Bayley
Kathryn Botsford
Norman Bunz
Carol Bye
Kurt Cehak
Laurence Chen

Sara Coburn & Brian Nesbitt
Brian Cruise
Sandra Daines
Lesia Davis
David & Barbara Denz
Susan Dobie
Byron & Kat Eldridge
Joan & Roy Etter
Shirley Fell
Jeanelle Fischer
Dennis Fitzgerald
Lynn Geary
Estate of Dr. Robert B. Gordon
Wendy Griswold
Dr. E. Celia Haig-Brown
Brenda D. Heine
Sharon Herbin
Terry & Roberta Hluska

Maria Horsfall
Keith Hudson
Kevan Hudson
Bruce & Barb Izard
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Norman Lee
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Heather MacKenzie
C. Anne MacKnight
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Micki Mahoney



Carol Marshall
Brenda Matas
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Judy Williams
Tracey Wimperly
Marcia Wolter
Bruce Wood

**Your contribution makes a
difference - thank you.**



Fundraising with the Festival of Trees

More than just a fundraising event, since 2013 the Museum's Changing Gallery has been transformed into a delightful display of beautifully decorated trees. Visiting the trees has become a cherished community tradition, and in 2025, community support for this event reached its strongest level of sponsorship to date.

A special thank-you to our first Grand Tree sponsor, Steve Marshall Ford, (pictured below) and to the growing list of supporters who have sponsored a tree for 10 or more years. Thank you as well to the many local businesses and community groups whose beautifully decorated trees showcase their creativity and holiday spirit.

Grand Tree

Steve Marshall Ford

Longest Festival Supporters – 10 plus years

Vista River – 99.7 The River

Broadstreet Properties Ltd/Seymour Pacific Developments Ltd.

C.R. Health & Drug Store

C.R. Principals and Vice Principals Association

Carl-Marg Holdings (Thulin Family)

Chan Nowosad Boates

Coast Discovery Inn

FortisBC

Impressions Custom Framing

MOWI Canada West

Rob Fuccenecco – The Mortgage Centre



New to the Festival in 2025

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Dave's Bakery
eXp Realty Campbell River
Health, Light & Love
Homalco First Nation
Mack's Flooring Co.
No Frills
Pharmasave Willow Point
Shopper's Drug Mart 2139
Smoke Signals

Thank you 2025 Festival Participants

Alitis Investment Council
BC Oceanfront/Royal LePage Advance Realty
Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver
Island/Island Kids First
C.R. Lawyers LLP
Destination Campbell River
Gourmet Essentials
Izco Technology Solutions
Mosaic Forest Management
Museum at Campbell River Board of Trustees
Naturally Pacific Resort
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