

Okanagan Heritage Museum | Okanagan Military Museum
Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum | Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame

MISSION

The Kelowna Museums Society provides the public with educational exhibitions and programs that foster personal participation, stimulate curiosity, and engage the senses with the cultures, histories, and possibilities of the Okanagan region.

VISION

To inspire a community to be alive with its history – connecting people and place.

VALUES

- Ethical
- Inclusive
- Authentic
- Responsive
- Inspiring

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Kelowna Museums Society (KMS) operates the Okanagan Heritage Museum, Okanagan Military Museum, Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum, Laurel Packinghouse, and Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame. In addition, the KMS operates the Kelowna Public Archives, Vince Bezeau Military Library and Archives, and Ursula Surtees Conservation Lab.

The City owns all KMS facilities.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2017 was a great year for the Kelowna Museums Society. Celebrating Canada's 150th year meant animating our history through innovative temporary exhibits, school and family programs, archival photographs and the re-imagined permanent displays at the Okanagan Heritage Museum. Unique opportunities, from AquaVan 150 to the new *From Vimy to Juno* exhibit at the OMM were offered. Our popular *Social Life of Water* exhibit from fall, 2016 left home and went out on tour while a new group of inductees joined the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame in November in a sold-out ceremony.

Collaborative partnerships with other cultural and heritage groups continue to grow in strength and number, opening new and exciting opportunities for inspired events. Because of this vitality, attendance continued to rise in 2017 despite the disruptions of area construction. The Laurel Packinghouse, home of the Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum and The Laurel Shop, remains one of Kelowna's most popular venues and is an increasingly busy place. We are thrilled that, in partnership with the City of Kelowna, work will soon begin to enhance visitor experience outside the Laurel while planning begins to re-design the interpretive elements inside.

That visitors to our museums are routinely "wowed" is a testament to the dedication, imagination, and passion of our Executive Director, Linda Digby, her amazing staff, and our wonderful volunteers. Our Board's strategic vision for the Museums' role in our community is another powerful engine driving the shared aspiration of ensuring Kelowna Museums is the destination for locals, their guests, children of all ages, and tourists. With the help of the City of Kelowna, our membership, friends, donors, agencies and partners, I am confident we will continue to inspire our community to be alive with its history, connecting people and place. Thank you all for sharing in this continuing adventure.

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Carol Zuckerman

Respectfully,

PRESIDENT OF THE KELOWNA MUSEUMS SOCIETY



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2017 was a significant anniversary for Canada, marking 150 years since Confederation. Like others in the heritage sector, we saw the Sesquicentennial, or Canada 150, as an opportunity to reconsider our perspective on Canadian history. A big priority for Kelowna Museums was bringing unique stories from diverse voices into our galleries and programs, and this required meaningful partnerships. In particular, we would like to thank the staff at Sncewips Heritage Museum (Westbank First Nation) for co-curating our gallery renewal. We value their friendship, and their willingness to walk down a new road together.

Another significant partner in 2017 was Metro Community, who co-curated an exhibit that features members of Kelowna's homeless community. This project provides those experiencing homelessness with an opportunity to tell their own story and be heard by other segments of the community. This installation creates bridges between communities.

We are proud to serve as a custodian of Kelowna's human and natural history, and we are passionate about sharing it, preserving it, and teaching others about it. Through partnerships, we do this better. In 2017, we partnered with more than 80 groups to increase our effectiveness in every aspect of the operation.

We would like to thank our talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous supporters for making our work possible. Thank you to our partners for journeying with us to build a better community.

Linda Digby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The museums were created to enrich the lives of people who call Kelowna home. The goal to expand community engagement through programs and partnerships provides an important pathway to that end.







Top: The Social Life of Water Exhibit

Middle: Biodiversity Gallery at the Okanagan Heritage Museum **Bottom:** First Nations Gallery at the Okanagan Heritage Museum

EXHIBITIONS

As the changes roll out in the permanent gallery of the Okanagan Heritage Museum, the excitement is growing.

One volunteer wrote:

"...when I walked in today I was 'gob-smacked'! I am so proud of our museum. You and your team have worked magic... More than ever before our guests are telling me how much they enjoy their time there. One particular extended family from Ireland of grandparents, children, and grandchildren just before Christmas were so impressed – and I was so proud."

Canada150 funding allowed us to bring diverse voices and interactive features into the gallery. It is gratifying to watch visitors explore the new displays relating to geology, biodiversity, First Nations culture, early settlement, Chinatown, sports history, and homelessness. Work continues, with displays about early Kelowna and recent history under development in 2018.

And if the gallery renewal wasn't a big enough project, we presented eight temporary exhibits in 2017. *The Social Life of Water*, a collaborative exhibition from fall of 2016, was on display at the Okanagan Heritage Museum until May, after which time it began travelling to other museums. In the summer, visitors enjoyed *Quiet Stories*

from Canadian Places, by Saskatchewan artist Heather Cline, augmented by student artists from KLO Middle School. After a short display of dinosaur material from the collection, we presented a display from the Royal BC Museum called *Bread and Salt*, which highlights the contribution of Ukrainians to BC. It was a pleasure to partner with the Dolyna Ukrainian Culture Society to bring colourful local content to this important topic.

The Okanagan Military Museum continues to fascinate guests from around the world. In 2017, we started the year with a travelling display called *From Vimy to Juno*, from the Juno Beach Association. This was an excellent fit with the BC curriculum, and while the display was here the museum was humming with middle and high school students! Late in the year, we opened with a new display called Success in Battle, the next chapter in the ongoing commemoration of WWI.

At the Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum, students from UBCO created a provocative display about the role of Chinese and Japanese farm workers in the Okanagan, titled Stories of Perseverance: Early Chinese and Japanese Experiences in Agriculture.

Museum exhibitions get people excited about local history, and provoke new interest in people and place.

Top: Dinosaur materials at the Okanagan Heritage Museum **Middle:** Dolyna Ukrainian Culture Society at the Bread and Salt Exhibit

Bottom: From Vimy to Juno at the Okanagan Military Museum







COLLECTIONS AND CONSERVATION

Museums collect and preserve objects so that history can be shared with future generations. One volunteer wrote:

"Thanks for restoring my faith (in non-digital collections). The opportunity to watch the staff at the museum manage and preserve literally all versions of information, from bear cub to Uncle Ben's wine labels, was a great way to finish my diploma. I was encouraged by the level of engagement and interest in public education that the staff has."

In 2017, we welcomed our new Curator of Collections, Nikki Bose. Nikki previously served as a volunteer and as an intern, during which she impressed us with her extensive knowledge of both collections management and conservation.

Indeed, the Ursula Surtees Conservation Lab has been very busy since Nikki joined the team. The conservation



Summer student, Thomas Dombowsky, examining a gramophone. Photo credit. UBCO.





A selection of sylix/Okanagan objects are on display in the new First Nations Gallery.

department not only treats public projects but also provides community members with advice on how to clean and take care of their family heirlooms. We also offer workshops, including the annual cemetery cleaning workshop. These experiences give people a tangible way to connect with Kelowna's history.

With support from a dedicated team of volunteers, the department has been actively adding records to the database, loaning objects to other institutions, updating collections permits, and deaccessioning objects that no longer fit the collections policy.

The Okanagan Military Museum is another hub of collections activity. Community members both donate, and ask questions about, family memorabilia. What they learn at the museum helps them understand the significance of these objects, and deepens appreciation between generations. Researching the collection is important, and he staff was especially excited to uncover the identity of a rare Humphries hand grenade.

KELOWNA PUBLIC ARCHIVES

Public use of Kelowna Public Archives increased in 2017, thanks to significant improvements to storage infrastructure the previous year. Access to collections has improved, making conducting research easier. In addition, tours allow the community to see where their objects and archival materials are housed/preserved, and have led to a greater understanding of what happens behind the scenes.

On a regional level, our Archivist, Tara Hurley, serves as the Archives Association of BC representative for the BC Interior. We hosted the Archives Association of British Columbia and the Canadian Conservation Institute "Modern Information Carriers and Digital Preservation" workshop. The workshop attracted participants from a variety of libraries and archives, as well as provincial corporations and First Nation governments.

The Kelowna Public Archives and Vince Bezeau Military Library and Archives make Kelowna a better community by providing a place to preserve and share community memories. Families and community groups donate items important to them knowing that they will continue to be treated with importance and respect. Others learn about their past and become connected with relatives and other people that they have never met. Access to community records allows historians/researchers to promote and publish local and relevant stories.

One researcher wrote:

"The Kelowna Archives has been a godsend for me over the

past three years as I have researched my book. If libraries are repositories for knowledge, the archives then are surely the repository for experience. Examining photos, invoices, surveys, and menus from decades (or more) ago, let me touch the past in a way that is just not possible at a museum or reading published works in a library. While anyone can read a paragraph about the history of a local Kelowna produce grower, nothing says more about his character than reading his kind, handwritten response to a woman who was late in paying her account on the back of an invoice that has been thoughtfully, and carefully, preserved in the Kelowna Archives. We cannot travel back in time, but spending time in the archives allows researchers and anyone interested in the past to get as close to it as possible. It may seem like the preservation of seemingly mundane ephemera, but in reality, it is a valuable link to our community's past experiences."



Archivist, Tara Hurley, assists hundreds of KPA users each year.







Top Left: Rob performs during the SEE:kelowna homelessness exhibit opening

Top Right: Social Life of Water program participant

Bottom: The Reptile Man enthralls families at a summer program

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

"Wow, that was fun!" "I've lived here my whole life and didn't know any of that about our city." "My child has not stopped talking about this program, and we did it weeks ago!"

These are phrases that we commonly hear after families, schools, individuals, and groups come to an educational museum program. Often people do not know what to expect and they are astonished at how our education team make learning so fun and memorable.

We were proud to measure a 16% increase in school program participation in 2017. Over 10,000 children from every neighbourhood, every income bracket, and every

ethnicity enjoyed curriculum-linked programming. One teacher wrote:

"I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with our experience today at the museum. My class thoroughly enjoyed both programs! They learned a lot, and were engaged the entire time... that's impressive given we were there for 3 hours! I have already recommended to all of my colleagues to check out the programs you offer for their grade levels."

Some of the public program highlights of 2017 were the History Mystery Bus tour, family programs, Earth Day science presentations, Stories from Kelowna's Chinatown, a new walking tour, WW1 lecture series, and workshops on Ukrainian crafts.

Partnerships help increase the impact and reach of museum programs. For example, a record-breaking 948 people visited the Okanagan Heritage Museum the day we hosted the Aquavan from Vancouver Aquarium. In addition, the programming team brought the museum to the community at events such as the Vernon Tattoo, Parks Alive, and a variety of family festivals.



Outreach programs bring the museum to many neighbourhoods







Top Left: Norm and Tony set up and took down 182 events in 2017 **TopRight:** The Salsa Community Black & White Formal **Bottom:** Gathering our Voices, by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

LAUREL ENTERPRISE

Laurel Packinghouse Rentals

The Laurel Packinghouse is a designated heritage building which houses the Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum. In addition, it is a popular rental venue for meetings, fundraisers, fairs, festivals, and family celebrations. The number of renters continues to rise, and rental revenues support museum functions.

We were proud to be chosen Best of Kelowna (Silver) in Okanagan wedding venues. It is also satisfying to note that over \$70,000 was raised for local charities at an increasing number of fundraising events.

"We couldn't have been happier with our venue selection – a perfect balance of historic charm and the ability to express ourselves." – Cait & Dan, September 2017.

"The history and architecture of this place speaks for itself. So thrilled with how everything turned out." – Rachelle & Jared, September 2017.

The Laurel Shop

The inventory and selection of made-in-Okanagan treats and treasures continue to grow, providing a way to give a gift of the Okanagan while supporting the museum.



Apple crate prints for sale at The Laurel Shop

CENTRAL OKANAGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The COSHOF honours athletes, coaches, teams, builders, and pioneers who have distinguished themselves on the local, national, or international sports scene. The inductees inspire all of us to pursue excellence in our daily lives. Nominations come from the general public, and are scrutinized by the Nomination, Selection, and Sports Legacy Committees.

In its 10th year of operation, six new inductees were added to the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame.



Chris Taneda

Athlete Category: Malindi Emore

She competed in the 2004 Olympics in the 1500 metre and was the 2012 Canadian Olympic Trials champion. Malindi is a 4-time Canadian champion in the 1500m and placed 4th at the Pan-American Games in 2003 and 3rd at the '03 World University Games.

Athlete Category: Garett Hickling

Garett is a wheelchair rugby legend. He has 4 Paralympic Games medals (3 silver, 1 bronze) and 5 world championship medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze). He was Canada's flag-bearer at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Coach/Builder Category: Chris Taneda

Chris was named Karate BC Coach of the Year in 2005. He was an Olympic Torch Bearer in 2010 and received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Chris is a 6-time Canadian karate champion and 4-time world champion.

Athlete Category: Conrad Leinemann

Conrad placed 9th in Beach Volleyball at the 2000 Olympic Games and won the gold medal at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg. He won the Canadian beach volleyball championship in 1995. In 1994, he was named 1st team All-Canadian while at UBC

Pioneer Category: Kelowna Buckaroos Hockey Franchise

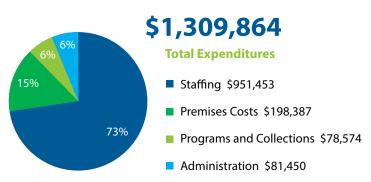
The Bucs helped establish Junior A hockey in Kelowna. They joined the Okanagan Jr league in 1961 and were one of the four original teams in the BC Junior Hockey League in 1967. The Buckaroos won their only BCJHL title in 1974 but their success laid the foundation for both the WHL Rockets and Kelowna Minor Hockey.

Bennett Award Special Recognition: Western Canada Basketball Tournament

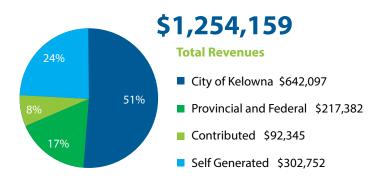
This high school boy's basketball tournament at Kelowna Secondary School is one of the premier events in Western Canada. The 44th annual tournament was held this past February and continues to grow and attract teams from Western Canada and in past years, even from Australia. The success of this event is a direct result of the efforts put forth by organisers and volunteers over the past 44 years.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2017 Expenditures



2017 Revenues



Ongoing operations of Kelowna Museums Society are on sound fiscal ground, with operations in 2017 operations netting a surplus of \$3850. The reported deficit is due to amortization expenses, as we invest in updating our museums.

MUSEUM VISITATION

Total Museum Visitation:



x 39,751

This includes people who came to one of our 3 museums to view the galleries, attend educational programs, or for research and curatorial activities. This figure also includes quests who engaged in outreach programs.

Number of school programs:



423

Researchers:



Number of public programs:



Number of events at the **Laurel Packinghouse:**



182

Laurel Rental Guests:



24,270

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We would like to thank the donors who, over the years, have helped us connect generations.

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Thank you from the staff at Kelowna Museums Society!



The Kelowna Museums Society gratefully acknowledges its partners in funding.

















