

The BC Museum of Mining, providing leadership in the transformation of Britannia Beach to a sustainable community reflecting its mining heritage.

At Britannia Beach, approximately 50 km North of Vancouver on the rugged shores of Howe Sound, stands one of the most impressive and imposing buildings in British Columbia. Although it shows the vestiges of time and weather, the BC Museum of Mining's (BCMM) historic # 3 Mill building, also known as the Concentrator, is an icon that lures over 40,000 visitors annually to stop and visit Britannia Beach. In 30 years of Museum operation more than 1.25 million people have been struck by the emotion and sentiment that this building evokes. It is important to preserve and celebrate the Mill, a National Historic Site, for it is the foundation for the Museum's operation; it symbolizes BC's growth as a province and the role mining plays in our economy, mining history and community vitality, and pays tribute to the pioneering spirit of men and women who built this province and country.



The Museum's Role and Goals in the Overall Britannia Beach Project

The Museum's primary goal in the overall Britannia Beach project is to improve the image and longevity of the #3 Mill so its important messages about mining are not overshadowed by limited accessibility and its current appearance. Utilizing the amenities offered by the proposed state-of-the-art Innovations and Research Centre, (UBC and NR Canada) the BC Museum of Mining will be a world class museum where education, heritage services and visitor attractions will further an understanding of mining, its past, present and future.

While visitors may come for the attraction of an underground experience or perhaps unique commercial operations, the Museum desires that each visitor leave with the #3 Mill as one of their lasting impressions, creating an emotional and enlightening experience of an industrial heritage site that was once an isolated resource based community. The historic community of Britannia Beach and #3 Mill is the place where the stories of many thousands of men and women, who for over 70 years lived and worked for Britannia Mines producing copper, can be told and heard, revealing lessons about mining.

The BCMM, operated by the Britannia Beach Historical Society (incorporated in July, 1971) has the land assets that are required by the stakeholders that have taken an interest in Britannia Beach. It is believed that these lands should be and can be utilized in partnership to achieve the overall aims of transforming Britannia Beach into a sustainable community. ***This is the leadership the Museum provides; – a vision and willingness to work towards solutions that will build public awareness about mining in British Columbia and Canada.***

About the BC Museum of Mining Operations

The current operations of the BC Museum of Mining are notable; self-sufficiency is the model by which the Museum already operates, with minimal reliance on government funding or cash contributions from the mining industry. While operating resources are

The BC Museum of Mining, providing leadership in the transformation of Britannia Beach to a sustainable community reflecting its mining heritage.

modest, a host of respected services are provided. Annually over 300 teachers, 6000 students, 30,000 tourists, and many researchers and environmentalists take advantage of the Museum's services and education resources. In 30 years of operation the Museum has invested significantly in the preservation of 22 historic buildings, including a 1910 timber-framed machine shop. Despite being a not for profit organization, the value of economic activity the Museum contributes to the sea to sky corridor area is nearly \$1 million annually. Efforts of professional staff, together with volunteers and members, ensure that artifacts and important archival materials are preserved and able to be utilized by the general public. Educational opportunities are created and delivered; the physical needs of the historic site and buildings are taken care of; and strategic and management plans are developed and implemented.

Support for the BC Museum of Mining's goals, in concert with those of the Natural Resources Canada's Innovation's Centre and UBC's Centre for Environmental Research in Mining, Minerals and Metals (CERM3) ensures that a vision of building a sustainable Britannia Beach community is realistic and achievable. More importantly, that it is relevant and purposeful.

Contacts:

Yale Simpson

President, Britannia Beach Historical Society
C: 604.318.0867
E: yale@exeterresource.com

Kirstin Clausen

Museum Director, Britannia Beach Historical Society
BC Museum of Mining and National Historic Site
T: 604.896.2233; F: 604.896.2260; E: kclausen@bcmuseumofmining.org



2003-2004 Board of Directors

Yale Simpson (President)
John Hamilton (Vice President)
Ledford Lilley (Treasurer)
Keith Service (Secretary)
Lance Iverson

Terry Johnston
John Meech
Al Waisman
Robert Dickinson
Will Trythall

Mark Selman
George Poling
Dan Jepsen (Advisor)

Membership: The Britannia Beach Historical Society has more than 650 members. To count yourself as a supporter to the goals of the BC Museum of Mining become a member. A strong membership base is vital to allow the Museum to speak with authority about the relevance of its goals and mandate. Your membership comes with benefits beyond knowing you support the Museum's aims. Individual: \$20. Senior/Student: \$10. Family: \$48. Corporate: \$500.