

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

**Rosland Museum
& Discovery Centre**

Metals | Mountains | Memories

www.RoslandMuseum.ca

Message from the Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association President

As always, it's been another very busy year here at the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre. And, once again, a great deal has been accomplished. With COVID largely in the rearview mirror, we have once again been able to achieve stable staffing levels, both full and part-time, and across our student and internship programs. We've also begun to see excellent volunteer turnout again. Staff and volunteers have continued to work through the goals outlined in our new Strategic Plan.

The archives and artefact collections, led by Sara Wright and Sarah Taekema-Slot, continued to be organized and research is ongoing. A number of new and revamped exhibits have been developed throughout the museum complex. Our website and research posts continued to be published, and our speaker series was able to fully resume in person. Excellent youth and senior programs, led by Skylar Walsh, were provided throughout the year to popular acclaim. And once again, our Camp Black Bear day camps filled up almost immediately. In addition to further optimizing the day-to-day running of the Museum, our Operations & Marketing Manager, Fiona Lane, has been working hard to increase the museum's visibility through various promotional initiatives, as well as continuing to enhance the Museum's shop. As in past years, we have held numerous highly successful events, including our Canada Day celebrations, Golden City Days parade float, Easter and Halloween events for families, etc. Thanks to all of the staff, volunteers, and supporters who work together to make these happen.

We have raised over 50% of the funding for Phase 2 of the Renewal Project; a combination of arrival atrium expansion, mine tunnel experience, and overall exhibits and facilities renovation. Planning and development continue with the architecture firm MAD Studio, our engineering consultants, Teck Trail Operations, and the City of Rossland. We have also finalised a Class C costing that will allow us to pursue funding more aggressively, as well as confidently move into design development and construction documents, with the hope of breaking ground in 2024.

The RMDC continued to develop its relationship with the Autonomous Sinixt under our MOU. Projects this year have included a language revitalization workshop, our cedar-weaving project, work on several short films, and the development of new exhibits. As always, we continue to develop relationships with other indigenous organizations in an effort to inclusively and responsibly represent Indigenous history throughout the region.

As always, the Museum operates on a limited budget, and unpredictably high inflation and a challenging funding climate have resulted in a slight deficit at year's end. Small surpluses in previous years have allowed us to manage this, and we have prepared a balanced budget for the new fiscal year. Many continued thanks to our Museum Director, Joelle, who administers the entire RMDC operation and staff, while also doing an amazing job securing grants and funding opportunities. Our full Annual Report details more of the RMDC's many activities and accomplishments.

The ongoing assistance and services supplied by the City of Rossland are greatly appreciated. This much-needed support helps us operate year after year. Additionally, the City has been essential to the development of our Renewal Project. We also greatly appreciate the continued support from Teck Trail Operations, both annually and with the Renewal Project. And, many thanks go out to our Volunteers, Board Trustees, Museum Membership, Rotary Club of Rossland, and the many community partners that support the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre each year. Their dedication makes possible much of what is accomplished each year.

We would like to express our thanks to Libby Martin for agreeing to remain on the Board of Trustees for this past term. Libby's dedication and hard work over the years can be seen in almost every aspect of the Museum today, as well as being a champion of our plans for the future. As the President of the Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2021 and almost two decades as a volunteer, Libby has been a driving force behind much that has been accomplished. And while she has decided to retire from the Board despite our best efforts, I am hopeful she will continue to be involved in the RMDC on many levels as time permits. Libby's husband Iain was also a regular volunteer at the Museum, as is Libby's daughter Fiona and grand-son Xander. Something Libby no doubt had a hand in!

We would also like to acknowledge the many years of service from Andy Cant, who passed away this year. Andy was a Museum board member from 2000-2012, and our President from 2004-2010. He was also a lifetime member of the Museum, a frequent tour guide for both visitors and special guests, and a very hands-on volunteer for so many years. He will be greatly missed in our community.



Many thanks to everyone involved in the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre, both currently and over its almost seven decades of community service.

Mike Sloan
President, RHMAA



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About the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre

The Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association was established by the Rossland Rotary Club in the basement of the Rossland Court House in 1954 and incorporated under the BC Societies Act in March 1955. The present museum was built on the site of the historic Black Bear mine in 1967 as a Canadian Centennial project with the leadership of Jack McDonald, Roger Terhune, and numerous other dedicated community members.



Today, more than five decades later, our Museum sits on 5 acres of property with 11 buildings and 8 open-air exhibition shelters covering topics such as mining and skiing as well as the industrial, social, cultural, and natural history of Rossland. In 2015, we rebranded the organization the “Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre” and developed a tagline to encompass our history in three short, sweet words - *Metals | Mountains | Memories.*

Mandate:

The Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre includes:

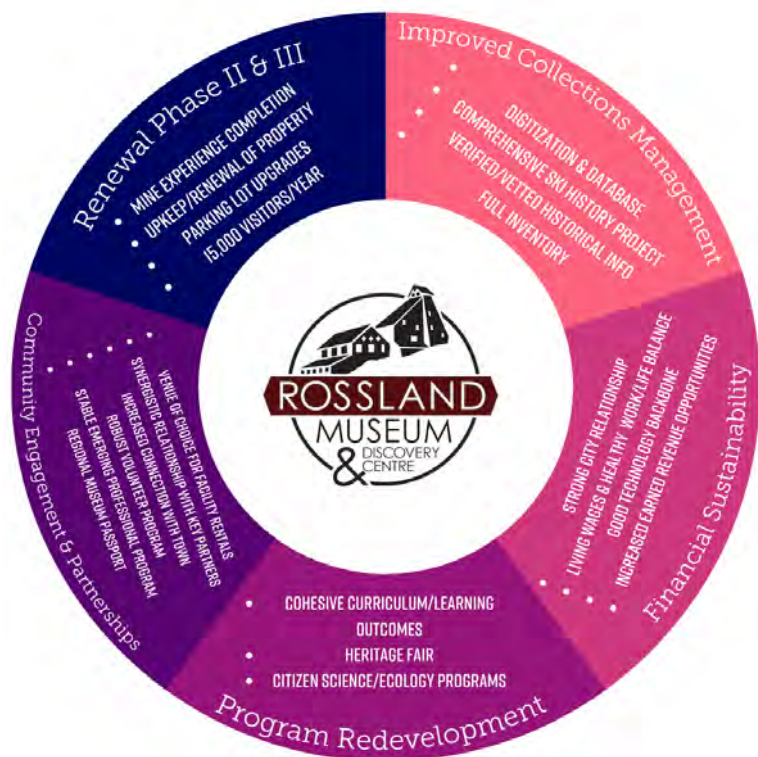
- a) The collection, preservation, and presentation of objects, specimens, and documentary heritage to illustrate and make known to the public the mining & industrial, skiing & other sports, social & cultural, and natural history of Rossland and area; and
- b) The promotion of education, research, and programming in any or all fields referred to above.

Mission:

To preserve and dynamically present the history and culture of Rossland and area and to inspire and engage the public through virtual and real-life presentations that bring our history and culture to life.

Vision:

- To be the visitor gateway to the Kootenays and the Columbia Basin
- To be a landmark site to congregate, create, and strengthen links between diverse communities in the region
- To be an active presence in the community that supports the local economy, spurs partnerships, and regenerates tourism



Human Resources

Permanent Employees

- Museum Director - *Joelle Hodgins*
- Research Manager - *Sarah Taekema-Slot (part-time)*
- Collections Manager - *Sara Wright*
- Operations & Marketing Manager - *Fiona Lane*
- Community Engagement Manager - *Skylar Walsh*

Columbia Basin Trust, Young Canada Works, and Canada Summer Jobs programs enabled us to create **12 youth opportunities** - five in the winter and seven in the summer. This was possible with **over \$112,500 in funding** covering 74% of the total cost of these positions. With the support of a number of project grants this year, we were also able to create or extend a few more seasonal/internship roles, which brought our total for the year to **23 roles**. Comparatively, last season, we had 16 youth opportunities, with \$122,000 in funding covering 70% of the cost. These opportunities allow youth to gain useful career-related skills while helping us in many areas, such as Camp Black Bear Summer Camps, collections, archives, exhibit projects, and daily museum and visitor centre operations.



Volunteers

Recorded Volunteer Hours - 1694.75 valued at \$15/hr = \$25,421.25 in volunteer contributions
(1621.75 hours/\$24,326.25 in 2021-22)

In addition to the recorded hours, the Board of Trustees and other committee members put in countless hours outside of the museum in planning and research.

2023 Board of Trustees:

- President - Mike Sloan
- Vice-President - Mike Ramsey
- Treasurer - Gabe Wiebe
- Secretary - Justine Dodds
- Past-President - Libby Martin
- Chris Bowman
- Sandra Meger
- Gail Fraser



Standing Committees:

- Human Resources
- Policy
- Finance
- Community Engagement
- Collections & Research

Regular Volunteers - 58 people

Community Clubs: Ecology Club, Friends of the Roger Terhune Geology Collection Club

Renewal Plan Development Committee - 12 people (Mayor, City CAO, City Council Liaison, Teck Community Engagement Liaison, Museum Consultant, Committee Facilitator, Tourism Rossland Executive Director, 3 Board Trustees, Museum Director, and Community Members)

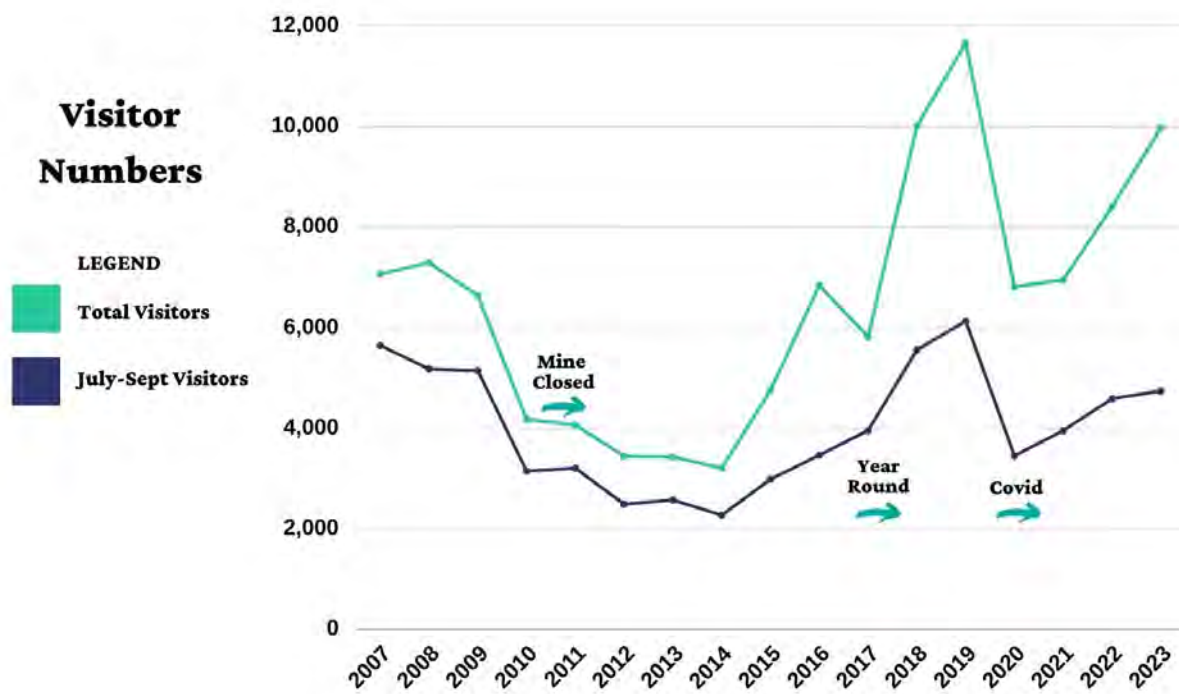
Rotary Club of Rossland regularly helps with property upkeep and event support, including bi-annual work bees to handle seasonal changeovers for the property, as well as additional landscaping and project support, including carpentry, display installations, and more.

We have several wonderful event-support volunteers who help with everything from collecting statistics to offering face painting and operating craft activities on our behalf. We also have a dedicated volunteer crew who maintain our Heritage Garden on the Upper Level!

We are consistently incredibly grateful for this generous and continued show of support.



Season Highlights

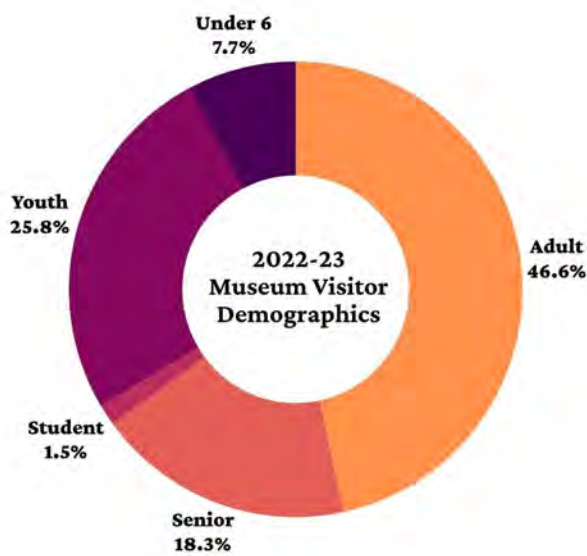


2022-23 Season Total = 9,973 visitors

19% increase over 2021-22 season (8,404 visitors)

93% or 9,239 visitors came for the Museum & Archives (versus Visitor Centre-only visits)

Locals = 72.3% (2022: 75.4%; 2021: 77.8% of visitors)



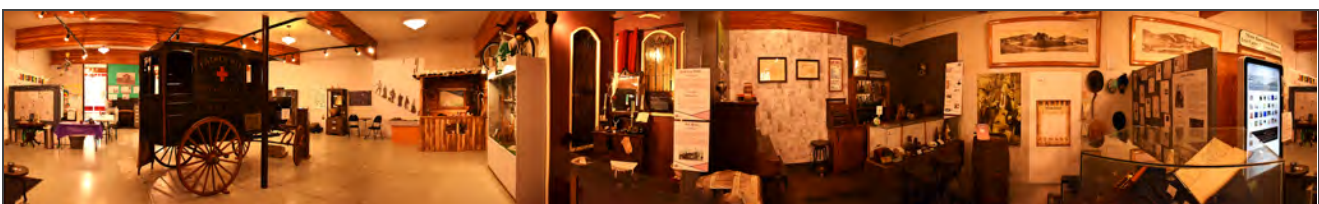
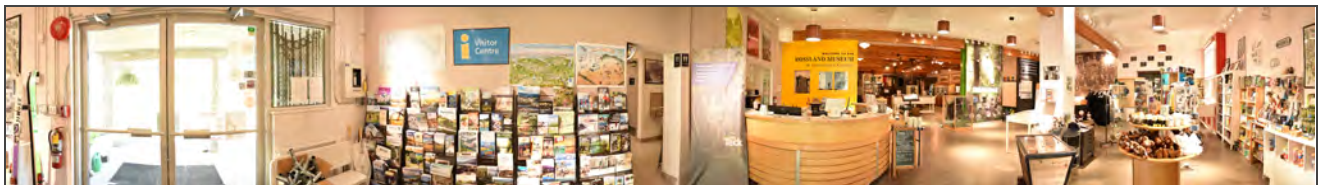
Membership

510 members and \$5285 revenue (2022: 258 Members and \$4355 revenue)

Benefits of an Annual Membership:

- **Unlimited access** to galleries and exhibitions for 12 months
 - **2 family/friends passes**
 - **E-newsletter** subscription and **special event invites**
 - **10% off** all items in the RMDC museum shop
 - **10% off** program fees
 - **10% off** facility rentals and birthdays
 - **Annual General Meeting vote**
 - Reciprocal Membership Programs:
 - [Association of Science-Technology Centers Travel Passport](#)
 - [Canadian Association of Science Centres](#)
 - Grand Forks [Gallery 2](#)
- ❖ In addition to these membership programs, **members of the BC Museums Association** can access the museum at no cost under the Owl Pass Program
- ❖ We are also members of the [CANOO Pass](#) from the **Institute for Canadian Citizenship**, which helps new Canadian citizens celebrate their citizenship by providing free virtual and in-person admission to over 1400 museums, science centres, art galleries, parks, and historic sites across Canada
- ❖ We also have a partnership with the **Rossland Public Library** to provide a family pass that can be checked out anytime by local families to visit the museum over the course of a week. The pass was checked out six times in 2023!

LIBRARY PASS
CHECKED OUT:
6 TIMES



Marketing & Communications

We have widespread marketing and communication efforts that aim to:

- a. increase visibility within the community; and
- b. share interesting and engaging content with the broader audience of our online community.

- **Facebook Page** - facebook.com/rosslandmuseum - Followers: 2,378 (2022: 1811 page likes)
Reach: 208,839 (2022: 145,084)
- **Instagram Page** - @RosslandMuseum
Followers: 1,761 (2021: 1,599)
Reach: 151,480 (2021: 64,021)
- **Visitor Centre Instagram**: @ExploreRosslandBC - followers: 830 (2021: 721)
- **Website**: 71,355 unique visitors (2022: 23,718); 53,171 page views (2022: 52,211)
- **E-Newsletter**: 972 Subscribers (2022: 942)
- **Local Media/Organizations**

Rossland News: In-kind weekly advertisements in exchange for contributing an interesting historical photo to go in the paper – Value: \$25/week - \$1300/year in-kind

Rossland News and **Rossland Telegraph** both share our updates and info about our upcoming programs and events

Bhubble - event calendar posts and classified ads

Local organizations who share our programs/events in their e-blasts, notices, and/or event calendars:

- Rossland Council for Arts & Culture
- Trail & District Arts Council (TDAC)
- West Kootenay Family Action Network (FAN)
- Bounce EZ Rock
- South Kootenay Seniors

- **Trip Advisor**: #4 of 33 things to do in Rossland - 31 Reviews - 4.5/5 stars
- **Google Business Listing**: 4.5/5 stars from 106 reviews

Other:

- Kootenay Gateway and Rossland Fine Wines put out our sandwich boards with upcoming events
- We occasionally promote upcoming events by booking event signs:
 - ◆ The City of Rossland - corner of Columbia and St. Paul for upcoming events
 - ◆ TDAC electronic message board on Victoria St/Hwy 3B for upcoming events
- Tourism Rossland - *Escape Guide* ad
- Ski Bus Sponsorship

In the News:

- [Happy belated birthday, Canada! - Rossland News](#) - July 11th, 2023
- [2021 EAF Funds Mid-sized Projects | Mirage News](#) - May 30th, 2023
- [Rossland Museum recipient of \\$1M destination development grant - Rossland News](#) - May 4th, 2023
- [Rossland Museum dedicates multiculturalism grant to Sinixt project - Rossland News](#) - April 27th, 2023
- [Planning continues on Rossland Museum mine experience - My Kootenay Now](#) - March 24th, 2023
- [West Kootenay towns benefit from PacifiCan funding - Trail Times](#) - March 21st, 2023
- [Greater Trail groups awarded gaming grants - Rossland News](#) - Dec 13th, 2022

"I WAS BORN IN THE MATER MISERICORDIA ON THE HILL. I STILL MISS THE KOOTENAYS BLUE SKY, ESPECIALLY IN WINTER. I VISIT THE ROSSLAND MUSEUM WHEN I CAN GET TO THE KOOTENAYS. YOUR INSTAGRAM POSTS ARE TERRIFIC. [...] WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR YOUR POSTS, WEBSITE, ARTEFACTS IMAGES AND ALL"

- EMAIL FROM FORMER ROSSLAND RESIDENT

77,732

VISITS TO OUR
WEBSITE IN 2022-23

★★★★★ 3 months ago

Take the tour, it is well worth it if you are looking to gain some knowledge of the area. Would be helpful to read some quick notes on the founding of Trail and Rossland, but not necessary. 2 to 4 hours min depending on your curiosity. The tour includes a gold pan sluse for your enjoyment. Real gold from the tailings in the sluse. Lots of fun while you learn a skill. Could easily spend 2 more hours there if time permitted. Nice gift shop also.

Programming & Special Events

Educational Tours

- General Rossland History - Grades: All
- Diggin' it Geology Tour - Grades: K - 12
- Chinese History Tour - Grades 5 - 12
- Animal Homes, Human Homes - Grades: Pre-K - Grade 5
- Exploration of First People's History - Grades: 4 - 12*
- Additional topics and specialty tours based on events/temporary exhibits on display

*Adaptable for younger audiences



School Tours

This year, attendance for school tours held to near exact numbers as the previous year showing only marginal growth over the previous year (1 additional class). Attendance in general is still working back toward pre-pandemic numbers, and we expect promising growth in attendance as we renew/redevelop the education tours. This year we hosted **631 participants from 22 classes.**

Educational Discovery Kits

389 users from 13 rentals and 8 on-site uses

Rossland Museum Discovery Kits:

- Indigenous Basketry of the Region
- Rock Detectives
- Ecology Discovery (see image >)
- Drawn to History
- Remembrance Day Kit



"THE LANTERNS THEY MADE LAST WEEK ARE SO COOL! YOU AND YOUR WHOLE CREW THERE ARE AMAZING."

-AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM PARENT

We are also the **home base in Southeastern BC** for other museums, organizations, and schools to borrow various kits from the **Royal BC Museum:**

- Writing on the Wall: An Outreach Kit on Chinese Canadian Historical Wrongs
- "Species at Risk" Mini Museums (Western Bumble Bee, Hotwater Physa, and Spadefoot Toad)

Youth Programs

- **Young Naturalists:** Twice-weekly, 2-hour program during fall and winter, then weekly programming series in the spring for ages 6-12 to dig a bit deeper into local ecology and natural sciences
- **Cub Club:** Weekly preschool program during the school year with varying themes; structured to include a Story, Active Play, Craft Activity and a Farewell Song
- **Rockhounds:** Weekly, 2-hour spring geology program for ages 6-12
- **S.T.E.A.M. Days:** Saturday craft/experiment program that creates thematic crafts and art throughout the school year with a focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.)
- **Pro D Day Camps** - day camps in February and May for 23 kids over two days of camp, featuring a fluorescent rock demonstration by volunteer Chris Hatch
- **Spring Break Camps** - Spring Break Camps were back again this year hosting 27 kids over two weeks of camps; themes of Camp Create and Super Sleuths were familiar favourites
- **Youth Cedar Weaving Workshop:** Youth Workshop learning basics of Flat Weaving with Cedar Bark, led by Sinixt Matriarch Taress Alexis
 - 10 Youth participated as well as 4 accompanying adults and 2 seniors
 - Youth capacity limit expanded from 8 to 10 due to high demand (despite little time for marketing)
- **Camp Black Bear:** Nine full weeks of camps with five different topics: Camp Create, Super Sleuths, Drama-Rama, Eco Adventurers, and Junior Shredders & Engineers



- Average of **14 kids daily - a total of 595 campers** (2022 = 577, 2021 = 670, 2020 = 562)
- Volunteer assistance from Wildsafe BC, and Chris Hatch
- Partners/Contractors: Kootenay Mountain Bike Coaching, Flux Climbing, and The Gold Fever Follies.

"MY KIDS ARE ALWAYS EXCITED TO COME AND WE WILL BOOK MUSEUM PREFERENTIALLY!"
-CAMPER PARENT

"A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU AND ALL THE DAY CAMP COUNSELLORS FOR AN AMAZING WEEK. WE TRULY APPRECIATE ALL THE EFFORT PUT INTO MAKING IT A FUN AND HAPPY WEEK FOR THE KIDS."
-CAMPER PARENT

Adult/Senior Programs

- **Speaker Series:** This round of Speaker Series included 5 events on the last Thursday of each month:
 - January: The Climate Crisis with Laura Sacks of West Kootenay Climate Hub, 31 Attendees
 - February: Sinixt in the tmx^wúla?x^w with Lori Barkley, 36 Attendees
 - March: Murphy Creek Headwaters Plane Crash with Ron Dennet, 78 Attendees
 - April: Columbia & Western Rail Trail to Rossland with Libby Martin and Sarah Taekema-Slot, 77 Attendees
 - May: Printer Devils with Ron Verzuh, 14 Attendees
 - Thank you to Laura Sacks, Lori Barkley, Ron Dennet, Libby Martin, Sarah Taekema-Slot, and Ron Verzuh for participating
- **Night at the Museum Events:** An evening of exploration on August 17th with special activities and guests, featuring student showcases highlighting some of our summer students' projects: negative digitization, the *Rossland Miner* newspaper, as well as tours and presentations of the collections and archive spaces.
- **Rossland Recollections:** Senior Teas were not drawing attendance so we talked with local seniors and decided to start Senior Speaker Series programming, Rossland Recollections. Two such events were held with the first on February 1st by Richie Mann with the title of "Tales of Early Rossland," and the second in May led by Ron Dennet on the topic of the Murphy Creek Headwaters Plane Crash. These two events were attended by 87 and 29 seniors respectively
- **Community Clubs:**
 - **Friends of the Roger Terhune Geology Collection** ("Geo Club" - 11 members) is a support/expert body on geology-related areas of the RMDC
 - **Ecology Club** ("Eco Club" - 9 members) is a support/expert body on botany and ecology-related areas of the RMDC, including advising on upper-level redevelopment plans and the development of a new ecology exhibit, speaker series events, and online resources. This group acts as a collection of experts and the museum seeks individual advice and counsel from each of their respective areas of expertise.



Additional Programming for Everyone

- **snslxcin Sinixt Language Revitalization/ Captik^w t Swarak^{xn} Booklaunch**
 - Held during the Canada Day at the Museum event, this book launch and guided reading as led by Autonomous Sinixt Matriarch Taress Alexis was for the first book ever published in the Sinixt dialect, snsxlxcin.



- **Guided Tours:**
 - Museum Tours: Guided tours of the Upper Level were offered twice daily through July and August and were available on request from May to September. Total attendees = 237 (2022 = 131; 2021 = 190; 2020 = 150)
 - Gold Fever Follies Vignettes: cast members from the Gold Fever Follies performed vignettes following the morning tours on Fridays and Saturdays for the last half of the summer, ultimately visiting five times
- **Locals' Late Nights and Monthly Craft Nights:** This winter, we ran "late night" hours each Wednesday, staying open till 7 pm with entry by donation for locals. The first Wednesday of each month was a drop-in "craft night" for social crafting



Annual Community/Holiday Events

- **October:**
 - **Halloween at the Museum** - scavenger hunt, crafts, Halloween movie, costume contest - 60 attendees, 4 volunteers
- **November:**
 - **Veterans' Week** - display and veteran-appreciation community letter writing campaign - 147 letters sent to over fifty local veterans
 - **Annual General Meeting**, including a short film from the 1968 du Maurier International held at Red Mountain, which was recently digitized for our upcoming Digital Museums Canada virtual exhibit on ski racing on Red Mountain.
- **December:**
 - **Rekindle the Spirit of Christmas** - hot chocolate, kids' crafts and STEAM activity at the Museum - 21 attendees
 - **Rosland Summit School (RSS) Christmas Fair** - ran a booth with gift shop items and program info
- **January:**
 - **Winter Carnival** at the Museum - outdoor activities, snow maze, snow painting, campfire, maple taffy - 544 attendees
- **February:**
 - **BC Family Day** - outdoor activities for families to enjoy and an (indoor!) lino-printing art workshop by Lana Jamieson of Black Earth Ceramics - 75 attendees
 - **BC Heritage Week** - open by donation all week, colouring pages of heritage buildings
- **April:**
 - **Easter Egg Hunt** - face painting, themed crafts, and Easter egg hunts - 361 attendees and ten student volunteers
 - **Earth Day** - open by donation with themed STEAM activity
- **June:**
 - **St. Jean Baptiste Day** - open by donation
 - **National Indigenous Peoples' Day** - open by donation, free community screening of award-winning feature documentary *Beyond Extinction*, which follows Sinixt struggles and resurgence
 - **Multiculturalism Day** - open by donation, Chinese education kit & artifacts, free community screening of the National Film Board documentary *Unarchived*
- **July:**
 - **Canada Day** - family-friendly, outdoor event in the morning/afternoon with face painting, kid & senior-friendly entertainment, gold panning, outdoor games, food trucks, kids' fitness activities, City of Rosland public works truck activities, and special displays. Canada Day cake, a welcome to the tmxwula?xw (homeland) by Sinixt matriarch Marilyn James, a speech by the Mayor, and the official singing of *O Canada* by the Gold Fever Follies. We also hosted a book launch for *Captik t Swarak'xn, the Legend of Frog Mountain*, the first book ever to be published in snslxcin, which incorporated a snslxcin



language workshop and story-walk. We hosted a number of community groups and vendors throughout the day, including the Autonomous Sinixt, City of Rossland's Heritage Commission, Wildsafe BC, Kootenay Gateway, West Kootenay Climate Hub, Happy Ice Pops, Rossland Lions Club, Kootenay Mountain Biking, and The Flying Steamshovel. In the evening, we held a free concert. - 615 attendees

- **Columbia Basin Culture Tour** - open by donation, Gold Fever Follies vignettes, fiddle performance by Gabe Mann, Youth Cedar-Weaving Workshop with Sinixt Matriarch & weaver Taress Alexis - 55 attendees
- **August:**
 - **BC Day** - open by donation, themed craft activities, ArtiFACT or ArtiFICTION display - 33 attendees
- **September:**
 - **Golden City Days and Fall Fair** - open by donation, a booth at Fall Fair, themed crafts, parade float - engagement with 257 people over the weekend
 - Curiosity Clothing hosted our outreach window exhibit "Can-Can, Do You Think They Can-Can: Rossland's Dancing Waiters" for two weeks
 - **Arts & Culture Festival** - open by donation with artists, vendors, food & drink, a ceramics workshop with Lana Jamieson of Black Earth Ceramics, and live entertainment in partnership with the Rossland Council for Arts & Culture - 381 attendees
 - **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** - open by donation on September 30th to provide resources and be a place of learning. We donated all of the day's contributions (\$60) to the Autonomous Sinixt this year. We also sold Orange Shirts from Blood of Life Collective; we donated our profit (\$63) to the Indian Residential School Survivors' Society



Local Businesses, Organizations, and Individuals that contributed to our programming and events:

Alpine Grind | Autonomous Sinixt | Black Earth Ceramics | Black Jack Ski Club | Blood of Life Collective | City of Rossland | Columbia Basin Trust | Columbia Power | Craft Gremlin | Curiosity Clothing & Gifts | Donnie's Bistro | Flux Climbing | The Flying Steamshovel | FortisBC | Foundtree Product Design | Gabe Mann | Gabriella's Restaurant | Golden City Fiddlers | Golden City Lions Club | Gold Fever Follies | Happy Ice Pops | Hooper's Bakery | The Josie Hotel | Kristen Walsh | Kootenay Gateway | Kootenay Mountain Biking | Kootenay Native Plant Society | Kootenay Savings Credit Union | Laura Sacks | Libby Martin | Lori Barkley | Marilyn James | Mike Sloan Photography | Nelson & District Credit Union | Prestige Mountain Resort | Rabbit Hole Creations | Revolution Cycles | Richie Mann | Ron Dennet | Ron Verzuh | Rossland Beer Company | Rossland Council for Arts & Culture | Rossland Fine Wines | Rossland Fall Fair | Rossland Glee | Rossland Golden City Days | Rossland Heritage Commission | Rossland Public Library | Rossland Refractory | Rossland Seniors Association | Rossland Summit School | Rossland Winter Carnival Society | Rotary Club of Rossland | Salmo Village Coffee | Seven Summits Centre for Learning | Seven Summits Service | Taress Alexis | Teck Trail Operations | Trail & District Arts Council | Tourism Rossland | The Velvet | West Kootenay Climate Hub | West Kootenay Family Action Network | WildSafe BC - Trail/Rossland



Collection, Archives, & Research

Exhibit Updates

- Added five Rossland Personalities panels to galleries (J.W. Thompson, Jack McDonald, Mrs. Allan, Louie Joe, Wesley Ziegler)
- Refreshed Summer Sports, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, West Kootenay Power & Light Company, Bottles, and Rossland Geology displays
- New Permanent Exhibits: The Rossland Club, Blaylock Collection, and Rossland Fire Department (shown)
- Converted the Bottle Room into the Collector's Corner featuring Jim Heidt Bottle Collection, Roger Terhune Geology Collection, and Erna Coombes Jug Collection
- Began conversion of Geology Building to additional programming space now that the collection highlights are in the Main Building



Satellite/Temporary Displays

- Prestige Hotel - [History of the RLOP](#) (June 2022 - June 2023 - mini exhibit that changes every 2 months), [Gold Fever Follies](#) (July 2023 - September 2023), [Rebekah Rhythms](#) (September 2023 - 2024)
- Curiosity Clothing & Gifts - Fashions of the Winter Carnivals (Winter Carnival - shown)/[Dancing Waiters](#) (Golden City Days)
- Rossland Library - [Remembrance Day](#) (November)/Christmas Toy display (December), [Heritage Recipes](#) (February - April), [Artifact or Artfiction](#) (topic changed each bi-weekly - 7 changes), [Community Collections](#) (3 separate highlights)
- RMDC - [Remembrance Day](#) (November)/Christmas (December), Winter Carnival (January)
- Trail Pride (August)



Public Workshops

- Put on 4 seniors workshops - **25 participants total**

"I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE THIS MUSEUM
IN OUR SMALL CITY!"
~ WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

"I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT DEALING
WITH MY OLD PHOTOS NOW"
~ WORKSHOP ATTENDEE



Emerging Professional Internships

Thanks in part to four Building Careers in Heritage grants from the Young Canada Works program in the winter of 2022 and fall of 2023, we were able to hire four interns to help with the object and archival collections. Our Collections Interns, Tyler Bignell and Emma Marentette assisted in our large-scale cataloguing project and assisted with outreach and permanent exhibits. In the archive, Archives Interns, Elena Enns and Matea Pozdnikoff worked on processing the collection, creating the Autonomous Sinixt archival repository, and digitizing our multimedia collection (negative, audio, and film).



Archives & Collections Updates

- Established the archival component to the Autonomous Sinixt Repository
- Accessioned donation backlog
- Continued to process and organize the archives - **100+ collections/fonds**
- Continued to develop our **collections database** - **3327 artifacts/photos/maps** added to date
- **2654 items** are now on the [Community Portal](#) (online collections database)
- Developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan



- Digitized over 1000 rarely seen negatives (shown) and over 200 pieces in our film and audio collection

2017 Canadian Conservation Institute Facility Assessment

We have continued to work our way through the CCI facility assessment. Many of the tasks in the evaluation are ongoing, and we will continue to work through them as we secure funding for supplies and re-organization.

Tasks Completed

- Emergency Preparedness Plan/Preventative Maintenance

Tasks Worked On/In Progress:

- Replacing all non-archival boxes institution-wide
- Moving textiles into acid-free storage boxes
- Repacking artifact boxes to store artifacts properly
- [Father Pat's Ambulance](#) campaign for long-term preservation



Permanent Collections

Archival Collection:

- Textual Records: **approximately 600 linear feet** of textual records
- On Exhibit: **100 documents/photos/maps** (27 on loan)
- Maps/large archival documents: **1,200+** documents/maps (flattened over 850 - digitized 500+)
- Photographs: **approximately 13,000** photographs in the permanent collection (approx 1,500 digital). Our continued partnership with the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History has allowed for **8,722** of our photographs to be digitized at no cost to us. About **19%** of the collection is now [accessible online](#) and CBIRH is working hard to get the rest online as funding and time allows
- Slides/Negatives: **approximately 3,500 - over 400** available on the [Community Portal](#)
- Audio-Visual materials: **300 individual reels/pieces**
- Newspapers: 169 bound volumes (approx. 11,662 individual issues)
- Intake (unprocessed): **230 donations** (all accessioned)



Object Collection:

On Exhibit:

- Main Building - **2,598 objects**
- Upper indoors - **1,446 objects**; Upper outdoors - **145 objects** (includes 3 trucks, 1 caboose, 3 track maintenance vehicles, a crane, a tractor, and 7 underground mining locomotives)
- Geological Samples - **approximately 400 specimens on display**

In Storage:

- Main - approx. **2750 objects**
- Upper Level - **450 objects + approximately 4,000 geological specimens**
- Intake - **30 objects**

On Loan:

- On Display: **240 objects**
- Storage: **24 objects**

Permanent Collection Donations: 24 donors (61 artifacts)

Highlights

- 1940s wedding dress - children of Leonard and Lorainne Swift
- Rubberhead Bike Race Trophy (2003-2009) - Tom Gomez
- Brodie Stroker Mountain Bike - Pam Martin

Archival Donations: 26 donors (338 items - 90 digital)

Highlights:

- Photographs of Rossland Sign
- Mann Family Photographs - Richie Mann
- Deborah Rebekah Lodge documents - Deborah Rebekah Lodge #13



Education/Display Collection Donations: 2 donors (5 items)

Highlights:

- Husky World Downhill Poster

Completed Research Requests: 67 (2022 = 56)

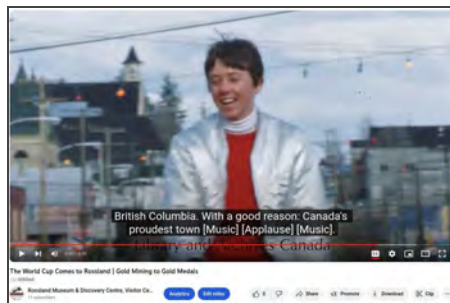
In-Progress Research Requests: 0 (2022 = 10)

Research essays completed throughout the year:

- Pride 2023:
 - [An Introductory History of Pride in the West Kootenays](#)
- [Behind the Curtain: The History of the Rossland Light Opera Players](#) - in celebration of the RLOP's 70th anniversary. This essay was a part of a larger RLOP-focused project which included outreach displays and the creation of a short film about the RLOP (produced by Shred House Media).
- Black History Month:
 - [James W. Thompson](#) - A notable Rossland restaurateur from the 1890s.
- Veterans Week:
 - [Benjamin "Ben" Allen](#): Private in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (WWI)
 - [Garth "Bunny" Beley](#): Flight Officer in the Royal Air Force (WWII)
 - [James "Jimmy" Harper](#): Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force (WWII)
 - [Air Raid Precautions \(ARP\)](#): Rossland Civilian Defence During the Second World War
 - [Rossland Red Cross](#): Women's Volunteer Service During the Second World War

Digital Museums Canada Community Stories Virtual Exhibit

We continue to work on our Community Stories virtual exhibit with Digital Museums Canada entitled **Gold Mining to Gold Medals: A Century of Ski Racing in Rossland**. Our research department has been working closely with key community members, including past racers and racing volunteers to help us develop this project. The English version of the exhibit is complete, including 7 video interviews that have been edited together with audio clips, photographs, and race footage to complement the exhibit text. The exhibit is currently being translated into French. The final online exhibit is expected to be launched around February 2024.



Rossland Memories - Oral History Project

Following a very busy year of interviews last year, this was a quiet year with more focus on editing the videos and interviews.

Interviews completed for the Rossland Memories Project this year:

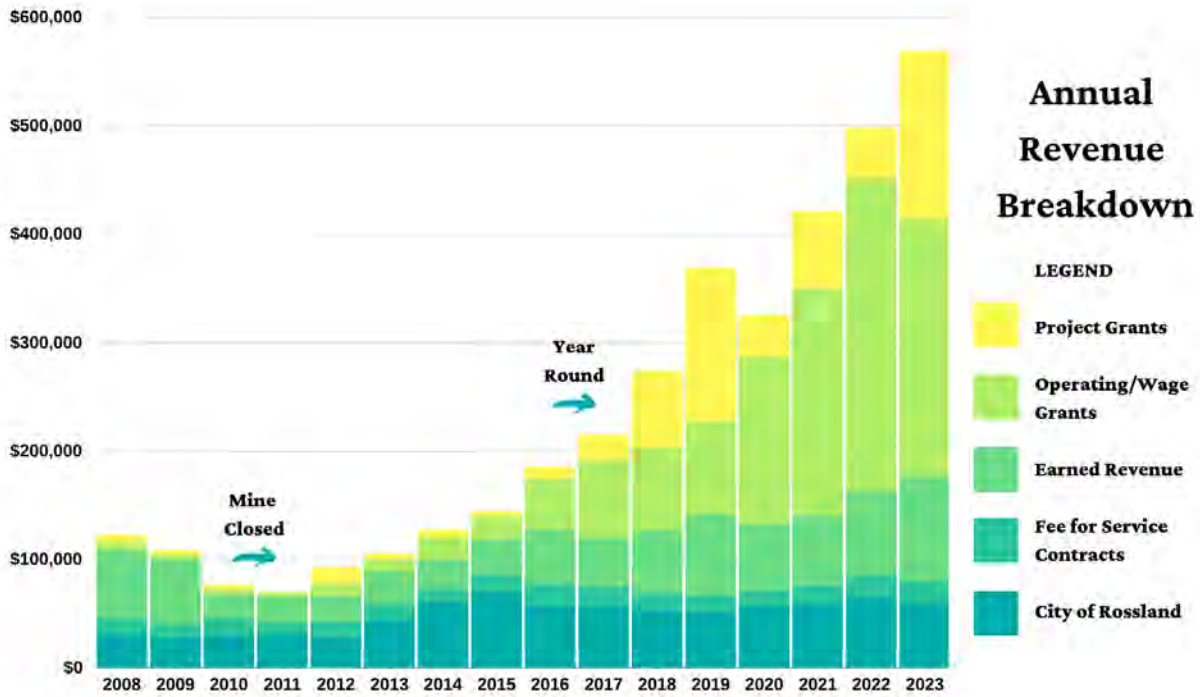
- Rossland Light Opera Players
- Bruce Hadley (Corinthian Lodge)



Maureen Brown continues to be our interviewer and, in most cases, meets interviewees in their homes, making them more comfortable and working around their schedules. Thanks, Maureen! If you are interested in helping with this project, let us know!

Funding and Earned Revenue

We were able to secure **over \$460,000 in grants/contracts** this year compared to over \$420,000 in 2022, \$380,000 in 2021, \$265,000 in 2020, and \$270,000 in 2019 - in part thanks to the core grants from the City of Rossland, and BC Community Gaming Grants as well as our recent approval to receive operating funds from the BC Arts Council (a 9-year process!). The City also approved a permissive tax exemption for the Museum site until at least 2026, which is a value of more than \$120,000 over that time period.



We have been working very hard to diversify our revenue and expand our earned revenue opportunities.

Our earned revenue in 2022-23 **totalled over \$96,000** (2021-22 = \$77,000).

Museum Shop Highlights:

This year, we used archival photos to create a line of Rossland T-shirts. They proved to be one of the top sellers of the year! We continue to produce an annual calendar that is sold in the museum shop and at several businesses downtown. Our 2023 calendar sold out within a couple of days, and we had multiple customers and businesses calling us to inquire where to find any remaining stock. Archival reproductions such as shirts and calendars take advantage of the wealth of digitized photos in our collection and the stories they tell!



Renewal Project Update

We are excited to share significant progress in our transformative Renewal Project. An essential milestone achieved was the completion of an exhibition concept plan focused on the Mine Experience through to our incredible winter sports history, setting the stage for an immersive and engaging visitor experience.

Concurrently, we've obtained our Class C cost estimate. Moving into the new fiscal year, our focus will shift towards the critical design development stage. This phase will see our vision evolve from plans and concepts to tangible designs, bringing us closer to the realization of a revitalized museum space. This progress has been made possible through the ongoing commitment of our community, donors, and partners who share our vision for a dynamic, educational, and community-centric institution.



Financially, we are proud to announce that we've successfully raised **\$2.99M to date**. This funding has come from various sources, including generous donations from individuals, corporate partners, and support from grants and government programs. However, we acknowledge the current challenges posed by the unprecedented surge in construction prices. As a result, we anticipate the need to raise additional funds to meet the evolving project costs.

To secure the necessary resources for the project's successful completion, we've applied to multiple funding opportunities, and we are diligently exploring additional fundraising initiatives. The resilience and support of our community have been instrumental in navigating these financial challenges. We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the project's success thus far. Whether through donations, partnerships, or volunteer efforts, your commitment has propelled us forward. The Renewal Project is not just a renovation; it's a community-driven initiative that will elevate the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre into a Heritage Hub and Economic Catalyst.



Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on the exciting design development phase and continue our journey toward creating a space that will inspire, educate, and serve as a source of pride for the entire community. Together, we are shaping the future of our museum, ensuring it remains a vibrant and integral part of Rossland's cultural landscape.



PHASE II: The Mine Experience

Metals | Mountains | Memories

Ways You Can Donate:

- Give us a call! 250-362-7722 or toll-free 888-488-7444
- Donate on our website through Canada Helps
 - ↳ Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association, Registered Charity # 107915654 RR0001
- Nelson & District Credit Union - Account # 30180711-201 Renewal Project
- Participate in any of our upcoming fundraisers - check our website for more information

Keep informed!
Website: rosslandmuseum.ca/renewal
Sign up for our e-newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/bN85oT>



\$2.99M Raised



DONATE NOW!
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/43307>

What's Ahead?

In addition to our annual commitments, including educational programming, group/school tours, outreach displays and kits, community events, public research requests, speaker series, operating the visitor centre, and the upkeep/updates required for our permanent displays and archival and collections management, we always have a number of major projects to keep us busy, including:

- Continue **redeveloping the upper level**, including interactive/educational opportunities, ecological enhancement, asset management strategies, physical accessibility, and expanding outdoor gathering spaces
- Complete the Digital Museums Canada virtual exhibition on the **history of ski racing on Red Mountain**
- Add to our **Rossland Memories Oral History** program and get new/backlogged interviews online
- Continue work on our new **Digitization Strategy** for the archives
- Continue to upgrade the storage systems in our collections to ensure **safe preservation**
- Continue increasing **public accessibility** of the collection and content
- Further develop our relationship with **Sinixt partners** and support further cultural resurgence efforts
- Expand **Senior programming** and volunteer opportunities with community partners
- Develop **teen/young adult programming** and volunteer opportunities with community partners
- Develop a cohesive **educational programming** package
- Develop a **comprehensive marketing plan** and long-term promotional strategy
- Streamline **financial procedures** for easier reporting and data analysis
- Continue development of **human resource procedures**, including compensation structure and succession planning
- Develop a robust orientation and mentorship process for **emerging industry professional** internships and work-integrated learning opportunities

And, of course, complete the planning and fundraising for Phase Two: The Mine Experience!

