

---

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins

CHILLIWACK  
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

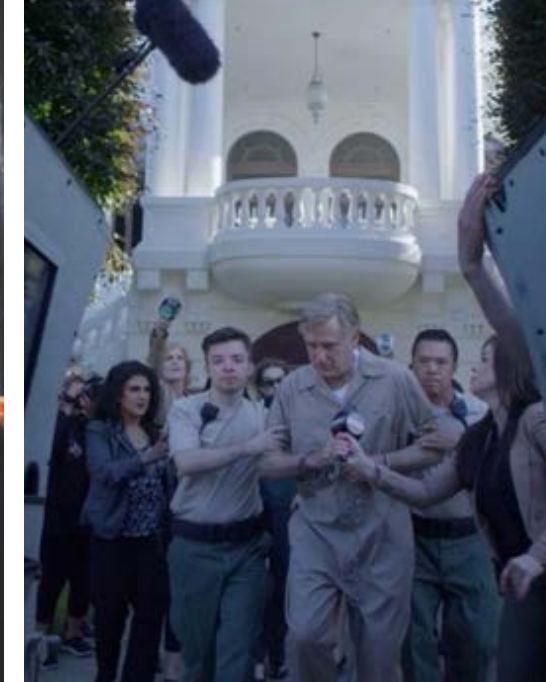


Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PAGE 1</b>	Message from the President
<b>PAGE 2</b>	Message from the Executive Director
<b>PAGE 3</b>	Who we are
<b>PAGE 4</b>	CMA Team
<b>PAGE 5</b>	CMHS Board of Directors
<b>PAGE 6</b>	Admissions & Memberships
<b>PAGE 7</b>	Archives
<b>PAGE 8</b>	Curatorial
<b>PAGE 9</b>	Education & Engagement
<b>PAGE 10</b>	Events & Outreach
<b>PAGE 11</b>	Hops & Heritage
<b>PAGE 12-13</b>	Exhibitions
<b>PAGE 14</b>	Gift Shop
<b>PAGE 15</b>	Financial & Volunteer Support

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw and Pelólhxw communities of the Stó:lō. We are thankful for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two very important documents were finalized this year, each requiring a considerable amount of preparation and attention.

The management, operating, and maintenance agreement with the City of Chilliwack reached the end of its term and was successfully renegotiated for another five years, taking us through 2028. This secured our multiyear grants and updated the expectations and responsibilities for the two partners in what we have always felt to be a supportive relationship.

Our Society's four-year strategic plan had also come to an end, requiring several sessions of Board and Staff discussions to lay out our framework for the future. We now have a five-year plan guiding us to the end of 2028. One of the priorities is to rebrand the visual and digital marketing materials for the Society. This will be undertaken in 2024 in collaboration with a marketing agency.

Board committees were busy on behalf of the organization again in 2023 and we established the new Fundraising and Membership Committee. Initially, this group will assist the Executive Director in identifying sponsorships for exhibits and events. The Governance Committee consolidated on-boarding materials for new Directors, ensuring they were available in digital form. They also worked on amending a bylaw to be presented at the 2024 AGM. The Finance Committee was instrumental in preparing the financial materials used in the renegotiation of our management and operating agreement. This committee also reviews the tools used for financial measurement, reporting, and forecasting. The Human Resources Committee continues to act as a resource for the Executive Director on personnel topics and prepared various proposals that came to the Board for consideration in early 2024. The Nominating Committee continues to identify and recruit potential new Board members.

A few capital purchases were made last year. The City replaced the carpet in the Museum office area, provided the building with an AED (automated external defibrillator) and its first dishwasher. The Archives was able to replace the old, unreliable microfilm reader with grant funds from the Chilliwack Foundation and the City of Chilliwack.

As ever, we thank the City of Chilliwack for its support and collaboration. We also thank our Executive Director Shawna Dwyer for her leadership and innovation in making sure our organization stays current and relevant.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Clark  
President, Chilliwack Museum & Historical Society

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I can say with a great deal of confidence that 2023 has been the busiest and most successful year the Chilliwack Museum & Archives has seen since pre-pandemic times. The entire team at the CMA took on a variety of new initiatives in their departments as well as enhancing current offerings.

Five feature exhibitions opened in 2023, each planned to engage new and returning visitors by showcasing a range of local and global topics. Museum admissions continue to grow, following a renewed focus on relevant and dynamic exhibitions in the past few years. Emphasizing accessibility has been a primary focus for archival staff and volunteers for several years, and we no longer require appointments for research visits. Hosting after-hours events such as the film screening, *Unarchived*, at the Archives has allowed us to reach a broader visitor base.

In 2023, our goal at the Chilliwack Museum Gift Shop was to showcase local and Indigenous artists as well as, small businesses prioritizing community partnerships. Twenty-two new artists were featured on consignment and wholesale expanding the diverse selection of handmade products and publications we carry to communicate our passion to support and encourage creativity within our community.

Our annual Hops & Heritage event continues to grow exceptionally every year. In 2023, we added a craft market component and more food options! We are looking forward to celebrating the 5th anniversary of Hops & Heritage on June 8, 2024, with our biggest event plans yet! While we celebrated our second annual Sweet Summer Fun event at the Museum over two weeks, we also participated in successful engagement events off-site – notably the Chilliwack Mural Festival and the Chilliwack Pride Festival. We also hosted the inaugural Midnight at the Museum event.

We are thankful for the continued financial support from our dedicated members, personal and corporate donors, and various granting agencies. Most importantly, we are indebted for the continued support of the City of Chilliwack and wish to express our sincerest thanks.

We are grateful for our volunteer base of 26 dedicated, inspiring, and passionate volunteers who continue to help us operate at both the Museum and the Archives. We would not succeed without your continued commitment. Finally, we also wish to express our thanks to you, our members, who have enthusiastically supported us throughout our continued development.

Ch'ithométsel (I thank you),



Shawna Dwyer  
Executive Director, Chilliwack Museum and Archives

# WHO WE ARE

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives is a Innovative, Responsive, and Inclusive organization that connects people with the past, present, and future.

## PURPOSES

### 01.

Create experiences with local and global significance that encourage dialogue and inspire action.

### 02.

Collaborate with the community to ensure that the Society operates in a representative, participatory, and inclusive manner.

### 03.

Develop relevant programming that is creatively and intellectually stimulating, modelled to promote life-long learning.

### 04.

Make Chilliwack's diverse histories accessible with the enhancement and exploration of the Museum and Archives Collection.



# CMA TEAM

## Not Pictured

**Tyler Bignell** | Collections Coordinator

**Erin Caskey** | Museum Attendant

**Emerson Simms** | Museum Attendant



**Sarah Belley**

Education &  
Engagement  
Coordinator



**Matthew Cook**

Archives Technician



**Shawna Dwyer**

Executive Director



**Tristan Evans**

Archivist



**Kate Feltren**

Curator



**Jessica Hrycyk**

Administrative  
Coordinator

# CMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Pat Clark**  
President



**Bradley Gionet**  
Vice President



**Merlin Bunt**  
Treasurer



**Alison Kaye**  
Secretary



**David Clarke**  
Director



**Jennifer Fienberg**  
Director



**Kaitlyn Janzen**  
Director

**Not Pictured**

**Debora Soutar** | Director

**Darrell Lindhout** | Director of Recreation &  
Culture, City of Chilliwack Representative



# ADMISSIONS + MEMBERSHIPS



Photo Credit: Lexa Bergen

## ADMISSIONS

Child	1914
Student	1071
Adult	3589
Senior	1627
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8201</b>

## MEMBERSHIPS

Senior Membership	10
Lifetime membership	35
Individual membership	11
Family membership	3
Volunteer Membership	15
Not for Profit membership	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>

# ARCHIVES

## STATISTICS

Archival and Library Donations: 42  
Visitors: 471  
Visitor Hours: 560  
Research Emails: 146  
Research Phone Calls: 195  
Volunteer Hours: 520  
Online Collections Database Searches: 14,401  
Archival Tour Participants: 124



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins

In addition to improving accessibility, in 2023, staff from all departments have spent a great amount of energy and time collaborating with outside organizations on archival projects. A small sampling of these collaborative projects include: Teacher's Pro-D training; incorporating archival assignments in university courses including English Literature, Theatre, Stó:lō History, History for the Web, and Applied History; education visits from local elementary schools; Workplace students from Timothy Christian and UFV TASK program; collaborating with the South Asian Community Digital Archives, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, the Reach, and Agassiz-Harrison Museum; NFB Canada film screening; advisory committees including Chilliwack Heritage Committee and UFV External Program Advisory Committee; and joint projects with community organizations such as Sardis Genealogy, Elder College, Chilliwack Society for Community Living, Archives Association of BC, and Chilliwack BIA.

Moving forward, staff hope to continue to improve accessibility by increasing visitor hours and options, improve the physical access to the research room, establish a safe space and support for trauma induced research, and continue to expand the digitization and description of records within our holdings.

# CURATORIAL

In 2023, the Curatorial Department made consistent progress with the multi-year Collections Re-organization Project, including the inventory and re-organization of the book and ephemera collection. This re-org helps to improve storage conditions for the longevity of the collection. The project consisted of identifying potential red rot in leather-bound books, updating records, wrapping and supporting fragile bindings, and rehousing books in custom boxes and book tote enclosures.

In total, 15 collections storage units (1,900 objects) were inventoried in 2023. This brings the department closer to completing a full inventory of the collection, with 70/154 units now complete. This process helps with emergency planning, and to help identify collection needs, optimize storage space, update object photographs, and identify hazards. In support of disaster mitigation, new exterior doors were installed in the Collections Space as a preventative measure for severe weather incidents and to reduce entry points for pests and moisture.

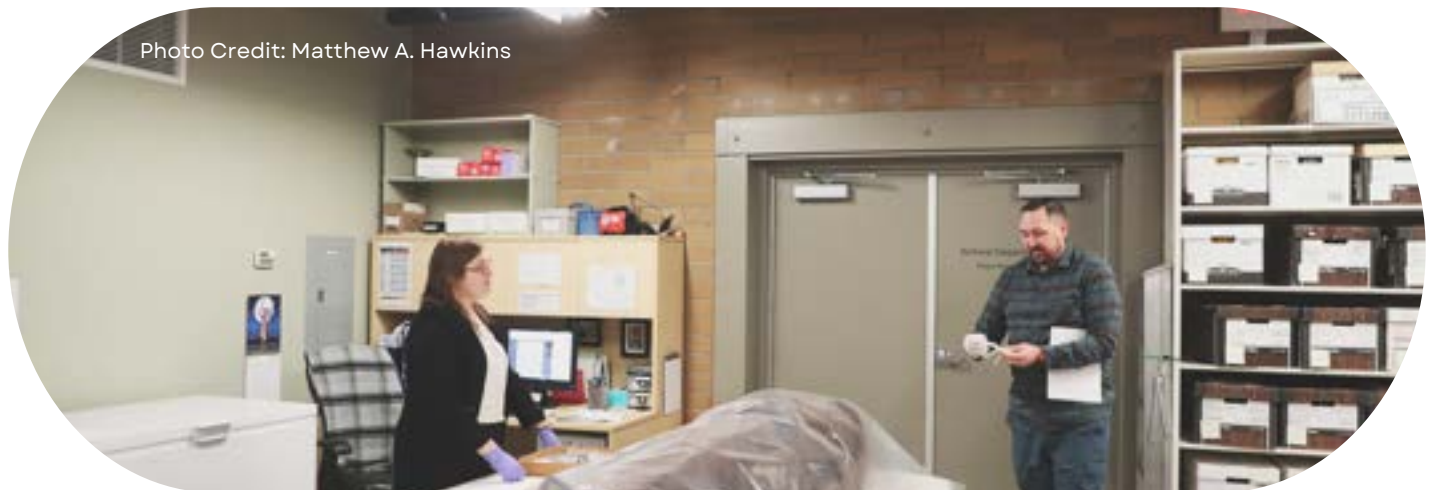


Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins

## 2023 ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023.001 B.C. Tel (Telus) hand-crank, “coffin,” and desk telephones used at Chilliwack office
- 2023.005 Children’s toys, including badminton, croquet, “Wonder Tinker Toys,” and “American Logs”; circa 1960s
- 2023.022 Grade 1 teaching tool (“Big Book”) from Cheam Elementary
- 2023.026 Public speaking and science fair trophies from Chilliwack Middle School; 1960s
- 2023.029 Chilliwack Agricultural Society 150th Agricultural Fair champion ribbons
- 2023.030 Corn seeder; circa 1920s
- 2023.035 Floppy disks, purchased when first computer available for home use in Chilliwack
- 2023.037 Henry Norton Ord (Canadian Hop Company) Hop Crate; circa 1930s
- 2023.039 Work apron from Bell’s Farm and Building Supply; circa 1940s-50s
- 2023.045 Cruet from Palms Confectionery on Wellington Avenue; circa 1914-18
- 2023.048 Multi-range tester and canvas water bag from former Chief Forest Ranger James Mahood
- 2023.049 Collaborative quilt created by various home nursing care facilities in Chilliwack; 2000

# EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

757 students  
from Kindergarten to Grade 10

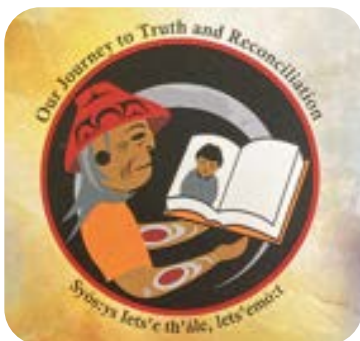
34 programs between January - June, 2023

At the Chilliwack Museum: 22 bookings  
In the Classroom: 13 bookings

Education programs at the Chilliwack Museum & Archives follow **BC curriculum**, aim to support **student-centered learning**, and **Indigenous Principles of Teaching**. As a forward facing role, educators interact with students, teachers, adults, and administrators regularly, and act as ambassadors for the organization.

Education Programming was consistent in 2023, seeing many returning teachers for **Techno-Quilt**, **Ts'elxwéyqw: Then and Now**, and **Skow:wech: The Great White Sturgeon**.

The Education & Engagement Department was able to hire a contract Education Programmer in March 2023 to support the development and delivery of programs supporting **The Suitcase Project**.



On **October 6th**, the Education Department was invited by District Principal of Indigenous Education, Brenda Point, to attend a thought provoking and meaningful pro-d day **Our Journey to Truth and Reconciliation**. Over 2500 educators were in attendance. Presenters included The Honorable Steven Point, Dr. Keith Thor Carlson, Chief Lara Mussell, Chief Dave Jimmie, Chief Derek Epp and more. We participated with a display that included the skow:wech model, aspects of the *Qo:qo: High Water* exhibition and the new education kit on Semá:th Xo:tsa,



Chilliwack Artisan, **Megumi Pedersen**, graciously loaned the museum a number of Japanese pieces for display in the Education Space; a handmade silk Furisode, several pairs of Geta sandals, and a detailed Hina Doll case. The education programs were enriched by meeting Megumi and her Family, providing an invaluable local connection to Japanese culture.



# EVENTS & OUTREACH



2023, an exceptional year for Public Engagement!

Fraser Valley Wedding Show  
The Chilliwack Pride Festival  
The Chilliwack Mural Festival  
Sweet Summer Fun  
Midnight at the Museum

With increased event offerings, we also made a corresponding increase in community partnerships, including Sonic Bark Vinyl Co., Multi-Pack Deli, Artisan Megumi Pedersen, Bricklayer Brewing, Chilliwack Pride, and Kids in the Ball. Local individuals and organizations are becoming aware of our public events and are continually expressing interest in partnering with the Chilliwack Museum and Archives. Meeting individuals from this community, such as Megumi Pedersen, has been the most rewarding aspect of partnerships.

# HOPS & HERITAGE

Our annual Hops & Heritage event continues to grow exceptionally every year. In 2023, we added a craft market component and more food options! Joining the five local breweries (Bricklayer, Farmhouse, Field House, Flashback, and Sidekick) was a non-beer option, Lakebottom Cider. Once again, we had over 150 community members attend and we are looking forward to celebrating the 5th anniversary of Hops & Heritage on June 8, 2024, with our biggest event plans yet!



Photo Credit: Bradley Gionet

# EXHIBITIONS

Five feature exhibitions opened in 2023, addressing a range of local and global topics to engage with new and returning visitors. Museum admissions continue to grow, following a renewed focus on relevant and dynamic exhibitions in the past few years. In 2023, there were 8,201 total admissions, versus 5,086 in 2022.

## **THE SUITCASE PROJECT; A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION FROM NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTRE**

FEBRUARY 9, 2023 TO JUNE 3, 2023

The Suitcase Project asks yonsei and gosei (fourth and fifth generation) Japanese Canadians and Americans what they would pack if uprooted from their homes at a moment's notice, documented through a series of photographs, short films, and interviews by Kayla Isomura. The exhibition was supplemented with a history of Japanese Canadian internment and stories from Chilliwack.

## **KALEIDOSCOPIC BY KRISTA KILVERT**

FEBRUARY 9, 2023 TO JUNE 10, 2023

Krista Kilvert's exhibition presented artworks advocating for ethnocultural diversity, while exploring themes of statelessness, dispossession, and acculturation. Connecting to these themes through visual and written storytelling, Krista detailed the journey of her parents, Eric and Blondine Huebner, who emigrated to Canada as Ukrainian refugees of WWII to build a new life in Chilliwack.



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: FREDERICK LEARY

JUNE 24, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

This exhibition showcased the life and work of Frederick Gordon Leary, who arrived in Chilliwack in 1914 and opened The Palms Confectionery on Wellington Avenue. In addition to dishing up sweet treats in his ice cream parlour, he was an avid photographer and contributed to numerous community organizations throughout his life. Featured in this exhibition were Leary's photographs taken from 1914-1920, which captured built structures and area residents.

## SPARKED: MOVED TO ACTION

JUNE 24, 2023 TO JANUARY 27, 2024

As 2023 marked 150 years since the incorporation of the Township of Chilliwack, this exhibition reflected on events within this timeframe that inspired individual and collective activism within the community. The exhibition examined moments of social shifts in the community landscape, reflecting on political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues that have ongoing impacts today.

## THE COMMUNITY ART SHOW

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 TO DECEMBER 23, 2023

The fourth annual Community Art Show, produced in support of Culture Days, included 92 artworks from 37 participating artists from the Chilliwack community, in a wide range of mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, textiles, and ceramics.



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins





# GIFT SHOP

In 2023, our goal at the Chilliwack Museum Gift Shop was to showcase local and Indigenous artists, and small businesses prioritizing community partnership opportunities. Twenty-two new artists were featured on consignment and wholesale. We also focused on stocking books to reflect the growing interest and representation of the subject matter in our exhibits, local and Indigenous history. As a result, we have continued to expand on the diverse selection of handmade products and publications we carry to communicate our passion to support and encourage creativity within our community.

The layout of the Gift Shop has undergone many improvements this past year. Our staff installed new shelving and lighting to accommodate new and prior stock. We gave a fresh new look to the walls, alcoves, cabinets, display case, and the décor to create visual interest for visitors in cohesion with our exhibits.

**Total Number of Sales: 1,192**

## Most Popular Products

- Postcards: 154 total
- Books: 134 total
- Jewelry: 130 total



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you to all the individuals, companies, and organizations who contributed financially to the continued success of the Chilliwack Museum & Archives in 2023.



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

GMR Foundation

# VOLUNTEERS

The team at the Chilliwack Museum & Archives is grateful for our dedicated volunteers Karen and Wally Klassen, Lawrie Edwards, Wanda Stevenson, Ev Parker, Marilyn Ricker, Vicki Grieve, Carlye Krul, Carole Coffield, Mikayla Coffield, Jazmin Hughes, Anita Norrish, Esther Tunke, Gale Owens, Koen Kuijvenhoven, Fredelle Copeland, Madeleine Avery, Erin Newlove, Shannon Shortridge, Liam Gilchrist-Blackwood and Pacific Pathways (Kyle, Natasha, Carole, Shelley, Amanda, Kelly). Thank you all so much for your time and energy in supporting us and our community!



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins



Photo Credit: Matthew A. Hawkins



Museum  
45820 Spadina Avenue  
Chilliwack, BC  
V2P 1T3

Archives  
9291 Corbould Street  
Chilliwack, BC  
V2P 4A6

604-795-5210  
[www.chilliwackmuseum.ca](http://www.chilliwackmuseum.ca)



**CHILLIWACK**  
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES