



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

**Rossland Museum
& Discovery Centre**

Metals | Mountains | Memories

www.RosslandMuseum.ca

Message from the Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association President

This has been another busy year for the RMDC. In spite of the ongoing COVID restrictions earlier in the year (and our desire to be extra cautious whenever possible), staffing shortages, and other challenges, a great deal has been accomplished.

Staff and volunteers have continued to work through the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. And, as this was the last year of that Plan, we have developed and implemented a new Strategic Plan for the next 3 years with exciting goals for our continued development.

The archives and artefact collections continued to be organized, and research is ongoing. Exhibits continued to be upgraded and new ones designed both in the museum complex and in outlying locations. Online resources and articles continued to be posted on the museum website, and the speaker series continued both online and in person. In spite of staffing challenges, and thanks to very hard-working staff, our youth and seniors programs continued throughout the year, and our Camp Black Bear day camps continued to be very popular, selling out in a matter of days. Many more details about museum activities can be found throughout the full Annual Report.

We remain on the lookout for funding for Phase 2 of the Renewal Project; a combination of atrium expansion, mine tunnel experience, and overall exhibits and facilities renovation. Planning and development continue with the architectural firm MAD Studio, engineering consultants, Teck Trail Operations, and the City of Rossland. We are finalizing a Class "C" QS Costing that will allow us to pursue funding more aggressively, with the hope of breaking ground in the spring.

The RMDC also established an MOU with the Autonomous Sinixt this year, which allows us to display indigenous items on loan from them and develop joint programs, such as a language revitalization workshop and our cedar-weaving project. We also continue to develop relationships with other indigenous organizations in an effort to inclusively and responsibly represent Indigenous history throughout the region.

Our HR, Finance, and Policy Committees have also been hard at work formalizing a number of policies and procedures that will ensure the Museum continues to operate safely, efficiently, effectively, and professionally.

As always, the museum operates on a limited budget. However, with the end of COVID restrictions, we have seen visitor numbers and program participation begin to increase again. Combined with continued COVID-relief funding, we once again find ourselves in a good financial position.

Joelle, our Museum Director, does a stellar job in securing grants. She also administers the entire operation, ably assisted by our full and part-time staff. Typically we also employ a number of youth and intern positions. However, applicant numbers for these positions have been low this year. As a result, Joelle and the staff have had to work very hard to cover all the Museum's needs.

As always, the RHMAA greatly appreciates the continued support and services supplied by the City of Rossland. This much-needed support helps us continue to operate year after year. We also greatly appreciate the continued support from Teck Trail Operations, both annually and for the Renewal Project. And, many thanks go to our Volunteers, Board of Trustees, Museum Membership, Rotary Club of Rossland, and the many other community members and groups that support the RMDC each year. These volunteer hours make possible much of what has been accomplished.

Finally, many thanks to our past President, Libby Martin, for agreeing to remain on the Board of Trustees. Her continued participation, along with her experience, knowledge and enthusiasm, has been a great help to me as I try to fill her shoes. I hope to help carry on the great work she has done over the many years.

Thank you, everyone!

Mike Sloan
President, RHMAA

Table of Contents

About the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre	4
2023-25 Strategic Plan	4
Season Highlights	6
COVID-19 Impacts	6
Memberships	6
Visitor Numbers	7
Marketing & Communications	8
Programming & Special Events	9
School Tours	9
Youth Programs	9
Adult/Senior Programs	10
Additional Programming for Everyone	10
Annual Community/Holiday Events	11
Collection, Archives, & Research	13
Exhibit Updates	13
Satellite/Temporary Displays	13
Public Workshops	13
Internships	13
Archives & Collections Updates	13
Digital Museums Canada Community Stories Virtual Exhibit	14
Permanent Collections	16
Funding and Earned Revenue	17
Renewal Project Update	18
What's Ahead?	19

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 was incorporated under the BC Societies Act in March of 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. More than five decades later, we are 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 and sweet words - *Metals | Mountains | Memories*.



Mandate: 2022 updates

The Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre includes:

- 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
- The promotion of education, research, and programming in any or all fields referred to above.

Mission:

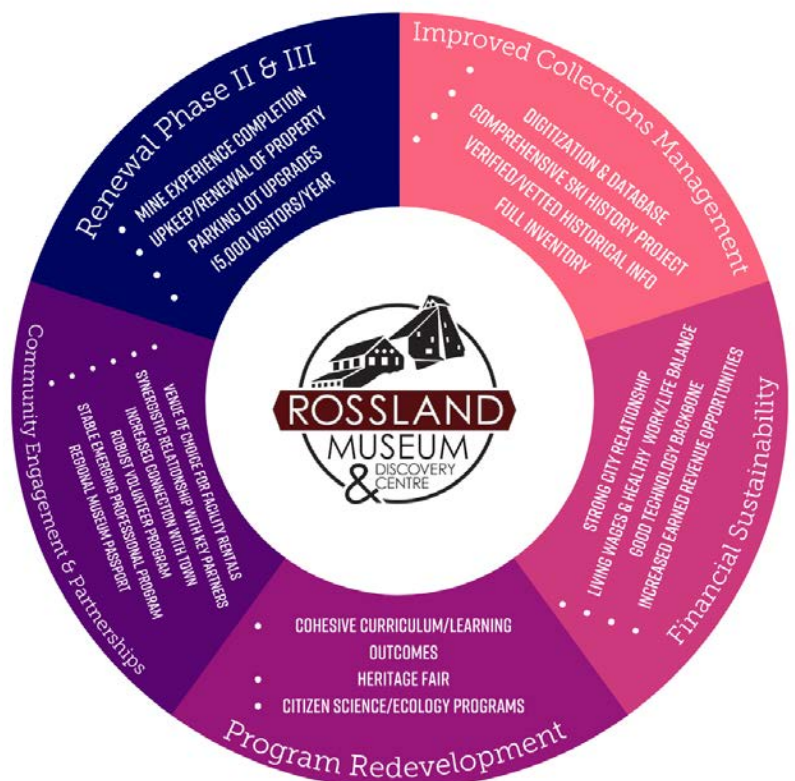
To preserve and dynamically present the history and **culture** of Rossland and area and to inspire and engage the public through virtual and real-life presentations that bring our history and **culture** to life.

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

2023-25 Strategic Plan

In 2022, with the help of the Columbia Basin Trust Non-Profit Advisor program and consultant Mike Stolte, we were able to develop a new 3-year Strategic Plan focused on moving forward in development stages for all departments and prioritizing the completion of the Mine Experience.



Human Resources

5 Permanent Employees

- Museum Director - *Joelle Hodgins*
- Research Manager - *Sarah Taekema-Slot* - Nadia van Asselt has been covering Sarah's family leave through all of 2022
- 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 **16 youth opportunities**: 9 in the winter and 7 in the summer - **this was possible with just over \$122,000 in funding** covering 70% of the total

cost of these positions. Comparatively, we had 20 youth opportunities last season and 78% of the funding was covered, but with \$102,000, which means shorter-term roles.

Our youth work opportunities program is essential and provides reciprocal benefits for the museum and our youth - they gain useful career-related skills while helping us in so many areas, such as leading our Camp Black Bear Summer Camps, working on collection, archives, and exhibit projects, developing and offering tours, and assisting with daily museum and visitor centre operations.

70%
STUDENT WAGES
FUNDED

Volunteers

Recorded Volunteer Hours - 1621.75 valued at \$15/hr = \$24,326.25 in volunteer contributions (2126 hours/\$31,890 in 2020-21)

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.

2021 Board of Trustees:

- President - Mike Sloan
- Vice-President - Mike Ramsey
- Treasurer - Gabe Wiebe
- Secretary - Carol Cooper
- Past-President - Libby Martin
- Troy Colautti
- Gail Fraser
- Justine Dodds

Standing Committees: Human Resources, Policy, Finance, Community Engagement, and Collections & Research

Regular Volunteers - 50 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 biannual 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 a number of wonderful event support volunteers who help with everything from collecting statistics and managing public health order requirements 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 incredibly grateful for this generous and continued show of support.

Season Highlights

COVID-19 Impacts

We have been managing the ever-evolving public health orders to support the safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors. Masks were required to enter the museum for the first half of the year and, in accordance with public health orders and guidance, proof of vaccination was required for attendance at several of our earlier events in the year. We really appreciated the public's support in our efforts to provide safe, fun events.

Covid contributed (directly and indirectly) to staffing shortages through the spring and summer, but we are hopeful that things are coming around.

We were able to safely host many programs and events during the summer months. We also reworked our school year programming to incorporate more outdoor activities, most notably with our after-school program "Cold Crew." We hope to continue on this path to safely resume and expand our programming and events in the coming year.



Memberships

258 Members and \$4225 revenue (2020-21 = 167 members and \$2993)

258
MEMBERS

Benefits of an Annual Membership:

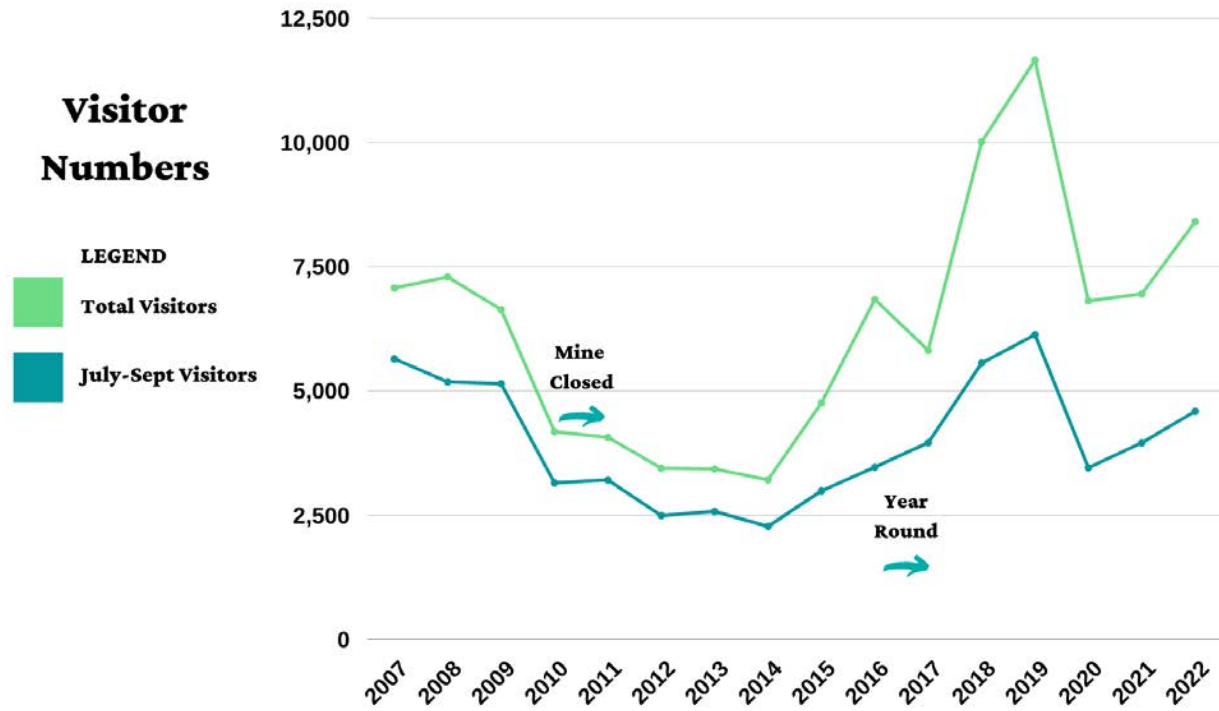
- Season's Pass access to the Museum + 2 family/friend guest passes
- E-Newsletter subscription
- 10% off program fees, in the museum shop, and facility rentals/birthdays
- Annual General Meeting vote
- Reciprocal Membership Programs:
 - [Association of Science-Technology Centers Travel Passport](#)
 - [Canadian Association of Science Centres](#) program
 - [Gallery 2](#) program

- ❖ 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 twelve times in 2022!

LIBRARY PASS
CHECKED OUT:
12 TIMES



Visitor Numbers

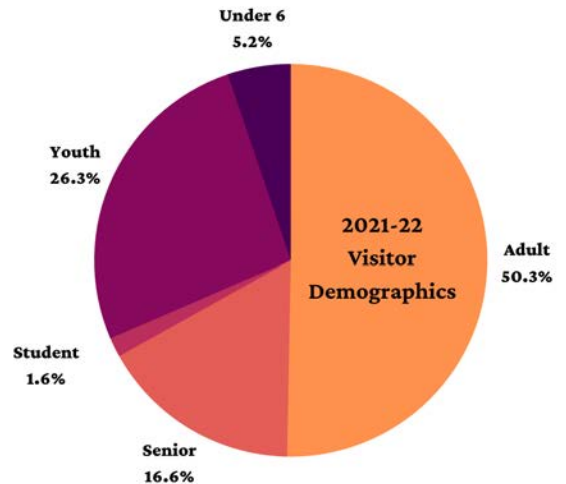
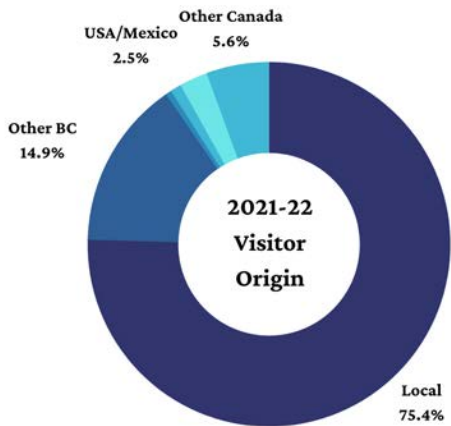


2021-22 Season Total = 8404

21% increase over 2020-21 season (6951 visitors)

89.6% or 7,532 visitors were there for the Museum & Archives (as opposed to Visitor Centre-only visits)

Locals = 75.4% (2021: 77.8%; 2020: 72.8% of visitors)



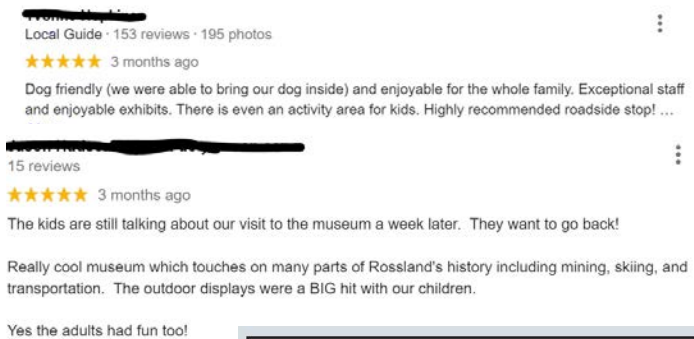
The Museum Visitor breakdown is:

Adult:	50.3%	(2021 = 50.7%)
Senior (60+):	16.6%	(14.5%)
Student:	1.6%	(1.5%)
Youth (under 18):	26.3%	(24.7%)
Under 6:	5.2%	(8.6%)

Marketing & Communications

As we know, it doesn't matter if you're doing great things if no one knows about them! We are working on increasing our visibility in the community, including a greater effort to share our content online for a wider audience. Our current marketing budget is relatively low and often tied up in redeveloping old signage or promotional pieces. Therefore, we largely focus on our "free" marketing opportunities including:

- **Facebook Page** - facebook.com/rosslandmuseum - Likes: 1811 (2021: 1645); Reach: 71,260 (2021: 68,613)
- **Twitter Page** - @RosslandMuseum - Followers: 791 (2021: 763)
- **Instagram Page** - @RosslandMuseum - Followers: 1599 (2021: 1452); Reach: 9,333 (2020: 12,144)
- **Visitor Centre Social:** The Visitor Centre has an added communication channel for tourists that don't consider the museum accounts to ask general visitor questions. In addition, the accounts allow us to share and promote existing community content, which has also helped us stay in the loop in order to share info with our visitors.
 - [Instagram](#) - @ExploreRosslandBC - followers: 721 (2021: 580)
 - [Twitter](#) - @ExploreRossland - followers: 35 (2021: 28)
- **Trip Advisor:** #4 of 33 things to do in Rossland - 31 Reviews - 4.5/5 stars
- **Google Business Listing:** 94 Reviews - 4.5/5 stars
- **Local Media**
 - **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* also shares our updates and info about our upcoming programs and events
- **E-Newsletter:** 942 Subscribers (2021: 579)
- **Bhubble** - website fed by event calendar
- **Website:** 23,718 unique visitors (2021: 21,070); 52,211 page views (2021: 47,182)



Other:

- Kootenay Gateway and Rossland Fine Wines (as well as the Library & Ferraros on occasion) have allowed us to put out a sandwich board with upcoming events every day
- City of Rossland:
 - Mayor & Council include upcoming events/project updates in the council newsletter
 - Occasionally book the City Events sign at the corner of Columbia and St. Paul for upcoming events
 - South Kootenay Seniors program coordinator often includes our programs/events in their e-blasts and notices
- TDAC - we occasionally book the TDAC electronic message board on Victoria St/Hwy 3B for upcoming events
- Destination BC/Hello BC – online and in print
- Tourism Rossland - Escape Guide
- West Kootenay Family Action Network (FAN) shares information about our programming/events
- Bounce EZ Rock shares news about our upcoming community events

In the News: BC Living: [Two Completely Different Dog-friendly Destinations](https://www.bcliving.ca/Two-Completely-Different-Dog-friendly-Destinations)
<https://www.bcliving.ca/Two-Completely-Different-Dog-friendly-Destinations>

942

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

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



School Tours

This year marked the return of much of our programming and educational tour offerings. Though attendance in general is still working back towards pre-pandemic numbers, we showed promising growth in attendance having hosted **515 participants from 19 classes** up 329 participants and 11 classes from the previous year (2020-21 = 174 participants from 7 classes, 2018-19 = 737 participants from 30 classes [last pre-pandemic year])

Educational Discovery Kits

409 users from 15 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



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)
- 2020-22: "Having a Voice: Voting Rights & Democracy in BC"

Youth Programs

- **Cold Crew:** Weekly, 2-hour program during winter programming series for ages 6-12; Attendees participated in various snow/winter activities while exploring the science that makes it happen
- **Young Naturalists:** Weekly, 2-hour program during spring programming series for ages 6-12 to dig a bit deeper into ecological topics
- **Cub Club:** Weekly preschool program during the school year with varying themes; the return of this program included a slow start but grew to include regular attendees each week
- **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.)
- **Spring Break Camps** - Spring Break Camps were back again this year hosting 21 kids over two weeks of camps; themes of Camp Create and Super Sleuths were very well received; included special Magnetic and Fluorescent Mineral presentations with the help of Chris Hatch
- **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 **13 kids daily - a total of 577 campers** (2021 = 670, 2020 = 562)
 - Volunteer assistance from Wildsafe BC, Rory Belter, and Chris Hatch

"I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT WE CAN SIGN UP EACH WEEK, GIVES US FLEXIBILITY TO DECIDE BASED ON HOW THE WEEK IS GOING FOR KIDS... THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING THIS PROGRAM!"

-AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM PARENT



- Partners/Contractors: Kootenay Mountain Bike Coaching, Flux Climbing, and The Gold Fever Follies.

"THEY HAD A LOT OF FUN AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE."
-CAMPER PARENT

"THANKS FOR THE WORK YOU AND STAFF ARE DOING. OUR KIDS ARE REALLY ENJOYING ALL THE CRAFTS."
-CAMPER PARENT



Adult/Senior Programs

- **Speaker Series:** Hosted a retrospective of a local's splitboard tour through the Rossland Range, a State of the Snowpack - Rossland presentation, the signing of the Autonomous Sinixt's Land Declaration as well as the joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Autonomous Sinixt and the RMDC, and a book reading and signing by Ron Verzuh, the author of *Smelter Wars*
 - Thank you to Mike Wigley, State of the Snowpack - Rossland, Autonomous Sinixt and Smum iem Society, and Ron Verzuh for participating
- **Night at the Museum Events:** Two evenings of exploration with special activities and guests. July Night at the Museum functioned as a Community Showcase with some local vendors and community groups; August Night at the Museum was a student showcase highlighting some of our summer students' projects including presentations on mine-level maps, the Rossland Miner and newspaper preservation, and a tour and presentation on our archives
- **Senior Teas:** We altered this program series to be smaller groups for a weekly Senior Tuesday gathering instead. This was much appreciated, but difficult to get the reach we had with the Teas.
- **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



Activities:

- Developing a geology A to Z resource
- Researching and updating the current geology display and planning for the future display coming with the Renewal Project
- Mapping and planning for geology walking tours
- Planning for geology Speaker Series presentation(s)
- Reassessment and installation of Geology Touch Tables in the Roger Terhune Geology Building
- **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 more as a collection of experts and the museum seeks individual advice and counsel from each of their respective areas of expertise.

Activities:

- Maintenance of the Heritage Garden
- Subject matter experts and supporters for writing grants to fund the upper-level redevelopment project
- Invasive species advice
- Local flora consultation
- Ecological Consultation Report

Additional Programming for Everyone

- **Snslxcin Sinixt Language Revitalization**
 - Held during the Canada Day at the Museum event, this workshop included a lesson in 30



common Snslxcin words as led by Autonomous Sinixt Matriarch Taress Alexis with support from the office of Smum iem. This workshop had over 30 participants and was inquired about by members of the public ranging from requests for the material produced in the workshop to additional workshop dates.

- **Guided Tours:**

- Museum Tours: Tours were available twice each day this summer, with the condition of pre-booking. We further developed resources for kids as well as a revision of current tour narratives. Total attendees = 131 through 13 tours (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



- **Self-Guided/Audio Tours:**

- **Indoor & Outdoor Tour:** We continue to develop content for self-guided indoor and outdoor Museum tours. Additional content for these tours can be viewed anytime [on our website](#).
 - Topics completed this year:
 - Ross Thompson
 - Olympic Bid
 - Cross-Country Skiing
 - Vices (3 separate pages for Brothels, Crime, and Alcohol)

- **Downtown Audio Tour:** Over the summer, we updated and started marketing our [Rossland Downtown Walking Tour through izi.travel](#). We developed a brochure explaining how to access the downtown tour as well as the indoor and outdoor audio tours. The downtown walking tour currently has 17 stops. Of these 17 stops, three are new (Hoffman House, Collins Hotel, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church). Additionally, we re-recorded four audio stops and edited them together with a memory from a community member (swimming pool, Bank of Montreal, Hunter Brothers, and Fire Hall). We hope to have each stop include audio of historical information and a memory clip. We plan to include 21 stops along the tour. We have an additional four stops recorded/re-recorded that just need final editing.



We regularly organise many special activities attached to local, provincial, and national holidays and events – see below.

Annual Community/Holiday Events

- **October:**
 - Olaus' 164th birthday was [celebrated virtually](#) again this year.
 - Halloween at the Museum, with pumpkin donation from Trail Safeway - 106 attendees, 2 student volunteers
- **November:**
 - Veterans Week display and veteran-appreciation community letter writing campaign - 160 letters sent to Rossland's veterans
 - Hosted our Annual General Meeting in November, including a project update from the Research Department on their progress with an upcoming virtual exhibit on ski racing on Red Mountain and a short film by Richie Mann from a 1990s cat ski trip up Grey Mountain
- **December:** Rekindle the Spirit of Christmas kids crafts at the Museum - 26 attendees
- **January:** Winter Carnival event at the Museum - prizes donated by Kootenay Gateway - with outdoor activities, snow maze, snow painting, campfire, maple taffy - 192 attendees
- **February:**
 - BC Family Day event - snowshoes purchased with discount from Gerick's - outdoor activities for families to enjoy - 39 attendees
 - BC Heritage Week - open by donation all week - created heritage week social media quizzes

- **March:** State of the Snowpack speaker series - had been postponed several times due to PHO - 34 attendees
- **April:**
 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt - egg-in-spoon races, sack races, and easter egg hunts, staggered through the day for COVID-19 safety - 205 attendees
 - Earth Day - Open by Donation with themed STEAM activity
- **May:** no community events held this month
- **June:**
 - St. Jean Baptiste Day (open by donation, themed STEAM activity, French film playing)
 - National Indigenous Peoples' Day (open by donation, Sinixt education kit & artifacts on display, themed colouring activities)
 - Multiculturalism Day (open by donation, Chinese education kit & artifacts and Sinixt education kit & artifacts on display, selfie-with-Olaus station)
- **July:**
 - Annual Canada Day event with Tourism Rossland, City of Rossland, Teck Trail Operations, FortisBC, Rossland Beer Company, Autonomous Sinixt, Columbia Basin Trust, Rossland Fine Wines; info/sales booths by Silly Moose Donuts, Golden City Lions Club, Happy Ice Pops, Rossland Heritage Commission, Autonomous Sinixt, and Wild Safe BC; live entertainment by Golden City Fiddlers, Gold Fever Follies, and Robbie Turnbull; Snslxcin language workshop, beer gardens, face painting, kids' games and scavenger hunt - 497 attendees
 - Night at the Museum - Community Showcase with Family Action Network, Erin Shuttleworth, Quoyary Canada, Pride Trail, Association des francophones des Kootenays Ouest, Rossland Heritage Commission
- **August:**
 - BC Day - open by donation, themed craft activities - 42 attendees
 - Columbia Basin Culture Tour - hosted Gold Fever Follies with vignettes, Art by Kimboho with a painting demonstration, and Taress Alexis with a cedar basket-weaving demonstration - 66 attendees + 5 artists
 - Night at the Museum - Student Showcase - our summer students presented displays of projects they'd been working on
- **September:**
 - Golden City Days and Fall Fair - open by donation, a booth at fall fair, themed crafts, parade participation - 220 attendees over the weekend
 - Curiosity Clothing hosted our outreach window exhibit "Rossland's Historic Summer Look Book" for two weeks
 - 3rd annual Culture Days Outdoor Artisan Market on the museum property with live entertainment support from the Rossland Arts Centre Society and a beer gardens hosted by the Flying Steamshovel; launched our Silent Auction Renewal Fundraiser - 311 attendees
 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - we remained open by donation on September 30th to provide resources and to be a place of learning. We donated all of the day's contributions (\$100) to the Indian Residential School Survivors' Society again this year



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

Alpine Grind | Art by Kimboho | Autonomous Sinixt | Black Earth Ceramics | Black Jack Ski Club | Brilliant Elements | Calluna Creative | Card Creations by Michelle | City of Rossland | Columbia Basin Trust | Columbia Gardens Vineyard & Winery | Columbia Power | Curiosity Clothing & Gifts | Flux Climbing | The Flying Steamshovel | FortisBC | Gabriella's | Gerrick's | Golden City Fiddlers | Golden City Lions Club | Gold Fever Follies | Handmade by AnikaBee | Happy Ice Pops | Hooper's Bakery | Kristen Walsh | Kootenay Gateway | Nelson & District Credit Union | Rossland/Trail Streamkeepers | Rossland Art Centre Society | The Josie Hotel | Kitchen Witch Bath & Body Alchemy | Kootenay Cotton Candy Kids | Kootenay Mountain Biking | Kootenay Savings Credit Union | Mike Sloan Photography | One 8 One Guitars | The Prestige | Revolution Cycles | Robbie Turnbull | Rossland Beer Company | Rossland Fine Wines | Rossland Heritage Commission | Rossland Public Library | Rossland Recreation and Age-Friendly Rossland | Rossland Refractory | Rossland Seniors Association | Rossland Winter Carnival Society | Rotary Club of Rossland | Seven Summits Centre for Learning | Silly Moose Donuts | State of the Snowpack | Taress Alexis | Teck Trail Operations | Trail & District Arts Council | Tourism Rossland | Trail Safeway | The Velvet | West Kootenay Family Action Network | WildSafe BC - Trail/Rossland

Collection, Archives, & Research

Exhibit Updates

- Added 4 Rossland Personalities panels to galleries (Alice Jesse, Father Pat, Erna Coombes, Jessie McQueen)
- Refreshed Mountain Biking, Kimberley Joines, and Sinixt (shown) displays



Satellite/Temporary Displays

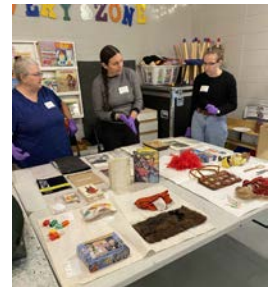
- Prestige Hotel - [Odd Rossland Sports](#) (October - June)/[History of the RLOP](#) (June - 2023 - mini exhibit that changes every 2 months)
- Curiosity Clothing & Gifts - [Snowshoeing at the Winter Carnival](#) (Winter Carnival - shown)/[Historic Summer Fashion](#) (Golden City Days)
- Rossland Library - [Remembrance Day](#) (November)/Christmas Toy display (December), BC Heritage Week (February), [Collection highlight](#) (summer - topic changed each month - 4 separate exhibits)
- RMDC - [Remembrance Day](#) (November)/[Christmas](#) (December)
- [Trail Pride](#) (August)



Public Workshops

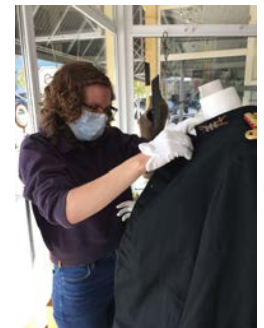
- Held book repair workshop for staff and volunteers - **8 participants**
- Put on 3 seniors workshops - **14 participants total**
- Hosted a BC HERN (Heritage Emergency Response Network) Salvage Workshop for regional museums - **20 participants** (shown)

"MADE ME THINK ABOUT MY
NEGLECTED PHOTOS!"
-WORKSHOP ATTENDEE



Internships

Thanks in part to three Building Careers in Heritage grants from the Young Canada Works program in the winter of 2021, we were able to hire three interns to help with the object and archival collections. Our Collections Intern, Phoebe Amendt, assisted in our large-scale cataloguing project and assisted with outreach exhibits (shown). In the archive, Archives Intern Kestra Greer worked on processing the collection and doing research into how to best preserve our multimedia collection. Our Research Intern Nadia van Asselt also worked on gathering sources and researching Rossland's early skiing history for the Digital Museums of Canada exhibit before she ably stepped up to cover our Research Manager's family leave for the remainder of the season.



Archives & Collections Updates

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Autonomous Sinixt to become a designated repository (shown)
- Accessioned donation backlog
- Continued to process and organize the archives - **80+ collections/fonds**
- Continued to develop our **collections database** - **2443 artifacts** added to date
- **2058 artifacts** added to the [Community Portal](#) (online collections database)
- Updated the RHMAA [Collections](#) Policy
- Began developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Developed Digitization Strategy for direct future digitization projects



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 reorganization.

Tasks Completed

- Invest in environmental monitors for collection storage spaces (shown)
- Create collections monitoring/cleaning schedule for high-risk items



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
- Emergency Preparedness Plan/Preventative maintenance

Completed Research Requests: 56 (2021 = 52)

In-Progress Research Requests: 10 (2021 = 30)

Research essays completed throughout the year:

- [Thor Heyerdahl](#): *Famous Explorer Was Once a Rossland Resident*
- [Rossland's Historic Cemeteries](#)
- [Rossland Club](#): *The Rise and Fall of an Exclusive Gentlemen's Club*
- Women's History Month:
 - [Jessie McQueen](#): *Rossland School Teacher, Landowner, and Bicyclist*
- Veterans Week:
 - [Percival Knight Allen](#) - *Trooper for the Lord Strathcona's Horse Boer War*
 - [William "Spike" Treverton](#) - *Signalman for the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division WWII*
- Speaker Series/External:
 - Harry Measure: ["Mountain Resorts & Resort Communities: Origins & Future Opportunities."](#)
 - Mike Wigley - [Tales from a Splitboarder: Walking to Glory](#)



Digital Museums Canada Community Stories Virtual Exhibit

Over the past year, we have been working on a 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. We have also completed 7 video interviews that will be edited together with audio clips, photographs, and race footage to complement the exhibit text. The final online exhibit is expected to be launched around March 2023.



Rossland Memories - Oral History Project

Although it proved challenging to coordinate oral history interviews over the past couple of years, thanks to the assistance of Maureen Brown, we completed 20 oral history interviews as part of the Rossland Memories Project this year:

Al Fisher | Ruth Grubisic | June Campbell | Seven Summits Centre For Learning | Golden City Pipe Band | Deborah Rebekah Lodge # 13 | Lou & Maureen Corrado | Ivan & Bev Bell | Mike Robbins | John Platt | Nancy Greene Raine | Libby & Fiona Martin | Robin & Sean Valentine | Butch Boutry | Patricia & Don Stevens | Ginger Baines | Lillian Karenko | Louise LaFontanie | Marilyn Davis | Maureen Wallis



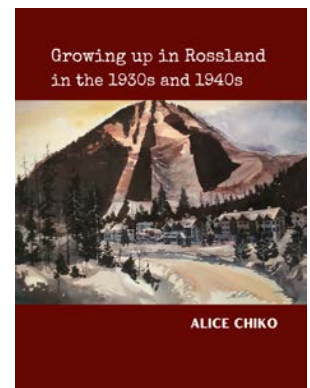
In many cases, Maureen was able to go to the interviewees' homes, making them more comfortable and working around their schedules. Typically we like to film the interviews, but by going to people's homes, we were unable to do this. If you are interested in helping with this project, let us know!

Ben Walker (audio/video editor) has been editing recent interviews to create publicly accessible files with the support of the CBT Community Initiatives Grant and Digital Museums Canada Community Stories grant.



Alice Chiko Book

After working with author Alice Chiko (nee Gordon) for over a year, we published *Growing Up in Rossland in the 1930s and 1940s* a recollection of Alice's time growing up in Rossland. The book explores her memories of family life, childhood, skiing, and much more. The book features photographs from Alice's childhood as well as newspaper clippings and sketches by another Rosslander, Dale Matthews. It was well received by the community and has already sold many copies.



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: **1,100+** 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**
- Audio-Visual materials: **300 individual reels/pieces**
- Intake (unprocessed): **200 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 1,000 specimens**



In storage:

- Main - approx. **2750 objects**
- Upper Level - **450 objects + approximately 4,000 geological specimens**
- Intake - **0 objects!**

On Loan:

- On Display: **240 objects** - majority of the Ski and Cominco wings, and Biking case
- Storage: **24 objects**

Permanent Collection Donations: 25 donors (93 artifacts)

Highlights

- Nancy Greene Raine's 1968 Olympic skiing equipment
- Dale Matthews paintings of Rossland Chinese heritage - Dale Matthews
- Cookie L'Ecluse cabin stoves - Friends of the Rossland Range



Archival Donations: 39 donors (1,303 items - 630 digital)

Highlights:

- Ski photographs (multiple donors)
- Jim Haight's assay certificate/license
- Souvenir Western Federation of Miners' Auxiliary No 1 Charter poster - Al and Nancy Scott



Education/Display Collection Donations: 9 donors (114 items)

Highlights:

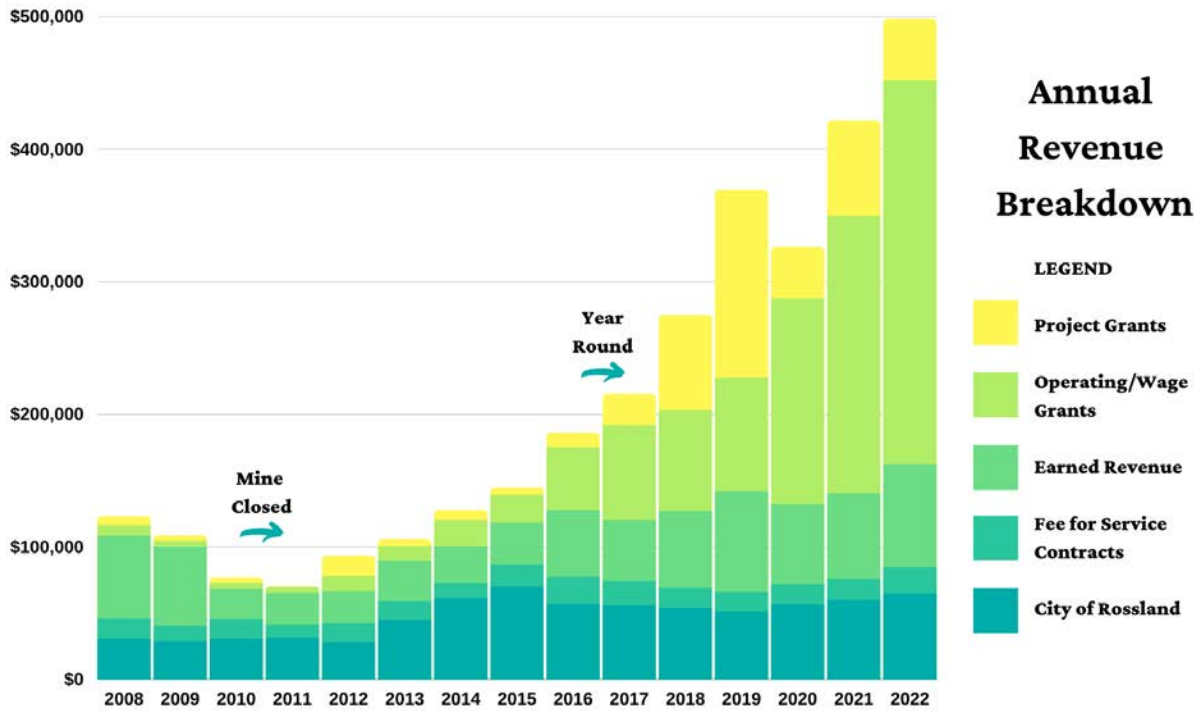
- Vintage toys - Rossland Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Store
- Golden City Days Buttons (duplicates of permanent collection)
- Canadian National Ski Team Jacket - Rossland Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Store



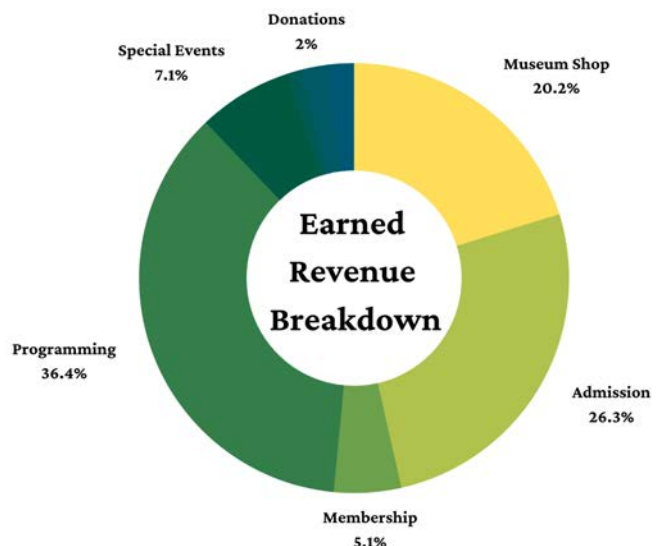
Funding and Earned Revenue

While visitor numbers are proving to be slow to recover from the pandemic period, we have been very lucky to qualify for a number of relief and resiliency grants, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies, Canada Recovery Hiring Program, the BC Arts Council, and more.

We were able to secure **over \$420,000 in grants/contracts** this year compared to over \$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. The City has also allowed for 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 also been working very hard at diversifying our revenue and expanding our earned revenue opportunities. Our earned revenue in 2021-22 **totalled over \$77,000** (2020-21 = \$64,500).



We now have an annual calendar available in the museum shop taking advantage of our wealth of digitized images in the collection!

Renewal Project Update

This year, we continued the design and engineering development for Phase Two of the Renewal Project. This includes a re-creation of the mine tunnel experience, a new entrance atrium, a beautiful new exterior look, and renovation of the existing exhibits. Thanks to continued financial support from many donors, including Teck Metals Ltd., Columbia Basin Trust, and Canadian Heritage, and technical assistance from Teck Trail Operations and The City of Rossland, we are currently finalizing detailed plans and updated costs. Preliminary designs can be found on our website: www.rosslandmuseum.ca/renewal



Interpretive Planning & Exhibition Design

On completion of the current architectural and engineering development work, we will kick-off the next phase of Interpretive & Exhibition Plan developed with Double Dare Design. This phase will include a high degree of coordination between Double Dare, RMDC staff, MAD Studio Inc., and engineers to ensure a robust and integrated museum experience.



Architectural and Engineering Consulting Services

As mentioned, our architects, MAD Studio Inc., along with MEP Engineering Consultants, continue to develop a truly beautiful and highly functional new design for the Museum! Following this current Design Development and Quantity Survey Costing phase, and coordination with Double Dare Design, they will create construction documents which will allow the construction tender process to begin!

Fundraising

While we have been unable to host our annual Golf Tournament at Redstone Resort or host any other gatherings to support the Renewal project, we have been organizing a few other ways to support the project.

We would also like to thank community contributors such as Copcan, Wawanesa Insurance, and the late Raymond Richard Gaudart for donating to the project! Our fundraising has raised over \$75,000 already!

With grant/donation support from Teck Metals Ltd., Columbia Basin Trust, the City of Rossland, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Canadian Heritage, Employment & Social Development Canada, Rotary Club of Rossland, and our community supporters, we have secured over \$1.8M towards this phase of the Renewal Project!



ROSSLAND MUSEUM RENEWAL PROJECT

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>

\$1.8M 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:

- Add to our **Rossland Memories Oral History** program and get new/backlogged interviews online
- Continue the development of a comprehensive **history of skiing** on Red Mountain, including completing the Digital Museums Canada virtual exhibition
- Begin 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
- Expand our **Indigenous content and engagement** and develop cultural competencies for staff/volunteers
- 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
- Explore organizing/hosting a regional **Heritage Fair** with community partners
- Expand our **geology/ecology** programs and content
- Continue **redeveloping the upper level**, including interactive/educational opportunities, ecological enhancement, asset management strategies, physical accessibility, and expanding outdoor gathering spaces
- Expand **museum shop offerings** in line with our collection scope and mandate and grow artisan and local souvenir opportunities
- Streamline **financial procedures** for easier reporting and data analysis
- Continue **human resource policy and procedure development**, including compensation structure and succession planning

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

