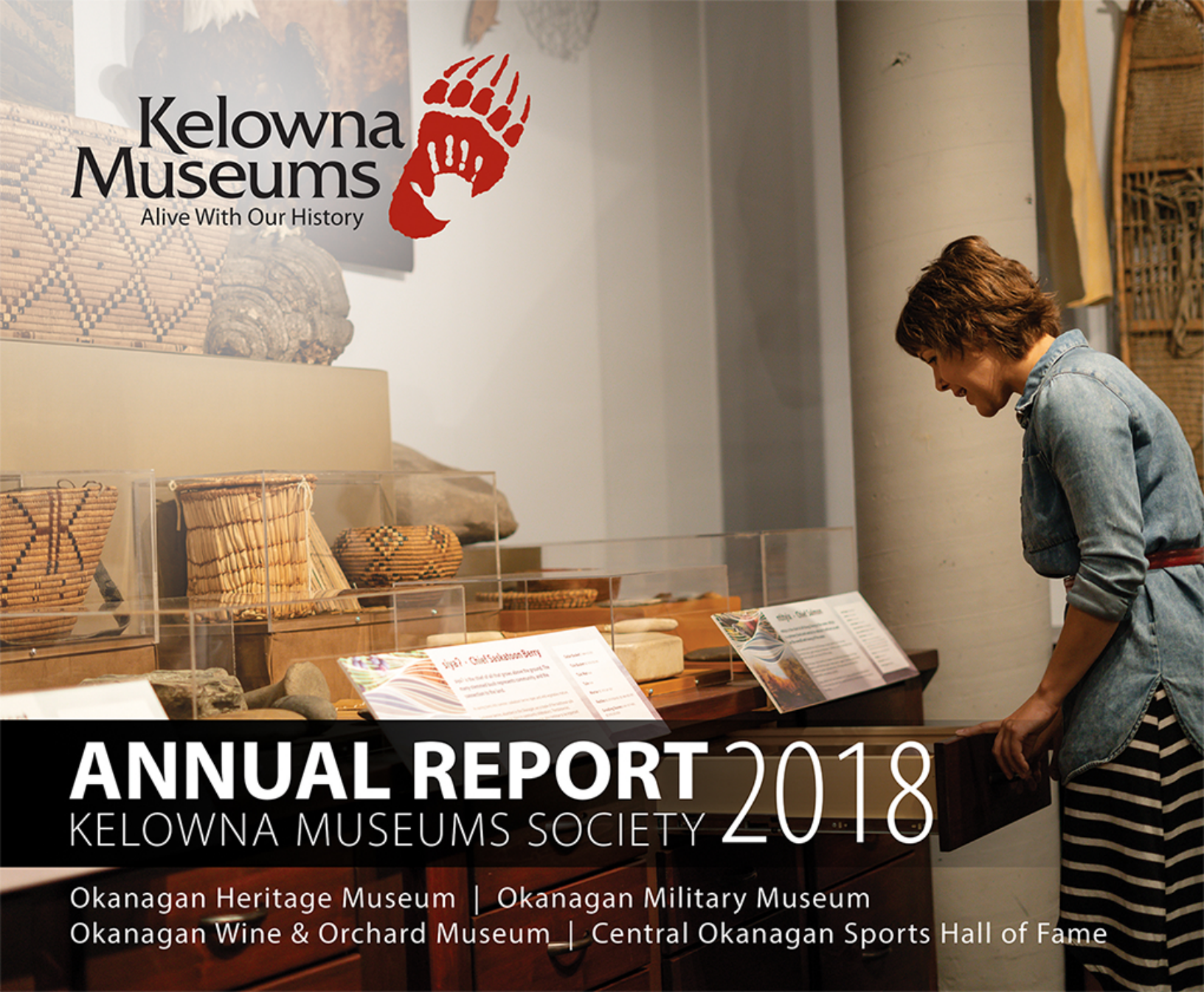


Kelowna Museums

Alive With Our History



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

KELOWNA MUSEUMS SOCIETY

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

MISSION

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

VISION

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

VALUES

Ethical – Inclusive – Authentic – Responsive – Inspiring

OVERVIEW

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's a joy to look back over the past year; to reflect on our accomplishments and dream about what lies ahead. KMS sits at the heart of a thriving cultural community, privileged to work with many partners to inspire our entire community to be alive with its history. By remaining focused on this vision we have garnered the funding that allows us to offer increasingly innovative, engaging, and educational programs. Our museums continue to receive awards and recognition as leaders in the art of connecting people with place.

The enhancements at the OHM are nearing completion and have generated increased attendance for both the permanent exhibits and remarkable special exhibitions, such as "Our Lives Through Our Eyes" which was a shared exhibit of children's art from the Nk'Mip Day School. This moving exhibit at the OHM and the Kelowna Art Gallery opened a dialog of understanding, reconciliation and hope for the future. Such collaborative exhibits allow us to share stories that might not otherwise be heard.

Our Military Museum visitors (even Rod Stewart paid a surprise visit!) explored the Okanagan's role in our world's great conflicts, and helped commemorate significant military anniversaries. The 2018 class of inductees entered the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame, while the Laurel Packing House delighted guests with its historic charm. The LPH courtyard project is about to begin and will complement the Wine & Orchard Museum exhibits by providing an interactive space exploring the role of those industries. KMS' archives, both public and military, plus our conservation lab, continue to serve those interested in research and conservation.

The Kelowna Museums Society has much to be thankful for, not least the dedication of our Board of Directors, our amazing Executive Director, Linda Digby, and her wonderful managers and staff. Linda and her group take their position on the leading edge of museum thought, becoming in turn, a resource and inspiration for the entire Okanagan heritage and cultural community. Each of you have my deepest thanks and appreciation.

Thank you / way limlæmt,

Carol Zuckerman
PRESIDENT OF THE KELOWNA MUSEUM SOCIETY



“

I invite all our guests and visitors to join me as a member of our Society and explore what was, what is, and what might be. Bring us your delight and your passion for this beautiful place and let us tell you a story.

”

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I cast my mind back over 2018, I find much to celebrate. We made significant progress on the strategic plan and surpassed most of the milestones we set for ourselves. We collaborated with others and welcomed new visitors into our spaces. I hope you enjoy reading some highlights in the pages that follow.

Museums are important. We are places where differences can be better understood and common ground can be discovered. We represent and support the common good, such as the environment and culture. We operate in an ecosystem of other organizations that do important work, and we are fortunate to collaborate with many of them in order to build a better community.

I would like to thank the talented staff, incredible Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers, and supporters who make our work possible. You help us preserve community memory, and to make history new again today and for generations to come.

Linda Digby

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KELOWNA MUSEUM SOCIETY



“

Museums are places where differences can be better understood and common ground can be discovered.

”



EXHIBITIONS

"Can't believe what I've been missing all these years!"

The exhibitions team were on fire in 2018, and presented four special exhibitions, while at the same time driving the gallery renewal process. *Needle and Thread* displayed traditional quilts from the collection along with contemporary works by members of the Orchard Valley Quilters Guild.



Babes and Bathers, curated by Ivan Sayers, attracted record crowds in the summer months. This special exhibition connected summer loving residents and tourists to the history of the swimsuit and the role water plays in Kelowna's history. *Gold Mountain Dream*, a travelling display from the Royal BC Museum, depicted the role of Chinese in BC's development.

Gallery renewal of the Okanagan Heritage Museum continues to transform the space for which we are best known. The changes deliver on our mission to connect people and place, and are attracting enthusiastic reviews from visitors, stakeholders, and even museum professionals.

"Fascinating! A must-visit for all travellers! I learned so much."

- A guest from Liverpool, UK

"I was very touched by all the exhibits and soundtracks. Keep preserving your heritage! We need to share with our next generation."

- A local guest



COLLECTIONS & CONSERVATION

Museums collect and preserve objects so that history can be shared with future generations. With support from our Conservation Intern, summer students, and a dedicated team of volunteers, the department added over 1400 records to the database this year. In addition, we loaned objects to other institutions, updated collections permits, and deaccessioned objects that no longer fit the collections policy. Over 2000 objects were transferred to the **Sncəwips Heritage Museum** in 2018.

The Ursula Surtees Regional Conservation Lab is a centre of conservation expertise in B.C.'s Interior. The conservation department treats public projects and provides community members with advice on how to clean and take care of their family heirlooms. We also offer workshops, including the annual cemetery cleaning workshop. These experiences give people a tangible way to connect with Kelowna's history.

Curator of Collections, Nikki Bose, treats historical material from museum collections and from the public.





KELOWNA PUBLIC ARCHIVES

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

In 2018, Archives and Collections supported 142 researchers, some with multiple projects. In the “Ugly Door Campaign,” supporters donated over \$1400 for upgrades that make the space more comfortable for researchers, including a door with better thermal and aesthetic qualities.

“The project I am working on is the Oral Transcriptions of Interviews done with some of the people who settled in Kelowna and helped it grow into what it is today. It is important to hear ordinary people talking about their lives in Kelowna and how Kelowna has changed over the years. Anyone reading the transcripts or listening to the tapes will have a sense of connection to the past and if a family member, they will be excited to hear the voice of a great and maybe even a great great grand-parent... I can’t think of a better place to volunteer.”

Archivist, Tara Hurley, shows off the new emergency escape door.

OKANAGAN MILITARY MUSEUM

The Okanagan Military Museum is another hub of activity relating to display, collections and programming. Families learn about the significance of memorabilia and this deepens their sense of connection to ancestors. New Canadians and overseas visitors discover new insights about global events and especially enjoy trying on Canadian uniforms and sharing images of themselves with family and friends. Military researchers appreciate the Vince Bezeau Military Library and Archives.

Highlights in 2018 include the special exhibition, *The Price of Victory*, which attracted broad interest related to the internment of "enemy aliens." Museum visitation was up 14% over the five year average, and Remembrance Day attracted record crowds. A new curriculum program was well received by high school students. Behind the scenes, a Conservation Intern from Fleming College made significant improvements to the storage of military collections. But the most talked about incident was surprise visit by British rock star, Rod Stewart. Stewart made a generous donation, and gave a shout out to the museum at his concert that night.

The Price of Victory was the last of the Great War centennial series.

Staff research informed the Field of Crosses, a Remembrance Day event to commemorate the sacrifice paid by locals.

Conservation Intern, Veronica Parkes, re-organized collections storage to improve access to military collections.



CENTRAL OKANAGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The COSHOF honours athletes, coaches, teams, builders, and pioneers who have distinguished themselves on the local, national, or international sports scene. The inductees inspire all of us to pursue excellence in our daily lives. Nominations come from the general public, and are scrutinized by knowledgeable volunteers in the Nomination, Selection, and Sports Legacy Committees. They are inducted in an exciting Induction breakfast every year in November, with their accomplishments proudly displayed at the Okanagan Heritage Museum

Many Inductees, such as rower Heather Mandoli Alschuler, medalled in international competitions, including the Olympics.

Tracey Melesko has won numerous awards during her career, including gold medals at the four Canadian Special Olympics.

Heather Mandoli Alschuler, Hugh Wong, Tracey Melesko, Chad Folk, Rob Dirk, and Allan Simpson



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In alignment with Kelowna's Cultural Plan, museum programs enrich cultural vitality, make history fun, build strong personal connections, support healthy families, and inspire lifelong learning. In addition, tours, workshops, lectures, birthday parties, and hands-on learning provide enjoyable leisure options for residents and tourists. In 2018, we offered 484 programs to 19,560 school children, family members, adults, and seniors.

In addition, our public programs support the journey of Reconciliation in our community. For example, in a new partnership with Wildrose Native Traditions, we offer programs that help members of the public understand this nationally critical topic. We began the year with a new series called Nakulamen (What We Do). This was very successful, and led to planning for a new series of workshops for 2019.

Re-imagining our school programs to help teachers and students achieve the goals of the new curriculum continues to be a major focus.

"Thank-you for all that has been happening at the Kelowna Museums to support our efforts to Indigenize the curriculum. The photos truly reflect the excitement of the students and the level of engagement for all learners; it's really wonderful to see! Your team is setting the conditions to foster an authentic understanding and true appreciation of our Indigenous communities."

School programs enrich the curriculum and share Indigenous knowledge.

Outreach events such as the siya Festival at WFN extends the reach of museum programs.

During Asian Heritage Month, members of the Okanagan Chinese Canadian Association add a special touch to cemetery tours.





LAUREL PACKINGHOUSE RENTALS

In 2018, we were proud to be voted Gold for Best Wedding Venue and Silver for Best Rental Venue!



Image courtesy Kristine Brevik Kreative Photography.



Accelerate Okanagan provides a boost to the creative economy in Kelowna.

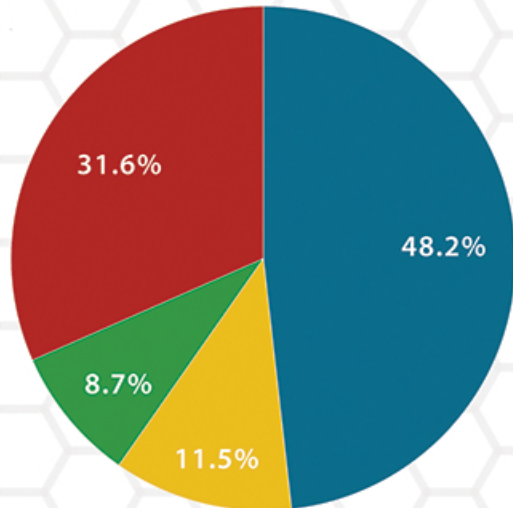
The Laurel Packinghouse is a designated heritage building which turned 100 in 2018. This rustic brick structure houses the Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum and the Laurel Gift Shop, and is a popular rental venue. The number of renters continues to rise, and rental revenues support museum functions. Staff welcomed 30,370 guests to 193 events in 2018.

The Laurel hosts meetings, fairs, festivals, family celebrations, and fundraisers. Within its historical ambiance, funds are raised for local charities such as the SPCA, Braintrust, Kelowna General Hospital, Trout Unlimited, and Boys and Girls Club. In addition, we provide space for Canadian Blood Services Donor Clinics throughout the year.

The Laurel Packinghouse enhances local culture and economic activity by hosting events, including the Accelerator Summit, Okanagan Pride, the Okanagan Wine Festival, Tourism Kelowna, Kelowna Palette Club, Creative Okanagan Break Out West, Hope International, UBCO, CATO, and Vegan Markets.

“Honestly, I am truly so filled with gratitude because of your amazing support of the Pink Shirt Day Breakfast that I am overwhelmed. Thank-you, Shelley. The feedback from the guest and volunteers at the event was “This was the best Pink Shirt Day Breakfast so far”. In the end the event raised \$10,000 to support the programs and services we provide to the children and youth that focus on kindness, understanding, empathy, understanding and compassion as well as leadership and resiliency. You are one of the reasons we are giving kids in our community the best chance at a “great future.”

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

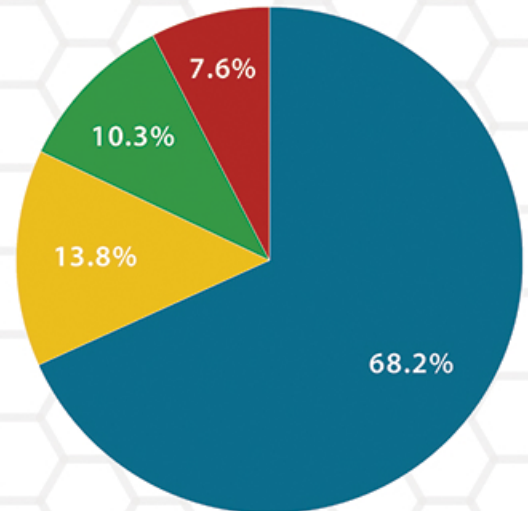


\$1,334,346
Total Revenues

City of Kelowna	\$643,367
Provincial and Federal	\$153,417
Contributed	\$115,962
Self-generated	\$421,600

\$1,272,245
Total Expenditures

Staffing	\$867,965
Premises Costs	\$176,162
Programs and Collections	\$131,299
Administration	\$96,819



MUSEUM VISITATION



Museum Visitors:

42,655



Laurel Rental Guests:

30,370



Total Direct Impact:

73,025



Average number of KMS events per day in 2018:

1.85

Our commitment to work towards furthering UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals through our practice was affirmed when we were selected as a Biosphere Committed Entity in partnership with the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association.



BIOSPHERE
committed entity

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Carol Zuckerman, President
Lorne Sisley, Vice President
Tom Fellhauer, Secretary
Stuart Grant, Treasurer
Howard Hisdal
Rolli Cacchioni
Colin Flannigan
Karen Bowen
Walter Viita
Maggie O'Neill
Frank Truman
Hussein Keshani

STAFF 2018

Linda Digby, Executive Director
Christopher Butt, Finance & Operations Manager
Amanda Snyder, Curatorial Manager
Nikki Bose, Curator of Collections
Tara Hurley, Archivist
Jasmine Marshall, Exhibitions Coordinator
Jennifer Garner, Education & Programming Coordinator
Shelley Weber, Laurel Enterprise Coordinator
Keith Boehmer, Military Historian
Dana Hopkinson, Museums Services Coordinator
Krista Lokseth, Museums Services Coordinator
Adam Cornford, Education & Programming Assistant
Allison Wardle, Education & Programming Assistant
Victoria Severinski, Bookkeeper
Mallery Barnett, Web and Social Media Coordinator
Norm McClelland, Maintenance Coordinator
Tony Swendseid, Maintenance Assistant
Ryan Wong, Event Assistant/Maintenance Assistant
Yasmin Pitre, Senior Services Assistant

ALSO:

Teresa Boehmer, Visitor Assistant
Amy Wright, Event Assistant
Jillian Evans, Event Assistant
Jamie Jackson, Event Assistant
Laura Mabee, Event Assistant
Laurie Miller-DeLeurme, Event Assistant
Justine Dorian, Event Assistant
Veronica Parkes, Conservation Intern
Shannon Holmes-Slattery, Intern
Thomas Dombowsky, Student, Collections Technician
Sarina Bouvier, Student, Collections Technician
Megan Butchart, Student, Archives Technician
Tayana Simpson, Student, Education

KMS staff dress in nature prints for the annual summer staff photo.





The annual Regional Heritage Fair is one of the many events made possible by our dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS

Georgia Armstrong	Doug Manning
Patty Balfour	Breanna Martin
Rock Bates	Andrew McKellar
Sarina Bouvier	James Mills
Jane Bowering	Wayne Moore
Lorne Buna	Tara Nakamoto
Megan Butchart	Joachim Nierfeld
Don Carbert	Emmalise Pickles
Patricia Carillo	Randy Prost
Sophie Sue Fei Chai	Cheryl Purdey
Jennifer Charles	Paul Randall
Gordy Charles	Becky Rath
Matt Cherille	Kira Razzo
Brian Cuthbert	Betty Robinson
Robin Digby	Cory Schreyer
Thomas Dombowsky	Heather Semeniuk
Sarah Dougan	Sharon Shepherd
Hema Douglas	John Staniszewski
Rachael Fleming	Bill Stephens
Marlene Gouldie	Laura Surgenor
Shannon Grant	Isla Tasker
Sherry Guild	Gillian Thomson
Bob Hayes	Victoria Verge
Warren Henderson	Walter Viita
Lorraine Hladik	Ryan Watters
Brett Honeysett	John Weber
Wayne Horning	Amanda (AJ) West
Tiana Langedyk	Lorne White
Lorea Lemon	Heather Williams
Sharon Leveque	Ken Wilson
Mike Lewendon	Ralph Woehler
Vic MacDonald	

We would like to thank all of our supporters who, over the years, have helped us connect generations.

Kelowna Museums Society is a Biosphere Committed Entity



BIOSPHERE
committed entity



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL**
An agency of the Province of British Columbia



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Canada

**CENTRAL OKANAGAN
FOUNDATION**
empowering generations to give.

KelownaMuseums.ca

