



Kelowna
Museums
Alive With Our History

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

KELOWNA MUSEUMS SOCIETY

Okanagan Heritage Museum | Okanagan Military Museum
Okanagan Wine and 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

OPERATIONAL 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 Archives, and Ursula Surtees Conservation Lab.

The City owns all KMS facilities.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Building on the theme outlined in previous years, 2016 was indeed a year of change for the Kelowna Museums Society. The year began with the closure of the VQA Wine Store in the Laurel Packinghouse, which evolved into the newly rebranded Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum and The Laurel Shop. As part of the rebranding of the Laurel Packinghouse staff, management, the board and our City embarked on a Laurel enhancement project which started in 2016 and will continue into 2017 and beyond - stay tuned for an upcoming preview and announcement!

The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame moved from its temporary exhibit to a permanent display in the Okanagan Heritage Museum. With 2017 being the 10th year of inductees, we look forward to celebrating in November with this milestone anniversary. We have also continued on our ambitious capital plan in the Okanagan Heritage Museum and hopefully you've been able to see the transformation over the past year. The Military Museum had several exhibits relating to the 100 year anniversary of World War I, which were very well attended by school groups and visitors - especially around Remembrance Day. We have also been working on our constitution and bylaws given the changes to the BC Society's act, and we will be looking forward to bringing the new constitution and bylaws to the membership in 2017. Finally, we have had continued growth in our public programming, especially amongst with school groups where our staff have done a tremendous job in aligning with the new school curriculum.

I have had the privilege in working with a great board; they have truly embraced their role as strategic guides for the Museum and I thank them for the countless hours they have volunteered over the past year. We also have an inspired team of staff and volunteers led by our Executive Director, Linda Digby and I would like to personally thank them for their hard work and efforts over the past year, especially given the changes that has occurring within our museum. On behalf of our Board, I would also like to thank the contributions, both financial and non-financial, from our government partners, donors and volunteers. We very much appreciate your support and you are an integral part of the museums.

Al-in-all, 2016 was a year of changes, however our staff, management and board were up to the challenges and we are now well positioned to build on this momentum for 2017! Thank you.

Respectively submitted,

Tyler Neels

President of the Kelowna Museums Society



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The museums were created to enrich the lives of people who call Kelowna home. For that reason, the first goal in the 2016 strategic plan was to overhaul the permanent gallery of the Okanagan Heritage Museum, to better meet the needs of Kelownians today. Staff have dedicated themselves to this important project, and excitement is building as the changes roll out.

Another strategic goal was to expand community engagement through programs and partnerships. This year we renewed our approach to programs and outreach, and collaborated with talented partners. In particular, the Social Life of Water project challenged us to work differently. Together we dug in deep, and we accomplished more because of it.

Following the closure of the VQA Wine Shops, the next strategic goal is to create a staged plan for the Laurel Packinghouse. We expanded the museum displays, broke through a wall, opened a new gift shop, developed a new operations model, and are looking forward to more changes over the next two years. In particular, we are excited to be working with City staff to complete the Laurel Courtyard. We envision a space that draws people in to explore and enjoy heritage.

A big thank you to Tyler and the Board for your support and encouragement. Thank you to the staff for the dedication you bring every day. Together, we shout out to the volunteers. We enjoy you, we appreciate you, and the community is enriched by your gift of time.

Linda Digby
Executive Director



The museums were created to enrich the lives of people who call Kelowna home. The goal to expand community engagement through programs and partnerships provides an important pathway to that end.







Top: Inside the qwc'i? (syilx winter home).

Middle: Gathering community feedback about the Social Life of Water exhibit

Bottom: Students interacting with the Social Life of Water exhibit



EXHIBITIONS

Kelowna has changed dramatically during the lifetime of its museums, and what it needs from its museums has changed too. Inspired by the opportunity to re-imagine our flagship museum, staff accepted the ambitious challenge to overhaul the entire permanent gallery of the Okanagan Heritage Museum. This important project started in 2015 and continues in 2017. The process is informed by conversations with stakeholders, resource people, and members of the community. A partnership with UBCO provides students an opportunity to develop interactive features for the gallery.



A highly collaborative special exhibition opened in October. The Social Life of Water was an idea brought forward by a community member. With seed funding from the Central Okanagan Foundation, we engaged a project coordinator who brought together representatives from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, UBCO, WaterCycles, and Sncewips Heritage Museum. Partners attracted additional funding and enhanced the overall project. The resulting display is innovative in using art as a transformation tool, weaving together

First Nations and scientific ways of knowing, and incorporating the nsilxcen language as a major feature. This project challenged us to learn a new approach to exhibition development.

At the Okanagan Military Museum we opened the Home Front as the next installment of the WW1 centennial commemoration. On July 1, our partners, the Okanagan Military Museum Society, proudly unveiled a WW1 trophy gun in a joyous celebration. This remarkable monument attracts passers-by to stop and wonder about the realities of the “Great War.”

The exhibitions team outdid themselves expanding the wine museum. In a blitz of creative energy, they tripled the size of the display. With the BC Wine Museum area now connected to the BC Orchard Industry Museum, the two museums were combined under the new name, the **Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum**.

Face to face contact with historical objects stimulates learning and understanding.

Top: WWI trophy gun at the Okanagan Military Museum

Middle: Display at the Okanagan Wine and Orchard Museum

Bottom: Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame





PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

Museums help children learn and develop by providing immersive learning environments to explore. This year the BC curriculum changed dramatically. In anticipation, we invested significant staff time and effort into researching, planning, and refining new programs in order to help teachers achieve the new learning outcomes. We developed 21 new or revised school programs which attracted 12,224 participants, a 37% increase over the previous year. The response from teachers and students has been tremendous. One teacher commented, "this was a perfect match for the new learning outcomes." Another wrote, "We learned about indigenous people and it nurtured multi-cultural awareness."



The museums foster shared experiences, which strengthen bonds between family and friends. For example, drop-in family programs promoted inter-generational activity for 1453 participants this year. One mother wrote, "I would like to thank you for creating these extremely enlightening, rewarding, and fun educational experiences. My boys looked forward to them every single week. They are only 5 and 6 years old, and have developed a fond interest in museums."



Museums offer tangible and intangible links between generations, so that the past can inform the future.

COLLECTIONS & CONSERVATION

With support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, we realized the dream of acquiring museum quality shelving in the Kelowna Public Archives. This doubled the storage capacity, positioning us to develop the collection while at the same time improving access. The new shelves also improve the conservation environment for documents, so they will be here to serve the community for years to come. The KPA is a busy place. 159 researchers utilized the archives to inform their books, publications, business development, family research, and curiosity.

For the second year in a row, we were able to staff the Ursula Surtees Conservation Lab with a conservation Intern. This career-building internship was possible due to support from Young Canada Works. We recruited a young professional from Ontario, who provided treatments to extend the life of many objects in our collections.

Additional restructuring in the Curatorial team led to the creation of a temporary position, Collections Assistant. In addition, volunteers and summer students continue to provide enormous support to collections, research, conservation, and exhibitions. These valuable members of the team played a key role in renewing the oral history program, capturing 5 new oral histories, and transcribing another 14.



CENTRAL OKANAGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame celebrated its 9th year of operation and welcomed ten new members in 2016. Under the direction of Pat Kennedy, 23 volunteers logged countless hours managing nominations, inductions, awareness and celebration.

2016 Inductees

Athlete Category: Blair Horn

Blair won a gold medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Men's 8 rowing and a bronze medal at the 1983 Pan Am Games. He is a member of the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame and BC Sports Hall of Fame.

Builder Category: Ron Rubadeau

Ron was the Chair of the 2008 BC Summer Games in Kelowna. He helped establish the Central Okanagan Sail Boat Association in 1982. He was named Canada's top Race Officer in 1998 and was the BC Sailing Associations Volunteer of the Year in 2005.

Athlete Category: Conny Stamhuis

In her 80's, Conny has won 7 gold and 4 silver medals at the World Masters Swim Championships (FINA Sanctioned event). She was instrumental in the improvements made to the Athans pool and the construction of the H2O centre and continues to do the annual Kelowna Across the Lake Swim.



Builder Category: Bob Giordano

Bob was a promoter of hockey in 1950's & '60s in Kelowna. He was General Manager of the Kelowna Packers and honoured posthumously in 1999 for his volunteer service to hockey in BC. A Kelowna civic award for sport volunteerism is named after him and awarded annually.

Team Category: 2007 Kelly Scott Curling Team

Kelly Scott (skip), Jeanna Schraeder (third), Sasha Carter (second), Renee Simons (lead), Michelle Allan (spare), and Gerry Richard (coach). The Scott team won 2 BC Ladies titles (2005 & 2006), 2 Canadian Championships in 2006 & 2007 and a World Women's Championship in 2007.

LAUREL ENTERPRISE

Laurel Packinghouse Rentals

The Laurel is Kelowna's first designated heritage building, and BC's oldest and largest remaining fruit packing facility. This historical venue is popular for fairs, festivals, meetings, conferences, and weddings. Rental revenues support the mandate of Kelowna Museums Society to preserve and present heritage.

*In 2016, the Laurel hosted **196 events**, which attracted an estimated **32,050 guests** into this city-owned historical treasure.*

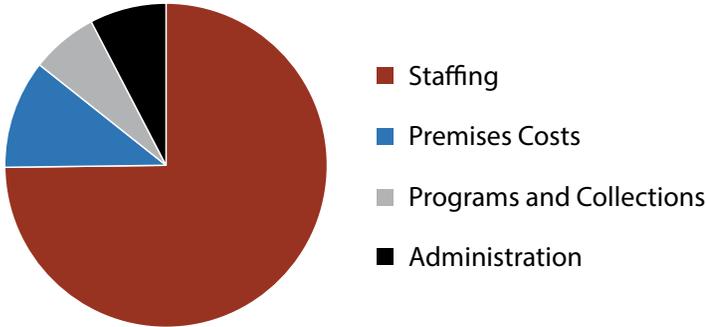
The Laurel Shop

We opened the Laurel Gift Shop in April, and since that time we have been gradually expanding the inventory of made-in-Okanagan treats and treasures. The shop has the potential to become the premier shopping destination for people who want to share a local gift with their loved ones, businesses that want to show appreciation to out-of-town speakers, and tourists who wish to bring home a piece of the Okanagan.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

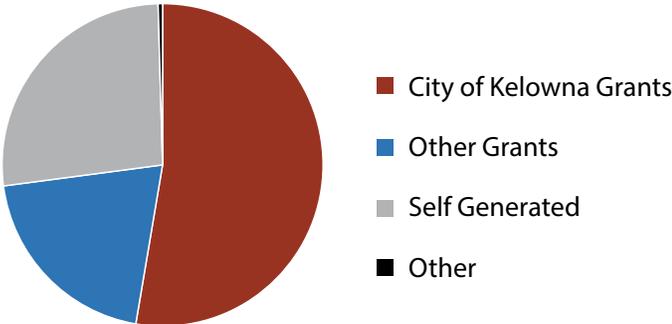
2016 Expenditures



Total Expenditures:

\$1,199,695

2016 Revenues



Total Revenues:

\$1,218,247

MUSEUM VISITATION

Total Museum Visitation:



35,753

This includes people who came to one of our 3 museums to view the galleries, attend educational programs, or for research and curatorial activities. This figure also includes guests who engaged in outreach programs.

Where did they come from?



Tourists - 51%



Locals - 49%

Tourists hailed from BC, Alberta, Canada, overseas, and USA. The majority of Educational Programming guests were local.

Total Laurel Enterprise Visitation:



32,050

This includes people who attended a private or public event at the Laurel Packinghouse. This figure does not include museum visits.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2016

Tyler Neels, President

Laurie Mills, Vice President

Cindy Rephin, Treasurer

Carol Zuckerman, Secretary

Rolli Cacchioni, Director

Tom Fellhauer, Director

Howard Hisdal, Director

Lorne Sisley, Director

Jim Wood, Director

Joel Wonnacott, Director

Sandra Kochan, City of Kelowna Liaison

STAFF

Teresa Boehmer

Keith Boehmer

Christopher Butt

Linda Digby

Jennifer Garner

Dana Hopkinson

Tara Hurley

Jim Jasper

Alexandria Krause

Pamela London

Jasmine Marshall

Norm McClelland

Bob McDonald

Shimshon Obadia

Yasmin Pitre

Richard Potts

Janessa Rash

Amanda Snyder

Tony Swendseid

Shelley Weber

Karin Wiebe

Jim Williamson

Ryan Wong

Amy Wright





Volunteers at the OHM

VOLUNTEERS

Neil Adams
 Arlan Anderson
 Neil Banks
 Mallory Barnett
 Rock Bates
 Kayla Bazzana
 Ann Bostock
 Jane Bowering
 Lorne Buna
 Don Carbert
 Debra Casperd
 Gordy Charles
 Jennifer Charles
 Carroll Chatham
 Matt Cherille
 Martin E. Cole
 Brian Cuthbert
 Owen Davies
 Doug Deschner
 Ed Dickins
 Robin Digby

Laura Dirmaite
 Lorraine Drdul
 Audrey Fewell
 Rachael Fleming
 Dick Fletcher
 Jan Fransen
 Susan Glendinning
 Shannon Grant
 Jack Greenhalgh
 John Groves
 Amy Gruendel
 Sherry Guild
 Danette Harrison
 Art Hayden
 Bob Hayes
 Warren Henderson
 Lorraine Hladik
 Wayne Horning
 Dave Hunt
 Jamie Jackson
 Kathleen James
 Tamara Joel
 Helen Kaulbach
 Doug Kaulbach
 Nicole Keeler
 Chuck Knight
 Alexandria Krause
 Jeewon Lee
 Sharon Leveque
 Kevin MacLean

Doug Manning
 Breanna Martin
 Betty McCabe
 James Mills
 Wayne Moore
 Archie Morrison
 Yousif Murad
 Paul Neustaedter
 Joachim Nierfeld
 David Pich
 Lorne Pittman
 Donald Prochera
 Randy Prost
 Dan Proulx
 Cheryl Purdey
 Janessa Rash
 Becky Rath
 Heather Robinson
 Betty Robinson
 Don Rost
 Richard (Dick) Sanderson
 Erv Schmidt



Volunteers at the COSHF



Don Rost, Volunteer

Marv Schultz
 Heather Semeniuk
 Jack Senko
 Sharon Shepherd
 George Steeves
 Carl Stef
 Isla Tasker
 Gillian Thomson
 Grant Timlick
 Ryan Trafananko
 Frank Truman
 Frankie (Eugenie) Turner
 Paul Underwood
 Evelyn Vielvoye
 Walter Viita
 David Wall
 Elaine Walmsley
 Nia Warfield
 Ryan Watters
 Lorne White
 Ken Wilson
 Ralph Woehler
 Ryan Wong

Kelowna Museums

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The Kelowna Museums Society gratefully acknowledges its partners in funding.



kelownamuseums.ca

 [kelowna.museums.society](https://www.facebook.com/kelowna.museums.society)  [kelownamuseums](https://twitter.com/kelownamuseums)