



2423 Beacon Avenue L-3, Sidney, BC V8L 1X5
(250) 655-6355 • info@sidneymuseum.ca

April 22, 2025 - 7:00 pm

**Sidney Town Hall - Arbutus Room
2440 Sidney Ave, Sidney, BC V8L 1Y7**

AGENDA

1. **Quorum** – At all Annual or Special General Meetings a quorum is seven (7) Members present
2. **Call to Order and Welcome** – Chair of the meeting
3. **Adoption of the Agenda**
4. **Approval of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes**
5. ***Business Arising***

Reports

- 5.1. Board of Director's Chair Report – Shannon Neustaeter
- 5.2. Executive Director's Report – Michael Goodchild
- 5.3. Nominating Committee Report - Susan Mercer
- 5.4. Financial Report – Wayne Leach
 - *Motion to approve Financial Report, seconder*
 - *Motion to appoint Sandra Boyd, CPA as accountant for 2025-2026*
6. ***Business Arising from Reports***

We respectfully acknowledge that the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SET,TINES, on the traditional territory of the W SÁNEĆ People.

7. Question Period

8. New Business

8.1. Election of Directors to the Board

Nominated for a three-year term (3 vacant seats)
● Susan Mercer
● Clarence Bolt
● Ray Konrath
● Peggy Dayton

Any nominations from the floor?

Directors remaining in office:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term remaining</u>
Heather Corbitt	Second term ends 2026
Mark Dayton	First term ends 2027
Peter Garnham	Second term ends 2027
Wayne Leach	Second term ends 2027
Mairi Munro	Second term ends 2027
Shannon Neustaeter	Second term ends 2026

8.2. Motion to destroy the ballots (if required), seconded

9. Adjournment

Sidney Museum and Archives Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 23, 2024 - 10:00am

Norseman Room - British Columbia Air Museum

1910 Norseman Road,

North Saanich, V8L 5V5

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Neustaeter, Susan Mercer, Heather Corbitt, Bruce Graham, Wayne Leach, Julie Puetter, Mairi Monroe, Peter Garnham

ABSENT: Ray Konrath

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Goodchild, Executive Director

SIDNEY COUNCIL LIAISON: Scott Garnett

Quorum Established

Members at large present: 17

1. **Call to Order and Welcome** – President Shannon Neustater, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 am

Standing Business

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion: Wayne Leach

Seconded: Bruce Graham

The Agenda was approved with the following amendments:

The title of "Compilation Report" in the report from the Accountant is the correct title. This replaces the previous "Notes to Financial Statements".

Julie Puetter announced she is stepping down from the Board for personal reasons. She was thanked for her service. This now leaves 5 openings on the Board.

3. **Approval of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Wayne Leach

Seconded: Mairi Munro Approved

Reports

4. **Chair, Board of Directors Report** – Shannon Neustaeter

Shannon opened by noting that she is struck at how far we have come in the past 12 months. Compared to last year the staff is now established and stable and it has been a record breaking year in donations. She thanked the Executive Director, Michael Goodchild, for his

hard work, Charlotte Clar for her outstanding outreach in the community, and Jessica Payne for making the Archives a usable resource for the community as well as Orien Denroche for their continuing support. The volunteers were thanked for their contributions.

Shannon also stated that the positive Interaction with the local first nations is a huge accomplishment for the present and the future.

She noted that our financial sustainability is continuing to grow with our requirements

Shannon stated that she is honoured to be Chair.

5. **Executive Director's Report** – Michael Goodchild

Michael began by echoing Shannon's thanks to all and to the Board.

Updates included:

- Waterfront Signage is progressing well, with the First Nations approving the wording, 12 now have text, 10 of 13 have pictures with Peninsula Signs continuing their work;
- attendance was 13400 in 2023, which is the most since Covid;
- attendance so far in 2024 is 9364;
- \$46000 in donations was received, exceeding the budget by about \$10000;

Michael was pleased that his goal of featuring more local history and culture is being met and that community and social media outreach continues to get stronger. He noted over 3719 engagements at the street market.

He thanked the 35 active volunteers who have put in 2720 hours in work.

6. **Nominating Committee Report** - Julie Puetter

Julie thanked Ray Konrath for 2 terms of service.

Five seats are vacant, with four nominees from the Committee:

Directors remaining in office:	Term remaining
Heather Corbitt	First term ends March 2026
Bruce Graham	Second term ends March 2025
Susan Mercer	First term ends March 2025
Shannon Neustaeter	Second term ends March 2026

Nominated for a three year term:

Wayne Leach
Peter Garnham
Mairi Munro
Mark Dayton

“Any nominations from the floor?” was read three times by Shannon Neustaeter. There being no further nominations, the candidates were elected to four of the five open three year Board positions by acclamation.

7. Financial Report – Wayne Leach

Wayne noted the change in the way income and expenses are reported from grants.

Sandra Boyd, will continue to act as our Accountant retaining an office in Sidney with the main office now in Langford. No other local firms had room for new clients at this time.

Motion to approve Financial Report.

Motion: Wayne Leach
Seconded: Susan Mercer Approved

Motion to appoint Sandra Boyd, CPA as accountant for 2024-2025 and to accept Financial Notice to Reader

Motion: Wayne Leach
Seconded: Susan Mercer Approved

Question Period

Isabel Jones thanked Brenda Garnham for the treats for volunteers and staff. She named staff members and stated that they are a “joy to work with”.

Motion to Adjourn: Wayne Leach

Time: 10:30 am

Sidney Museum and Archives Society

REGULAR MEETING

March 23, 2024 - 10:45 am

Norseman Room - British Columbia Air Museum

1910 Norseman Road,

North Saanich, V8L 5V5

MINUTES

AGENDA: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Neustaeter, Susan Mercer, Heather Corbitt, Bruce Graham, Wayne Leach, Mairi Monroe, Peter Garnham, Mark Dayton

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Goodchild, Executive Director

SIDNEY COUNCIL LIAISON: Scott Garnett

Call to Order & Welcome - Michael Goodchild: 10:45 am

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Wayne Leach - written report to follow

Executive Director Report - verbal report

Updates:

- District of North Saanich has confirmed that our request has been forwarded for budget negotiations
- Collections - Organizations of Beta is almost finished, Alpha is ongoing.
- Lego Exhibit - 2804 attended on Family Day Weekend and donations were about \$8000
- Visitors for February are up to 5802 with ongoing about 200+ per day
- Updated plans for displays include the delay of the local photography show due to the availability of "Lost Liberties - The War Measures Act" which was booked with a 50% discount. The groups highlighted include the Ukraine, Japanese and Quebecois citizens.
- The Waterfront Signage Project which includes many local highlights, is anticipating a donation from Rotary with thanks.

GRANTS - Application has been made to "Young Canada Works" for an Archival Intern from October - May 2025. As well, 17 applications have been received for summer students so far and interviews will be the first half of April.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Motion to appoint Shannon Neustaeter, Chair

Motion: Peter

Seconded: Heather

Approved

At this point Shannon replaced Michael as Chair of the meeting.

Motion to appoint Susan Mercer, Vice Chair

Motion: Wayne Leach

Seconded: Peter Garnham

Approved

Motion to appoint Wayne Leach, Treasurer

Motion: Bruce Graham

Seconded: Susan Mercer

Approved

Motion to appoint Heather Corbitt, Secretary

Motion: Susan Mercer

Seconded: Peter Garnham

Approved

Next Meeting

April 20, 2024 at 9:00 am

Motion to Adjourn: Peter Garnham

at 11:03 am



2423 Beacon Avenue L-3, Sidney, BC V8L 1X5
(250) 655-6355 • info@sidneymuseum.ca

Board Chair Report Sidney Museum & Archives Annual General Meeting April 22, 2025

The Sidney Museum and Archives is dedicated to preserving, sharing, and interpreting the heritage and culture of the Saanich Peninsula. Looking back at everything we've accomplished this past year, it's clear that our mission and vision aren't just words—we're living them every day.

One of the past year's highlights was the Board approval of the 2025-27 Strategic Plan, giving the museum a solid roadmap for the next few years. This plan reaffirms our mission and vision, sets new values, and outlines key areas to guide us forward. It was a big effort, and a huge thanks goes to the board and staff who dedicated their time and energy to make it happen. To place an even greater focus on the well-being of staff, volunteers, and visitors, the Board established a Safety Committee to keep health and safety a top priority in all aspects of museum operations.

On the financial side, we're in a strong position, thanks to record donations and revenue from the gift shop and archives. We're also incredibly grateful to the Town of Sidney and the District of North Saanich for their ongoing financial support, which helps us continue our work in preserving and sharing local history. As a board, we are mindful than ever of economic uncertainties and are planning ahead to adapt to challenges, like tighter grant opportunities or shifting spending priorities.

The museum saw great success with two traveling exhibitions—Our Living Languages and Lost Liberties—which saw an increase in visitors and an opportunity for more community engagement. The Our Living Languages exhibition and ongoing efforts on the Waterfront Signage Project have strengthened our growing relationships with local First Nations. Our commitment to the Repatriation Call to Action underscores our dedication to Reconciliation and ensuring Indigenous history is represented with accuracy and respect.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SET, TINES, on the traditional territory of the W SÁNEĆ People.

The Archives team has done an outstanding job in its mission to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the history of the Saanich Peninsula. Assisting in research requests from local historians to international academics, and providing invaluable support to community organizations and individuals, they continue to make significant progress in organizing collections and digitizing records. None of this would have been possible without our amazing Collections volunteers and interns under the leadership of Assistant Director Jessica Payne. Her leadership keeps things running effortlessly while always pushing for new ideas and growth throughout the museum.

Community Outreach has been thriving, with movie nights and informational sessions drawing impressive crowds and community engagement reaching new heights. A special thanks goes to Charlotte Clar, our amazing Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, who handles an incredible array of tasks—representing the museum at events, running programs both in-house and in the community, organizing our dedicated volunteers, and managing social media and other outreach efforts.

Michael Goodchild, our Executive Director, has been an exceptional leader and a driving force behind the museum's success these past few years. He represents the museum with professionalism and enthusiasm, both within our local community and at the provincial level, strengthening our connections and expanding our reach. His leadership and dedication have impacted every aspect of the museum, and we are incredibly fortunate to have him leading us forward.

Finally and saving the best for last - our volunteers who are the backbone of the museum. Their tireless dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to go above and beyond make everything we do possible. Whether it's greeting visitors, pitching in with projects or events, or helping behind the scenes, they do it all with such enthusiasm and heart. As the saying goes, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless" This couldn't be truer for the Sidney Museum volunteers and we are endlessly thankful for all that they do.

I am very honored to serve as board chair and to be part of the Sidney Museum as it continues to grow and make a lasting difference in the community. It has been an incredible year of growth, connections, and progress, and I'm truly excited for what lies ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Neustaeter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shannon Neustaeter
Board Chair



2423 Beacon Avenue L-3, Sidney, BC V8L 1X5
(250) 655-6355 • info@sidneymuseum.ca

2024 Executive Director's Annual Report

Sidney Museum and Archives has enjoyed considerable success in 2024. The organization's core team have made substantial progress organizing and cataloguing the Museum's collections and archives with support from dedicated volunteers, oversaw the return of the popular LEGO exhibit for its 18th consecutive year, and implemented two popular travelling exhibitions. The contributions made by seasonal and contract staff throughout the year has helped to ease the burden on the core team while enabling the Museum to grow its outreach and public programming initiatives, and curate quality-of-life improvements to Sidney Museum's permanent historical displays.

A major component of the core team's work in 2024 was the development of a 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. This plan will guide Sidney Museum's work for the next three years. It is designed to be a flexible, living document that supports staff in achieving the Museum's goals and serving the communities of Sidney, North Saanich, and the WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose land we are privileged to work.

2025 Visitorship

Sidney Museum and Archives welcomed **21,710** visitors in 2024, an increase from the previous year by 8,277. This represents the highest rotation of visitorship to the Museum in two decades. Only 2019 comes close with an annual visitorship of 17,995. As of writing, the Museum has already seen a successful start to 2025 with 12,258 visitors recorded as of March 31. With the imminent arrival of *Health in Space Daring to Explore* as our featured exhibition for 2025, we can expect to see visitorship remain consistent throughout the spring and summer months.

2025 Revenue and Expenses

In 2024 Sidney Museum & Archives received **\$74,434.89** in visitor donations, exceeding 2023's total by over \$27,000. While this level of community support for the Museum is unprecedented, rising costs and unanticipated expenses helped balance out revenue. The Museum additionally raised **\$2,596** in miscellaneous donations, just over **\$7,000** in Gift Shop revenue, and over **\$1,200** in archives fees and donations.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SETINES, on the traditional territory of the W SÁNEĆ People.

Funding received from both the Town of Sidney and the District of North Saanich goes towards the cost of operating the Museum. Visitor donations also help to cover operational costs, and are a boon during periods of high visitorship such as during the LEGO exhibition and during the summer tourist season. In 2024 the Museum's earned funding was 84% of the total contributions of both Municipalities. Maintaining an annual grant application schedule combined with new revenue generation initiatives (gift shop, hosting private events, paid public programming etc.) supports this goal.

The following companies and organisations have either sponsored Sidney Museum financially or 'in kind' for projects, exhibits, and events over the course of the 2024/25 fiscal year with a value in excess of \$70,000, not including funding already received for ongoing Museum projects.

- **BC Museums Association**
- **BC Archives**
- **BC Gaming Authority**
- **Browns the Florist**
- **Buddies Toys**
- **Canadian Museums Association**
- **Canadian Museum of History**
- **Canada Summer Jobs**
- **DGD Gifts**
- **Ectopia Naturals**
- **Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund**
- **First People's Cultural Council**
- **Flush Bathroom Essentials**
- **Hughesman Morris Liversedge CPA**
- **Island Blue Print**
- **Janet's Special Teas**
- **Kiddin' Around**
- **La Boutique**
- **Mark's Sidney**
- **Federal Museum Assistance Program**
- **Newport Realty**
- **Peninsula Co-Op**
- **Peninsula Signs**
- **Rotary Club of Sidney By The Sea**
- **Royal BC Museum**
- **Salvador, Davis, & Co.**
- **Scotty's Dog Shack**
- **Serious Coffee**
- **Sidney BIA**
- **Sidney Pet Centre**
- **Sidney Pier Hotel**
- **Sidney Visitor's Centre**
- **Star Cinema**
- **Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea**
- **Tanner's Books**
- **WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council**
- **WSÁNEĆ School Board**
- **University of Victoria**
- **Victoria Highland Games Association**
- **Victoria LEGO Users Group**
- **Young Canada Works**

Fig. 1: Monthly Attendance, 2020 - 2024

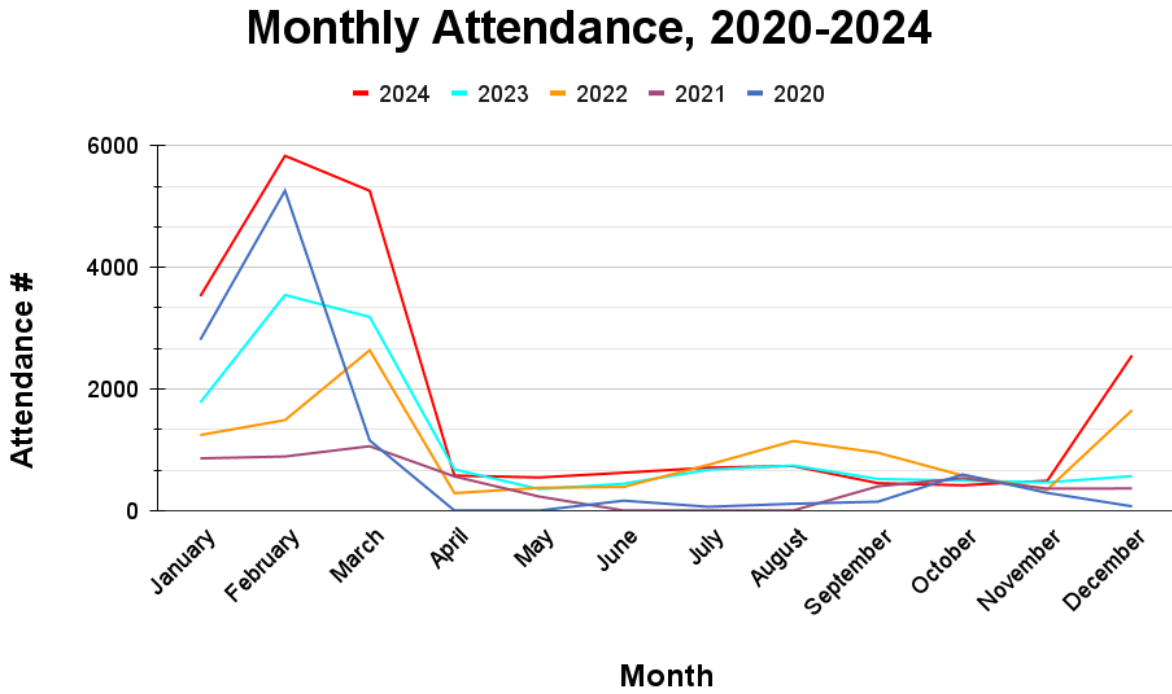
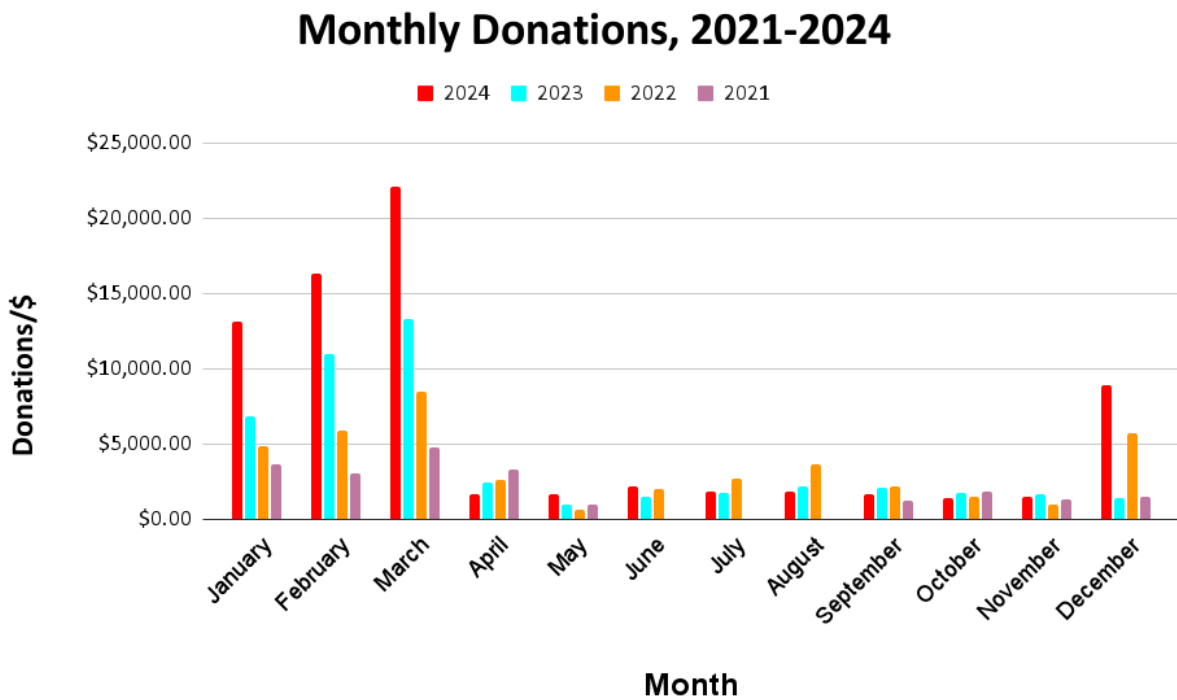


Fig. 2: Monthly Donations, 2021 - 2024



Museum Projects - Completed in 2024

Multipurpose Room Renovation

Funded in full by the BC Arts Council's Arts Infrastructure Grant in 2022, renovations to Sidney Museum's Multipurpose Room were completed in the first quarter of 2024. A summary of completed improvements includes the following:

- Improved lighting with dimming and kelvin-adjustable capabilities, added power and ethernet ports, and connecting a dishwasher for washing/sanitizing.
- Professionally painted ceilings and ducts that were previously raw cement and exposed metal.
- Walls painted by staff and volunteers to improve the look and feel of the space.
- A new faucet, full-size fridge, countertop, and wall cabinets in the kitchen area.
- New matching chairs, shelving, tabletops, and a packing table in the collections management and multi-use areas.
- Floor and wall-mounted cabinets and shelves to maximize storage capacity for education items and objects under consideration for accession or deaccession.
- Addition of space-saving waste receptacles
- Purchase of mobile projector equipment to allow for remote engagement during all staff, volunteer, and community meetings in the space.
- Purchase of collection management equipment
- Permanently securing sensitive IT and data storage devices with a hinged wall for easy access.

2025 - 27 Strategic Plan

In response to the preceding few years of staff turnover and completing inherited projects, SMA personnel have drafted a Strategic Plan that will provide a road-map for the Board, employees, and volunteers to continue to achieve the organization's mission and vision. Building upon the work completed by previous staff teams and the 2021 plan, the 2025-27 Strategic Plan has been developed to be both aspirational and practical. In-brief SMA's Strategic Plan includes the following components:

- Confirms Sidney Museum and Archives' Mission and Vision;
- Establishes new Value statements for the organization and;

- Identifies six focus areas that will drive the organization toward its Mission and Vision, with aspirational outcomes, key success factors, and actionable objectives for each year:
 1. Space and Exhibit Planning
 2. Visitor Experience & Awareness
 3. Indigenous Relations
 4. Collection and Archives Management
 5. Employee & Volunteer Experience
 6. Financial and Business Management
- The implementation of the Strategic Plan will include annual review periods to assess milestones, timelines, and the RACI (responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed) for the actions planned each year. Quarterly progress reviews will be conducted to determine whether any adjustments to the plan are necessary.

Museum Projects - Ongoing from 2024

Waterfront Signage

Work has continued in this project throughout 2024, despite delays brought about by lingering staff turnover challenges at SMA, staff turnover at Peninsula Signs in 2024, and the complexities of navigating a project with many interested parties. While the team had hoped to see this work complete by May 2025, further challenges have made this goal regrettably unattainable. The team has been balancing this project along with the outgoing LEGO exhibition, hiring summer staff, and preparing for the 2025 Featured Exhibition.

An Updated Project Timeline, accounting for aforementioned delays, is presented as-follows:

- December 2024: Drafts of all 13 panels and associated images, photos, & scans submitted to Peninsula Signs.
- January 2025: Identification of factual errors in at least 2 panel text drafts; final review for historical accuracy conducted by ED & AD.
- February 2025 - March 2025. Fact-checking continues; final drafts submitted to Peninsula Signs and the WSANEC Leadership Council:
 - Panel 3 - The Legend of ŁÁU, WELNEW

- Panel 5 - Sidney's Chinatown
- Panel 9 - TETÁCES - Our Relatives of the Deep
- Panel 12 - the SS Iroquois Disaster
- Panel 13 - SXIÁM E TFE S0XE - The Clam Creation Story
- March 2025: Identification of miscommunication between Sidney Museum and Town of Sidney Public Works at project onset - ED and Manager of Public Works & Parks to
- April 2025: ED and Manager of Public Works & Parks to meet and walk proposed signage locations to determine time/cost/material needs.
- May - June 2025: Fact-checking continues; final drafts submitted to Peninsula Signs.
- July 2025: Review of final drafts - Sidney Museum staff; WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council elders; and Town of Sidney staff.
- August - September 2025: Final feedback session to approve designs - Sidney Museum staff; WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council elders; Town of Sidney staff.
- October/November 2025: Installation of Signs with proposed sign unveiling ceremony - Sidney Museum; WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council representatives; WSÁNEĆ School Board; Town of Sidney; with public participation. Suggestion to host a Blessing Ceremony for the panels (TBD, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council)

Permanent Gallery Revitalization

Planned for Q3 & Q4 of 2025, the core team will develop a proposal to restructure the layout of Sidney Museum & Archives' permanent galleries, to maximize available gallery space and expand the scope of the Museum's local history interpretation.

Archives Update

The Archives' primary function is to acquire, preserve, and make publicly accessible records that contain significant information of the history of the Saanich Peninsula. The Archives Research Room in the Town of Sidney Municipal Hall is open to the public every Monday on a by-appointment basis to assist members of the public in their research projects. Additionally, the Archives receives research requests that are fulfilled by Archives staff and volunteers on behalf of the researcher.

The Archives has fulfilled 56 research requests this year, with 20 of those being on-site research sessions, in addition to a number of researchers returning for multiple research sessions. Since we started collecting data on the municipality of residence for researchers, 20 were from Sidney, 7 from North Saanich, 9 from other parts of Vancouver island, and 4 international. Researchers have ranged from those with academic interest in a subject to those conducting genealogical

research. Among those who we have assisted this year include local non-profit organization volunteers, journalists, First Nations community members, academic researchers, engineers conducting environmental research, and general community members.

Four different term staff members and two volunteers have worked in the Archives this year, with two of them still currently working with us. Due to this increased staff support, the Archives was able to make significant progress in project work while maintaining its operational research reference services.

Archives Projects - Completed in 2024

Top priorities for the Archives Department that have been accomplished this year are:

- Completing inventories of the map collection, Peninsula News Review collection, and the Oral History collection
- Establishing a donor file filing system in the Archives and associating archival holdings with donor files
- Reorganizing and creating an index for the reference file system
- Compiling all archives inventories and digital material into a filing system in the Google Drive and reassociating collections of digitized materials with their accession numbers
- Creating backups of all digitized archival materials from the Google Drive onto a preservation master hard drive
- Over 7,715 negatives in the Gibson Studio fonds rehoused, accessioned, and processed
- Another 5 years of Peninsula News Review publications digitized and metadata prepared, with an additional 8 years worth of material to be published on the publicly accessible website in winter 2024/2025

Future Projects - 2025

- **Review & Develop SMA Disaster Plan and Emergency Response Procedures** - start the process by which a new one may be developed with collaboration from the Fire Department, Town of Sidney, and the District of North Saanich.
- **Archives Inventory Project** - Complete fonds/collection-level inventory of Archival holdings, with a focus on identifying legal and intellectual control of the holdings.
- **Archives Backlog Processing** - Appraising, accessioning or transferring, and processing of the significant collection of past archival donations that have not been formally brought under the control of the Archives.
- **Oral History Digitization** - Prepare and have the Oral History collection digitized, digitally preserved, transcribed, and accessible for research

- **Online PNR Phase 2** - Complete preparation of a further 8 years-worth of digitized PNR publications for ingestion onto the BCHDP host site to make more of the collection publicly accessible.
- **Archives Online Photo Collection** - Creating item-level entries on CatalogIt, or other software to be determined, for the Archives photo collection for public access.

Featured Exhibits

Sidney Museum Staff put the lower “Garnham” gallery to good use with a variety of in-house and travelling exhibitions throughout the year. Regardless of topic, all featured exhibitions include some measure of local interpretation to connect the broader exhibit themes with the people of the Saanich Peninsula. Aligning with the recently completed 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, the team plans to reduce the quantity of major temporary exhibitions in favour of 1-2 featured exhibits. In doing so, the team hopes to turn its attention to completing remaining projects and beginning meaningful work on renovating Sidney Museum’s permanent galleries.

LEGO Fan Exhibition - “Brilliance, Built Brick by Brick” (January - March 2024)

The Museum's annual LEGO Brick exhibition returned for its 18th year, running from January - March 2024. Sidney Museum welcomed 14,625 visitors during the exhibit’s runtime. The Family Day weekend alone accounted for an estimated 3,000 visitors. LEGO Certified Professional Robin Sather joined Sidney Museum once again, and designed his annual ‘Big Build’ to resemble the Sidney Pier, complete with the Sidney Amphitheatre, Fish Market, and Pier Bistro.

This represents the highest visitorship recorded at Sidney Museum from January-March in over two decades. This is a clear demonstration that the LEGO exhibition has only grown in popularity over time, and is comfortably reaching (and even exceeding) pre-COVID numbers. Peninsula Co-Op agreed to return as Presenting Sponsor for the LEGO Family Day weekend activities. Additional support was provided by the British Columbia Museums Association, and 19 local businesses.

Our Living Languages: First People’s Voices in BC (April - July 2024)

In Spring 2024, Sidney Museum hosted the travelling exhibition *Our Living Languages: First People’s Voices in BC*. This exhibition, developed in partnership between the Royal BC Museum and the First People’s Cultural Council, shares the history of disrupted indigenous languages in British Columbia and highlights the individuals working to document and revitalize said languages.

The majority of the exhibition was loaned from the Royal BC Museum, supplemented by a collection of W̱SÁNEĆ belongings under Sidney Museum's Care. Educational materials included a SENĆOŦEN alphabet displayed in the Lower Gallery alongside SENĆOŦEN translations of numbers, phrases, and displayed objects. The exhibition opened to the public with a Blessing Ceremony led by Tsawout Hereditary Chief Eric Pelkey/WEC'KINEM. Additional public programming was developed in collaboration with staff and Elders from the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board.

Over 2,500 visitors experienced *Our Living Languages* during its runtime, and visitor feedback was universally positive. The exhibition was a great success and highlights the positive relationship developed between the Museum and the W̱SÁNEĆ community. Sidney Museum would like to acknowledge the support from the Royal BC Museum, First People's Cultural Council, and especially the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and School Board staff & Elders.

Lost Liberties - The War Measures Act (August - November 2024)

Developed by the Canadian Museum of History, the exhibition explored the suspension of civil liberties in Canada during the First World War, Second World War, and the 1970 October Crisis. In addition, Sidney Museum staff developed a parallel display named *Displacing Differences*. This display explored the themes of loss of freedom and unfair treatment by governmental forces through a local lens. Topics included the Leper Colony on D'Arcy Island, the Doukhobor "Sons of Freedom" Penitentiary on Piers Island, Japanese-Canadian Internment, and the displacement of W̱SÁNEĆ communities on the Peninsula.

Visitors were encouraged to leave feedback on a comment wall, and participate in a community art display inspired by Sadako Sasaki's 'One Thousand Paper Cranes' artwork, and reflect on the topics explored throughout the exhibition.

Community Engagement

Sidney Museum and Archives has an active social media presence with three main channels (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram). While we continue to see good engagement on Facebook and Instagram, lack of user engagement on Twitter is resulting in diminishing returns. The team plans to research potential alternatives to maintain SMA's online presence in 2025.

In 2024 the Museum returned to the "Taking it to the Street" Charity Road Hockey Tournament, Canada Day Family Fun Fair, BC Aviation Museum's Open House, the

Sidney Street Market, and went to new events including the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Sidney Pride Festival, Honouring Wətanmy Powwow, and Children's Day at Heritage Acres. These events collectively saw over 4,700 visitor engagements, half of which were from the Sidney Street Market.

To enhance the Museum's permanent and temporary exhibits, the OVC regularly includes interactive components such as exhibition opening and closing receptions, in-house and community scavenger hunts, weekly social media posts, touchable objects from the Museum's Education Collection, and activity sheets to enhance the visitor experience. This continues to be particularly effective during the annual LEGO exhibit. This year, displays were upgraded with interactive activities offering the chance to win prizes, along with special events during the Family Day Long Weekend in February. These included a community LEGO mosaic build, the construction of the Beacon Wharf and its surroundings, and a scavenger hunt along Beacon Avenue involving 20 local businesses.

To supplement 2024 travelling exhibits, the OVC organized several public movie nights. During the *Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC*, the Museum invited the SELWÁN of the WSÁNEĆ School Board to screen their films TETÁĆES and CELÁNEN TFE TETÁĆES. Afterwards, the SELWÁN Elders Group hosted a Q&A and shared their own experiences with 27 members of the public. Additionally, three separate film screenings during *Lost Liberties: The War Measures Act* resulted in a total turnout of 119.

In October the Museum also hosted a special program called *Pink Tea: A Historical and Contemporary Discussion on Politics and Women*, held on October 18 to mark the 95th anniversary of the Persons' Case, also known as Persons' Day. Participants enjoyed tea and treats while the OVC gave a brief presentation. Following the presentation, an open discussion was held for the 35 visitors in attendance.

Volunteers

Despite some volunteer turnover in 2024 the total number remains consistent at 35 volunteers, including board members, who contribute to many projects and staffing the reception desk. In 2024, volunteers contributed over **2,800** hours of their time in a variety of roles.

Volunteer work differs depending on role and capacity. At present, the primary volunteer categories at the museum include:

- **Reception Desk**
- **Curatorial Operations and Support**
- **Exhibits and Special Projects**
- **Information Technology**
- **Events and Outreach**

The Museum has taken steps to increase opportunities for volunteers to socialize and feel appreciated for the work they do. The popular bi-weekly coffee mornings as well as other events such as Volunteer Social Potlucks provide opportunities for volunteers to build connections. The Museum also holds an annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner which recognizes and celebrates their valuable contributions and achievements.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Sidney Museum's work would not be possible without their time, enthusiasm, and skills.

Respectfully Submitted: Michael Goodchild, Executive Director.



2423 Beacon Avenue L-3, Sidney, BC V8L 1X5
(250) 655-6355 • info@sidneymuseum.ca

Nominating Committee Report
Sidney Museum AGM
April 22, 2025

The Board of Directors will see at least one new member as Bruce Graham concludes his two terms. Susan Mercer, an incumbent, is seeking a second term. Clarence Bolt, who joined the Board recently, is nominated. Ray Konrath hopes to return after a one-year absence and is also nominated. Peggy Dayton's nomination is linked to Mark Dayton's potential resignation.

For the four available Board seats, the Nominating Committee puts forward the names of Clarence Bolt, Peggy Dayton, Ray Konrath, and current Director Susan Mercer.

Nominations will also be open to the floor.

Submitted by Susan Mercer, Nominating Committee Chair

We respectfully acknowledge that the Sidney Museum & Archives is located in Sidney/SET,TINES, on the traditional territory of the W SÁNEĆ People.



Treasurer Report

The Sidney Museum & Archives Society successfully completed 2024 and remains in a stable and secure financial position.

Total Revenue for fiscal 2024 was \$354,572 versus \$250,203 for 2023. This is an increase of 41.7% over 2023.

Total Donations for fiscal 2024 were \$80,570 versus \$49,149 for 2023, an increase of 64% from 2024.

Total Expenditures for fiscal 2024 were \$332,034 versus \$249,844 for 2023, an increase of 32.9% from 2023.

Financially, the Museum grew spectacularly, and I complement and thank our staff and Volunteers for making this happen. They are a hard working and dedicated team and a pleasure to work with.

Sandra Boyd, CPA prepared the 2024 our financial statements on a compilation (Notice to Reader) basis we and I recommend her firm to do so again 2025.

Financial statements provided by request.

Signed this 14th day of April 2025

Wayne Leach

Wayne Leach

Treasurer – Sidney Museum & Archives Society