



Cortes Island Museum & Archives Society (CIMAS)

Newsletter November 2012

957 Beasley Road, Manson's Landing/cimas@twincomm.ca/250-935-6340 Website: cortesmuseum.ca

ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR IS ON THE HORIZON !

Summer Visitors

This year 1000 more visitors (3000 in total) came to the Museum, many enticed by the Tourist Booth and articles in boating magazines that list the Museum exhibits as a "must see". Visitors leave many appreciative compliments in the Guest Book:

"What a great insight into how people settled here"

"There is always more to take in then I have time for"

"Fantastic to see the history and memories of Cortes Island being preserved"

And from kids: "I like the little bones", "Cool", "Awesome"

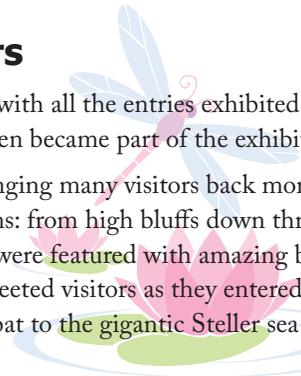
One lucky 7 year old summer visitor from Victoria won the rocking chair donated by Mary Dudley as a fundraiser.

PACIFIC YELLOWFIN Private Charters visited Manson's Landing once a week all summer with many groups of international visitors. They are always most generous with their donations and purchases in our Museum Shop and for opening the Museum on normally closed Mondays. The Klahoose First Nations exhibit, seeing local animals and birds up close and CIMAS volunteers touring them to Kw'as beaver pond and Manson's Lagoon were most interesting to them. Their visits gain the Museum and Cortes Island a number of mentions in international travel magazines as many of this historic yacht's clients are travel writers.

Wild Cortes – Woods, Wetlands & Waters

The 2012 season began with a *Wild Cortes* photo contest, culminating with all the entries exhibited and judged at the Old School House Art Gallery in June. All the winners and some other entries then became part of the exhibit at the Museum.

The *Wild Cortes* exhibit grew and evolved throughout the summer, bringing many visitors back more than once to track the progress. The exhibit follows the flow of water through four ecosystems: from high bluffs down through forests, to wetlands and out to the ocean. Laurel Bohart's outstanding taxidermy mounts were featured with amazing backdrop murals painted by summer student hostess, Hannah Petkau. A magnificent bald eagle greeted visitors as they entered the Museum. A popular display with kids featured animal and bird skulls, ranging from a tiny bat to the gigantic Steller sea lion. *The Wild Cortes* exhibit will continue through next summer.



Join the Fun! Christmas Bird Count - December 16th

The Cortes Island Museum's Annual Christmas Bird Count will be held December 16th during daylight hours. Participants will be divided into small groups led by an experienced birder, so no prior experience is necessary. A hot lunch provided by Suzanne will be available for \$13/person. All participants must register: 250-935-8508 or email cimas@twincomm.ca. Please indicate if you would like to reserve a meat or veggie chili lunch. A small donation to help cover the Museum's expenses would be appreciated.

Please take a moment to renew your membership. If you are not already a member for 2012, please note that a 2012 membership purchased before December 31st will include 2013 membership. Strong membership numbers encourage funders.

2012/2013 MEMBERSHIP—BY DONATION OF TIME OR MONEY

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____

- I/we have enclosed a cheque/donation of \$ _____
- I/we wish to donate _____ hours of time working in the area of _____
- I would like my donation of time or money to be specifically used for the building expansion.

Please send this form (and if applicable, a cheque payable to Cortes Island Museum) to:

Cortes Island Museum
957 Beasley Road
Manson's Landing, BC VOP 1K0



Yes, I would like to receive an income tax receipt for my charitable donation.

EXPANSION UNDERWAY !



South Wing



West Wing

There is an expression, “Things will get worse before they get better!” and we sure have been experiencing that at the Museum & Archives this fall! The contents of the office, work room, public archives room, archives and collection storage area had to be emptied out into the exhibit side of the museum – to allow the work on the interior of the West wing & the ground breaking for the South expansion to get underway.

We are happy to report that despite the ensuing chaos, great progress has been made by Hubert Havelaar & crew! The West expansion which will provide a dedicated office space and a climate controlled artifact storage area is almost complete. The larger South expansion off the back of the museum is now, in builder’s lingo, “clad to the weather”. It was a great relief to get to this stage before the winter storms set in! Once complete, this new area will provide a very large climate controlled space for the Island’s historic records, papers and photographs to be preserved, catalogued, stored and made available to students, researchers and the public. With the office relocated to its new space, the “May Ellingsen Public Archives Room” will have a computer with public access to the archival index and photographs, a map cabinet, and informational files pertaining to Cortes. There will also be a larger workroom for exhibit preparation and storage of display materials.

The CIMAS Board gratefully acknowledges Sandra Wood for helping secure funding for the expansion, and the Cortes Island Fire-Fighters Association for allowing the Museum to expand its footprint. The Board also would like to acknowledge the funds provided by Heritage Canada, BC Gaming Commission, BC Arts Council, Vancouver Foundation, Coastal Community Credit Union, Strathcona Regional District, Tides Canada, local businesses and many generous private donors of funds and materials. We especially want to acknowledge the hard work of all the volunteers who continue to make it happen!

Interested in the exciting expansion and what’s happening at the Museum? Phone Lynne Jordan to be a volunteer or to arrange for a personal tour – 935-6472.



The Peony Symbol of Beauty & Survival

A mini-exhibit on peonies was a joint project of the Archives and Heritage Garden committees in 2012. *The Peony – Symbol of Beauty & Survival* was inspired by a paper presented to the Whaletown Women's Institute in 1925 concerning the possibility of women growing peonies as a source of independent income. Using archival material, photographs, poetry and artwork, the exhibit explores the history and romance of the peony, as well as the economic and social conditions on Cortes in the 1920s which formed the context of this talk. Some of the peonies featured in the exhibit can be viewed in the Heritage Garden during the CIMAS Garden Tour in June 2013.



We’re Looking For:

Volunteer Coordinator

CIMAS is looking for a volunteer to help the Board with the management of our Volunteer Program. This person would work with the Board to determine what assistance is required and then help match interested people with upcoming jobs. They would also help track the hours of the volunteers for use in our grant applications.

New Exhibit in 2013

In the planning stages for next summer is an exciting exhibit with celebrations honouring the | **125th anniversary of Manson’s Landing.**

In 1888 Michael Manson received the Crown Grant for Lot 64, now Manson’s Landing Provincial Park. It was named for the Manson Trading Post and the nearby dock, where steamships, and later float planes, landed regularly. It was once a busy place with store, lodge, cabins, café, post office, Farmer’s Institute and fuel for cars, boats and planes.

Over the years, the “downtown core” of Manson’s Landing developed further up the hill from the dock. In 1996 the last building, the store at the top of the dock, was moved up the hill and morphed into the Museum.

Mike Manson’s granddaughter, May Ellingsen, began collecting archival information in the 1930s with the vision of a museum to preserve Cortes history.