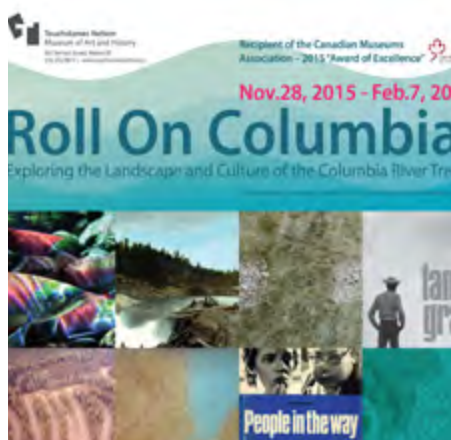
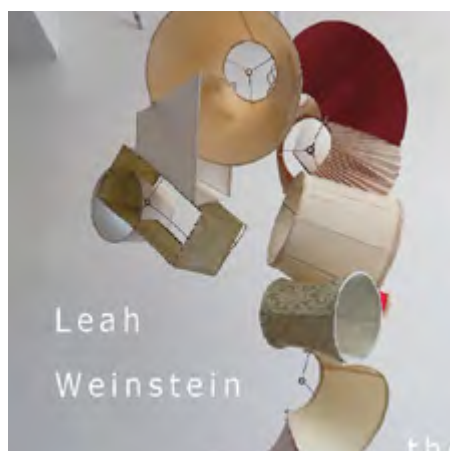


2015 Annual Report



Touchstones Nelson
Museum of Art and History



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A special mention to our volunteer, Kevin Underwood, who took many of the photographs featured in this Annual Report. Like these two!



before



after!



Message from the President of the Board of Directors

During this past year one of the Board's primary focuses was on actual and contemplated construction. The contemplated renovation of the lobby area was recently completed and has provided what we perceive to be a more welcoming atmosphere to a visitor upon entering the building. As well it gives a greater focus upon and access to the shop area and its eye catching displays.

The issue of relocating the collection from its current location at 402 Anderson is nearing fruition. We are in the final stages of concluding an arrangement which we expect will see the completion of this project in 2017. The property at 402 Anderson will then revert to the City of Nelson. Our target area as most of you know is the former post WWII era bunker located in the basement of the building next door to ours. It is a massive task and the planning stage is well under way.

In 2015 Touchstones received the Canadian Museums Association Award of Outstanding Achievement for Exhibitions for the *Roll On Columbia* project. This project, prepared in conjunction with U.S. counterparts and with the sponsorship of the Columbia Basin Trust, was first exhibited in Spokane and is now touring throughout the basin.

As usual, Leah and her staff have demonstrated their ability to punch above our weight category. For a small museum and art gallery, they perform admirably for which the Board is very proud and grateful.

Respectfully submitted.

- Ken Watson,
Board President



From Left to right: Susan MacKintosh, Matt Stanley, Dave Bond, Ken Watson, Lana Donaldson, Kiomi Tucker (missing: Jennifer Cowan, Lisa McGeady)



Message from the Executive Director

Nelson is globally recognized for its outstanding natural and cultural ecology. At Touchstones Nelson, we are honored to be part of and to contribute to this unique and creative mix. Nelson's standards are justifiably high and we work hard every year to exceed the benchmarks set for museums, art galleries and community archives. In 2015, we set a new standard for museum practice, winning the Canadian Museums Award of Outstanding Achievement for the exhibition project, *Roll On*

Columbia, which was co-curated by Eileen Delehanty Pearkes and Deborah Thompson. First opened in 2014, ROC was developed to coincide with the start of the Columbia River Treaty review process (2014-2024). Historical context for the treaty, in the form of a traveling exhibition was partnered with artistic perspectives on the future of the river by seven artists. The history component of ROC continues to travel throughout the Canadian Columbia Basin visiting venues in Nelson, Cranbrook, Fernie, Nakusp and Revelstoke.

In 2015, we presented nine exhibitions that supported the Society's mission to be a "dynamic civic space...for advancing cultural ideas, learning and creativity." Over the course of the year, exhibitions and related programs touched on youth through a series of workshops with Amy Bohigian; presented modern and contemporary art of First Nations from the collection of the Kamloops Art Gallery; focused on solo shows for local artists like Boukje Elzinga, Kathy Hoffman, and Leah Weinstein (now based in Vancouver); widened the local discourse through the presentation of Vernon and Calgary based artists, John Hall and Alexandra Haeseker; and highlighted the permanent collection through historical shows, including the largest artifact show ever mounted by the Society to celebrate the Society's 60th Anniversary.

The Control of Holdings project, a three phase project to create more public access to the collection via the internet, wrapped up phase two. One more year and the project will be complete. 2015 also laid the groundwork for redesigning the lobby to create a more open "flex" space that can accommodate an expanded shop, events and community displays. Drawings, funding and contractors were lined up in December for a quick renovation that took place in January 2016.

Looking forward, there is one very, very large project on the horizon as we work towards relocating the permanent collection to a new storage space. The staff and volunteers make all this possible. Their dedication to the Society certainly reflects Nelson's high standards.

Sincerely,
Leah Best, Executive Director

2015 Exhibition Schedule Summary

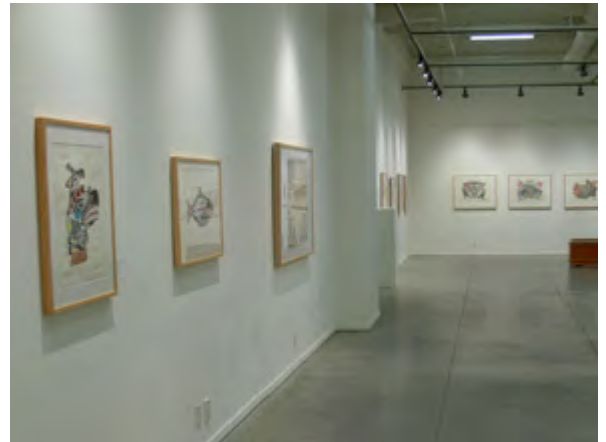
Gallery A

unlimited edition

February 21 to May 10

Organized by the Kamloops Art Gallery. Curated by Tania Willard (Secwepemc), Aboriginal Curator in Residence, Kamloops Art Gallery

A touring exhibition of prints by Aboriginal and Inuit artists from the Kamloops Art Gallery's permanent collection, supplemented by works on loan from the Carleton University Art Gallery and Legacy Art Galleries.



60 Years/60 Objects: A Diamond Anniversary Exhibition

May 23 to September 6

Curator: Rod Taylor

An exhibition that shared sixty notable or unusual objects from our Archives and Collections that help tell the story of our community.

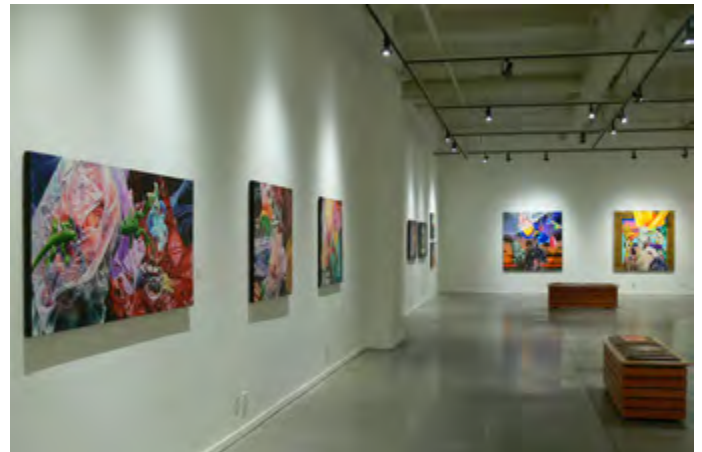
John Hall and Alexandra Haeseker

Pendulum/Pendula

September 12 to November 15

Curator: Jessica Demers

Stunning photorealistic paintings with subject matter drawn largely from Mexican culture.



Leah Weinstein

The Poetry of Objects

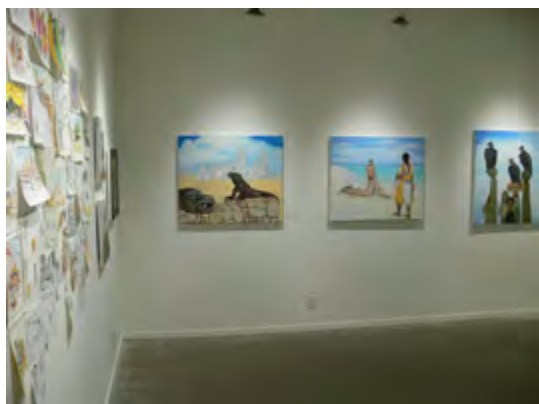
November 21, 2015 to February 14, 2016

Curator: Rod Taylor

A series of assemblages that used the familiar in surprising ways, blurring the lines between the ordinary and the profound.

2015 Exhibition Schedule Summary

Gallery B

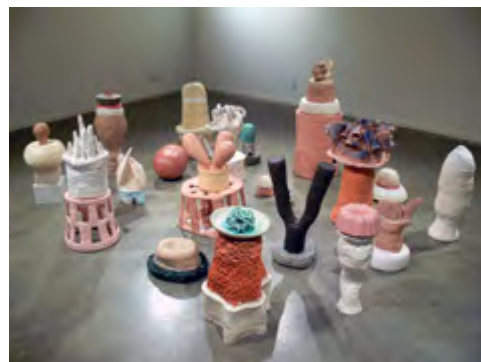


Boukje Elzinga
La Puerta Negra
January 31 to May 17
Curator: Rod Taylor

An exploration of the individual stories, images and artifacts from this nearly forgotten chapter in our local history.

Katherine Hofmann
Domiciled
May 23 to August 30
Curator: Jessica Demers

Katherine Hofmann's installation Domiciled combined clay with found materials in ways that confounded, surprised and delighted.



Lost Orchards: A History of Fruit Farming in the West Kootenays

September 5 to November 22
Curator: Rod Taylor

An exploration of the individual stories, images and artifacts from this nearly forgotten chapter in our local history.

Roll On Columbia: Exploring the Landscape and Culture of the Columbia River Treaty
November 28, 2015 to February 7, 2016
Guest Curator: Eileen Delehanty Pearkes

Explored the legacy of the Columbia River Treaty through historical information panels as well artwork by Heather MacAskill (BC) and Mary Babcock (Hawaii).



Public Programs

Art Films at the Civic Theatre (2) co-sponsored by Touchstones Nelson and Oxygen Art Centre

Artist Talks (6):

- Boujke Elzinga
- Katherine Hofmann
- John Hall
- Heather MacAskill
- Alexandra Haeseker
- Leah Weinstein

Canada Day Celebrations at Lakeside Park

Columbia Basin Culture Tour

Curator and Author Talks (5):

- Jessica Demers
- Rod Taylor
- Joan Lang
- Tania Willard
- Eileen Delehanty Pearkes

Demonstrations, Workshops & Presentations (6):

- Youth Workshops with Amy Bohigian (2)
- Things Wished for or Desired: The Art and Meaning of Local Indigenous Pictographs by Eileen Delehanty Pearkes
- Celebrating the Sinixt: An Evening of History, Language and Song (partnership between Touchstones Nelson and Selkirk College)
- Genealogy Workshop (run by The West Kootenay Family Historians Society)
- Pine Needle Basketry Workshop (hosted by Cree/Metis Aboriginal educator Toni Applebee)

Docent Tours

School workshops for the exhibition *unlimited edition*

National Family Day

Family Fairs: Spring Family Fair and Fall Family Fair & Fruit Festival

Memory Kit Outreach Visits (7)

School Programs and Tours:

- 940 students: 494 Elementary + 446 High School

Summer Kids' Camp in partnership with the Nelson and District Community Complex, Nelson Public Library, Bigby Place

Walking Tours (4):

- Main St: At the Heart of the Community; 60 Years/60 Objects (3)

Yoga in Gallery A (2)

Images:

1. Celebrating the Sinixt: An Evening of History, Language and Song
2. Pine Needle Basketry workshop
3. Memory Kits and Volunteers
4. Walking Tours with Ron Welwood and Greg Scott



Events

Annual General Meeting

Archives Launch of Online Exhibits (2):

- Online Collection Launch
- *Captured Power*: Virtual Exhibition Launch

ArtWalk

Blue Night (2)

Book Launches, Signing & Talks (2):

- *Disaster in Paradise* by Mandy Bath
- *Sideways* by Diana Cole

Fundraising Events (3):

- Lane Sale/Diefenbunker tours
- Raffle Tickets
- 60 Objects Sponsorships

Hosted Events (10):

- Kootenay Literary Society reception - February
- City of Nelson - April, May
- Rotary Dinner - May
- 60 Objects Sponsors special opening - May
- BC Arts Council reception - June
- Wedding - August
- UBC Forest Alumni - September
- Destination BC reception - September
- Vancouver Foundation - October
- Kootenay Association of Science and Technology - October
- Nelson Landing - November

Live Performances (7):

- Corazón Youth Choir (5)
- Weaving Light (2)

Members' Sales at The Shop (12)

Opening Receptions (10):

- Boujke Elzinga: *La Puerta Negra*
- *unlimited edition*
- *60 Years/60 Objects: A Diamond Anniversary Exhibition*
- Katherine Hofmann: *Domiciled*
- ArtWalk
- *Pendulum/Pendula*
- *Lost Orchards: A History of Fruit Farming in the West Kootenays*
- Leah Weinstein: *The Poetry of Objects*
- *Roll on Columbia*
- Blue Night

Volunteer Appreciation Events (5)

Images:

1. Lane Sale
2. Corazón Youth Choir
3. Family Fair activity
4. AFKO puppet
5. *Roll on Columbia* exhibition



Archives & Collections

Touchstones Nelson Collection

The collection took in artifacts from eighteen donors. Highlights included a glass display of antique eyeglasses from Ivan Laughton, a standing desk that was used by Morgan Jones at the Nelson Post Office where he worked for 35 years and a trophy that was won by the Nelson Rowing Club at Coeur d'Alene's second annual regatta in 1914, which was transferred from St. Catharines Museum in Ontario.

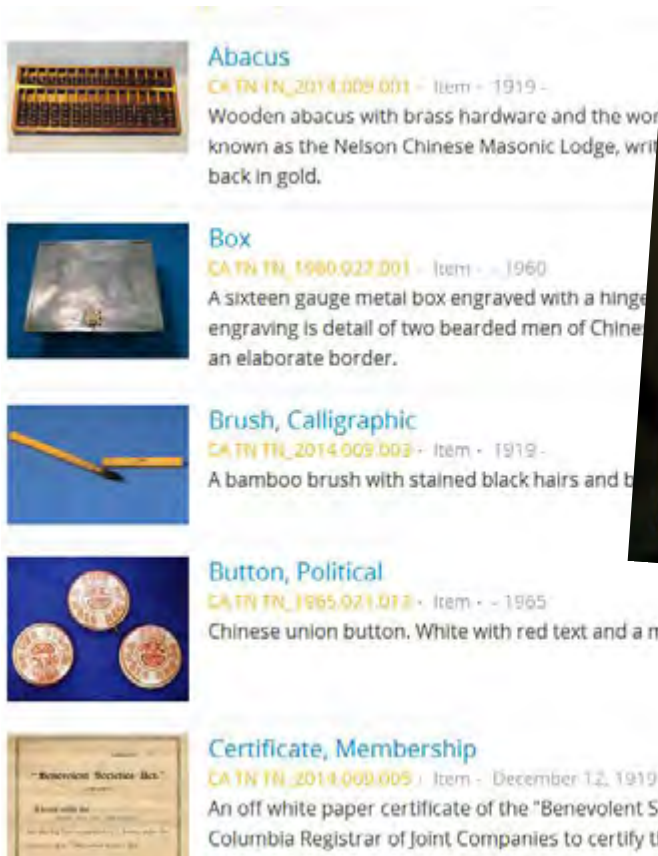
The Society also launched an Online Portal into the permanent collection, which was made possible with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program and the Columbia Basin Trust. <http://nelson.pastperfect-online.com/40844cgi/mweb.exe?request=ks;>

Information on 50 items pertaining to Nelson's Chinese community was forwarded to the Chinese Canadian Artifacts Project (CCAP),

operated by the University of Victoria, in association with the BC Museums Association (<https://ccap.uvic.ca/>). The second phase of the Control of Holdings project was completed. In this second phase over 250 works of art and over 1000 textiles were physically examined for conservation needs, photographed, re catalogued and entered into the Society's PastPerfect database. The second phase was made possible with support from the BC Arts Council, the Columbia Basin Trust, and the Hamber Foundation.

Artifacts from the collection where also loaned for display to the Nelson Public Library, Nelson City Police, and the Kokanee Glacier Park Visitor Centre.

1

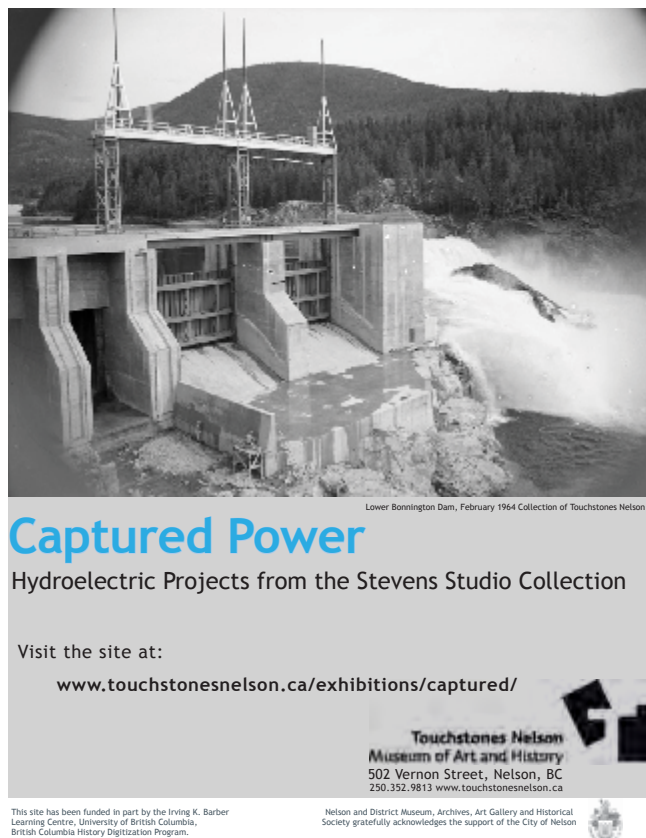


2

Images:

1. Screen Shot of part of Touchstones Nelson's contribution to the Chinese Canadian Artifact Project Database
2. Display of eye glasses from Ivan Laughton

3



Shawn Lamb Archives

In 2015, the Shawn Lamb Archives completed a digitization project involving over 300 negatives from the Society's Stevens Studio Collection entitled *Captured Power - Hydroelectric Projects from the Stevens Studio Collection* <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/captured/>. The images depict the construction, opening ceremonies, and ongoing operations of various West Kootenay power plants and hydroelectric dams. The creation of the site was funded in part by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of British Columbia, British Columbia History Digitization Program. The Archives also received archival material from twenty donors and one transfer from St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre. Staff and volunteers replied to over 100 research requests - 13% of which were genealogy related, and completed one House History. We also added ten items to our ever growing research library.

- by Laura Fortier



4

Images:

3. Captured Power Website Poster, Image: Lower Bonnington Dam, February 1964
4. Genealogy Workshop (run by The West Kootenay Family Historians Society)

Special Projects

Membership Program

In 2015, the Society introduced a new membership program to replace one introduced in October 2006. There were three key objectives with the new membership program: simplify the membership levels from 16 down to just 5; offer more benefits to all levels of membership; and introduce a two year membership option to reduce the need for annual renewal.

The biggest change for members was the new two year membership option. In order to encourage more participation, membership rates for the two year program reflected a zero increase over rates that were first introduced in 2006. It's proven to be a very popular option - one that responds to feedback from members to make it easier to renew.

Membership support is the foundation of the Society's earned revenue and social capital. If our goal is to retain, energize and strengthen our membership community, then we must constantly strive to improve the delivery of benefits and respond to member feedback. The new membership program joins the bi-annual members' exhibition as two examples of how Touchstones Nelson values its members.



Image: View of Nelson's Chinatown, ca. 1910s (Sing Chong Laundry is the first building in the foreground on the left hand side)

Sing Chong Laundry Nomination

Heritage BC Chinese Historic Places Recognition Project

The Sing Chong Laundry building is of historical significance to the Chinese Canadian community because it is one of the only original buildings in Nelson's Chinatown and the longest Chinese operated business in Nelson, operating for over 60 years. All others were either demolished or were destroyed by fire. Although this building is no longer used as a Chinese laundry, it is currently a vital part of Nelson's wider community. As a non-profit co-operative, Kootenay Co-op Radio sees itself as an unbiased supporter of local culture. They are insuring the maintenance of this historic site and are thrilled to be a part of its' history and promotion.

The nomination was selected to receive provincial recognition and states the formal letter of recognition, "will be formally recognized under section 18 of the Heritage Conservation Act. [It] will be included on the BC Register of Historic Places, and will be put forward for inclusion on the Canadian Registry of Historic Places. There is no intention to erect markers, signs or plaques."



Building Cleaning

Positioned on the corner of one of Nelson's busiest intersections, the Touchstones Nelson facility is exposed to its fair share of "urban" grime. In the summer of 2015, the building received a much needed scrub and power washing. Although the stonework at street level could withstand a high psi power washing, the pink brick on the upper levels required a far more delicate touch. Gone are the black stains over the Vernon Street entrance - easily the greatest eyesore before the cleaning. What remains is a vast improvement. Although not all the stains could be removed from the bricks, in particular the greenish tinge left by water from the copper-roofed turret, the overall effect is extremely successful. We extend our thanks to the City of Nelson for facilitating this project.

Art Wrap Project (*hydro boxes, plus archives door and highways box*)

In 2015, the Society along with Nelson Hydro and the City of Nelson Cultural Development Committee worked together to wrap the transformer boxes that were installed on the Ward Street side of the facility in 2014. Scott Dickson and Justin Arndt were the selected artists for the hydro boxes. In addition to the hydro boxes, the Ministry of Highways transformer box located at the top of the ramp entrance and the emergency exit door leading from the archives to Vernon street were also wrapped. The ramp design was submitted by Catherine Fisher, KL Kivi and Lori Barkley and the archives exit door design is by Heather MacAskill. The wrap project designs now compliment Rabia's sculpture and the new awnings.



before



after!

The Shop

The Shop hosted several events in 2015, including ArtWalk, showcasing Lainey Benson's brilliantly coloured local scenes, Cindy Moore's figurative oil and plaster paintings and Julie Breton's abstracts. All three artists stayed on at the shop and are joined by several other painters as well as over 100 local authors and artists. We once again participated in the Baker St. Market promoting the facility and selling wares by local artists and local interest books. The lobby hosted book launches by Diana Cole for her book *Sideways: Memoir of a Misfit*, and Amanda Bath with her book *Disaster in Paradise*.

Our Holiday Market had another fantastic year with 550 more customer visits over 2014. We also offered a discount to members for a donation to the St. Saviours' Food Pantry. The member monthly specials continued throughout the year, with members receiving discounts on popular items. The Shop participated in two Blue Nights featuring on-site artists, including Lily Andersen, who shared their passion and process.



The Shop added 13 new local consignors in 2015, we added 12 new book titles to our shelves and three new product lines. The Shop also experienced a 55% increase in sales from 2014, with 85% more shop visitors in 2015. The Shop published about twenty Facebook posts and paid to boost four of them during the Holiday Market and ran an advertising campaign in the Nelson Star. It was a successful 2015 and we look forward to more success in 2016.

- by Cindy Fillion

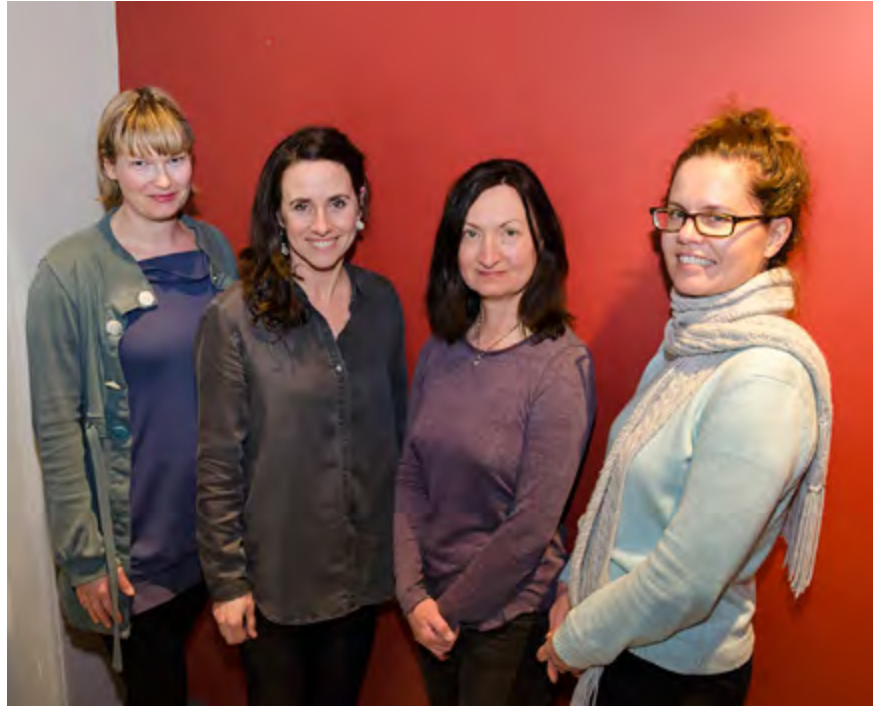


The Lobby after January
2016 renovation

Staff 2015



Jessie Demers: Co-Curator / Programs Coordinator - *above*
Rod Taylor: Co-Curator - *below*



from left:
Laura Fortier: Archivist/Collections Manager
Cindy Fillion: Visitor Services Manager
Linda Sawchyn: Executive Assistant, Volunteer/
Membership Coordinator
Leah Best: Executive Director

Summer students & project coordinator



from left:
Christina Postnikoff: Summer Student Visitor Services Assistant
Alyssa Martini: Summer Student Programs Assistant
Dayna Fleming: BC Arts Council Early Career Development Intern



Kristen Taniguchi: Paintings Project Coordinator

2015 Volunteers

Touchstones Nelson is grateful for the dedication of a strong team of volunteers in 2015. Thank you!!

Kathy Alexander	Isa MacDonald
Gretchen Backus	Ed Mannings
Carol Bergman	Mary Marinageli
Marilyn Best	Donna McArthur
Meghan Booth	Della McLeod
Ryan Boozer	Aisha Mulhall
Kim Chanasyk	Judy Mulloy
Linda Chapman	Teyana Neufeld
Roger Collinson	Kathleen Nichol
Barbara Couch	Sherry Nicholson
Eileen D. Pearkes	Frances Nicolson
Eileen Davis	Teresa Olleck
Bruce Davis	Alan Ramsden
Laura Duncan	Dennis Ray
Christine Elias	Cal Renwick
Della Fenkner	Shawna Roeland
Alistair Fraser	Pat Rogers
Ines Hartman	Jamie Sanchez-Valdes
Linda Hoffman	Greg Scott
Suzie Holmes	Phyllis Stanley
Brian Holmes	Wendy Steed
Chris Ingles	Meg Stewart
Alan Inkster	Melodie Rae Storey
Lorna Inkster	Bill Sweet
Audrey Kempin	Lola Swetlikoe
Steve Kobs	Kristen Taniguchi
Shawn Lamb	Joyce Tremblay
Joan E. Lang	Nicole Tremblay
Jessica Laramée	Kevin Underwood
Susan LeFebour	Linda Van Hombeeck
Kathy Letham	Bobbi Vecchio
Cath Little	Peter Ward
Ron Little	Frances Welwood
Heather MacAskill	Ron Welwood



Volunteers appreciation event

Program partners 2015

Colville Confederated Tribes
Corazón
Ktunaxa Nation Council
Nelson Civic Theatre Society
Nelson History Theatre
Nelson Hydro
Regional District Community Complex
School District 8
Selkirk College
West Kootenay Family Historians Society
Wild Woods Yoga

Community Partnerships 2015

Premiere Funding Partners:

City of Nelson
BC Arts Council
Community Gaming Grants -
Gaming Policy and Enforcement
Nelson and District Credit Union
Regional District of Central Kootenay

Corporate/Business/ Government/Other:

Archives Association of BC
BC Historical Society
BC Museums Association
Cameron Foundation
Canada Summer Jobs
Canadian Museums Association
CIBC - Wood Gundy
City of Nelson Cultural Development
Committee
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
Columbia Power
DHC Communications
Ellison's Market
Friends of Nelson Elders
Fortis
Hall Printing
Hamber Foundation
Heritage Federation of South Eastern BC
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
Kootenay Co-op Radio
Kootenay Co-op
Nelson and District Arts Council
Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce
Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
Nelson Star
Osprey Community Foundation

Regional District of Central Kootenay
Safeway
Save On Foods
Selkirk College
UBC Forestry Alumni
Vancouver Foundation
Young Canada Works

60 Objects Sponsors

Bogusz, Ronald
Caromel Studios Inc
Cowan Office Supplies
Dr Dale Dergousoff Optometric Corp
Drawn and Quatered INC
Duet Holdings Inc
Espirito de la Femme Lingerie
Floyd's Electronic World
Gerick Ski and Cycle
Harrop Procter Community Co-op
Hersh, Dr David
Inwood, Robert
Irving, Robert
J Finch Shoes Inc
Kootenay Medical Aesthetics
Kootenay Woodstoves & Alternate Heating
L.P.E.Y. Hodlings Inc
Liberty Food Store
MacKintosh, Susan
Maglio Building Centre
Mannings, Edward
Nelson and District Chamber of
Commerce
Nelson Chocofellar
Nelson Community Band Society
Nelson Rowing Club
Otter Books
PRC Cab Company
Renwick, Calvin
Rogers, Patricia
Scotia Bank
Shambhala Music Festival
Sherstibitoff, Stan
Ted Allen's Jewellery Ltd
The Sacred Ride Inc
Vista Radio Ltd
Ward Engineering and Land Surveying
Welwood, Ronald

Touchstones Nelson Contributing and Sustaining Members 2015

Judy Cameron

Drs. Marion and Ken Muth

Carol Reynolds



Nelson Committee on Homelessness project: Clothesline Project



Tania Willard talk - *unlimited edition*



Leah Weinstein - *The Poetry of Objects*



Walking tours

