

October newsletter: BIG updates and a BIG party!

From: "Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History" <marketing@touchstonesnelson.ca>

Date: 10/03/2022 16:38

To: Nelson Becker <express@expressnews.bc.ca>



Halloween 1965. From the Nelson Daily News Collection

OCTOBER 2023

This month, we officially become the Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery, and take our next big step forward in our organizational journey. For 67 years we have served our community; with this shift in name, we continue to enact our vision, mission, and mandate to be Nelson and district's archives, museum, gallery, and heritage sites, and ultimately to expand our capacity to be your cultural touchstone. It has been a very busy summer getting everything in order, and we are very much looking forward to the **official brand launch on Saturday, October 15!** Admission will be FREE all day, and there will be activities, performances, and workshops for people of all ages.

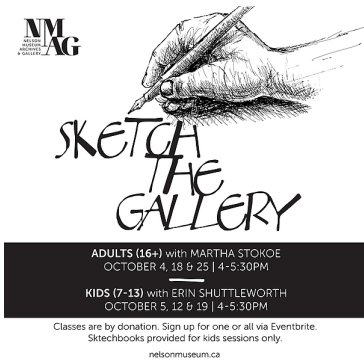
We are hosting a special members and donors event on Thursday, October 13 for a sneak-peak at the new branding and signage - members, watch your email for more details. ***Not a member yet?*** [Now is a great time to join!](#) It's quick and easy, and not only will you have access to members-only events, but you also get free admission to the Museum, galleries, and Cold War Bunker, a 10% discount in the Shop, special members-only Shop specials, and

more!

See you at the Museum!

Astrid Heyerdahl, M.A., M.Ed.
Executive Director

EVENTS



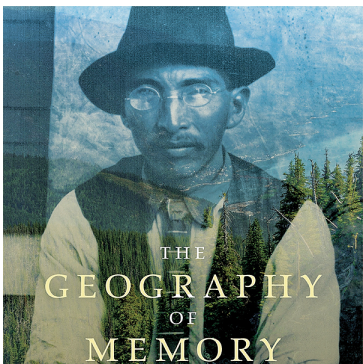
SKETCH THE GALLERY
[Adults](#) (16+): Oct 4, 18 & 25
[Kids](#) (7-13): Oct 5, 12 & 19

Bring your sketchbooks for access to the Nelson Museum's *Back on Track* exhibition. Registration is **FREE** (by donation) and you can attend one, two, or all three sessions. Pre-registration required, use the links above to register via Eventbrite. Adults are expected to bring their own sketchbooks; the kids series will have all materials supplied.



MINI-MASH
Saturday, October 15 |
11am - 3pm

We are celebrating our new brand launch! We are opening our doors to all of our community members to see the new look and enjoy some fun! Come to the museum for a full day of free family programming with arts and crafts for the young and young at heart. There will be performances throughout the day with entertainment for the whole family. Admission is **FREE** all day.



GEOGRAPHY OF MEMORY
BOOK LAUNCH
Tuesday, October 25 | 7pm

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes is launching the 20th Anniversary Edition of *Geography of Memory*, and celebrating with a panel discussion and community discussion with Shelley Boyd, Lesley Garlow, and Jan Inglis. **There will also be an event at the Capitol Theatre on Monday, October 24 at 7pm,** featuring the film premieres *Sinixt Ceremony* and *Washed Away*. Admission to both nights is **FREE**.

EXHIBITIONS



Hester and Other Damaged Kids

Amitai Ben David

August 20 to Nov 5, 2022

The haunting paintings in *There Once was a Girl Named Hester and Other Damaged Kids* are based on a children's book, published in Israel in the austere 1960s.

Amitai creates settings where the individual is surrounded by both the beautiful and the toxic, where brushstrokes build images and deconstruct them simultaneously. His 'damaged' and scarred protagonists are balancing themselves in a disintegrating landscape, stumbling and rising. Amitai depicts a world where horror and beauty are entangled, where nature blossoms and burns away in fantastic shapes and colours.



Back on Track

Curated by JP Stienne

Sept 16, 2022 to Feb 5, 2023

From the copper mines of the Boundary District through to the coalfields of the Crowsnest, railways impacted social, political, and economic life in the Kootenays. As the various and competing rail lines created a vast transportation network that connected east to west, it also brought calamity.

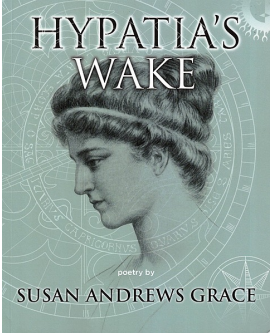
Back on Track is an exhibition that dives deep into the archives, explores both the vast opportunities and the detrimental practices that accompanied the expansion of the railways in the west. *Back on Track* is supported by Columbia Basin Trust.

SHOP

And just like that, it's fall! October is the best month - the business of summer is over, the Kootenay fall colours are in full effect, and everything is moving inward preparing for winter. **We thought it was a great month to put books on sale for members!** With new local releases like the 20th Anniversary edition of Eileen Delehanty Pearkes *Geography of Memory*, Michael Cone's *Connecting the Kootenays* and Terry Gainer's *When Trains Ruled the Kootenays*, it's a great time to learn about the history of our area or get stocked up for dad's Christmas present! **All books are 20% off for members for the month of October.**

Speaking of books, Susan Andrews Grace has a new poetry book launching at the Museum on Friday, October 7 at 7pm. *Hypatia's Wake* is a compelling poetry collection

that presents Hypatia of Alexandria, the Egyptian Neoplatonic philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician. Grace’s writing is described as, “intelligent with biting dashes of wit and playfulness.” The book will be for sale, and refreshments will be served. See you there!



EDUCATION

On the International Day of Peace, September 21, the Nelson Museum officially opened the permanent exhibit of Jaime Black's *The REDress Project* in the 2nd Floor Museum. This space will serve not only as a memorial for the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, but also as a place of quiet contemplation, and a safe space for reconciliation. We hope and expect to engage with classes of all ages as we navigate this challenging topic through the inspirational and healing power of Black's incredible work.

As always, tours are also available for the gallery exhibitions *Back on Track* and *Hester*, as well as the Archives, Cole War Bunker. Each tour can be tailored to suit any age group, and are always a great way to engage with students outside of the classroom, while connecting to topics covered in the BC curriculum.

School tours are available on Thursdays and Fridays, and can be booked through the Museum website or by emailing info@touchstonesnelson.ca.

ARCHIVES



The new *Back on Track* railway history exhibition opened last month, and it has been quite a journey for us getting the show open. The exhibition was due to open two years ago to coincide with a convention of the historical societies of the Great Northern and Canadian

Pacific railways; the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020 delayed the plans, but we were delighted to move the exhibition opening to this fall to fit it with the rearranged convention dates. When Archivist and Collections Manager JP Stienne was assigned the task of curating this exhibition, he knew that while we do have much material we could use at Nelson Museum, our archives and collections mostly relate to the local Nelson district. To tell the story of the Kootenay railway history more fully we were going to need to search out information and archives far and wide to reflect not only the geographic area features but also the various aspects that are part of the railway history, from tourism and sternwheelers to land rights and environmental legacies.

This spring and summer JP worked in collaboration with archivist colleagues up and down the region to discover some of the railway history treasures that can be found in storage rooms and archives across the region. It was a treat to visit the sites and get behind the scenes access to these archives. He even dipped out of a family vacation to Montreal to check out the CP Rail National Exporail Archives. Amongst the items brought together for this exhibition are railway tools from Fort Steele, CPR chinawear from Cranbrook History Centre, and a model railway from Creston Museum. We have an 1890s restored handcar from the Kaslo & Slocan Railway from the Kootenay Lake Archives in Kaslo -- a really rare and important Kootenay railway artifact. There is also a 1940s model speeder from the Nakusp Rail Society. There are photographs and artifacts on loan in the exhibition from eighteen different museums or archives, the vast majority right here in the Kootenays.

There are also pieces from thirteen different local individuals and organizations. Three pieces of military history were brought together from Nelson Legion and a private loanee; railway tables and chairs graffitied by Kootenay soldiers leaving to go and fight in the First World War, many who were not to see the Kootenays again. We thank the community for allowing us to display these items at Nelson Museum.

Last month we also received a great collection of photos and slides courtesy of Bernie Monteleone. Many were taken by his father and avid photographer Bennie Monteleone. The collection includes local 1950s baseball, basketball and track and field views. There are also some important views of Nelson's Italian-Canadian community and events and places around our area.

RESOURCES

Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History is committed to working for change. We have been working hard to create and maintain a space for challenging conversations about historical (mis)representation in Canada and beyond. We acknowledge that there is a great deal of work left to do in our forward momentum towards a deep and meaningful paradigm shift.

We would like to share our resource list with you, which includes links to websites, websites, peer-reviewed journals, and books that inform the work that we are doing. Check back often as this list will continue to grow!

We thank Mr. Andrew C. Joseph Jr., Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation & Sinixt Confederacy, for his [Letter of Support](#). We are honoured to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation & Sinixt Confederacy, with whom we are further expanding the role we can play in truth and reconciliation, and the decolonization of the Museum.

WEBSITES

[TRC Calls to Action](#)

[UNDRIP](#)

[BC Museums Association Learning Centre](#)

[The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education](#)

JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum | <https://onmuseums.com/journal>

Curator: The Museum Journal | <https://curatorjournal.org/>

Museum International | <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14680033>

Museums & Social Issues | <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ymssi20>

International Journal of Heritage Studies |

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjhs20/current>

Journal of Museum Education | <http://www.museumedu.org/journal/jme-online/>

[Reconciliation Framework](#)

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion in Museums

Edited by Johnetta Betsch Cole and Laura L. Lott (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019)

Museums, Equality and Social Justice, 1st Edition

By Richard Sandell and Eithne Nightingale (Routledge, 2012)

From Where I Stand: Rebuilding Indigenous Nations for a Stronger Canada

By Jody Wilson-Raybould (UBC Press/Purich Books, 2019)

[Native Women's Association of Canada \(NWAC\) Action Plan](#)

The Steering Committee on Canada's Archives [Reconciliation Framework](#)

FILM

Christopher Horsethief discusses strategies for public schools to embrace social justice, including developing conversations with Indigenous communities | [Vimeo: Christopher Horsethief](#)

[Understanding the First Nations Principles of OCAP\(TM\): Our Road Map to Information Governance](#)

Wanda Nanibush: [Navigating Change in Museums](#)

MOVEMENTS

[The REDress Project](#)
[Moose Hide Campaign](#)

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