

CONNECT... ART HISTORY CULTURE

The Newsletter of Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History

Executive Director's Message – by Leah Best

In 2012, our recipe for success is going to be mostly in giving ourselves more time for planning! Throughout the year, the Board and staff will be working on some large planning projects as well as incorporating more planning and evaluation into our day-to-day tasks. For example, an updated Strategic plan for 2012-2014 will be completed in time for the Society's Annual General Meeting. In addition to the Strategic Plan, a Facility Master Plan will be developed to determine the permanent future home of the Society's artifact collection. These large, organization-wide plans require resources and consulting assistance, but as an investment they are invaluable for creating stability in our operations.

On a smaller scale, we're going to schedule more meetings and work time to better evaluate our activities so that we can constantly be improving



Lending a hand with the annual changing of the flag (summer 2011)

on the services we deliver. It's a quality over quantity approach. With very limited staff resources, we have to be realistic about how much we can do and focus more on achieving value-added, quality programs and exhibitions. Along this theme, we are also establishing a Visual Arts Advisory committee to provide input on all aspects of our visual arts engagement from exhibitions and programs to collecting and storing artwork for the Society's permanent collection.

So look for these changes in the coming months including more programming added to exhibitions, more school visits as a result of our thoroughly revamped docent program, and improved communications and customer services. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. Let us know what you'd like to see us doing!

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Exhibitions February - June 2012

The History of Radio in Nelson

February 4 to April 8
Gallery B • Curator: Rod Taylor

- Opening Reception: Friday, February 10, 7-9pm
- Members Preview: 6:30pm

In its earliest days, radio had an almost magical quality, with its ability to draw voices seemingly out of thin air into small black boxes.

As its name suggests, this exhibit looks at the history of radio in Nelson, with a focus on the earlier years of broadcasting when the medium was most popular.



Miss CKLN 1952 • Stevens Studio Fonds
Collection of Touchstones Nelson

Selected artifacts from the Touchstones Nelson permanent collection will be featured, as well as amateur, or “ham” radio, (which continues to be a viable communication option for backcountry enthusiasts and others in our region), and a timeline of selected radio highlights from the early 20th century up to the present day.

Forest for the Trees

February 11 to April 15
Gallery A • Curator: Jessica Demers

Generously sponsored by The Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society

- Opening Reception: Friday, February 10, 7-9pm
- Members Preview: 6:30 pm
- Artist Talks: Thursday, March 1, 7pm

Forest for the Trees brings together four local artists whose work explores the interplay between nature and culture.

Through photography, sculpture, painting and installation, the artists reveal the tensions and connections between society and the natural world.

Artists Ian Johnston,
Tanya Pixie Johnson,



Barbara Maye • Ulme • Wood sculpture 2008 • Photo: Barbara Maye

Barbara Maye and Nadine Stefan present diverse approaches, with references to science, history, spirituality and First Nations culture.

By reflecting on our relationship with the natural world, perhaps we can come to a deeper understanding of our own place within it.

Exhibitions February - June 2012

Kootenay School of Art at Selkirk College • *Graduation Exhibition*

April 14 to June 17
Gallery B

- Opening Reception: Thursday, April 13, 7-9pm
- Members Preview: 6:30pm

This exhibition features the work of graduating students from the Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College.

Student work from each of the four studios: Clay, Fibre, Jewellery & Small Object Design and Metal will be displayed.



Selkirk
College

KSA's programs place emphasis on the skills necessary to become a successful and professional arts practitioner.

Hands-on studio work combined with the study of design, drawing, history, and professional practices leads to an in-depth understanding and refined ability to apply the essential elements for success in the industry.

Deborah Thompson *Tales from the Underworld*

April 21 to June 24
Gallery A • Curator: Rod Taylor

- Opening Reception: Friday, April 20, 7-9pm
- Members Preview: 6:30pm
- Artist Talk: Thursday, May 10, 7pm

In her most recent work, well known local artist, teacher and curator, Deborah Thompson, continues to explore the human psyche through her intuitive and gestural paintings.

Reoccurring images such as boats, birds and cloven hoofs assemble in painterly narratives exploring transformative themes of birth, life, death, and renewal.



Fire Ants • Acrylic and oil on canvas 2010 • Photo: Jeremy Addington

In addition to paintings, the exhibition will also feature a number of sculptural pieces.

Although visually and thematically complementary, they are quite different from her two dimensional work, and are further evidence of an artist whose practice continues to challenge both herself and her audience.

Winter Family Fair

Sunday, February 12, 12 to 4pm
Admission by donation

Come to Touchstones Nelson's Winter Family Fair! Make a Valentine card for that special someone! Warm up with a cup of hot apple cider! Watch a puppet show! Join *Forest for the Trees* artist Barbara Maye for a fun craft in Gallery A! The museum, art galleries and archives will all be open and admission is by donation with half of all proceeds raised over the course of the afternoon to be donated to a local charity.



Memory Kits for Seniors

In September of 2011, Touchstones Nelson launched Memory Kits for Seniors. This is a new venture that was made possible by the federally funded New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Project manager Nicole Tremblay created four interactive Memory Kits based on the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Each kit revolves around a theme relating to the different decades including

play, school, work and recreation. Using artifacts, photographs, newspaper articles and music the kits are intended to trigger memories and stories through the senses of sight, touch, smell and sound.

This free program is now available to seniors groups to allow hands-on discovery of long lost memories through multi-sensory stimulation. The Memory Kits for Seniors are facilitated by Touchstones Nelson's volunteers.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

for all members in good standing of the Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

April 11, 2012 • 6:30pm

**In the lobby of Touchstones Nelson
502 Vernon Street**

*The Society's annual report will be available online by March 28, 2012.
Hard copies will be available at Touchstones Nelson as well.*

Refreshments will be served.

Archives & Collections – by Laura Fortier

Two new projects are commencing in the Shawn Lamb Archives this year! First, Alex Dawkins, a University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Library, Archives, and Information Studies (SLAIS) student, was hired for a four-month co-op placement, beginning January 10 and ending April 28. Alex is joining the Touchstones Nelson team to work on a self-directed project funded by the BC Arts Council.

The project involves appraising, arranging, describing, and preserving the Archie Renwick fonds. Archie Renwick operated Renwick's Portrait Studio located at 316 Baker Street from the 1940s to the 1980s. The fonds consist of photographs of Nelson residents, city council members, and community leaders.

A most significant aspect of the collection is its photographs of the Doukhobor community. Renwick had the confidence of the Doukhobors and as a result, he was their photographer for a number of years and was able to document a variety of family events. Renwick kept a catalogue list of every individual he photographed, which will greatly assist in the description process of this project.



In the second project, two new volunteers, Marnie Newcom and Eric Martin, have begun to assist Cath Little, with creating a subject based filing system for all photographs in the Society's collection. Cath is an experienced volunteer who previously covered the front desk.

The project is of great importance to the daily functioning of the Archives. A subject based filing system will make these photographs easily accessible for researchers and Society staff. This is an extensive project, but these volunteers are up to the challenge.

