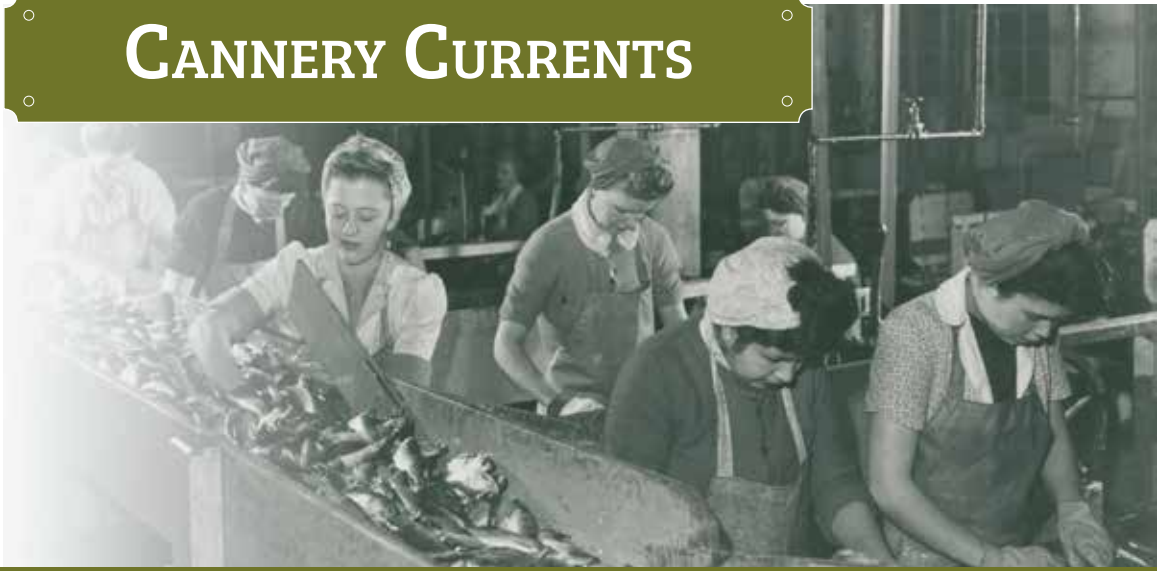




CANNERY CURRENTS



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WINTER ISSUE | VOLUME 25, NO. 3 DECEMBER 2020

From the Executive Director

A Look Back at 2020

Seasons greetings and happy holidays to all our members, supporters, volunteers, staff, and community! As 2020 ends, the Cannery is full of twinkling lights for our annual Steveston Festival of Trees. It is lovely to see our community coming together to showcase their creativity, and ending a very unexpected year on a familiar and celebrated note.

As we look back this year, there is much to be hopeful about and celebrate as a Society. After re-opening to the public in July, our members, Stevestonites and people of the Lower Mainland rediscovered the Cannery to much aplomb. Though our overall visitation was between 20 to 30% of 2019, our regular admission (excluding events and programs) 40 to 50% of last year. This means more locals came to learn about the site, investigate our history and support the Society in higher numbers than 2019.

One of the highlights of this summer was when Steveston was crowned the winner in CBC's Search for Metro Vancouver's Best Neighbourhood, from among 192 neighbourhoods. This led many to visit and spend time in the village and our site.

This Fall, our annual Halloween event was re-imagined into a fairy-tale reboot called *Once Upon a Haunted Sea*, for visitors of all ages to explore with safe distancing measures in place. The month-long installation was a great success, with over 1,000 visitors generating more regular admission visitors to the Cannery this October than in 2019.

Looking forward to 2021, though we are unsure of the future of our events and public programming, we are excited to plan new projects, undertake new innovations, and work to implement our ongoing Strategic Plan, while continuing our commitment to stringent health and safety measures. Our staff and volunteers have done an exceptional job in meeting the challenges of this year, being adept and mobile, and always committed to the highest standard of safety. I would like to take a moment and personally thank each and every one of our Cannery Crew and supporters for your



The view from the Parks Canada red chairs on our south dock. When this photo was taken in January 2020, little did we know how the year would turn out to be.

exemplary hard work, passionate spirit, and ongoing positive contributions. The Society would not be able to celebrate the successes that we have, without your dedication. 2021 will continue to inspire and bring new heights to our organization. In the meantime, as we put up our holiday decorations and come together while 'apart', we send our sincere well wishes to all our members, staff and volunteers and wish everyone a safe, and happy holiday celebration. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January and working together to create a successful and vibrant path forward into 2021.

STEPHANIE HALAPIJA

COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

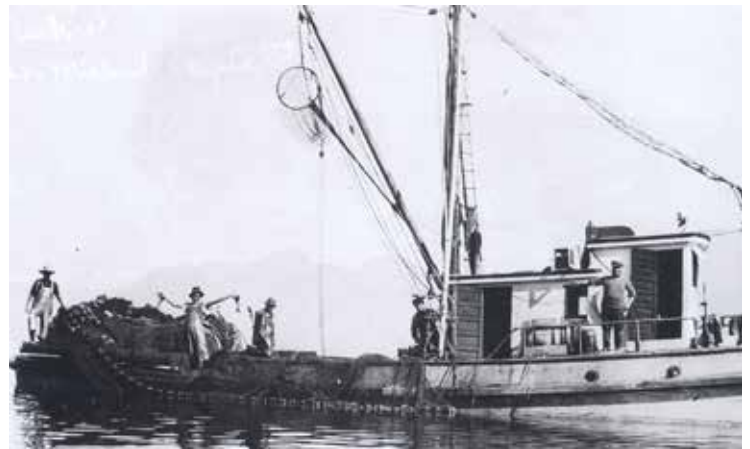
What's in an Image?

When you look at these images from our collection, what do you see? Maybe you see a representation of the variety of activities related to the West Coast fishing industry. Maybe you see the working conditions for some of the people who participated in the industry? Or maybe, in light of all the challenges that we ourselves have faced this past year, you see the steadfastness of generations of workers – those who were, and those who continue to be the backbone of the fishing industry. In this year of challenges, in these historical images I see inspiration. What about you?



Clockwise from top right: BC Packers workers at Imperial Cannery, Steveston, BC G2004.034.004; Table seiner Neekis, ca. 1920s G2002.003.001D; Herring canning line at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, ca. 1940s CFC-3-12-4

HEIDI RAMPFL



VOLUNTEERS

Society Newsletter Volunteer Team

Last month, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Betty Tasaka, a long-time society volunteer and dear member of our dedicated *Cannery Currents* newsletter mailout team.

For more than 15 years, this crew has met quarterly to fold, seal, and stamp hundreds (and cumulatively over the years, thousands) of newsletters to our society members. As the members who opt for newsletters by mail has decreased over the years, the two-hour sessions have become slightly shorter, but always include time for tea to chat and catch up with the latest goings-on in their lives and activities.

It is a pure delight to listen to their conversations, and to learn so much from them about the history of our society, our volunteers, and our community. During this phase of the pandemic, we miss having our volunteers gather for the mailout of the newsletter (this is currently being done by



*This photograph, taken in November 2016 with former Executive Director Rebecca Clarke, shows our longtime merry team of volunteers dedicated to helping the society with mailing out our quarterly *Cannery Currents* newsletter. From left to right: Joan Kellinghusen, Del Boyko, Betty Tasaka, (Rebecca Clarke), Gayle Cowper and Gerry Cowper.*

staff), and we hope that we will soon be able to have them return to Cannery for our quarterly catch up.

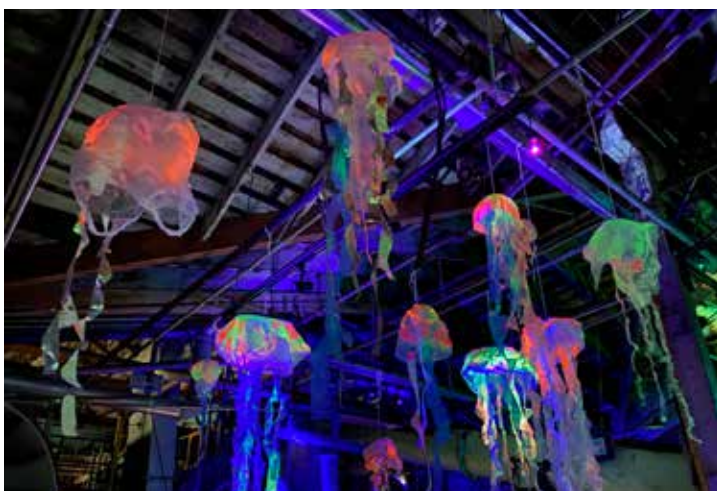
MIMI HORITA

Sustainability at the Cannery

At our virtual AGM this Spring, and in the last issue of Cannery Currents, we introduced the key points of our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and Vision Statement. One of our strategic objectives is to: “Increase educational opportunities connected to our environmental impact, climate change and sustainability.” In order to do this well in a public-facing position, we knew that we would first need to do an internal review our own daily work practices; how could we change our habits to be more sustainable? Head Interpreter Andrea Park was assigned the role of “Sustainability Leader” for our Society staff, and here she describes just some of our first steps on our road to achieve these goals.

We all play a role in the health of our oceans. Our individual measures will collectively have a significant positive impact on our planet. As a Society, we are looking at ways we can take action to operate on a more sustainable level. The first step was to look at our operations and identify where we are already doing well, and where we could improve. This is helping us determine where to focus our search for more sustainable options.

One of the small steps we have taken to reduce our impact on the planet has been to, where possible, replace lamination with the use of reusable plastic sleeves. We also no longer staple receipts at the front desk, and we offer store customers the choice of a paper or plastic bag (plastic bags will not be replenished once we run out of the current stock), or no bag at all.



Colourful “jellyfish” created out of plastic bags, used to decorate “Once Upon a Haunted Sea”, the Cannery’s sustainability-themed annual Halloween season event.



With increased cleaning of high-touch surfaces at the Cannery, we have switched from using paper towels to cloths that can be washed and re-used. We are also transitioning our choice of cleaning solutions to environmentally-friendly refillable options.

This past Spring, the thermal paper in our debit machines was replaced with paper from a local Vancouver company that also donates funds towards replenishing trees. EcoChit paper is sustainably sourced, BPA & BPS free, and wrapped around recyclable cardboard cores.

For any recyclable waste that is produced, we have begun to reorganize our recycling efforts to make it a more efficient system. With the recycling options available in the City of Richmond, we are able to keep many items out of the landfill. Items made from materials such as soft and flexible plastics, hard plastics, styrofoam and metal are taken to the City of Richmond Recycling Depot. Electronics are taken to either the Recycling Depot or Return-It facilities, where we have also taken old uniforms for recycling (with Cannery logos removed, of course!).

In the near future, we plan to begin collecting green waste that will be stored in the freezer until it can be put in a compost bin. We will continue to make small changes that will add up to a larger shift towards more sustainable operations and a healthier planet.

ANDREA PARK

Thank you for your support all new & renewing members

(AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2020)

Please note your name appears here only when you renew or join.
It does not appear in every issue.

Honorary & Lifetime Members

Jim Barlow Bud Sakamoto Robbie Johnson

Corporate Members

Dominique Jarry Sugar Art

Individual & Family Members

Erin Andrecheck	Janet Kay	Scott Ross
Elizabeth Batista	Erica Koenig-Workman	Jane Schmidt
Andrea Cade & family	N Leetiu & family	Lynne Scott
Allan Cayer	Christine Link	Irene Sommerfeldt
Antonia Delgado	Bill McNulty	Abigail Uher
Margaret Hewett & family	Jacinta Meehan	Carl Yokota
Corinne Gevaert	Bonnie L. Morrissey	
Jack & Evelyn Gilmour	Debbie & Sheldon Nider & family	
Mel & Barbara Goodwin & family	David Paiger	
Shuai Gu & family	Robert Parker	
Ben & Dianne Gwaltney	Margaret Perry	
Hassam Jamiz & family	Dale & Nancy Peterson	
	Anne Ptucha	

CANNERY GIFT SHOP

Christmas at the Cannery Store

Although this Christmas will be different from usual, we still have a great selection of nautical-themed ornaments as well as gifts and options for stocking stuffers. And remember, Society members receive a 20% on all regular-priced merchandise. What's more - shoppers will receive a free can of salmon for every purchase over \$20 between December 1 to 24.



Above left: New nautical-themed Christmas ornaments available in the gift shop. Don't miss the decorated tree in the Cannery lobby with other holiday ornament selections to choose from.

Above right (clockwise, from top left): Original Cannery salmon can label mugs, Gourmet Village hot chocolate, and Murchie's select tea bags - all perfect for stocking stuffers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1 to 24: Steveston Festival of Trees
Regular admission (free for members);
by monetary donation Dec. 6, 13 & 20

December 10 : Salmonids arrive

December 24 : Open 10am to 2pm

December 25 to January 1 : Closed

BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW TODAY !

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Cheques payable to: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society |
12138 Fourth Avenue, Richmond, B.C. V7E 3J1 | Telephone: 604-664-9009

Corporate \$100 Family \$45 Individual \$25 Senior (65+) \$20 New

Renewal Change of Address DONATION (amount) \$ _____

Please check here if you do NOT wish to have your name published as a new or renewing member.

As a member of the Society, we will be sending you updates on events and information about the Cannery. Please check below if you do NOT wish to receive these emails.

I do NOT wish to receive email updates from the Society