When John Fannin, the Royal BC Museum’s first curator, published his *Check List of British Columbia Birds* in 1891, he set in motion a publishing program that has engaged and informed British Columbians for 129 years. Since that first publication, the Royal BC Museum has released hundreds of works on diverse subjects, bringing the human and natural history of our province to life in exciting, innovative and personal ways.
The Royal BC Museum is located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwesepsum Nations). We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.

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Bats of British Columbia
A Royal BC Museum handbook
by Cori Lausen, David Nagorsen, Mark Brigham and Jared Hobbs

A full-colour, fully updated field guide to identifying British Columbia’s bats, with new material on acoustic identification.

With more than 1,400 species worldwide, bats live on every continent except Antarctica and in virtually every type of habitat, from desert to forest. Around the globe, bats fill important ecological roles by controlling insect populations, pollinating plants, dispersing seeds and even providing humans with medicines—the saliva of the famous vampire bat can be used to treat strokes! Yet despite their importance to the planet’s ecosystems, there remains more misinformation than fact and more fear than respect for these diminutive guardians of the night.

Since the first edition of Bats of British Columbia was published in 1993, an explosion in field studies of the province’s bat fauna, applying new tools such as genetic techniques and acoustic bat detectors, has added a wealth of new knowledge. This fully updated second edition includes new colour photographs throughout, with new material on acoustic identification. With in-depth information on biology, conservation, ecology and identification of the 18 species found in the province, the new Bats of British Columbia will help create an appreciation of this fascinating group of mammals.

Cori Lausen is a research biologist with Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.
David Nagorsen is a research associate at the Royal BC Museum and the Royal Ontario Museum with more than 30 years’ experience as a biologist.
Mark Brigham is a professor of biology at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, where he researches the behaviour and ecology of bats and nightjars.
Jared Hobbs is a Registered Professional Biologist and wildlife photographer who has worked for 25 years throughout British Columbia on many of the province’s rarest species.

RELATED TITLES

Carnivores of British Columbia
David F. Hatler, David W. Nagorsen, Alison M. Beal
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Rodents and Lagomorphs of British Columbia
David Nagorsen
978-0-7726-5232-4 PB
$29.95 CAN / $24.95 US
Unvarnished
Autobiographical Sketches by Emily Carr
edited by Kathryn Bridge

In vibrant prose and revealing detail, Emily Carr records delightful and insightful moments and encounters from her own life history.

Culled from the handwritten pages in old-fashioned scribblers and almost-forgotten typescripts amid drafts for her published stories, Unvarnished features among the last unpublished and highly personal writings of the iconic Canadian author and artist Emily Carr.

This highly readable manuscript—edited by Royal BC Museum curator emerita Kathryn Bridge and illustrated with sketches and photographs from the BC Archives—spans nearly four decades, from 1899 to 1944. In an almost stream-of-consciousness outpouring of stories, Carr chronicles her early years as an art student in England, her life-altering sojourn in France and subsequent travels to Indigenous villages along the coast, her encounters with the Group of Seven, conversations with artist Lawren Harris, and her sketching trips in the “Elephant” caravan in the company of a quirky menagerie. Also included are stories written in hospital recovering from a stroke, a particularly vulnerable time in her life.

Emily Carr’s books have remained in nearly continuous print since the 1940s. Unvarnished is a fresh addition to her enduring oeuvre, to be enjoyed as a complement to her other writings or as a jewel in its own right.

Kathryn Bridge is curator emerita at the Royal BC Museum, where she continues to centre her projects within the historical collections. She has written several books about Emily Carr and other historical women artists in British Columbia, and on mountaineer Phyllis Munday. In 2019 she was co-curator of Emily Carr Fresh Seeing.

Related Titles

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Kathryn Bridge
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Sister and I
Emily Carr
978-0-7726-6342-9 HC
$24.95 CAN / $19.95 US
Mushrooms of British Columbia
Royal BC Museum Handbook
by Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther

“This book will expand the pleasure and knowledge of anyone who spends time in nature.”
—R. Yorke Edwards

With more species of fungi than any other region in Canada, British Columbia is a rich playground for mushroom hunters. Now there’s Mushrooms of British Columbia, the newest handbook from the Royal BC Museum. It’s perfect for anyone wanting to know more about BC mushrooms—whether for study, harvest, photography or appreciation.

Authors and mushroom experts Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther bring a practical and playful approach to helping people quickly and confidently identify the mushrooms of British Columbia. Common names trump technical terminology, fungi are grouped by overall shape, and written descriptions of more than 350 common species are reinforced with carefully curated diagnostic images.

This is the go-to guidebook for anyone, amateur or expert, who loves to study, draw, photograph and eat BC mushrooms.

Andy MacKinnon is a forest ecologist and the co-author of six best-selling books about plants of western North America, including Plants of Coastal British Columbia. Kem Luther is the former dean of Sheridan College’s joint program in communication, culture and information technology at the University of Toronto. Since the 1990s he has focused on writing interpretive articles and books.

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Nancy Turner
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The Object’s the Thing
The Writings of Yorke Edwards, a Pioneer of Heritage Interpretation in Canada
edited by Richard Kool and Rob Cannings, with a foreword by Bob Peart

“To glimpse this diversity is to feel some of the meaning of being Canadian.”
—R. Yorke Edwards

R. Yorke Edwards was a pioneer in the field of heritage interpretation in Canada. First with BC Parks and then with the Canadian Wildlife Service, throughout the 1960s Edwards developed an approach to the interpretation of natural and cultural history with a focus on the “real thing”—the object, the place, the process, the person—in front of a visitor.

Almost everyone who has visited a Canadian park or museum has been touched by Edwards’s legacy—but few know his name. Through essays and photographs, a biography and sections from Edwards’s unpublished notebook, The Object’s the Thing introduces “the father of nature interpretation in Canada,” whose work still affects how we experience our heritage today.

Rick Kool is the former director of public programs at the Royal BC Museum and is now a professor in Royal Roads University’s School of Environment and Sustainability.

Rob Cannings is curator emeritus at the Royal BC Museum, where he was curator of entomology from 1980 to 2013 and managed the natural history section from 1987 to 1996.

Bob Peart was assistant director for research and public programs at the Royal BC Museum from 1985 to 1988.

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What Was Said to Me
The Life of Sti’tum’atul’wut, a Cowichan Woman
by Ruby Peter, in collaboration with Helene Demers
with a foreword by Molly Peter

A narrative of resistance and resilience spanning seven decades in the life of a tireless advocate for Indigenous language preservation.

Life histories are a form of contemporary social history and convey important messages about identity, cosmology, social behaviour and one’s place in the world. This first-person oral history—the first of its kind ever published by the Royal BC Museum—documents a period of profound social change through the lens of Sti’tum’atul’wut—also known as Mrs. Ruby Peter—a Cowichan elder who made it her life’s work to share and safeguard the ancient language of her people: Hul’q’umi’num’.

Over seven decades, Sti’tum’atul’wut mentored hundreds of students and teachers and helped thousands of people to develop a basic knowledge of the Hul’q’umi’num’ language. She contributed to dictionaries and grammars, and helped assemble a valuable corpus of stories, sound and video files—with more than 10,000 pages of texts from Hul’q’umi’num’ speakers—that has been described as “a treasure of linguistic and cultural knowledge.” Without her passion, commitment and expertise, this rich legacy of material would not exist for future generations.

In 1997 Vancouver Island University anthropologist Helene Demers recorded Sti’tum’atul’wut’s life stories over nine sessions. She prepared the transcripts for publication in close collaboration with Sti’tum’atul’wut’ and her family. The result is rich with family and cultural history—a compelling narrative of resistance and resilience that promises to help shape social policy for generations.

Sti’tum’atul’wut Ruby Peter is a Cowichan Elder and linguist who has trained Hul’q’umi’num’ language teachers and researchers for over six decades. She is the associate editor of The Cowichan Dictionary. Helene Demers is a Dutch-Canadian cultural anthropologist and a research associate at Vancouver Island University. Her research in the Cowichan Valley spans 30 years.

Related Titles

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Richard Hebda, Sheila Greer, Alexander Mackie
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Deep and Sheltered Waters
The History of Tod Inlet
by David R. Gray

A vivid social history of a remarkable place, drawing on research as deep as the waters themselves.

This book brings to light the fascinating story of a community and place: Tod Inlet, near Victoria, BC. From the original inhabitants—the Tsartlip First Nation—to the vanished community of immigrant workers from China and India, from traditional fishing ground to company town to parkland, the wealth of history in this rich area reflects the history of the entire province. The story of Tod Inlet and its communities spans from Vancouver Island north to Ocean Falls, south to California, and east to Golden, BC.

David Gray draws from interviews with elders of the Tsartlip First Nation, descendants of the Chinese and Sikh workers, and the local community, and from archives held in Victoria and Ottawa. This detailed, illustrated book by an award-winning filmmaker tells the whole story of the natural area, the archaeological sites, the community of Tod Inlet, the Vancouver Portland Cement Company and cement plant (an industrial first), and the development of the Butchart Gardens.

David R. Gray is a researcher, writer and filmmaker. He has curated two Virtual Museum of Canada exhibitions and directed and produced six documentary films, including the award-winning Canadian Soldier Sikhs. Dr. Nancy J. Turner is distinguished and Hakai professor in ethnoecology in the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. Robert D. Turner is the author of The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers and 17 other books.

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edited by Martha Black, Lorne Hammond and
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Food Plants of Coastal First Peoples

“A must-have reference for anyone interested in wild edible plants and traditional cultures of BC’s coastal First Peoples.”

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by David F. Hatler, David W. Nagorsen and Alison M. Beal

Humans share a long history with carnivores: we fear carnivores as predators, revile them as competitors, exploit them for their fur, or admire them for their grace and beauty. *Carnivores of British Columbia* describes each species, with illustrations of whole animals and skulls. For each species the authors discuss distribution and habitat, feeding ecology, social behaviour, reproduction, issues around health and mortality, abundance, human uses, conservation and management.

Trees and Shrubs of British Columbia

by T. Christopher Brayshaw

*Trees and Shrubs of British Columbia* is the definitive guide to all native and naturalized woody plants in the province. T. Christopher Brayshaw describes almost 300 species of trees and shrubs, as well as many subspecies and varieties. His beautifully detailed illustrations of leaves, flowers, fruits and woody parts are arranged to show the distinguishing traits in similar species. Diagnostic keys, comparative diagrams and a selection of colour photographs help make identification easy.
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