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.

CONTENTS

2 New books
6 Featured backlist titles
12 Backlist
• Indigenous
• History and biography
• Emily Carr
• Natural history
• Museums
16 How to order
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 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 Through essays and photographs, a biography and sections from Edwards’s unpublished notebook, *The Object’s the Thing* introduces “the father of nature interpretation in Canada,” whose work still affects how we experience our heritage today.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.
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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FEATURED BACKLIST TITLES

Treasures of the Royal BC Museum and Archives
by Jack Lohman, CBE

“Treasures masterfully weaves a narrative that explores the interconnections between natural, cultural, and historical spheres”
— Leslie Tepper, BC Studies

This beautifully designed book features dramatic new photographs of the collections and exhibitions housed in western Canada’s oldest, largest and best-loved museum. It is introduced by CEO Jack Lohman, who created the book as part of a far-reaching revitalization of the Royal British Columbia Museum. Lohman also contributes an insightful essay about the importance of museum collections and supports his argument with four more specific essays from Indigenous collections curator Martha Black, botany curator Richard Hebda, archaeology curator Grant Keddie and former provincial archivist Gary Mitchell.

Treasures of the Royal British Columbia Museum and Archives celebrates not just the richness of museum collections but their importance to culture, science and our understanding of British Columbia’s place in the world.

Jack Lohman, CBE, is chief executive officer of the Royal BC Museum. Before coming to Canada, he was director of the Museum of London, chair of the National Museum in Warsaw and chief executive officer of Iziko Museums of Cape Town.

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by Gordon McFarlane and Jackie King with photographs by Andy Murch

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