

December 9, 2013

**Royal BC Museum Launches *Curious Quarterly*
Curators Publish Directly to Journal App for the First Time in Canada**

Victoria, BC – Today, at the Museums and the Web Conference in Hong Kong, the Royal BC Museum launched its latest museum-world innovation – *Curious Quarterly*, the journal app.

This first-ever application of its type allows the museum’s curators to publish their own content directly to the journal app without mediation by others, interacting directly via Twitter through a universal ID. The mobile app will be available for iOS devices through the iTunes App Store, for Android devices through Google Play, or can be browsed at curious.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Curious Quarterly is in a format known by tech-types as a ‘magazine still content aggregator.’ But it’s not all about the tech side. The quality content and images appearing each quarter include a revival of material produced earlier, but delivered differently, as well as brand-new articles, essays, commentary, demonstrations and imagery by specialists in the field. Each edition has a different guest editor, with a managing editor to troubleshoot if needed.

Eric Espig, Digital Manager, Royal BC Museum, speaking from the web conference today said, “As far as I can determine, this is the first time that curators in Canada, and perhaps anywhere, will have the ability to publish directly and easily, with little to no mediation. Their content will push into a format that is image-rich, typographically sound, and a really enjoyable reading experience.”

‘Collection’ is the connecting theme of the first quarterly edition. Incredibly accurate hand-drawn illustrations of the Canid fly are rendered by Rob Cannings. Ann ten Cate shows the wide variety of unusual paper clips attached to archival documents. Jack Lohman, Royal BC Museum CEO, delivers a new essay on collecting and de-accessioning. Shane Lighter shows how he photographed a large and complex display known as the Chief’s case. Kim Gough finds inspiration to fight programmer’s block in the collection of mourning wear. Don Bourdon creates a side-by-side study of paintings, archival images and present-day photographs of the same British Columbia scene. Gardening with Saskatoon berries, found in the museum’s native plant garden, is Richard Hebda’s contribution while Gavin Hanke applauds citizen science and provides ways to get involved.

About the Royal BC Museum

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. Through collections, research, presentations and partnerships, the museum and archives tell the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Its two-hectare cultural precinct in Victoria includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

– 30 –

Media contact:

Sandra Hudson
250-216-1380
sandra@goodrelations.ca

Or

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries
250-387-3207
news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca