

May 25, 2016

Royal BC Museum June events leave indelible mark with First Nations festival and wild places

VICTORIA, BC – Feel the pulse of Aboriginal culture and get inspired by life in the wild at June events happening at the Royal BC Museum.

Did you hear the buzz? The museum is home to an entomology research collection of more than 600,000 insect specimens—some are 135 years old. Whether you're over-the-moon for Ondata or just a little curious about Coleoptera, indulge your inner insect on Wednesday, June 15, from noon until 12:30 pm during the Behind the Scenes tour: Butterflies and More. See for yourself where our talented researchers study and preserve this important collection that is vital to understanding BC's natural history. The tour is free with museum admission or membership, and is limited to 10 people—sign up begins at 11 am in the lobby.

The Aboriginal Cultural Festival returns to the Royal BC Museum precinct Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19. Join the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in celebrating National Aboriginal Day weekend with music, dance, food and the arts. The three-day celebration features Aboriginal performers from across the province, including three-time World Hoop Dancing Champion Alex Wells from the Lil'wat Nation. Shop the Artisans' Village for carvings, prints, jewelry and more. Watch special artisan demonstrations and learn more about the creative process from the artisans themselves. This free festival is presented in partnership with the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC.

On Saturday, June 18, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm join trailblazing Tlingit tattoo artist Nahaan for a presentation on Traditional Tlingit Tattoo Revival. Nahaan, of Lingít, Iñupiaq, and Paiute tribes, will discuss how the resurgence of cultural tattoos is healing the historical and present day traumas of colonization. He works in the pre-contact methods of tattooing, including skin stitch and hand poke applications, as well as modern day tattoo gun work. His impressive body of work includes traditional crest designs from several different tribes. Tickets are \$12 (Members enjoy a 10 per cent discount).

Burke Museum of Natural History research associate Mark Egger leads A Botanical Travelogue to the Scapegoat Wilderness, Wednesday, June 29, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Newcombe Conference Hall. Eggar is an expert in the genus Castilleja,



plants commonly known as Paintbrushes. In 2001, he embarked on a four-day hike in the Scapegoat Wilderness of Montana in search of the elusive *Castilleja kerryana* and found so much more. Tickets are \$12 (Members enjoy a 10 per cent discount).

School's out for summer! Well, almost, and it's time to reserve a place in one of the Royal BC Museum's popular summer camps. Camp Mammoth is a full day camp for 7-11 year olds. Campers will explore the feature exhibition *Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age* and the collection areas, build mini-dioramas, dig for fossils and much more. New this year are Mammoth Mornings camps and Living Sustainably - Then and Now. Kids aged 5-6 can roam the museum at Mammoth Mornings . Living Sustainably - Then and Now Camp 2016 takes place both at the museum and at O.U.R. Ecovillage in Shawnigan Lake. The camp will be a fun and adventurous way to think of the many solutions needed to live a more sustainable life. Secure your spot early; last year's summer camps sold out. Details and registration at royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/camps.

If you'd like to get to know your provincial museum a little better, join one of the many special one-hour guided tours of the museum's permanent galleries. Tours are offered most days and are free with admission or membership.

For more information on these and other events, or to purchase tickets, visit royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/calendar.

About the Royal BC Museum

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. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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