



# British Columbia Museums Association

SINCE 1957

#201 – 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1G2 Tel. 250-356-5700 Fax. 250-387-1251  
Email: [bcma@museumsassn.bc.ca](mailto:bcma@museumsassn.bc.ca) Website: [www.museumsassn.bc.ca](http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca)

## 2011 Museum in Motion Awards

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the BCMA's Awards Committee reviewed the nominations and made recommendations to Council regarding this year's recipients, subsequently accepted by the BCMA Council:

### Award of Merit (1)

Nominee: **Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director, Britannia Mines Museum.**

Kirstin's achievements as Executive Director of the Britannia Mine Museum encompassed fundraising, historic restoration, museum interpretation and education and a variety of other tasks associated with the complete restoration and refurbishment of a major historical/industrial site. Kirstin maintained high standards in museum practise while planning to make the Britannia Mines museum function as a popular tourist attraction and business. Her work has been recognised by the Canadian Museums Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Facility Development and Design.

The committee recognized Kirsten's achievement in implementing an ambitious and comprehensive plan to refurbish the Britannia Mines Museum. Her work has shown innovation and an unswerving commitment to core museum values of restoration, interpretation, education and conservation. All of the committee were strongly impressed with the breadth and scale of Kirstin's achievement.

### Award of Merit (2)

Nominee: **The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford BC, for *Beadwork-Radical Practices, Beading Practises of Yukon First Nations (Canada) and the Ndebele (South Africa)***

*Beadwork- Radical Practices* interprets two beadwork traditions from two very different cultures. The differences and similarities of these two traditions are explored, with emphasis on the historical aspects as well as materials, outside influences, use of beadwork in the ceremonial and everyday contexts, and the place of beadwork within women's traditions. A panel discussion entitled "The Politics of Collecting Indigenous Artwork", curator's tours and a reception were part of the exhibit as well.

The committee was impressed with the international quality of the show, which used beadwork objects from the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa as well as beadwork from the Yukon Territorial Government Permanent Art Collection and the MacBride Museum, both located in Whitehorse, Yukon. The committee felt that the exhibit offered a unique cross-cultural perspective that was illuminating and respectful to the two culture and traditions represented.

### **Award of Merit (3)**

Nominee: **Richard Todd McCrea**

Richard T McCrea has been active in researching, interpreting and promoting the paleontological heritage of the Tumbler Ridge area since 2001. His first visit prompted him to interrupt his ongoing PhD studies and move to Tumbler Ridge, where he was instrumental in the formation of the Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation. After raising sufficient funds and working to promote and protect paleontological sites around Tumbler Ridge, the Peace River Paleontological Research Centre was established. In May of 2010, the 6000 square foot Dinosaur Discovery gallery was opened. The Research Centre and the museum now have a collection of international importance, augmented by education programs and other forms of public outreach.

The committee was very impressed with the nominee's achievements in creating a highly regarded heritage resource where nothing had existed before. Mr. McCrea is clearly a trailblazer in what he has accomplished in Tumbler Ridge. As his nominator, Dr. Charles Helm makes clear, the community of Tumbler Ridge, which was facing near extinction, has been revitalized by its appearance on the scene as an internationally recognized centre for research and interpretation. As a result, the region has become a prime northern BC tourist destination, with all of the positive economic benefits this implies. In all of this activity, high standards of preservation, interpretation and research have been maintained.

### **Distinguished Service Award** (Sponsored by the City of Kamloops)

Nominee: **Ron Candy, Director/Curator, Greater Vernon Museum and Archives**

Ron Candy has been the Director of the Vernon Museum and Archives since 1992. His achievements since that time have brought the Vernon Museum to prominence as a model of what a smaller museum can accomplish with dynamic, imaginative leadership. Ron has worked hard to showcase Vernon's unique heritage at every opportunity. At the same time, he has built the organisational infrastructure that serves as a solid foundation for future endeavours.

The Vernon Museum has consistently showcased and promoted the work of local artisans and citizens. One such effort centred on the life and work of Canadian ornithologist and wildlife illustrator Allan Brooks, who has been called Canada's Audubon. Ron has collected over 80 works by Brooks, and the Vernon Museum is now the recognized centre for studying the life and work of this prominent British Columbian and former Vernon resident. In 2001, the Government of Canada recognized Brooks as "a person of national historical significance". In 2008, Ron curated an exhibit celebrating the life of Anna Cail, a much loved Vernon schoolteacher and history advocate. Ms. Cail, who died in 2009 at the age of 98, was able to view the exhibit and took part in the opening. The Vernon Museum's work in interpreting the lives of these two very different individuals, and in honouring and bringing their work to the notice of the community, is the essence and strength of smaller museums. Ron has accomplished for more than what is described; there have been home-grown "blockbuster" exhibits on dinosaurs and hockey players, satellite museums have been established in the district based on themes ranging from the history of the Vernon Cadet Camp to the local curling scene. There have been a number of publications, participation in employment programs and an impressive array of public programs.

The committee was very impressed with the breadth and duration of Ron's work. His achievements range across the museum spectrum, with solid representation in curatorship, public outreach, interpretation and education, ongoing planning for new and improved premises, and leadership in cultural matters. Ron Candy has fulfilled all of the criteria established for the Distinguished Service Award.