

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
**BRITANNIA**  
MINE MUSEUM



## BRITANNIA MINE MUSEUM PRESS KIT

**Media contact:** Yvonne Chiang, Publicist, 604.880.5090, [yvonne@britanniamuseum.ca](mailto:yvonne@britanniamuseum.ca)

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*Photos: 1. Britannia Mine Museum Overall Site (previous page), 2. Mill No. 3, a National Historic Site (previous page), 3. Gold Panning Pavilion, 4. Underground Mine Train*



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## Britannia Mine Museum Fact Sheet

The Britannia Mine Museum is a mining legacy site and a vibrant, internationally recognized education and tourist destination located between Vancouver and Whistler on the Sea-to-Sky highway. It is both a National Historic Site and a BC Historic Landmark, and was established in 1974 to celebrate the contributions of mining and minerals to society, the history of the storied Britannia Beach community and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability.



It is a premier, non-profit organization that promotes mining awareness through entertaining, experiential education programs, important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement. Governed by the Britannia Beach Historical Society, the museum provides visitors with a unique blend of experience, serving as a tourist destination, an adventure attraction and education venue that allows guests to leave with a better understanding of mining in BC; past, present and future.

Revitalized in 2010 with a major \$14.7-million three-phase redevelopment project, the reinvented Museum commemorates the accomplishments and ingenuity of Canada's mining pioneers and showcases the evolution of the mining industry, its advances and achievements. It highlights Canadian innovation and leadership in sustainable mining and resource development and environmental stewardship.

Open seven days a week, the Museum offers exciting new and existing venues for exploration, discovery and local arts and culture, featuring:



**Underground Mine & Train Ride** – A memorable underground train that takes visitors deep inside a mining tunnel where they will experience what life was like for miners in the 70 years Britannia existed as a mine (1904-1974). They will learn about the drills and machines the miners used and understand the mineralization process and rich colours produced as minerals are exposed to water and air.

**Historic Mill Building** - A National Historic Site and one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America, the 20-storey Mill Building is an awe-inspiring cliff-side building that has been the symbol of Britannia throughout the years. Restored in 2007, each of the 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage and the building can be seen from miles away on the Sea-to-Sky highway.



# BRITANNIA MINE MUSEUM



In 2019, the Museum will unveil a new immersive Mill Show Experience, a multi-sensory, visceral, acoustic adventure and captivating special effects show that brings the historic Mill building back to life. Visitors will be transported back in time by the 12-minute theatrical spectacle that showcases the 20-storey architectural marvel that was once a beacon to the community.

**Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre** – The central exhibit hall that houses several theatrical mining displays and a mineral gallery, theatre space, gift shop, an interactive “Kids Playce” area and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame where visitors can learn about Canadian mining pioneers.



**A-Z Administration Building** – A fully restored heritage building that is now an exhibition centre to showcase the stories of the Britannia Beach community from 1904 to 1974. From love letters and antiques to historic photos and videos of former Copper Queens, the exhibits will show what life was like in the old mining town.

**Gold Panning Area** – A scenic boardwalk and cedar-post covered area where people can spend hours panning for real gold or visit the restored heritage buildings nearby.

**Machine Shop** – The 1908 Machine Shop is home to a number of historic machines and equipment donated by mining companies from across the country. The building also features several unique art exhibits throughout the year.



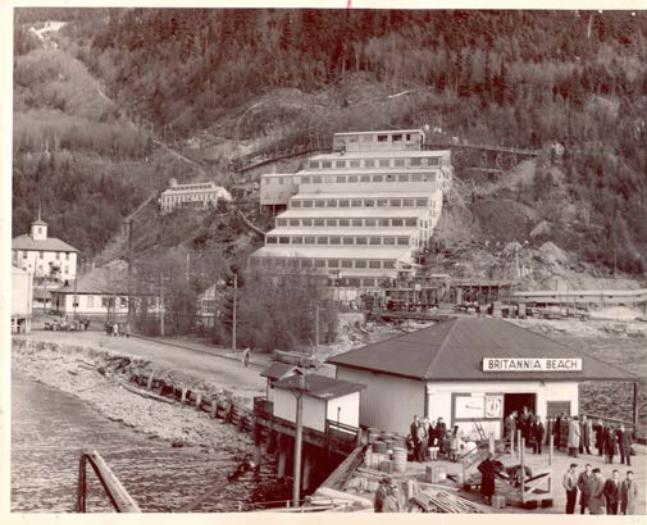
**Family Play Area** – Young and old alike can play in this expanded sunlit, protected, mining-themed play area where they can have fun in a Super Haul truck and imagine themselves as miners using toy diggers, trucks and hoppers.

**Core Sheds** – An immense archive of rock core samples drilled from the mountainside and collected throughout Britannia’s mining years.

**EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant** - Represents Britannia's environmental remediation legacy. Britannia Mines had an environmental impact on Howe Sound due to acid rock drainage, which occurs naturally when rainwater reacts with oxygen and exposed minerals. The water treatment plant uses natural materials to filter minerals and neutralize surface water runoff collected from the area, resulting in clean water flowing into Howe Sound.

**Statistics & Facts** - Visitors: 72,000; Students Served Annually: 10,000; Membership: 700 members.

## History of Britannia Mines



The mine's story began in 1888 when Alexander Forbes, an enterprising doctor originally from Scotland, was prospecting at Britannia Beach in search of fortune. A fortune he found almost by accident while hunting when he came upon a patch of mineralized rock. That chance event led to the opening of one of the largest copper mines in the world.

The Britannia Mining and Smelting Company first opened the Britannia Mines in 1904, and constructed the first ore processing plant - Mill 1. Improvements in the techniques of the mineral separation processes resulted in the upgrade of the mill to Mill 2 in 1916, capable of producing 2,000 tons of ore per day.

On March 21, 1915, a rock and snow slide destroyed the original 'Jane Camp', killing 56 men, women and children. Construction began immediately on a new, safer town 2,000 feet below the original town and became known as the 'Townsite' or 'Mount Sheer'.

Although Britannia and Mount Sheer town site were quite isolated with the area only accessible by boat until the railway and highway were built, life was never dull. Facilities included libraries, clubrooms, billiard rooms, swimming pools, tennis courts, a roller-skating rink and a bowling alley. A thriving social calendar saw sporting events, theatrical productions, dances, movies and parties held throughout the year.

In 1921, a fire destroyed Mill and in October of the same year, a massive flood destroyed the small community on the banks of Britannia Creek, killing 37 people. The construction of another new Britannia Beach town and the new Mill 3 began shortly thereafter, which still stands today.

By 1929, the Britannia Mines were the largest copper producer in the then British Empire. Throughout the years, copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and cadmium were extracted.

In 1956, the railway was completed from Squamish to North Vancouver, and two years later the Sea to Sky Highway was completed. In 1963, the Anaconda Mining Company bought the property and mine.

The mine was eventually shut down in 1974 due to the economy and increasing operating costs.

During the seventy-year life of Britannia Mines, 60,000 people from more than 50 nations and cultures, worked and made their homes in the community.

With the support of the mining community and the federal and provincial governments, the Britannia Beach Historical Society opened the Britannia Mine Museum in 1975.



In 1988, Mill 3 was designated as a National Historic Site and is one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America. The Museum Site is also recognized as an important historic landmark within British Columbia.

In 2005, a restoration project began on the Mill 3 building. The scope of the project was enormous; it included stabilizing the concrete foundations, re-roofing each level, re-glazing the windows, and re-siding the building. A labour of love, each of the 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage. The Mill has been the location for a number of movies and TV series including *Scooby Doo Two*, *The Age of Adaline*, *The Flash*, *Supernatural*, *The X-Files*, and the premiere episode of the sixth season of *The Amazing Race Canada: Heroes Edition*, as well as several concert performances, most recently with the Men of the Deeps.

In 2010, the Britannia Mine Museum completed the first phase of a major \$14.7-million redevelopment project that transformed a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized destination. The reinvented Museum celebrates the contribution of mining and minerals to society, the history of the storied Britannia Beach community and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability. New sites include the Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre (theatre, mineral gallery, Canadian Mining Hall of Fame), the Britannia A-Z Exhibition Building, a scenic boardwalk, revamped gold panning area, expanded children's play area and event plaza. More information is available in the *Britannia Mine Museum Fact Sheet*.

### Quick Historical Facts

- There are 210 km (150 miles) of mining tunnels in the mountain at Britannia.
- The two communities in the area, Britannia Beach and Mount Sheer, accounted for a population of 60,000 spanning over 70 years. Men and women came from all parts of the world to live and work in the isolated areas.
- Britannia Beach was only accessible by boat from 1904 to 1956 (it took 2 days to travel from Britannia to Vancouver by boat) when they added a rail line to the area. A road was not added until 1958.
- Only employees of the mine and their families could live in the community.
- The Mine was once the largest copper mine in the British Empire. During its operation (1904 – 1974) more than 50 million tons of ore were produced of which included:
  - 650,00 tons of copper
  - 137,000 tons of zinc
  - 17,000 tons of lead
  - 500,000 ounces of gold
  - 6 million ounces of silver
  - 1.55 million lbs of cadmium
- BC has a global reputation as a leading jurisdiction for mining with rich, diverse mineral deposits in every corner of the province; copper, coal, zinc, silver, gold, lead and molybdenum are the primary minerals mined in the province. BC is Canada's largest producer of copper and steelmaking coal, the second largest producers of silver, and the only producer of molybdenum. (Source: Mining Association of BC)
- In 2017, BC's mining activities generated more than \$11.7 billion in gross mining revenues and companies invested \$1.5 billion in capital expenditures at sites throughout the province. In 2017, the BC mining industry directly employed more than 10,000 British Columbians (Source: Mining Association of BC)



## The Environmental Remediation of Britannia

Britannia Mines had an environmental impact on Howe Sound due to acid rock drainage, which occurs naturally when rainwater reacts with oxygen and exposed minerals.

In the 1930's, the issue was known about, though little was understood about the environmental impacts. Environmental standards changed over the years and in 2004, the Province of BC worked with the Britannia Mine Museum and Golder Associates to commission EPCOR to build and operate a water treatment plant.

The EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant uses natural materials to filter minerals and neutralize surface water runoff collected from the area. The water is collected at the plant and is first treated with lime slurry (a mixture of lime and water) in two reactor tanks. The alkaline lime neutralizes the acidic water, quickly raising the pH which causes dissolved metals to naturally come out of solution and precipitate as tiny particles. The water is then fed into a large 'clarifier' tank where a customized, manmade polymer is added. This electro-statically attracts the metal particles, forming clumps that sink through their own weight, creating a dense sludge at the bottom of the tank. This is removed, and the clean water flows into Howe Sound.

Committed to environmental stewardship, the Britannia Mine Museum provides visitors with educational tours of the water treatment plant to learn more about environmental issues.

In the few short years that the remediation campaign has been taking place, Golder Associates have been monitoring the shoreline at Britannia for dissolved metal levels and for its ecology. Marine life has now returned and there have even been recent sightings of whales in the Howe Sound area.

"Mining has come a long way in terms of how they view the environment since the industry began in BC and elsewhere. In the historic sense miners did not intentionally set out to cause negative environmental impacts; today there is a continual process of learning in the industry, being responsive to modern values and standards and ensuring that mining practices are healthy, sustainable and environmentally sound," says Kirstin Clausen, executive director of the Britannia Mine Museum.

Another area where the Museum proactively makes a responsible environmental choice is in rehabilitating and repurposing existing historic buildings rather than demolishing and building new. There is a continual effort to use local suppliers for materials and supplies so that there is a reduced environmental impact and a strengthening of the local economy.

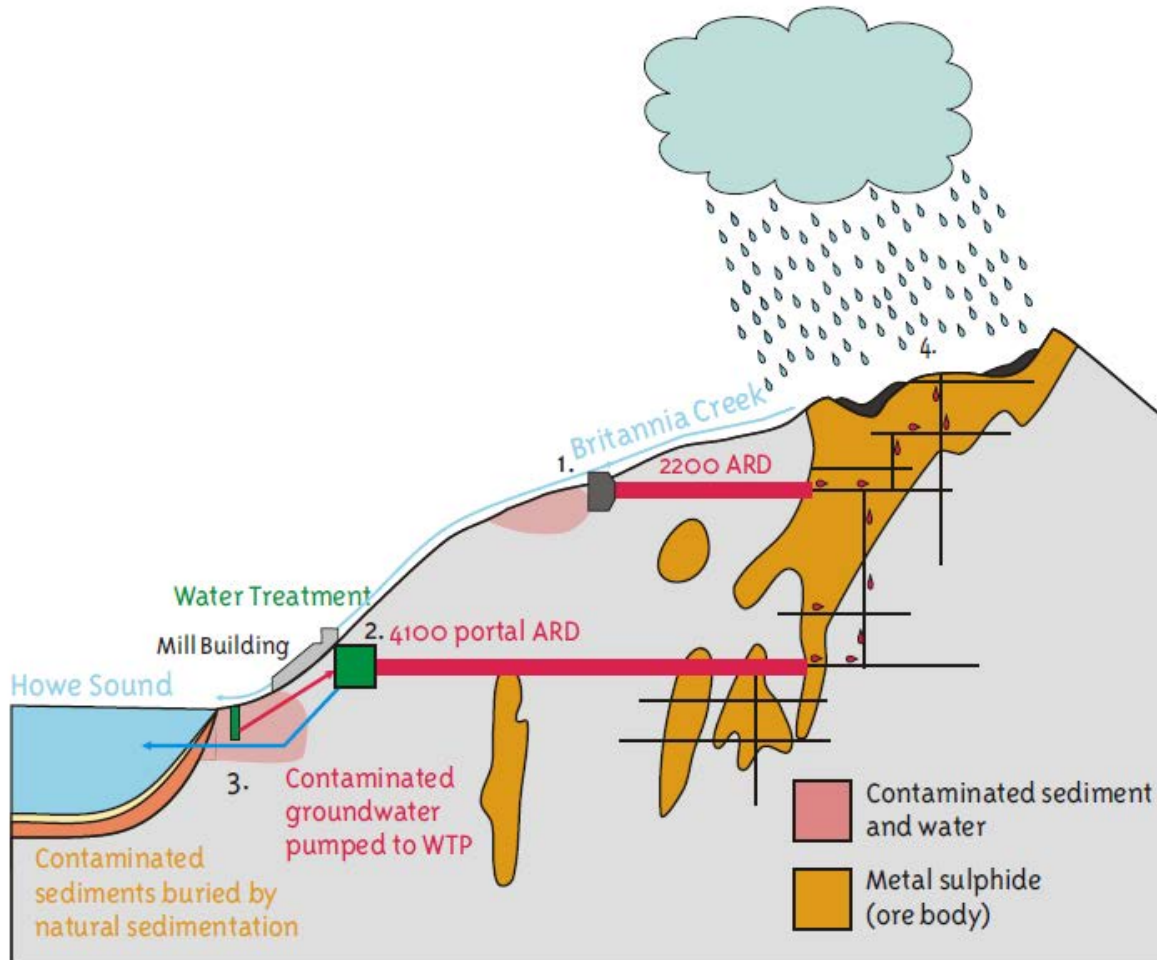
In 2005, a restoration project began on the Mill 3 building, a National Historic Site. The scope of the project was enormous; it included stabilizing the concrete foundations, re-roofing each level, re-glazing the windows, and re-siding the building while maintaining the original wood frames. A labour of love, each of the 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage.

"The rehabilitation of Britannia Beach is an environmental success story and a testament of what can be achieved when public and private groups work together to achieve the same goal," says Clausen. "The Museum's existence, environmental remediation, ongoing restoration wouldn't be possible without the continued support of the mining industry, government and our community partners."

"Britannia is an important part of BC's history and we're committed to ensuring that these stories are shared and remembered for generations to come."



## EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Process



How the pollution has been addressed:

1. Concrete plug prevents ARD leaving 2200 portal
2. ARD collected at 4100 portal and treated by Water Treatment Plant
3. Groundwater collected on foreshore and pumped to Water Treatment Plant
4. Original mining pit slowly being infilled by rock waste and sludge from treatment process, and water from higher on mountain, being diverted away from pit

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## Story Ideas



The Britannia Mine Museum is more than just a tourist destination. They also provide unique and memorable educational experiences that engage visitors of all ages in the spirited history of Britannia, highlighting the mine's role in the Canadian mining industry, and preserving its heritage. The Museum offers journalists and writers a plethora of story ideas ranging from travel and tourism, mining and business, to family and lifestyle topics. Below are just a few topic ideas but please contact the Museum's publicist for more.

### **A perfect stop for families between Whistler and Vancouver**

Located halfway between Vancouver and Whistler and only 10 minutes from Squamish, the Britannia Mine Museum is a perfect stop for those traveling along the Sea-to-Sky highway. Whether it's for a quick break from the drive to or from Whistler or a nice afternoon stop from the Lower Mainland, the Museum has so much to offer for families and adventure buffs. There is the highly sought after underground train ride and tour inside a mine, gold panning for real gold under a beautiful post-and-beam structure, the kid-friendly interactive displays and theatre in the Beaty-Lundin Centre, the children's play area, as well as the historic 20-storey mill building built into the side of the cliff just to name a few, there are endless things to do for people of all ages. It's not just all fun and games either as the Museum features boundless historic and educational information about mining, minerals, and the environment.

### **Britannia Mines: A vibrant, multi-national community with roots from 50 countries**

The Britannia Mine was once the biggest copper producer in the British Commonwealth. In its 70-year history, more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries around the world worked and lived in the Mount Sheer town site and Britannia Beach communities. Miners brought their families over from overseas especially from the British Commonwealth, Europe and Asia. Families brought their children up in a community where the mining company provided several town amenities, including an outdoor heated swimming pool, bowling alley, movie theatre, school, hospital, churches, store and clubhouse.

### **Romance in the Mines**

With more than 60,000 people living and working in the Britannia Mine communities in its 70-year history, there were many romances that blossomed. There were many single men who worked at the mines and lived in the bunkhouses and the company held dances and parties throughout the communities. Many of them met their would-be girlfriends and wives at these gatherings. Others, like one of the museum's tour guides, met his wife when he was working as a mine supervisor and she was the receptionist. Love was not only for the single men and women, as many miners have loved ones back in their home countries. These husbands would write their wives often about what life was like working in the mines. One such love letter is on display in the Museum's A-Z building, written by a miner to his sweetheart in England.



## Television & Movie Credits

**Television Shows**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| MacGyver – <i>Richard Dean Anderson</i> (1989/91)          | Company Man (2007)   |
| Highlander – <i>Adrian Paul</i> (1993/94)                  | The 4400 (2007)  |
| 21 Jump Street – <i>Johnny Depp, Richard Grieco</i> (1990) | Bionic Woman (2007)  |
| Wiseguy – <i>Ken Wahl</i> (1990)                           | The Guard (2007/2008)  |
| Cobra (1993)   | Eureka – <i>Colin Ferguson</i> (2008)                          |
| X-Files – <i>David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson</i> (1995)   | Umbrella (2008)  |
| Outer Limits (1995/96)                                     | Human Target – <i>Mark Valley</i> (2009)                       |
| Them (1996)  | Clue – <i>Zack Mills</i> (2011)                                |
| Two – <i>Micheal Easton</i> (1996)                         | Fringe – <i>Anna Torv/Jashua Jackson</i> (2011)                |
| Stargate – <i>Richard Dean Anderson</i> (1997)             | Once Upon A Time – <i>Ginnifer Goodwin</i> (2011)              |
| Millennium – <i>Lance Henriksen</i> (1997)                 | Secret Circle – <i>Britt Robertson</i> (2012)                  |
| Sleepwalkers (1997)  | Big Thunder - <i>Spencer Locke</i> (2013)                      |
| The Crow (1998)  | The Hunters - <i>Victor Garber/ Michelle Forbes</i> (2013)     |
| Hope Island (1999)   | King & Maxwell - <i>Jon Tenny /Rebecca Romjin</i> (2013)       |
| Mysterious Ways (2000/01)                                  | Continuum - <i>Rachel Nichols/ Victor Webster</i> (2014)       |
| Animal Miracles (2001)                                     | Sign Sealed Delivered- <i>Eric Mabijs/Kristin Booth</i> (2014) |
| Hope Island (1999)   | The 100- <i>Eliza Taylor/Bob Morley</i> (2014)                 |
| Mysterious Ways (2000/01)                                  | Supernatural- <i>Jared Padalecki/Jensen Ackles</i> (2016)      |
| Animal Miracles (2001)                                     | Wayward Pines- <i>Siobhan Hogan/Toby Jones</i> (2016)          |
| Dark Angel (2001)  | The Magicians- <i>Jason Ralph</i> (2016)                       |
| Wolf Lake – <i>Lou Diamond Phillips</i> (2001)             | Altered Carbon – <i>Joel Kinnaman</i> (2017)                   |
| Jeremiah (2001-2003)                                       | Colony – <i>Josh Holloway</i> (2017)                           |
| Taken (2001)   | Travelers – <i>Eric McCormack</i> (2017)                       |
| Smallville (2001-2003)                                     | The Crossing- <i>Steve Zahn</i> (2017)                         |
| Jeremiah II (2003)   | The Man in the High Castle – <i>Alexa Davos</i> (2017)         |
| Jack (2003)  | Resident Alien (2018)  |
| Alaska (2003)  | The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (2018)                      |
| Dead Zone (2002-2003)                                      | Amazing Race Canada (2018)                                     |
| Kingdom Hospital (2004)                                    | Six – <i>Walton Goggins</i> (2018)                             |
| Open Season (2006)   | Detour – <i>Jason Jones</i> (2018)                             |

**Movies**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| We're No Angels – <i>Robert DeNiro, Sean Penn</i> (1989)          | Misbegotten – <i>Kevin Dillon</i> (1997)                     |
| Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup> – <i>Jason Takes Manhattan</i> (1989) | Nick Fury – <i>David Hasselhoff, Lisa Rinna</i> (1997)       |
| Avalanche – (1990)  | Plea Bargain – <i>Jack Wagner</i> (1997)                     |
| Leaving Normal – <i>Meg Tilly, Christine Lahti</i> (1991)         | Shadow Warriors II – <i>Hulk Hogan, Shannon Tweed</i> (1998) |
| This Boy's Life - <i>Robert DeNiro, Ellen Barkin</i> (1992)       | Double Jeopardy – <i>Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd</i> (1998) |
| Intersection – <i>Richard Gere, Sharon Stone</i> (1993)           | I'll Remember April (1998)                                   |
| Arctic Blue – <i>Rutger Hauer</i> (1993)                          |  |

# BRITANNIA MINE MUSEUM

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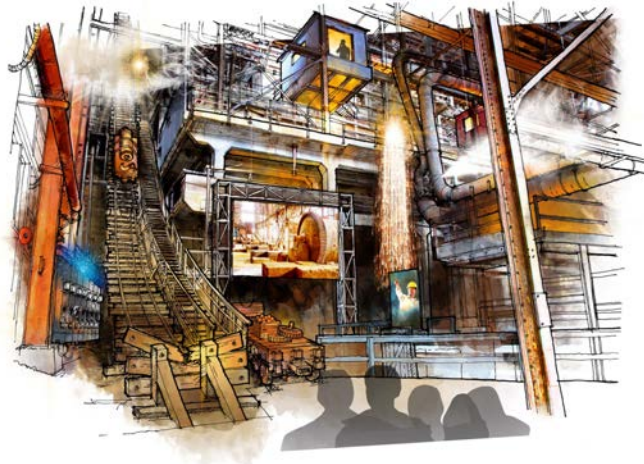
Spoils of War – Rea Pearlman (1993)	Resurrection – Dana Delaney (1998)
Red Scorpion II (1993)	Camouflage –Leslie Nielson, Lochlyn Munro (1998)
White Fang II (1993)	So Weird (1998)
Hideaway– Jeff Goldblum/Christine Lahit/Alicia Silverstone (1994)	Atomic Train – Rob Lowe (1998)
Dog Hermit – Henry Winkler (1995)	Master of Horror (2005)
Gold Diggers (1995)	The Core (2005)
Stay Tuned – John Ritter (1995)	The Cleaner (2005)
The Escape –Patrick Dempsey (1995)	The Pathfinder (2005)
Island of Shadows (1999)	Dead Zone (2005)
BlackTop - Lochlyn Munro (2000)	The Invisibles (2005)
Kevin of the North –Leslie Nielson (2000)	Stunt Dawgs (2005)
Faithful Travelers (2000)	Journey to the Centre of the Earth-Brendan Fraser (2006)
The Aladdin Window (2000)	Fantastic Four – Jessica Alba, Michael Chiklis (2006)
Devil Wore a Skirt (2000)	The Watchman (2007)
Alain Aux Pay des Merveilles (2001) NFB Documentry	Snow Demons (2007)
Lone Hero (2001)	Lost Boys 2 – Corey Feldman (2007)
Insomnia – Robin Williams, Hilary Swank, Al Pacino (2001)	Vipers (2007)
Treasure Mountain (2001)	Phantom Racer- Greg Evigan (2008)
Scooby Too – Sarah Michelle Geller (2003)	Stonehenge Apocalypse – Misha Collins (2009)
Alone In The Dark (2003)	Behemoth – Ed Quinn (2009)
Any Niagara (2003)	Boy WhoCried Werewolf–Victoria Justice (2009)
Are We There Yet (2003)	Hunt to Kill- Eric Roberts (2009)
Jack (2003)	Riverworld – Tahmoh Penikett (2009)
Wilder Days (2003)	Earth’s Final Hours – Hamza Adam (2010)
Everything’s Gone Green (2005)	Garden Of Evil - (2010)
Dark Within (2005)	Killer Mountain – Aaron Douglas (2010)
Final Days (2005)	Red Riding Hood – Amanda Seyfried (2010)
Poltergeist – The Legacy (1995)	Ghost Storm – Crystal Allen (2011)
Excess Baggage – Alicia Silverstone (1996)	12 Disasters of Xmas – Ed Quinn (2012)
Air Bud (1996)	Falling Skies – Noah Wyle (2012)
Dead Man’s Gun (1996)	The Interview-James Franco /Seth Rogen (2013)
Free Willy III (1996)	Age of Adaline -Blake Lively/Michael Huisman(2014)
Millennium Plague (1999)	Okja - Tilda Swinton/Paul Dano (2016)
Tomorrow at Ten (1999)	Descendants I (2016)
Bloodsuckers 2 (2004)	Descendants III (2018)
Zolar (2004)	
Underworld 2 (2005)	

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## Press Releases

### **Britannia Mine Museum Unveils New Immersive Mill Show Experience**

*BC-based Dynamic Attractions helps Museum bring 1920s Mill back to life*



*Photo: Concept designs of the Britannia Mine Museum's new Mill experience show*

Britannia Beach, B.C. (September 20, 2018) –The **Britannia Mine Museum** is unveiling the concept designs for the upcoming **Mill show experience**, a new feature attraction and immersive multi-sensory show that brings the 20-storey Mill building and National Historic Site back to life.

Launching Spring 2019, the new **Mill show experience** tells the captivating story of the wide-ranging importance of the historic Mill building when it was fully operational from the 1920's until its closing in 1974.

“We are excited to unveil the designs of our new Mill show and share the significant role it played in B.C.'s and Canada's history and economic success,” says Kirstin Clausen, executive director of the Britannia Mine Museum.

“The show will transport visitors back in time for an authentic, thrilling, visceral and acoustic experience, taking advantage of the sheer mass and awe of the 20-storey historical Mill building. This modern day interpretation of the Mill's history wouldn't be possible without the gracious support of our Board, the Provincial and Federal governments as well as the supportive mining industry. We are thrilled to be working with the internationally experienced team **VISTA Collaborative Arts** to create and produce our Show.”

A National Historic Site and one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America, the 20-storey Mill building is an awe-inspiring, rock-hugging building that has been the symbol of Britannia throughout the years. The Mill literally “rocked and rolled” when it was in production as it received raw ore from 200 km of underground tunnels and produced copper and zinc concentrates to be shipped elsewhere for processing into metals. The Mill was both literally and metaphorically a beacon to the economic wellbeing of the communities in the Howe Sound region.



In fact, the Britannia Mine was the largest copper producer in the British Empire in the late 1920s. Rehabilitated in 2007, each of the Mill's 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage and the building can be seen from miles away from the waters of Howe Sound.

The new Mill experience show also features the incredible work of **Dynamic Attractions**, a Port Coquitlam based company specializing in building some of the world's most iconic and award-winning amusement theme park attractions and structures. Dynamic Attractions will be engineering and fabricating a movable skip for the Mill show which will demonstrate how mining equipment was hauled up and down the 20-storey Mill building.

"The Britannia Mine Museum is such a unique tourist attraction and their Mill show will bring a new, exciting way for people to experience it," says **Hao Wang, president of Dynamic Attractions**. "This project has captured our imagination and we believe it will be thrilling for guests."

Dynamic Attractions has created ride systems and attractions-related products in the US, Asia, the Middle East and Europe, but never in Canada. Dynamic is comprised of approximately 350 innovative engineers, highly-precise fabricators and other specialists.

"We are looking forward to working on a local project, close to home, with the Museum's brilliant team," adds Wang. "Together we will bring this historic 1920s Mill structure back to life."

The Britannia Mine Museum provides fun, unique and memorable experiences that engage visitors of all ages including educational exhibits and crowd favourites like the underground mine train, gold panning, machine shop, and the Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre where they can learn about Britannia's history.

The new Mill show experience and the additional rehabilitation of the Museum's infrastructure were made possible by a \$1.4 million funding contribution by the Government of Canada under its New Building Canada Fund, alongside another \$2.8 million the Museum has fundraised from a supportive BC mining industry and the Provincial Government of B.C. Vista Collaborative Arts is the production company behind the Mill experience show.

#### **About Dynamic Attractions:**

50 of the world's most popular theme park rides have been designed and built by Dynamic Attractions. In addition to its innovative product line of rides and attraction related services, Dynamic also provides parts and service support for rides of all kinds. Dynamic was founded in Port Coquitlam, BC and has operations in Orlando, Dallas, Toronto and Shanghai. Its sister company, Dynamic Structures, designs and builds complex structures and mechanical systems and has the renowned distinction of having built many of the world's largest telescope enclosures. Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Empire Industries Ltd. [www.dynamicattractions.com](http://www.dynamicattractions.com)

#### **About VISTA Collaborative Arts:**

Vista Collaborative Arts was founded in 1998 to create immersive experiences for museums, science centres and themed attractions: from multi-screen theaters with physical special effects to IMAX® type large format films. They are a Vancouver based company that works internationally. Every project is a unique mix of challenges and opportunities and VISTA uses their established associations with highly motivated independent talent in diverse fields such as exhibit design, show control, lighting design, physical special effects, film production and computer animation to produce exciting shows. Their work can be seen worldwide in eleven languages. [www.vista-arts.com](http://www.vista-arts.com)



**About Britannia Mine Museum:**

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Twitter: [@BritanniaMine](https://twitter.com/BritanniaMine) Facebook: [@BritanniaMineMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BritanniaMineMuseum) Instagram: [@BritanniaMineMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/BritanniaMineMuseum)

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## Now on Deck! Britannia Mine Museum's New Exhibits Celebrate Howe Sound

### “Foundations” & “Howe Sound: Beauty Below”

*Features 3D model art from Lower Mainland craftsmen and stunning underwater photography from local Vancouver marine conservationists*



*Photo caption: Stunning photography of the secret underwater world of Howe Sound by Adam Taylor and Eli Wolpin. Their photography will be part of the Britannia Mine Museum's "Foundations" exhibit which celebrates Howe Sound.*

Britannia Beach, BC (April 30, 2018) – The **Britannia Mine Museum** is launching two new exhibits on Saturday, May 26 (the Museum's Family Fun Day) that celebrate the beauty, nature and recovery of Howe Sound, in addition to recognizing two significant legacies: the importance Britannia Mine played in BC's history; and the impact it made to the surrounding Howe Sound environment.

“As a Museum, we recognize the importance Britannia Mine has played in our province's history, economy as well as its impact on the surrounding Howe Sound environment,” says Diane Mitchell, Curator of Education & Collections at the Britannia Mine Museum. “Our role is to educate the public on all aspects of the Britannia Mine including its environmental story, and these new exhibits are a great way to help tell the narrative of how the modern mining industry and society has learned lessons from our past and how we can continue to protect the Howe Sound area and move towards a sustainable future.”

“**Foundations**”, located on the newly restored Howe Sound Decks 40 feet above the Sea-to-Sky Highway just near the entrance to the Museum's Train Pavilion, is a new, permanent, outdoor, open air exhibit consisting of a Lower and Upper Deck with breathtaking 360 degree views of Howe Sound. The outdoor exhibit explores Britannia's colourful 114-year history and how mining has contributed to the community and province. It also recognizes its environmental impacts on the region, the resulting remediation efforts and the continued recovery of the Howe Sound area. The exhibit also looks at ongoing research and innovation in the Canadian mining industry towards more sustainable mining practices.

“**Howe Sound: Beauty Below**” is a temporary photo exhibit in the Museum's Machine Shop, which focuses on Howe Sound's recovery and features the stunning underwater photography of two local avid scuba divers, Eli Wolpin and Adam Taylor. Wolpin is a Vancouver-based architect and technical diver who often dives in the Howe Sound waters especially near Whytecliff Park in West Vancouver, and Adam Taylor is a fourth generation resident of Bowen Island and a marine conservationist as an active



member of the Marine Life Sanctuary Society. Both of them are active in the marine conservation community and are focused on protecting the Howe Sound marine environment.

“What many people don’t realize as they drive along the Sea-to-Sky highway is that there is an absolutely stunning, secret underwater world right in our own Howe Sound backyard,” says Adam Taylor, a local scuba diver and marine conservationist. “For instance, recently discovered glass sponge reefs which were thought to have gone extinct 40 million years ago are an important habitat to Howe Sound and their continued protection is needed for a healthy ecosystem to thrive. We’re pleased to see the Britannia Mine Museum promoting the story of the environmental remediation, recovery and protection of this beautiful part of the country.”

In addition, the permanent outdoor “**Foundations**” exhibit features:

- What life was like in the early mining days at Britannia and how a century makes a resilient community,
- The Britannia Mine environmental remediation story and how it has contributed to Howe Sound’s continued recovery and regeneration,
- An original 3D interactive sculptural piece conceptualized and fabricated by internationally renowned artist **Ross Agro of Agro Arts** based in Mission, BC, who has worked on numerous projects with the Museum and is best known for the “Incredible Hulk” model at Universal Studios in Los Angeles,
- A large 3D geographical model illustrating the size and scale of Britannia in its Howe Sound setting, fabricated by Britannia Beach’s own **Mark Sampson from The Model Shop**, with GIS data provided by North Vancouver cartographer Bob Plummer of Smart Map.
- Interpretive panel by the **Squamish Lillooet Cultural Centre** exploring the Squamish Nation relationship with Howe Sound prior to the discovery of natural resources.

In the 70 years (1904-1974) Britannia Mines operated, there was an environmental impact on Howe Sound due to acid rock drainage, which occurs naturally when rainwater reacts with oxygen and exposed minerals, though little was understood about its environmental impacts in the early years.

Environmental standards changed over the years and in 2004, the Province of BC worked with Golder Associates to commission EPCOR to build and operate a water treatment plant. Since the remediation began, clean water now flows into Howe Sound and Golder Associates have been monitoring the shoreline at Britannia for dissolved metal levels and for its ecology. Marine life has now returned and there have even been recent sightings of whales in the Howe Sound area.

Both exhibits launches on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> during the Museum’s **Family Fun Day**, a family-friendly event focused on fun, hands-on and educational activities recognizing the contributions of modern mining to British Columbians. Family Fun Day activities include interactive mineral activities from [MineralsEd](#) to learn about fossils and minerals, hands-on geoscience activities from [Below BC](#), a costume photo booth by [Double Shutter Images](#), a Finning loader, and live concrete drilling demonstrations.

The Britannia Mine Museum provides unique and memorable experiences that engage visitors of all ages. Visitors can enjoy fun exhibits and crowd favourites like the **underground mine train**, the **historic 20-storey concentrator mill** and **gold panning**, and learn about **Britannia’s history** as one of the largest copper mines in the British Commonwealth in the 1930s.

The “**Foundations**” exhibit is supported by the Province of British Columbia through the *British Columbia*

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
**BRITANNIA  
MINE MUSEUM**

| *Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities and their Contributions to Canada* grant program.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with guided tours throughout the day (last tour at 3 p.m.). Visit [www.britanniamuseum.ca](http://www.britanniamuseum.ca) for more details or call 1-800-896-4044 for more information.

Twitter: [@BritanniaMine](https://twitter.com/BritanniaMine) Facebook: [@BritanniaMineMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BritanniaMineMuseum) Instagram: [@BritanniaMineMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/BritanniaMineMuseum)

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Supported by the Province of British Columbia

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
**BRITANNIA**  
**MINE MUSEUM**

## Britannia Mine Museum Celebrates 110<sup>th</sup> Years of Discoveries

Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 110-Year Anniversary Kick-off Event on Canada Day  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



*Photo: Britannia Mine Museum located between Vancouver and Whistler on the Sea-to-Sky Highway*

Britannia Beach, B.C. (June 13, 2014) – This year, the Britannia Mine Museum is celebrating 110 years of discoveries since the Mine first opened in 1904. To commemorate this significant milestone, the Museum is hosting an anniversary kick-off event on **Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> on Canada Day**. The day will feature family-friendly activities, including:

- an interactive, story-telling experience with audience participation (11 a.m. & 2 p.m.),
- a Lego scavenger hunt, and
- the ever popular underground mine train and gold panning.

In recognition of the Britannia mine's 110-year history, the Museum has put together two special, summer-long exhibits that showcase what life was like for families and workers who lived and worked in Britannia throughout the years.

- The “**Celebrating 110 Years Photo Exhibit**” located in the Museum's conveyor shed, is a collection of 110 historic photos pulled from the Museum's extensive archives of more than 9,500 images, many of which were donated by former residents and mine workers.
- The “**Best of Britannia: Life in a Company Town**” multi-media exhibit located inside the machine shop, is a collection of historic artifacts, antiques, artwork and photos which represent what life was like at Britannia. Supplemented with stories that are poignant, bizarre or even heartbreaking, the exhibit will show how Britannia residents lived, worked and played.

The Museum is also hosting a **Reunion Weekend on June 27-29**, bringing together former Britannia residents, workers and families to share old stories and memories and learn new ones. The exclusive reunion weekend will include an off-road vehicle tour of the former Mount Sheer town site, coffee socials, BBQ dinner, tours of the underground mine and the EPCOR water treatment plant. More information on the Museum's 110-year events can be found at <http://www.britanniamuseum.ca/celebrating-110-years>

“It is truly an honour to be able to share 110 years of Britannia's story and legacy as a mining town that played a major role in Canada's minerals industry,” says Kirstin Clausen, executive director of the Britannia Mine Museum. “Our Museum not only educates visitors on the contributions of minerals to society, and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability, but it also showcases B.C.'s jewelled history and serves as a unique and memorable tourist destination.”



### **Brief History of Britannia Mine:**

- The Britannia Mine first opened in 1904 and closed in 1974 and in its 70-year history, more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries around the world lived and worked at Britannia Mine. In the 1920s and 30s, the Britannia Mine was a major economic backbone of British Columbia as the largest copper producer in the British Commonwealth. It operated mainly as a copper mine although other minerals such as gold, silver, lead, zinc and cadmium were also extracted.
- There were two main town sites at Britannia: one at the base of the mine next to Howe Sound, and one at the top of the mine on Mount Sheer. Although the Britannia and Mount Sheer town sites were quite isolated with the area only accessible by boat until the railway (1956) and highway (1958) were built, life was never dull. Facilities included a school, hospital, libraries, clubrooms, billiard rooms, tennis courts, a swimming pool, a roller-skating rink and a bowling alley. A thriving social calendar saw sporting events, theatrical productions, dances, movies and parties held throughout the year.
- In 1975, the Britannia Beach Historical Society opened the Britannia Mine Museum. In 1988, Mill 3 was designated as a National Historic Site and is one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America.
- In 2004, the Province of BC worked with the Britannia Mine Museum and Golder Associates to commission EPCOR to build and operate a water treatment plant. Acid rock drainage was a problem in Britannia, which occurs naturally when rainwater reacts with oxygen and exposed minerals resulting in contaminated water. The EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant uses natural materials to filter minerals and neutralize surface water runoff collected from the area, resulting in clean water flowing into Howe Sound.
- In 2005, a restoration project began on the Mill 3 building, which included stabilizing the concrete foundations, re-roofing each level, re-siding the building and hand-glazing each of the 14,416 panes of window glass.
- In 2010, the Britannia Mine Museum completed the first phase of a major \$14.7-million redevelopment project that transformed a mining legacy site into a multi-award winning, internationally recognized education and travel destination. New sites include the Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre (theatre, mineral gallery, Canadian Mining Hall of Fame and gift shop), the Britannia A-Z Exhibition Building, a new post-and-beam gold panning area, expanded children's play area and event plaza.

The Britannia Mine Museum provides unique and memorable experiences that engage visitors of all ages in the spirited history of Britannia, from riding the underground train to exploring how minerals contribute to our daily lives.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with guided tours throughout the day. Visit [www.britanniaminemuseum.ca](http://www.britanniaminemuseum.ca) for more information.



For immediate release

April 14, 2011

## **The Britannia Mine Museum Wins Canadian Museum Association Award for Outstanding Achievement**

*BC's mining heritage site voted Best in Facility Development & Design*

Britannia Beach, BC – The recently transformed Britannia Mine Museum has achieved yet another significant milestone in its treasured history, winning the 2011 Canadian Museum Association (CMA) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Facility Development and Design. The honour was received during the awards gala held last night at the CMA's 64<sup>th</sup> annual national conference in London, Ontario.

The Britannia Mine Museum was unanimously recognized for excellence in function, vision, innovation, and architecture. The CMA chose the Museum because of its national significance and ambitious vision in creating a destination museum in a considerable short time frame. Each year the CMA presents awards to celebrate and encourage excellence within the Canadian museum sector.

"This project has been the highlight of the century for us and it has been a remarkable journey for everyone on the team," says Kirstin Clausen, executive director of the Britannia Mine Museum. "To be unanimously recognized and acknowledged by the Canadian museum sector gives us great pride and is a true testament of the hard work and dedication put forth by everyone involved."

Located 10 minutes south of Squamish on the picturesque Sea-to-Sky highway, the Britannia Mine Museum was reinvented in 2010 by a \$14.7 million three-phase redevelopment project that turned a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized tourist destination. The redevelopment project focused on preserving the museum's heritage buildings and mining collections, while creating an enhanced visitor experience with the new Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre and the Britannia A-Z Exhibit hall.

The project was made possible by generous contributions from the mining industry, private donors and the Provincial and Federal Governments through grants including Western Economic Diversification Canada's Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

The Museum's redevelopment and design approach was to keep as much of the heritage sites and salvage and reuse as much of the existing buildings and materials as possible. The diverse mixture of industrial buildings, rehabilitated structures, remnant structures and restored heritage buildings provide a connection to the storied Britannia community. Designers embraced the eclectic nature of existing materials while utilizing modern design structures to give the Museum's facilities a sense of modernistic architecture while retaining its historic culture.

Connections with the environment and nature can be seen in the creative use of water, wood, stone and copper elements throughout the site. The new Visitor Centre is clad in a combination of dark-stained local Douglas Fir siding and pre-patinated blue-green copper panels made of recycled content pay homage to the Britannia Mine's copper mining days, when it was once the British Empire's largest copper mine. The complete restoration of the A-Z Exhibit hall and the creation of new interpretive displays showcase what life was like for the more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries who lived and worked in Britannia between 1904 to 1974.



The Britannia Mine Museum celebrates the contributions of mining and minerals to society, the history of the storied Britannia Beach community and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability. It promotes mining awareness through entertaining, experiential education programs, important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement about the environment and sustainability issues. The museum provides a unique blend of entertainment and information that allows guests to leave with a better understanding of mining in BC; past, present and future.

“We couldn’t have achieved this without the full support of our Board, the mining industry, the Provincial and Federal Government, and everyone who has been involved including our partners, contractors, suppliers as well as our treasured visitors. We look forward to celebrating and sharing more of BC’s history with everyone who visits,” says Clausen.

Partner organizations involved in the redevelopment of the Museum include AldrichPears Associates, TRB Architecture, David Jensen & Associates, Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg and Parkwood Construction Ltd. to name a few. In addition, the Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre recently received a North American Copper Development Award from the Copper Development Association.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week from 9:00am to 4:30pm and offers guided tours. Visit [www.britanniaminemuseum.ca](http://www.britanniaminemuseum.ca) for more information.

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For immediate release

September 13, 2010

## **Britannia Mine Museum Unveils Newly Transformed Visitor Attraction** *Unearths one of British Columbia's crown jewels*



Britannia Beach, BC – The Britannia Mine Museum is unveiling its newly transformed visitor attraction at an opening weekend on September 18 & 19. Located 10 minutes south of Squamish on the picturesque Sea-to-Sky highway, the museum has been revitalized with a major \$14.7-million three-phase redevelopment project.

Open seven days a week, the reinvented Museum is transformed from a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized destination. Made possible by generous contributions from the mining industry, the provincial and federal governments and private donations, the Museum celebrates the contributions of mining and minerals to society, the history of the storied Britannia Beach community and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability.

“These are exciting times for the Museum and we’re so pleased with the results of our extensive restoration and renovations. Everyone poured their heart and soul into their work and it’s evident when you explore the new exhibits,” says Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director of the Britannia Mine Museum. “This transformation wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of all our contractors and suppliers, as well as the generous contributions of our partners. We can’t wait to share this new chapter with our visitors.”

The enhanced site features exciting new venues for fun family entertainment and engagement about mining, local arts and culture, restored heritage buildings, historical research and preservation, and education exhibits and services.

The new Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre sets the stage as visitors first walk onto the site. The centre houses several theatrical mining and mineral exhibits including a unique “mining tornado” structure filled with everyday items that mining has influenced, a new theatre space, a gift shop and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame.

Also new is the Britannia A-Z Exhibit Hall, a restored heritage building showcasing the stories



of the Britannia community between 1904 to 1974 when it existed as a mining town. Visitors will step back in time and learn about the more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries who lived and worked in Britannia throughout the 70 years.

At Britannia Mine Museum, visitors can stroll along the tree-lined boardwalk and feel the thrill of discovering gold panning under a beautiful red cedar post and beam roof structure. The ever popular underground mine and train ride will thrill adventure seekers of all ages. Explore inside an authentic mine tunnel and learn about what life was like for miners working underground.

The awe-inspiring 20-storey Mill building is a National Historic Site and one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America. Restored in 2007, each of the 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage.

“We’re looking to change people’s attitudes as they travel along the Sea-to-Sky highway that we are now an attraction worth visiting that will make an unforgettable experience for all ages,” says Phil Aldrich, Project Director of Britannia’s \$14.7 million restoration project.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week and offers guided tours. Visit [www.britanniamuseum.ca](http://www.britanniamuseum.ca) for more information.

**About the Britannia Mine Museum:**

The Britannia Mine Museum, which is both a National Historic Site and a BC Historic Landmark, was established in 1971 to preserve the material and social history of mining in British Columbia, and to educate the public about mining. It is a premier, non-profit organization that promotes mining awareness through fun experiential education programs. Governed by the Britannia Beach Historical Society, the museum provides important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement regarding environmental and sustainability issues. [www.britanniamuseum.ca](http://www.britanniamuseum.ca)

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**Note to editors:** Photos and footage of the new Britannia Mine Museum are available upon request.





## Museum Bios

### **Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director**

Kirstin has served the Britannia community as Executive Director of the Britannia Mine Museum and the Britannia Beach Historical Society since 2000. With more than 25 years of experience as a museum curator, educator and administrator, Kirstin's interest and background in history and the arts has enabled her to make museums vibrant and relevant to her local community. Her passion and love of culture and history is shared by her hardworking team at the museum, who work tirelessly to provide the best visitor experience for old and young alike.

At the Britannia Mine Museum, Kirstin has been instrumental in guiding the museum and its board of directors through many milestone projects, including the \$5 million revitalization of the historic Mill Building, as well as the \$14.7 million transformation of the overall museum. In 2010, the museum introduced the newly enhanced visitor attraction to the Britannia community as well as visitors from all over the world.

The museum is looking forward to sharing the museum's next phase of its transformation with the community in the coming years when visitors can enjoy a multimedia educational theatrical show at the Mill.

### **Diane Mitchell, Curator of Education & Collections**

With a background in geology, Diane spent 12 years working for the National Museums of Scotland, before moving to BC to take up this position in 2007. Her career has seen a successful marriage of both education and curation, lending itself well to the BC Museum of Mining. At heart, she is an educator who strives to make Museum learning a stimulating, fun and engaging experience.

### **Katherine Flett, Director of Communications & Marketing**

Katherine has been working with the Museum since 2005. Her background in strategic marketing and branding, led her to take on the role of directing the Museum's advertising and communication efforts resulting in a highly effective media and ad campaign. Several of the 2010 advertisements have been featured in advertising publications. Key to the success of the campaign is the dedicated team of communication and advertising strategists at Blue Sky.

### **Tamsyn Jenkins, Sales and Development Manager**

Tamsyn oversees the Sales department, focusing on group and trade visitors as well as memberships and museum development. Originally from the UK, Tamsyn has a background in tourism and non-profit management, previously working for Club Med, Whistler and many other non-profit organizations, including the Canadian Cancer Society.

### **Deron Johnston, Operations Manager**

A former teacher originally from Alberta, Deron has an extensive history working in non-profit organizations. He comes to the Museum to continue his career in facilities management and looks forward to ensuring the site is safe and clean for guests and visitors from all over the world.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
**BRITANNIA  
 MINE MUSEUM**

Site Map

EXPLORE YOUR MINE

MUSEUM MUST-SEES



**Beaty Lundin Visitor Centre**

Take in our movie. Gaze at the glitter in our mineral gallery. Discover mining's past and its dazzling future.

**Britannia A-Z Exhibit**

See how miners and their families built the town that became their world.



**The Underground**

Ride the train into a historical tunnel to see where and how miners worked back in the day.

**MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP?**

ASK ME.



**Join us today!**

Upgrade your admission to a Membership -- ask us how!



Join us at the Chatterbox Cafe  
 Located near the ticket booth and entrance.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on site.



- Restrooms
- Snack Bar
- Gift Shop
- Theatre
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Water Fountain

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