



BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
Royal British Columbia Museum

ROYAL B.C. MUSEUM CULTURAL PRECINCT

Royal British Columbia Museum

The Royal British Columbia Museum is the only institution in B.C. that contains detailed information on all the province's natural and human history.

It houses a collection of over 10 million objects and specimens valued at \$600 million. It was founded in 1886, and the current facility was built as a Canadian centennial project in 1967.

Since 1967, the museum has created state-of-the art exhibits on the province's natural and human history. A gallery is also devoted to British Columbia's First Peoples.

In 1996, the provincial government granted special operating agency status to the Royal British Columbia Museum. This allowed the museum to conduct business in a more entrepreneurial fashion.

Since 1996, the museum has added a National Geographic IMAX Theatre through a public-private partnership, licensed food services in an enhanced Museum Café, introduced the Gallery Rentals program, and expanded the Museum Shop.

The Royal British Columbia Museum evolved from full dependence on government funding to 27 per cent self-sufficiency in 2002-03. However, costs are rising and the museum needs major renewal and redevelopment to protect its collection and ensure its long-term success.

More information: <http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>

British Columbia Archives

The B.C. Archives is the central archives service for the Government of British Columbia. It provides research access to records of enduring value to government and the public.

Holdings valued at \$100 million include government documents and records; private historical manuscripts and papers; maps, charts and architectural plans; photographs; paintings, drawings and prints; audio and videotapes; film; and newspapers. There is an extensive library of publications emphasizing the social and political history of B.C. and the Pacific Northwest.

The B.C. Archives was established in 1898 and moved into its present location in 1970. A sound and moving image division was added in 1975.

More information: <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/>

Helmcken House

Helmcken House is the oldest house in British Columbia on its original site. It was built by Dr John Sebastian Helmcken, a Hudson's Bay Company surgeon.

Helmcken became a statesman and helped negotiate British Columbia's entry into Canadian Confederation. The house is a glimpse into the way of life over a hundred years ago.

More information: <http://www.heritage.gov.bc.ca/helm/helm.htm>

The Netherlands Carillon

The Netherlands Carillon is the largest in Canada with 62 bells. It was a gift of the Dutch community of British Columbia to the province in honor of Canada's centennial. Queen Juliana of The Netherlands laid the cornerstone on May 23, 1967.

More information: <http://www.protocol.gov.bc.ca/protocol/prgs/precinct/carillon.htm>

Visit the province's Web site at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/> for online information and services.

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