

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Sidney Museum Moves to Digitize Heritage Collection

- * Peninsula News Review Collection includes 46 rolls of microfilm.
- * Freely available and searchable online for public use.
- * Forty-six rolls of microfilm contain approximately 38,000 pages of newspaper.
- * Virtual launch event 1 Dec 2021 at 7:00pm
- * Collection was only accessible by appointment at the Museum's sole microfilm reader.

Sidney, B.C. November 17, 2021 - Sidney Museum and Archives is thrilled to announce that the Peninsula News Review Digitization project has completed its first phase and will be launching a searchable online database of newspaper issues from 1912 to 2002.. This project was made possible through funding from the BC History Digitization Program out of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC. The program promotes increased access to British Columbia's historical resources by providing matching funds to undertake digitization projects that will result in free online access to unique historical material from around the province. The Peninsula News Review (PNR) Digitization project digitized, and made freely searchable online, forty-six rolls of 35mm microfilm containing nearly 3,800 past issues of the PNR newspaper, which covered the Saanich Peninsula and surrounding Gulf Islands, spanning 1912 through 2002. The collection was greatly underutilized in the past as it was only accessible in person by appointment by use of the Museum's sole microfilm reader (affectionately known as "The Dinosaur").

The Peninsula News Review (PNR) Collection contains unique materials that document the agricultural, cultural, economic, historical, political and social history of British Columbia, especially pertaining to the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands. The PNR Collection includes increasingly delicate physical copies of the newspapers spanning 1912 through 2018, as well as archival copies on 35mm microfilm for 1912 to 2002. The newspaper recorded important social events, accidents, births, deaths, marriages, agricultural news, municipal developments, entertainment, business advertisements, and more for the local area, as well as economic, military and historical news at the provincial level.

To celebrate the launch of this new online resource, the Sidney Museum will be hosting a virtual launch event, where Museum staff will outline the project, and give a live demonstration on the use of the Arca database. To receive a link to this event, please email our Education & Outreach Coordinator, Sydney Fuhrman (outreach@sidneymuseum.ca) and RSVP. We will be providing a public link during this event, and this will be posted on our website following the event with a recorded tutorial.

Phase Two of this project will involve inventorying the physical newspaper issues to produce digital and preservation copies to fill any coverage gaps to the previous publishing year. This is set to begin in 2023. To support the Archives and this project, please see sidneymuseum.ca/support to make your donation today!

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