

Waterfront Signage Gets An Update

Sidney, B.C., April 24, 2022 - If you've walked the waterfront in Sidney lately, you may have noticed that many of the heritage signs look a little worse for wear. These eleven signs were installed by the Sidney Museum and Archives back in 2009 with the help of a BC 150 grant. Topics range from the James Island Explosives Plant to the San Juan Dispute. Over the last few years, the Museum has received feedback from the general public that the signs are badly in need of repair due to general wear, and that the limited historic content of the signs themselves necessitates a redesign rather than a basic replacement. Given the cost of undertaking this work, the Museum applied to the BC 150 Time Immemorial grant last year, with letters of support from Town of Sidney staff and the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council. We are pleased to say that we were successful in our proposal. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program.

Over the next two years, Sidney Museum will redesign the existing waterfront heritage signs to create a more inclusive and diverse space along the accessible waterfront walk in Sidney BC. The new signage would be done with collaboration from the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council to include the SENĆOŦEN language and knowledge, as well as with input from the general public to better reflect the diverse history of our community. Working with local business, Peninsula Signs, the frames will be replaced with powder-coated aluminium which will allow the Museum to easily replace the sign content and conduct maintenance by making them more resilient to climate change and weather going forward. The addition of two news signs with matching frames will increase the range of topics able to be covered. This will total 13 signs, and one of the new locations would commemorate the small Chinatown that existed in Sidney before being torn down in the mid 1930s. The second new sign grants the flexibility to add a sign location at the direction of elders or the public as necessary.

Please stay tuned for more information as public engagement sessions are announced. The project is scheduled to be unveiled in late 2023.

--

For more information contact:

Alyssa Gerwing
Executive Director
(250)655-6355
director@sidneymuseum.ca