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Summerland Museum launches online artifact database

The Summerland Museum and Archives has recently wrapped up a significant digitization project. Titled “Growing Community Access to Heritage”, the effort was aimed at getting the organization’s extensive artifact collection online.

This project was made possible by funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Museum Assistance Program. Funds went towards the extensive staff time required to digitize artifacts lacking documentation, as well as translation services and web hosting fees. Altogether, 1,317 individual artifacts were photographed and had their catalogue records updated.

During the digitization process, Summerland Museum staff shared some of the interesting artifacts on social media in “Artifact Story” posts. Items featured included a piece of trench art brought back from World War I by a Summerland veteran, and a Japanese tea set called a *Chabako*.

The grand finale of the project is the launch of the publicly accessible online artifact database. An initial 6,919 artifacts have been uploaded, with more to be made available in the coming months. The database is keyword searchable and features photographs and descriptions of the artifacts.

“This is an important step in making our collections more transparent and accessible to the public,” says the Museum’s Curator, Petra Höller. “Many of these artifacts have been tucked away in storage for years without being seen – now they can be enjoyed or researched from anywhere in the world.”



Trench art pitcher, possibly made of brass shell casings, brought back from World War I by Robert Atkinson, c. 1914-1918, SMAS#2013-029-001

At the same time, the Museum's online photo database was also updated with an additional 1,000 photographs, including stunning photos of early Summerland from the J.M. Robinson Family Collection.

To browse the artifact and photo databases, the public is invited to visit www.summerlandmuseum.org.



Summerland Museum & Archives Society

Growing Community Access to Heritage

Browse the
Artifact Collection
Online Now!

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Summerland Museum and Archives Society
9521 Wharton Street, Summerland BC
www.summerlandmuseum.org
250-494-9395