

# The Greater Vernon Museum and Archives

GVMA – 3009 23rd Avenue, Vernon, BC



## MANDATE

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The GVMA began as a small museum on June 5, 1950 in a room at the back of Vernon Junior High School (now W.L. Seaton Secondary). In 1956, the Museum expanded into the former Vernon Police Station and Magistrate's Court; and in 1966 relocated to its present home on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the heart of downtown. On September 21, 2016, the GVMA became an independent registered charity, complying with the 2016 Greater Vernon Cultural Plan. The GVMA is a signatory to the Cultural Plan which outlines community priorities to foster sustainable, long-term cultural vitality in the greater Vernon area.

The GVMA's mandate is to educate community members, researchers and visitors on the history and heritage of the greater Vernon area. As a repository of materials held in public trust, the GVMA maintains collections of artifacts and archives for preservation and exhibition reflecting events, activities, and interests related to the social and natural history of the region. We pride ourselves in serving the interests of local and surrounding communities, as well as newcomers and visitors. Our intent is to provide services in an enlightened and innovative manner, while maintaining best practices and professional standards of museum curation.

The GVMA is committed to continually reflecting on our mission and core values –keeping them in accordance with public standards and representative of the museum's current directions. We act as a partner in collaborating to shape greater Vernon's future. Our organization is especially committed to promoting factual information and understanding of the community, while maintaining respect for individuals and their diverse backgrounds and perspectives. The GVMA expects its volunteers, board and staff members to demonstrate responsible stewardship in the public trust by acting with integrity in research, exhibitions and communications. We strive to explore new ideas and exchange knowledge in meaningful dialogues with local partners in a context of inclusivity and transparency.

In summary, the GVMA strives to fulfil its mandate by employing well-informed management strategies, and prudent use of institutional and public assets, while maintaining high standards of environmental stewardship.

## SERVICES

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The GVMA's key activities and services include education programming, events, lasting and temporary exhibits, satellite museums, collections care and development, archival requests, and archival care and development.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMMING:**

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The Museum provides programming for public and private schools and daycares in the Greater Vernon area. The programming is educational, based on British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, and allows children and teenagers to learn local history using artifacts and documents in a unique, hands-on environment. The purpose of these activities is to educate and promote interest in history and culture – with a local focus and national connections.

## **EVENTS:**

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The GVMA offers in-house events each month to serve local and community interests. Events include, but are not limited to, exhibit openings, special events, lectures and children's activities. Examples of events in 2018-2019 include a First World War exhibit opening, Christmas Tea, World War Two Photography lectures, Family Games, and Trivia Nights. Museum staff and volunteers also attend and collaborate with outside community events such as Vernon's Farmer's Market, Sunshine Festival and O'Keefe Ranch Family Day.

## **EXHIBITS:**

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The Museum has several core exhibits that tell the story of the greater Vernon area, including First Nations, fur trading, settling the Vernon area, a series of early 1900's shops and a 1930's house. Alongside these lasting exhibits are changing temporary exhibits. The Museum has hosted a travelling exhibit from the Royal British Columbia Museum called Gold Mountain Dreams, which highlights Chinese immigration to British Columbia through text panels and is augmented by Museum artifacts from Vernon's Chinatown. The current temporary exhibit in the Museum is called *Finish the Fight! Vernon in the Great War*, commemorating Vernon's war efforts in World War One.

## **SATELLITE MUSEUMS:**

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The Museum is affiliated with five off site museums :

- Silver Star Mountain Museum
- Vernon Cadet Camp Museum
- Okanagan Landing Station House Museum
- Caetani Cultural Centre
- Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame

These satellite museums detail specific aspects of the greater Vernon area's history, using artifacts and exhibits to highlight unique aspects of local heritage. Partnerships with the satellite locations are governed by letters of understanding to facilitate sharing and cooperation for mutual benefit.

