



For immediate release

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Britannia Mine Museum Wins Two Prestigious Awards of Excellence *Receives BC Museum Association Award of Merit and AME BC Award for Social and Environmental Responsibility*

Britannia Beach, BC – The **Britannia Mine Museum's** ongoing success and accolades continue to roll in as they receive two more prestigious awards for their recent \$14.7 million restoration of the museum's heritage site. The first award is the coveted **Award for Social and Environmental Responsibility from the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC)**, and the second is the **Award of Merit from the British Columbia Museum Association (BCMA)**.

"It is a huge honour to have the Museum recognized by our museum and mining peers with these two awards," says Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director of the Britannia Mine Museum. "I remember thinking our original vision of redeveloping our enormous site might have seemed impossible in the beginning. But the words of Walt Disney 'It's kind of fun to do the impossible' really captures the spirit and drive of our team in the past ten years. We couldn't have achieved so much without the help and support of our Board, and our industry, government and community partners."

AME BC Award for Excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility

The Britannia Mine Museum was honoured with the **AME BC Award for Excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility**. As the site of a former mine with a challenging operating legacy, the Association acknowledged the Museum's recent renovation and its commitment to tell the story of Britannia's modern environmental stewardship story. Also being recognized was the Museum reinventing itself by considering sustainable building designs while preserving the museum's historic site and artifacts. The Museum's goal was to keep as much of the heritage sites and salvage and reuse as much of the existing buildings and materials as possible while creating an enhanced visitor experience.

Designers embraced the eclectic nature of existing materials while utilizing modern design structures to give the Museum's facilities a sense of modernistic architecture while retaining its historic culture. Connections with the environment and nature can be seen in the creative use of water, wood, stone and copper elements throughout the site. The new Visitor Centre is clad in a combination of dark-stained local Douglas Fir siding and pre-patinated blue-green copper panels made of recycled content pay homage to the Britannia Mine's copper mining days, when it was once the British Empire's largest copper mine.

BCMA Award of Merit

Executive Director Kirstin Clausen was the recipient of the coveted **BCMA Award of Merit** which is given to an individual or institution for a recent outstanding, innovative, or creative achievement in the museum, art gallery, archives or heritage field in British Columbia. The award recognizes her role with leadership in the outstanding achievements in fundraising, historic restoration, museum interpretation and education associated with the recent restoration and refurbishment of Britannia Mine's site.



The 2010 \$14.7 million revitalization of the Museum turned a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized education and tourist destination that can proudly claim its National Historic Site status. The enhanced site features new venues for local arts and culture, restored heritage buildings, historical research and preservation, education exhibits and services, fun family entertainment and engagement.

Kirstin Clausen has been instrumental in guiding the Museum and its Board through many milestone projects, including the \$5 million revitalization of the historic Mill Building in 2007, and the recent restoration of the overall Museum. Clausen has been with the Britannia Mine Museum since 2000. With nearly 30 years of experience as a museum curator, educator and administrator, Clausen's interest and background has taught her the importance of keeping museums vibrant and relevant to visitors.

"Our success focuses on a balance between entertaining and educating visitors" continues Clausen. "I'm proud that the success of the Britannia Mine Museum is something that other Museums are looking to for leadership and inspiration."

These awards follow another accolade the Museum received in 2011 from the Canadian Museum Association when they won the Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Located on Britannia Beach, 10 minutes south of Squamish, the Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with guided tours several times a day. For ticket and visitation information, please visit www.britanniaminemuseum.ca.

About the Britannia Mine Museum:

The Britannia Mine Museum, which is both a National Historic Site and a BC Historic Landmark, was established in 1971 to celebrate the contributions of mining and minerals to society, the history of the storied Britannia Beach community and the ideas and practices of environmental renewal and sustainability. It is a premier, non-profit organization that promotes mining awareness through entertaining, experiential education programs, important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement. Governed by the Britannia Beach Historical Society, the museum provides visitors with a unique blend of experience, serving as a tourist destination, an adventure attraction and education venue that allows guests to leave with a better understanding of mining in BC; past, present and future.

www.britanniaminemuseum.ca

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