



For immediate release

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**The Britannia Mine Museum Wins Canadian Museum Association Award
for Outstanding Achievement**
BC's mining heritage site voted Best in Facility Development & Design

Britannia Beach, BC – The recently transformed Britannia Mine Museum has achieved yet another significant milestone in its treasured history, winning the 2011 Canadian Museum Association (CMA) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Facility Development and Design. The honour was received during the awards gala held last night at the CMA's 64th annual national conference in London, Ontario.

The Britannia Mine Museum was unanimously recognized for excellence in function, vision, innovation, and architecture. The CMA chose the Museum because of its national significance and ambitious vision in creating a destination museum in a considerable short time frame. Each year the CMA presents awards to celebrate and encourage excellence within the Canadian museum sector.

"This project has been the highlight of the century for us and it has been a remarkable journey for everyone on the team," says Kirstin Clausen, executive director of the Britannia Mine Museum. "To be unanimously recognized and acknowledged by the Canadian museum sector gives us great pride and is a true testament of the hard work and dedication put forth by everyone involved."

Located 10 minutes south of Squamish on the picturesque Sea-to-Sky highway, the Britannia Mine Museum was reinvented in 2010 by a \$14.7 million three-phase redevelopment project that turned a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized tourist destination. Made possible by generous contributions from the mining industry, the provincial and federal governments and private donors, the redevelopment project focused on preserving the museum's heritage buildings and mining collections, while creating an enhanced visitor experience with the new Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre and the Britannia A-Z Exhibit hall.

The Museum's redevelopment and design approach was to keep as much of the heritage sites and salvage and reuse as much of the existing buildings and materials as possible. The diverse mixture of industrial buildings, rehabilitated structures, remnant structures and restored heritage buildings provide a connection to the storied Britannia community. 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. The complete restoration of the A-Z Exhibit hall and the creation of new interpretive displays showcase what life was like for the more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries who lived and worked in Britannia between 1904 to 1974.

Britannia Mine Museum

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The Britannia Mine Museum celebrates 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 promotes mining awareness through entertaining, experiential education programs, important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement about the environment and sustainability issues. The museum provides a unique blend of entertainment and information that allows guests to leave with a better understanding of mining in BC; past, present and future.

“We couldn’t have achieved this without the full support of our Board, the mining industry, the Provincial and Federal Government, and everyone who has been involved including our partners, contractors, suppliers as well as our treasured visitors. We look forward to celebrating and sharing more of BC’s history with everyone who visits,” says Clausen.

Partner organizations involved in the redevelopment of the Museum include AldrichPears Associates, TRB Architecture, David Jensen & Associates, Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg and Parkwood Construction Ltd. to name a few.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week from 9:00am to 4:30pm and offers guided tours. Visit www.britanniamuseum.ca for more information.

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 preserve the material and social history of mining in British Columbia, and to educate the public about mining. It is a premier, non-profit organization that promotes mining awareness through fun experiential education programs. Governed by the Britannia Beach Historical Society, the museum provides important historic collection preservation and insightful public engagement regarding environmental and sustainability issues. www.britanniamuseum.ca

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Note to editors: Photos and footage of the new Britannia Mine Museum and other media background info are available upon request.

- Britannia Mine Museum Fact Sheet
- History of Britannia Mines (since 1888)
- The Remediation of Britannia

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