



For immediate release

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Britannia Mine Museum Unveils Newly Transformed Visitor Attraction *Unearths one of British Columbia's crown jewels*

Britannia Beach, BC – The Britannia Mine Museum is unveiling its newly transformed visitor attraction at an opening weekend on September 18 & 19. Located 10 minutes south of Squamish on the picturesque Sea-to-Sky highway, the museum has been revitalized with a major \$14.7-million three-phase redevelopment project.

Open seven days a week, the reinvented Museum is transformed from a mining legacy site into a vibrant internationally recognized destination. Made possible by generous contributions from the mining industry, the provincial and federal governments and private donations, the 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.

“These are exciting times for the Museum and we’re so pleased with the results of our extensive restoration and renovations. Everyone poured their heart and soul into their work and it’s evident when you explore the new exhibits,” says Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director of the Britannia Mine Museum. “This transformation wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of all our contractors and suppliers, as well as the generous contributions of our partners. We can’t wait to share this new chapter with our visitors.”

The enhanced site features exciting new venues for fun family entertainment and engagement about mining, local arts and culture, restored heritage buildings, historical research and preservation, and education exhibits and services.

The new Beaty-Lundin Visitor Centre sets the stage as visitors first walk onto the site. The centre houses several theatrical mining and mineral exhibits including a unique “mining tornado” structure filled with everyday items that mining has influenced, a new theatre space, a gift shop and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame.

Also new is the Britannia A-Z Exhibit Hall, a restored heritage building showcasing the stories of the Britannia community between 1904 to 1974 when it existed as a mining town. Visitors will step back in time and learn about the more than 60,000 people from over 50 countries who lived and worked in Britannia throughout the 70 years.

At Britannia Mine Museum, visitors can stroll along the tree-lined boardwalk and feel the thrill of discovering gold panning under a beautiful red cedar post and beam roof structure. The ever popular underground mine and train ride will thrill adventure seekers of all ages. Explore inside an authentic mine tunnel and learn about what life was like for miners working underground.

The awe-inspiring 20-storey Mill building is a National Historic Site and one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator mills in North America. Restored in 2007, each of the 14,416 panes of glass was hand-puttied into the frames to maintain its heritage.

Britannia Mine Museum

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NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

BRITANNIA MINE MUSEUM

“We’re looking to change people’s attitudes as they travel along the Sea-to-Sky highway that we are now an attraction worth visiting that will make an unforgettable experience for all ages,” says Phil Aldrich, Project Director of Britannia’s \$14.7 million restoration project.

The Britannia Mine Museum is open seven days a week and offers guided tours. Visit www.britanniaminemuseum.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.britanniaminemuseum.ca

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

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