FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUMMERLAND MUSEUM LAUNCHES RENEWAL PROJECT



The Summerland Museum and Archives Society is embarking on an ambitious, two-phase Renewal Project.

The Society was formed in 1963 by a group of dedicated community members, concerned that valuable historic information and objects were being lost forever. Collected items were stored in the homes of these citizens.

When the current Wharton Street facility was built in 1983, the collection totalled about 5,000 items. Since then, the number of catalogued objects has grown to over 35,000. The museum now stores half of the collection at an off-site storage facility that lacks the climate control, fire prevention and monitoring systems essential to current museum standards.

In addition, the museum's exhibit areas have eaten into staff workspaces, reducing them to a cramped backroom, approximately one-third its original size.

The Museum is now on the verge of undertaking the work to address these shortfalls. Phase One will renovate the western half of the building, modernizing the public lobby and activity room as well as the staff work and storage areas. Phase Two will double the size of the existing gallery, extending it to the east, with basement underneath.

The Museum is ready to start work with all plans and permits acquired. The group has already raised **$452,000** of the **$659,000** needed to start Phase One. This includes a significant donation of **$100,000** from David Balfour, an ardent Museum supporter.

Phase Two is anticipated to start next year, and the Museum is currently making grant applications to fund the next round of work.

The public is invited to learn more about the project at an open house during the Summerland Festival of Lights on Friday, November 27 from 5-9pm. The Museum will be open until 9pm with refreshments, music and free guided tours. Members of the Board of Directors and the Renewal Committee will be on hand to show off the architectural designs and answer questions about the project.

For more information please contact the Museum President, Andrew Holder, at president.summerlandmuseum@gmail.com.

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