

What's Happening at Your Museum.

History and Facts
Events

Update on the
Speeder Trailer

Archives

New South Asian
Heritage Project

125 Southshore Rd., (PO
Box 135) Lake Cowichan
BC, V0R 2G0.

Phone: 250-749-6142

kaatzamuseum@shaw.ca

Museum Hours

Monday – Friday

10am to 4:00pm

Kaatza Museum E-News – June 2025



Pat Foster, President

2025 Kaatza Historical Society Board.

Thank you to the board
for graciously giving of
their time and skills
toward the smooth
running of the museum.
2025 Board of Directors
are: **Lexi Baines, Janice
Carnell, Gordon
Cumming, Jonathan M.
Dearie, Patricia Foster,
Lynn Klein, John
Mountain, Lola Irene
Sinclair, Patricia
Weaver.**

Welcome to Our First E-News and newsletter!

Welcome everyone to our first e-news. It is our pleasure to bring you news of what is happening at your museum. We are currently open Monday – Friday from 10 – 4 and you are welcome to come and visit to see updates that are and will be happening.

The e-news will be produced quarterly and available in printed version at the museum. If you want them e-mailed to you, let us know your e-mail address and we will be happy to forward it to you.

Pat Foster, President.

The Kaatza Museum is a gem in our community. Please consider supporting your community history with a donation through our website. We will issue a tax-deductible receipt for 2025. If you wish to donate by cheque, make out to Kaatza Historical Society and mail or drop off at address on the sidebar. Thank you for your support. Reg# 12872-2618-RP0001

Museum Facts & History by Nathaniel Andrews, Curator/Mngr

The Kaatza Historical Society began in 1975 with the Kaatza Station Museum opening in the newly renovated 1913 Canadian Pacific train station in Saywell Park in the early 1980s. The museum has within its collection and on its grounds several local heritage buildings, numerous rolling stock and logging equipment outside, and an expansive collection of artifacts from the Cowichan Lake region. The museum mainly focuses on displaying the history of Cowichan Lake, this includes the significant logging history, the International Woodworkers of America union, and the history of the various communities over the decades, from Lake Cowichan to Honeymoon Bay to Caycuse.

The museum has recently been undergoing a modernization project where existing exhibits are updated with new visuals and information. The museum has also begun work on implementing new exhibits that focus on minority groups that until recently were rarely referenced in exhibit material.

A new Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation exhibit is currently under construction with an outdoor gathering space that will include a Totem Pole planned for unveiling later this summer.

Along with the new South Asian history exhibit, there are a few smaller exhibits planned as well, such as a new "Mill Room" exhibit that focuses on the history of the forest industry and a replacement for Chinese Canadian history display.

Outside of new displays, the museum has several planned restoration projects that involve various exterior items. The two big projects would be the restoration of a 1947 Speeder Trailer (passenger car) that was used by British Columbia Forest Products in the Caycuse area and replacing the roof on our 1918 Canadian National Caboose.

1948 Speeder Trailer



The Speeder Trailer has been stripped, repaired, and primed for painting and re-assembly (with new wood ready to be cut and installed).

There are many items on the museum grounds that require restoration, but with limited funds and volunteers, these projects will take time, but they are important to do to preserve our local history.

If you would like to contribute and have the skills and time, our current volunteer crew is present every Thursday in the morning till noon and you are welcome to join us. If you would like to volunteer to help with projects inside the museum (either relating to the new exhibits or helping maintain the artifact collection or maybe some interior maintenance projects), feel free to drop by the museum as well. We welcome interested volunteers for this project.

The arrival of Diesel Power:

By the 1950s, steam powered trains were on a decline as diesel engines became more viable for large heavy-duty operations. In 1949 Canadian Pacific ordered 13 new Baldwin DRS-4-4-1000 switchers to use on the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, ushering in a new era by being the first Canadian railway to be fully diesel. The Baldwins were built in early 1949 in two batches. Numbers 8000-8006 and 8007-8012. Of the 13 Baldwins used on the E&N Railway, only one has survived (Canadian Pacific #8000) and is currently undergoing restoration at the Railway Museum of British Columbia in Squamish, BC.

Pictured is Canadian Pacific #8002, a Baldwin DRS-4-4-1000 from the first production batch, at the Cowichan Lake train station (now the Kaatza Station Museum) in the 1950s. This Baldwin would be scrapped in 1975, likely alongside the other models as newer locomotives were



OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS, THE ARCHIVES STAFF HAVE BEEN DIGITIZING THE *BC/WESTERN CANADIAN LUMBER WORKER*, A NEWSPAPER PRODUCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS OF AMERICA.

UPDATES FROM THE ARCHIVES
AT THE KAATZA STATION MUSEUM

- 01 The BC Lumber Worker is now available on Arca!
- 02 We have started digitizing a massive collection of historical Cowichan Lake photos
- 03 We have received funding to digitize several key newspapers produced by IWA locals
- 04 We are seeking the donation of photos/materials related to people of Punjabi heritage

KAATZAARCHIVES@SHAW.CA

854 issues spanning from 1938 to 2006 were digitized by archives staff. The issues can be accessed at bchdp.arcabc.ca/ksma. The completion of this project marks a huge increase in the accessibility of our collections. Not only are the issues available to the public at no cost, but they are entirely searchable, making this an amazing resource for anyone researching labour or forestry history. Not to mention, anyone anywhere can access this important collection online instead of needing to travel to Lake Cowichan to view the physical issues.

This project is generously supported by the UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE, through its British Columbia History Digitization Program, and the DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM. This project also could not have been completed without the hard work of Lauren Anderson, who scanned the bulk of the issues.

We Have Received Funding to Digitize Several Key Newspapers Produced by IWA Locals.

We have received funding from the University of British Columbia's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, through its British Columbia History Digitization Program, and from the Documentary Heritage Communities Program to digitize several key newspapers:

- IWA Local 1-71's *Green Gold News* (103 issues)
- IWA Local 1-80's *Bulletin* and *Woodworker's Review* (192 issues)
- IWA Local 1-217's *The Conveyor* and *The Barker* (322 issues)
- IWA Local 1-424's *Cariboo Logger* (19 issues)
- IWA Local 1-425's *The Burner* (31 issues)
- IWA Local 1-357's *The Chipper* (43 issues)
- IWA Local 1-367's *The Valley News* (19 issues)

While the *BC/Western Canadian Lumber Worker* covers all of British Columbia (and later Western Canada and then Canada as a whole), the above newspapers document the IWA and the labour movement in smaller regions, offering more details and insights into the locals they were produced in.

IWA Local 1-80's newspapers, for example, were produced in Duncan and heavily feature the Cowichan Lake area, which has historically been a hot spot of union activity, home to both the first fully unionized logging camp and the first fully unionized multiracial mill in British Columbia. Like the *BC/Western Canadian Lumber Worker*, these newspapers will be available on Arca once digitized, a project that will take about one year.

**Seeking
photos and
materials
related to
people of
South Asian
Heritage.**

The Kaatza Station Museum has received funding to create a new exhibit documenting people of South Asian Heritage in the Cowichan Lake area.

At the same time, we hope to increase the number of materials in our archives relating to South Asian people living and working in the area. Some of these materials could be displayed in our exhibit, while the rest will be available for researchers and those seeking to learn about their family histories. We are happy to digitize photos and archival materials and return the originals to you if you are in possession of such materials but do not wish to permanently donate the physical copies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Kaatza Station Museum's archivist, Mallory Marrs, at kaatzaarchives@shaw.ca. If you are interested in participating in a community-led conversation about what you would like to see represented in the exhibit, RSVP to Mallory's email.

Thank you to Our Sponsors and Supporters



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



Kaatza Museum Historical Society publishes an e-news and newsletter four times a year. If you would like to find out about upcoming exhibits and events in a digital format, please subscribe to our e-news at kaatzamuseumenews@shaw.ca.