



# CANNERY CURRENTS

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## From the Executive Director

### Looking Ahead for Fall

I can hardly believe it's almost been a year since I arrived at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society; it is true that time flies when you're having a great time. It has been a real joy to join this team and experience all the events, programs and work that makes the Cannery such a special place.

Firstly, the staff at the Cannery would like to extend a sincere thank you to the volunteers and Board members that assisted with our Richmond Maritime Festival BBQ Fundraiser. I am happy to report that we made over \$3,400.00 to support programs at the Cannery. A special thank you to the Canadian Fishing Company who donated all the salmon for the BBQ, as well as a \$500 general donation. Thanks also to Save-On-Foods Ironwood for their support and providing BBQ supplies at cost.

This Fall, the Board of Directors and staff will be working on the Society's five-year Strategic Plan. The current plan ends in 2019 and so much has changed over the last five years! The Board will join the staff to plot our strategic directions and goals, working on connecting to our mission and

community, and ensuring the long-term success of the Society. As these workshops and planning sessions take place, we will be consulting with our collaborators, members, partners and community about the direction of the Society and our Strategic Plan in general.

It is the intention of the Society to build this plan with our community feedback and represent a forward-thinking and inclusive plan.

The Society also hopes to work with our Indigenous, Japanese, Chinese and other cultural partners to ensure that future plans and subsequent activities represent many voices. My door is always open if you would like to talk about our planning process, and of course, look out for updates in the newsletter and our social media about the involvement of the community and our partners.



*Executive Director Stephanie Halapija (second from left) with Cannery Crew (from left to right: J. Kojima, S. Halapija, R. Turner, E. Turner and E. Carefoot), at the Society's Richmond Maritime Festival BBQ tent to raise funds for Society programs.*

As we move into the Fall and the colder weather our team is gearing up for the Cannery Farmers' Market and Halloween celebrations. We look forward to closing out the year with a great season, a great team, and the phenomenal support of our community.

**STEPHANIE HALAPIJA**

### New Addition to the Collections

We recently received a new donation of three 4 lb sized salmon cans from the Zesko family. These “institutional” sized cans of salmon were typically produced for sale to places where food was prepared in large quantities like restaurants, school cafeterias, etc. The three cans in this donation were originally acquired from the BC Packers Imperial Plant sometime in the 1970s by Helen Zesko, who worked at the plant for over 40 years in various departments between 1940-1989. These cans were part of a larger group that had been opened at the plant and emptied of their contents before they were taken home by Helen. At home, Helen used them as baking pans for making a special Easter sweet bread called Paska. To see the recipe, look for the related post on our website blog.

These cans are an interesting addition to our Collection not only because of their unusual size, but also because of the personal story and other items associated with them. In addition to the story of provided above, we also have an oral history interview with Helen Zesko from 1999. This interview gives a much more in depth account of Helen’s time of working in the fishing industry, including (but not limited to) her experience of working at Imperial Plant through the war years, the multicultural workforce, the overall conditions in the plant, the different types of jobs she did, etc. (to listen to the complete interview, go to [cannerycollections.org](http://cannerycollections.org)). Finally, to round out this



*Helen Zesko is one of the women working on one of four filleting lines at Imperial Plant in 1966. This image was original featured as part of an article about BC Packers’ new processing facilities at Imperial in the September 1966 edition of Western Fisheries magazine.*

collection, we are expecting a future donation from the family of a filleting knife and sharpener used by Helen during her time at Imperial Plant, as well as a set of photographs relating to her work there. All together, these items will combine to create a multifaceted collection that will allow us to present a fascinating perspective of the fishing industry to our audiences now and in the future.

### HEIDI RAMPFL



*One of the three 4 lb size salmon cans from the Zesko Collection next to one of the more common 1/2 lb size cans that can be found in our Canning Line Exhibit. If you look closely, you can see that the lip of the can has marks from the can opener.*

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Thank You to the Pacific Salmon Foundation

The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) is a strong supporter of the work of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society. We are grateful that the PSF recently provided funding for new educational materials for our *Salmon People: Coast Salish Fishing* education program.

During the *Salmon People* program, students investigate the complexity of traditional salmon fishing technology and evaluate how Indigenous knowledge, skills, and labour contributed to the development of the West Coast fishing industry. The program's content was developed by Elder Roberta Price from the Snuneymuxw and Cowichan First Nations. Roberta's knowledge provided a solid foundation for this popular program, but the program lacked tool replicas that students could examine.



*This salmon spear (Leister) is one of 14 fishing tool replicas purchased with funds from the Pacific Salmon Foundation.*

This Fall, students will have replicas they can handle as they describe the different parts of the tool and consider how it is used to catch salmon. The replicas allow us to better convey the main message of the program – that traditional Indigenous fishing technology is complex and represents profound knowledge of both fish behavior and the environments where salmon live.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation will be joining us at our Salmon Science Expo, on November 9th from 12pm to 4pm. Come by to learn about their work and the work of other wild salmon champions in our community.

SHANNON KING

## CANNERY STORE

### What's New in Store



If you haven't seen them already, check out the new line of fine porcelain serving ware featuring designs by local First Nations artists (*pictured left*). Bowls in two different sizes as well as a serving tray, featuring designs by Nuxalk & Nuu-chah-nulth artist Kelly Robinson, and Squamish & Kwakwaka'wakw artist Klatle-Bhi. Each comes individually boxed, perfect for gift-giving!

We also have a new baseball cap from Vancouver's small batch, craft baseball hat maker, The Nine O'Clock Gun Co., featuring the logo of the Steveston Fujis baseball team, circa 1934 (*pictured right*).

ROB HART



## Thank you for your support all new & renewing members

(AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019)

Please note your name appears here only when you renew or join.  
It does not appear in every issue.

### Honorary & Lifetime Members

Jim Barlow      Bud Sakamoto      Robbie Johnson

### Individual & Family Members

Larry & Terrie Bullock	Carol Janeczko	Elaine Shiyoji
Henry & Mavis Chen	Maria Kaffka	Naomi Shikaze
Janet Chiang & family	B. Knapen	Frank Stephan
Gayle & Gerry Cowper	Shirley Kruge	Elizabeth Waroway
Ollie Elec	Merle Linde	Nadja Wojna & Edwin Lockefer
Kate Ellison	Bruce Logan	
Carole Eng & Urey Chan	Claudia Maydanyk & Franklin Rarsingh	
Doreen Erikson & family	Bill McCombe & family	
Kim Evans	Judy McGuire & family	
Christina Froschauer	Ken Meyer & family	
Ed Goto	N. Ohkohchi & family	
Gwaltney family	Robert Parker	
Carina Harris & family	Candace Parsons	
Margaret Hewlett & family	Wally Paulik	
Randy Hing	Anne Ptucha	
Rita Irvin	Linda Rathburn	
	Fred Scott & family	



Meet Enid Au, our 2019 summer Collections Assistant. In addition to cataloguing artifacts in our Collections storage and assisting with our Oral History Program, Enid has been contributing new posts to our *Collections Catch of the Week* blog, and creating a new display for our *Treasures from the Collections* case in the front lobby.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### September 7: Members' Potluck

5pm. All members are invited to join our annual get-together (held indoors if rain).

#### September 28: Rivers End Fisher Poets

2 to 4pm. This year's Culture Days event, in the Boiler House Theatre. Free.

#### October 26 & 27: Haunted Sea

Halloween at the Cannery 11am to 4pm. Youth \$7 Adults \$11. Members are free.

#### Cannery Farmers' Market: October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17

December 1, 8 & 15

10am to 3pm. Sundays, free admission.

#### Closed Statutory Holidays:

October 14 & November 11

### BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW TODAY !

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society |  
12138 Fourth Avenue, Richmond, B.C. V7E 3J1 | Telephone: 604-664-9009

Corporate \$60     Family \$35     Individual \$20     Senior (55+) \$18     New

Renewal     Change of Address     DONATION (amount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you do NOT wish to have your name published as a new or renewing member.

As a member of the Society, we will be sending you updates on events and information about the Cannery. Please check below if you do NOT wish to receive these emails.

I do NOT wish to receive email updates from the Society