2010 marked the 100th anniversary of Haines’ incorporation and the 30th anniversary of the Sheldon Museum’s dedication. We celebrated in grand style with lots of special activities, changes and community connections.

The year began with an ending: the conclusion of re-wiring, repairing and updating our Fire Suppression System. This seemingly straightforward project turned complicated very quickly, requiring the work of many electricians, telephone repairmen, and the crew from the Borough Facilities department. Thanks to the Borough Assembly, Manager and Facilities Department for funding and coordinating that project.

Next was Chilkat Valley Jeopardy: In January the Museum board, staff and volunteers held a Chilkat Valley Jeopardy Tournament at the Chilkat Center. Cynthia “C.J.” Jones, Tom Morphet, Dan Henry and Joan Snyder collaborated to create trivia for three rounds of Jeopardy-style questions, all based on the Chilkat Valley. Twenty-seven people braved the stage, in teams of three. This was so much fun and so well received that we repeated the venture in February 2011 with the edition of a kids round.

March brought six weeks of Big Read events, featuring the book the Maltese Falcon. KHNS Radio produced and aired a delightful “readers theater” of the book; the Lynn Canal Community Players performed a murder mystery “Bull In A China Shop” on stage; Georgia Sampson crafted our own jeweled falcon; Dan Henry directed children in a murder mystery play; and many other events where hosted here, at the Library and around town.

We scrambled to finish a “rough draft” of our new Lower Gallery exhibits in time for International Museum Day in May, and celebrated the Museum’s 30th birthday with Museum Day in an Open House that gave visitors their first look at our new exhibits.

For the Haines Centennial the museum provided historic photographs that appeared in businesses and on lamp posts around town, helped plan a giant celebration on Main Street, and put up a 4th of July games booth in Tlingit Park. Children tossed small balls and bean bags, made bubbles, received balloon animals, and had their faces painted. It was such a success, the museum has decided to make it an annual addition to the Independence Day festivities.

Many activities continued from prior years: February brought History Day and the Brown Bag Lunch series. The Haines A Cappella Women’s Chorus continues to rehearse on Thursday evenings during the “off” season. The trains appeared for the Museum’s Christmas Open House.

We’ve officially left the crowded November fundraising season to other groups. The Silent Auction we tried out at the Southeast Alaska State Fair in 2009 returned in 2010 with even greater success. Other individuals and groups hosted lectures, films and interesting programs at the Museum. Highlights include: the State Women’s Club Convention, Dan Henry’s book discussions, and films from Lynn Canal Conservation. With slideshows and imagination, we looked for gold in the Yukon, traveled the Dalton Trail, climbed Mt. Everest and excavated in Egypt.

NYU instructor Michelle Dent conducted research and writing workshops centered around the theme of Alaskan women’s organizations and their participation in the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle. Many People used the Archive by visiting in person or using e-mail, telephone, or letters. This included visitors from (continued on page 2)
Lower Gallery Reinstallation

The major project of the year was to install new exhibits in the Lower Gallery with updated and enhanced interpretation. The previous summer, the exhibits were removed and a temporary abbreviated version was installed in the Hakkinen Gallery to make room for the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music." When New Harmonies moved on, a crew of volunteers helped paint, reposition the walls, and bring the artifacts back downstairs.

Karen Meizner and Andrea Nelson designed and installed the new exhibits with an eye toward interpreting Haines early history. The official opening was held on May 16, 2010 to celebrate the Museum’s 30th Anniversary and International Museum Day.

The Lower Gallery is still a "work in progress" and will remain so for several years as the exhibits develop and mature. We welcome and encourage comments! Let us know what you like, what needs work and if you have any artifacts, photographs and/or stories you are interested in contributing.
The Sheldon Museum announces the acquisition of 4 pieces of local art purchased with funds from the Rasmuson Foundation’s Art Acquisition Initiative. The goal of this fund is to support living, practicing Alaskan artists through museum purchases, to enhance the permanent art collections of Alaskan museums, and to encourage Alaskan museums to develop formal collections policies.

“Spring Babies” oil painting by Carol Clifton.

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“Fly” assemblage art piece by Andrea Nelson.

“Bird in Paradise” pen and ink drawing by Amelia Nash.

“Gathering” ceramic sculpture by Kerry Cohen.
The ongoing Six Week Spotlight Program is designed to provide a way for local artists to put together museum-quality shows in a local venue. The following artists had exhibitions in the summer of 2010.

In April, Andrea Nelson and Amelia Nash wowed visitors with their joint exhibit “Curious / Vicarious” featuring found art assemblages, watercolor “portraits” and pen and ink three-dimensional drawings.

In June, Debi Knight-Kennedy and Sharon Svenson filled the Hakkinen Gallery with beautiful carved puppets, sculpture and glittering glass mosaic shrines and images with their combined show “Super Heroes & Goddesses / Inside & Outside the Box.”

Sarah Cohen stunned visitors with her magnificent blown glass exhibit entitled “On My Mind” in July. Who knew glass could be sculptured into delicate lace, spiny balls, and fluid shapes.

George Figdor brightened the Hakkinen Gallery in September and moved viewers with his photography of far off places, capturing intimates moments and transforming what might be everyday activities into poignant scenes of life.

Don’t miss the 2011 line-up of Six Week Spotlight Exhibitions starting in May!

Left: Debi Knight Kennedy with “Justice” and “Truth,” two of her puppets representing the Seven Virtues.

Right: Sharon Svenson before her mosaic “Raven’s Stash,” which was decorated with a plethora of local trinkets!
The Sheldon Museum will host its 4th season of Six-Week Spotlight exhibits featuring local artists, beginning May 13th, 2011. This year’s juror, Paul Gardinier, Curator of Exhibitions, Alaska State Museum in Juneau, selected three exhibits for the season.

The first is a fiber arts exhibit pairing Tamsen Cassidy’s “Chilkat Wool Works,” with Joe Parnell’s “The Feltist.” Cassidy creates 3-dimensional felted sculptures of animals and people, while Parnell designs 2-dimensional scenes in felt. Parnell describes himself as “art in life” and invites the visitor to “allow your inner child to come out as you absorb the colors and images.” Cassidy states, “Wool is alive. Indeed, when it is worked one feels the life springing out of it. It is this life that creates the art … each one is unique, one of a kind and a being in its own right.” This will be a delightful show for children and adults alike.

“Fish and Chips” is the next Spotlight exhibit, a retrospective of Jim Heaton’s wood carving, showing his progression over the past 20 years and features new works as well as pieces from museums and private collections.

Ron Horn will conclude the season with a show of his photographs titled “Natural Art: Digital Photographs of Haines Wildlife and Landscapes.” While much of Ron’s work is well-known locally, this will be a chance to see his work collectively and in large format.
Over the course of this winter, the Education Department was excited to continue traditional programs offered at the Sheldon Museum while introducing new activities for kids and adults.

Young visitors are always welcome at the Sheldon Museum and this year we upgraded our children’s area, introducing new programs, just for kids! The Discovery Area now offers toys, games and exhibit-based activities for young museum enthusiasts. Likewise, children are encouraged to explore the Sheldon Museum during Kids’ Day, a weekly program in the winter that brings history of the Chilkat Valley to life through interactive crafts, activities and games.

Scholars from Mrs. Andriesen’s 7th and 8th grade classes learned about history through hard work and research during the 2011 History Day competition. This year’s theme, Debate & Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, Consequences, inspired 31 exhibits, websites and documentaries ranging from Vietnam to the existence of aliens. We were pleased that 12 projects from Haines advanced to the state competition. Cash prizes were donated by the Chilkat Valley Historical Society.

Evening programs at the Sheldon Museum presented snapshots of our natural world to kids and adults alike. Community members got an in-depth look at the night sky when the University of Alaska Museum of the North Traveling Planetarium visited for Community Science Night. The planetarium displayed constellations, the Northern Lights, and the Milky Way to viewers, while children enjoyed additional celestial activities including glow-in-the-dark posters, spectroscopes, and constellation drawings. We were also excited to partner with the Takshanuk Watershed Council to bring wildlife photographer and filmmaker Mario Benassi for a series of presentations where he shared his knowledge of owls, hawks and other birds of prey.

Tlingit Language Class entered its 13th year at the Sheldon Museum. Each week, teacher Elsie Spud shares her knowledge with a group of dedicated students. This year, class is also held in Klukwan so that Tlingit language speakers who live there may attend. During classes in Klukwan we are especially happy to speak with Evelyn Hotch, Elsie’s mother and former Tlingit Language teacher.

Stay tuned for warmer days and more Sheldon Museum events including an Earth Day celebration in May, new school programs and summer activities.

The Education Department would like to give special thanks to: Alan Traut, Elsie Spud, Evelyn Hotch, Richard Buck, Bob Adkins, David Barlog, Janine Allen, Kris Reeves, Georgia Sampson, Erik Stevens, Mary Jane Valentine, Alex Barlog, Chris Cannon, Amy Rath and Myrna Kornelis.
With the encouragement and support of Sheldon Museum Board Members Pam Randles and Michael Marks, the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Committee was reactivated in 2010. The Museum Board agreed to fund a few extra hours for Collections & Exhibits Coordinator Karen Meizner to reestablish contact with the Coast Guard, Alaska GEC, National Park Service, and General Services Administration and find out what can be done to lift the lighthouse out of its current state of uncertainty.

Eldred Rock appeared briefly on the GSA list of lighthouses to be transferred under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHPLA) in 2004, but was quickly pulled off as the result of a claim made on Alaska lighthouses by the US Forest Service. Passage of The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (PL109-241) provided for the transfer of underlying lands at various lighthouses, including Eldred Rock, from the Forest Service to the Coast Guard. However, concerns were voiced by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about high lead content in the soil.

At present, the Coast Guard is managing several large mitigation efforts that have a more immediate impact on population centers, and therefore are considered to be a higher priority. In the autumn of 2010, District 17 once again requested funding for the Eldred Rock mitigation efforts and was turned down.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska, headquartered in Juneau, is willing to partner with us to help with NHPLA eligibility and to find and provide funding, resources, workers and transportation for upgrade and maintenance of the lighthouse for future generations.

If you are interested in joining the Eldred Rock Committee, please contact the Museum.

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**Sheldon Museum DONATIONS**

Please fill out your address, then select an amount and where you wish your donation to go.

Your Name: ____________________________

Address: ________________________________

Phone: _________________________________

Email: _________________________________

- $20
- $50
- $100
- $200
- Other

- General Fund
- Exhibits Upgrades
- Endowment Fund
- Collections
- Fourth of July
- Other

Your tax deductible donations may be dropped off or mailed to:

Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center PO. Box 269, Haines, AK 99827

Or Donate On-Line Using Paypal: www.sheldonmuseum.org/smcc

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**Grants Awarded to SMCC**

**Rasmuson Foundation Technology Grant & Alaska State Museum Grants-in-Aid:**
The combination of these two grants funded the purchase of a server, a Store Point of Sale System and all new computers, printers and scanners to replace aging equipment.

**Alaska State Museum Grants-in-Aid:**
In our quest to become more energy efficient, we were able to replace all the power hungry office lights and install track lighting in the Lower Gallery.

**Chilkat Valley Community Foundation:**
Facilitated the hiring of Andrea Nelson to assist with redevelopment and installation of exhibits in the Lower Gallery.

**Chilkat Valley Community Foundation:**
Funded hiring Nancy Nash in the winter to continue cataloging the photo collection.

**Alaska Humanities Forum:**
Enabled us to record and transcribe more local oral histories.

**American Bald Eagle Foundation - Wings of Freedom:**
Paid for the development of hands-on material for educational field trips to schools.

**Alaska State Museum Summer Intern Program:**
Provided Kathy McCarrick as a summer intern to do condition assessment on the collections.

**National Endowment for the Humanities:**
Funded the purchase of equipment (and training with Scott Carrlee) to monitor the museum’s environment so we can better care for artifacts.

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Upcoming Events

Now - April 30th
Picturing Haines: Photo Open Invitation Exhibit
featuring photographs by local photographers

May 6th - June 18th
SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: JOE PARNELL & TAMSEN CASSIDY
Felt Art & Wool Sculpture

June 24th - July 31st
SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: JIM HEATON - Fish & Chips

July 28th - July 31st
Art & Antiques Auction at the SE AK State Fair!

July 4th, 2-4pm
Children’s Fourth of July Booth at Tlingit Park!

August 5th - Sept 17th
SIX WEEK SPOTLIGHT: RON HORN
Wild Life Photography!

We appreciate your support, interest, input, and participation.

Tlingit Native Culture, Local Art & Pioneer History of the Chilkat Valley

Locals Always Free!

www.sheldonmuseum.org

SHELDON MUSEUM
& Cultural Center
P.O. Box 269, Haines, Alaska 99827 (907) 766-2366

DON'T MISS!
Picturing Haines Exhibit
Now - April 30th
on display at the Sheldon Museum

Children’s faces are painted by Kris Reeves at Tlingit Park during the Fourth of July celebration. Local sponsors enabled the Museum to have a children’s booth with fun games and activities.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

**2010 Donors General Fund**
Dick & Julie Folta, Tom & Carolyn Ganner, Lucy Harrell, Eric Juda and Marge Matthews.

**Donors Charlie Anway Cabin Restoration Fund**

2011: Mike Race and Cindy Jones.
In the spring of 1987, “Ask me, I Live Here” was being aired on KHNS — a program where local business owners could talk about their businesses and what they had to offer.

Representing the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Cindy Jones (CJ) asked 10 historical questions, and then said “If you don’t know the answers, you need to visit the Sheldon Museum.” Dan Henry, program director for KHNS at the time suggested that we ask a question a week on the radio then give its answer the following week. Thus, ‘Question of the Week’ was born. The first question was: Where did Haines get its name? (Answer: Mrs. Francisca Electra Haines). Elisabeth ‘Lib’ Hakkinen, Museum Director, and CJ, regulars on the program, continued to pose and answer historical questions, and the Chilkat Valley Historical Society agreed to underwrite the program. Other Haines old timers and notables gave their voices to the history of Haines and the Chilkat Valley: Ray Menaker, Bob Henderson, John Schnabel, Doris Ward, and Marty Cordes among others. After a few years “Question of the Week” morphed into the “Sheldon Museum History Talk.” Rather than asking questions this program presented episodes of History in the Chilkat Valley. Some of the subjects were straightforward such as: Where was the Post’s Golf Course?; Boating Accidents in Upper Lynn Canal; and How Rex Beach got his start in Alaska. Some were humorous: What is a Sproule cocktail? Lib or CJ read articles from the early Pioneer Press including Bands and Basketball, Haines, Garden Spot of Alaska and Alaska Midland Railroad. Lib and CJ read from books by Haines authors Caroline Willard’s Life in Alaska, Hjalmar Rutzebeck’s Alaska Man’s Luck and Lael Morgan’s Black Soldiers on the Alcan. They recruited more history tellers Jim Wilson, Dan Henry, Joan Snyder and Frank Wallace among others.

Lib moved to Portland, Oregon in 1995. Joan Snyder, active in the CVHS, became the program’s regular voice until 2008 when CJ began digitizing old oral history tapes. CJ and Dan Henry broadcast the series In Their Own Voices. It was wonderful to once again hear those old familiar voices, now gone. Molly Hibler, born under a covered wagon, described how she moved to Alaska in a sailboat in 1915. Jane Bell described riding a train across the country in WW2. Forrest Young and Marty Cordes told the story of when Forrest was mauled by a bear.

In 2010, Sheldon Museum Director Jerrie Clarke enlisted the National Park Service in Skagway to share radio time with Haines. The NPS now broadcasts from Skagway on alternate Tuesdays.

Now in its 24th year, the Sheldon Museum history talk is still well received in the Lynn Canal and has revealed to listeners the fascinating history of the Chilkat Valley. It recently spawned a new version of the popular game show Jeopardy, which the Museum now holds as an annual fundraiser. The CVHS continues to sponsor the Sheldon Museum History Talk.