

Spirit of the season alive at Royal BC Museum

VICTORIA, BC – The Royal BC Museum (RBCM) is ready for the holidays, with carolling and displays for all.

The festivities start on Sunday Dec. 6 with the annual *Carol-Along with the Carillon* and *Carillon Light-Up*. Provincial carillonneur Rosemary Laing and members of Newcombe Singers invite carollers to join them for a variety of songs before the 27-metre (90-foot) Netherlands Centennial Carillon brightens the night sky.

“Magic is in the air at the Royal BC Museum,” says RBCM CEO Pauline Rafferty. “The streets of Old Town are already decked with the season’s finest decor, complete with a 15-foot Christmas tree. And from Dec. 19, historic Helmcken House will be open so our visitors can experience an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas.”

The *Carol-Along with the Carillon* and *Carillon Light-Up* events start at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the corner of Belleville and Government streets. Song sheets and refreshments will be provided. Helmcken House will be open to the public, Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 (daily, noon - 4 p.m., closed Christmas and New Years Day); festive decorations will brighten Old Town until Jan. 11.

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum preserves and shares the stories of British Columbia – on-site, off-site and online – through its research, collections, exhibitions and educational programs. Its two-hectare cultural precinct also includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

For more information on the latest activities, events and exhibitions at the Royal BC Museum, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call 1-888-447-7977.

DETAILS:

Carol-Along with the Carillon

Join us as we ring in the season with this sing-along concert, featuring live performances by provincial carillonneur Rosemary Laing and members of Newcombe Singers. Song sheets and hot cocoa will be provided. (Sunday, Dec. 6, from 4 - 4:45 p.m.)

Carillon Light-Up

The Netherlands Centennial Carillon will brighten the night sky for the second-annual *Carillon Light-Up*. (Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4:45 p.m.)

An old-fashioned Christmas at Helmcken House

Experience an old-fashioned Christmas at historic Helmcken House. Decked with boughs of fir and holly and set with a traditional holiday feast, the house comes alive with the spirit of a Victorian Christmas. (Dec. 19 - Jan. 3, noon - 4 p.m. – closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day)

Celebrate the season in Old Town

Old Town is ready for the holidays with a 4.7-metre (15-foot) Christmas tree, streets laced with festive garlands and shops decked in seasonal finery. (Dec. 1 - Jan. 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. – closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day)