



GOVERNED BY BRITANNIA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (1971)

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Britannia Beach Historical Society Press Conference
Engineers Club - 640 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C.

BRITANNIA MILL DECLARED A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Britannia Beach Historical Society, the governing body of the British Columbia Museum of Mining, is proud to announce that the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has found the ore concentrating complex at Britannia Mines to be of national historic and architectural significance. This is the first time that a mining heritage resource of this magnitude has been so designated in Canada.

The announcement is timely because 1988 marks the centennial of the discovery of copper ore at Britannia in 1888. To celebrate this anniversary, the Museum will host a Discovery Day special event for the general public on May 14th. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board will unveil a commemorative plaque at the site within the year.

Recognition as a National Historic Site means that the Society can now focus on developing a Mining Museum of national status. Although no immediate funding will accompany the commemorative plaque, increased public awareness will assist the Society in its fund raising campaigns. Also, the incentive is there to enter into negotiations with the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and the private sector on a cost-sharing agreement for Museum and Historic Site development.

Britannia's significance as a major world copper producer has been well documented. During its 70 year history, Britannia employed over 60,000 people and produced over 50 million tons of copper ore. From 1925 to 1930, it was known as the largest copper producer in the British Empire.

The Mill is a magnificent structure, a marvel of industrial engineering and technology. It is a superb example of the ingenuity of the Canadian mining industry. The Mill is the last remaining gravity-fed concentrator in North America that is accessible to the general public. Britannia is only 52 km from Vancouver on the well-travelled "Sea to Sky" designated tourist route.

The Britannia Concentrating Mill Complex provides a rare opportunity to study and illustrate early 20th Century mining and milling practices. The remains of the two early mills, the tunnel network and the existing Mill provide rich material evidence for scholars, industrial archaeologists and the general public.

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For further information, please contact Marilyn Mullan, Executive Director or Susan Green, Curator, British Columbia Museum of Mining (688-8735)