

From... [Pacific NW Magazine.](#)

Nothing captures a small town's character, soul and past like its museum — but their futures face serious modern-day perils.

June 21, 2020 at 7:00 am Updated June 24, 2020 at 5:47 pm

By [Jeff Burnside](#)

Special to The Seattle Times

“IT’S EASY TO SEE the pride in Sherrie Evans’ face as she stands next to a coal-mining exhibit in [Black Diamond’s town museum](#). The coal miner in the old blurry photo, shown standing outside the famed Mine 11, which, in the early 1900s, was the biggest coal mine in the United States, is Gomer Evans Sr. Not only is Sherrie his granddaughter; she also helps run the small-town museum.”

Read more at LINK: <https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/nothing-captures-a-small-towns-character-soul-and-past-like-its-museum-but-their-futures-face-serious-modern-day-perils/>

CharacterTowns.org has long said that local history museums are one of the central assets of every small city and town. Towns that have them need to preserve and enhance them; those without need to find a person, event or the unique feature of the community that authentically represents the town; then celebrate it with a museum, gallery or plaza that permanently enhances the aura of the town. Residents [children], businesses and visitors will benefit.