

Timelines

A Quarterly Newsletter of Nanaimo District Museum



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Editing, Photography & Design by Mark Corbett

NDM receives \$170K grant to produce virtual exhibit

Nanaimo Museum will help preserve "Voices of the Snuneymuxw First Nation" with new Virtual Museum of Canada funding

"Our Elders say that the old people are speaking to us through the stones and bones they left behind long ago. It is time to listen and hear their story."

Nanaimo District Museum and the Snuneymuxw First Nation will be working with project partners Nick Tuele, Art of Art Consulting; Donna Gerdts, Simon Fraser University; Imogene Lim Malaspina University-College, Dave Robertson University of Victoria, and

Zero One Design Inc on this innovative new exhibit.

Today the old voices of the Snuneymuxw First Nation Elders grow faint and there are now fewer than six Elders who are fluent in the Hul'qumi'num language.

This virtual exhibition at the new Museum will tell the story of the Coast Salish people — those who have occupied the eastern shores of south-central Vancouver Island for more than 5,000 years — through the voices of the Elders.

The opportunity to digi-

tally record the Elders who are fluent in their native language and incorporate their powerful memories and insights into a virtual exhibition represents a timely opportunity to preserve what might otherwise be lost.

The virtual exhibition will tell the story of the Snuneymuxw First Nation's unique history in a rich and compelling manner.

Through the medium of a virtual exhibit the cultural resources that are contained in museum collections around the world can be

drawn together to show the artistic and spiritual wealth of the Snuneymuxw.

There are at least 500 artifacts in these collections. As well, the virtual exhibition will tell the story of the Snuneymuxw in modern times to demonstrate the continuum that exists from the legends of the ancestors to the realities and dreams of the Snuneymuxw today.

The research and material gathered for this exhibit will be used in creative ways for the First Nations exhibit in the new museum.

With a new Museum comes new branding...



With the unveiling of our new museum in 2008, we will roll out this new stylized logo, chosen for a clean simplicity that echoes the harbour — the thread that runs through the entire Nanaimo Story — to better represent our new place in a growing and dynamic downtown Nanaimo.

Museum gets \$5,000 boost from RBC



Museum manager Debbie Trueman, second from right, poses for a photo with Tim Manning, Regional VP Commercial Banking BC, Graham MacLachlan, Regional President BC, Moira Jenkins, VP Vancouver Island Northern Commercial Banking and Jane Black, Regional VP Vancouver Island North.

Nanaimo District Museum received a significant financial boost recently from the Royal Bank of Canada for the planned new museum space. The funds will go a long way in establishing a fine new museum for Nanaimo and for the many visitors we welcome every year. Museum staff and board members extend their gratitude to the Royal Bank for this generous contribution to our city's cultural heritage.

New Feature Exhibit:

NANAIMO FORTUNATA!

**From Feb 21 – May 29, 2006
(Opens Heritage Week)**

Nanaimo, from its earliest days, has been regarded as a place of opportunity. The prospect of work in the mines, inexpensive farm land and commercial opportunities have attracted men and women from every continent. Over the years, the museum has celebrated the contributions of immigrants who settled here and raised their families.

***Nanaimo Fortunata! (Lucky Nanaimo!)* opens during Heritage Week in February, and reflects on the contributions of Italians to Nanaimo.**

The first Italian to visit Vancouver Island was Captain Alejandro Malaspina who anchored briefly in Nootka Sound. On the mainland, a Jesuit priest, Father John Nobili, worked as a missionary in the Okanogan in the 1840s. The



Italian community celebrates BC's 1958 centennial by constructing the Italian Fountain in front of what is now Port Place Mall.

1858 Fraser River Gold Rush attracted thousands of miners from California and some of these men, recent arrivals from Italy, may have sought work in local coalmines. Who arrived first in Nanaimo, however, was not recorded.

The contributions of Italians and its close community have been recognized by Nanaimo and British Columbia. Features of the community such as Maffeo-Sutton Park, Giovando Lookout (Newcastle Island), Holden Corso Road and the Italian Fountain (Port Place Mall) celebrate their contributions to Nanaimo. On an international scale, the civil defence work of former mayor Pete Maffeo during WW II was recognized when he was awarded the O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire).

Using photographs, maps and objects and with support from individuals and the Felice Cavallotti Lodge, we invite you to come and learn their story.

Heritage Week Events February 18-25, 2006

Antiques Road Show

**Saturday, February 18 from 10 am to 4 pm
at Port Place Mall**

- Bring in your favourite treasures, keepsakes, collectibles and heirlooms to have them appraised by the experts!
- \$10 for 1st item, then 2 for \$15 for a brief verbal appraisal
- Hourly door prizes
- Brought to you by the Museum and Zonta Club of Nanaimo



This Year's Appraisers Include:

Hugh Bulmer and Neil McAllister from Maynards Fine Art Auctioneers, Vancouver; Michael Hartmann and Ted Rye, universal, Nanaimo; Pamela Mar, textile expert; Neil Williams, book expert; Rod Liddicoat, jewelry expert.

Heritage Week Antiques Road Show is sponsored by:



Robert Service – Bard of the Yukon

Saturday, February 25 at 1:00 pm

The museum staff is excited to offer international performer, Walter Epp performing some of the many ballads Robert Service wrote. Come listen to such poems as “*Cremation of Sam McGee, The Spell of The Yukon and The Shooting of Dan McGrew*”. Enjoy Klondike refreshments. Space is limited! Book early! \$5 adults.

Ted Dandy Historical Writing Contest Week of February 18

This year the theme is *Nanaimo Celebrates*. It is open to students from grade two to grade seven. Students are to write 1-2 page entry describing *Nanaimo Celebrations*. To help tell the story, students may use pictures (drawings or photographs), computer presentation (PowerPoint)...the possibilities are endless. For more information call Bobbi at 753 1821.

Launch of 6th annual Museum Photo Contest: *Nanaimo Celebrates*

Because we want you to be ready for this sixth installment of our annual Photo Contest, we're letting the cat out of the bag and telling you well in advance what we're looking for this year... **Nanaimo Celebrating!**

Spring Break at the Museum Teen Curator Program March 13-17

This year Nanaimo District Museum is partnering with the Vancouver Island Arts Festivals Society to offer a Teen Curator Program for Grades 7-12 during Spring Break Festival of the Arts.

Participants will interact with the Curatorial program staff and to produce an exhibit from concept to exhibition.

They will develop skills in Research, Photography, Design, Writing, Team Building and Public Relations. This is a five day – seven hours a day program with the exhibit opening on Friday, March 17.

For more information contact Bobbi at 753 1831.

Thanks Yous!

For Your Patience

The staff and board of Nanaimo District Museum would like to express our appreciation to the public at large who have had to deal with a number of physical obstacles in getting to the museum thanks to construction and downtown revitalization projects. Your patience is much appreciated

Chinese New Year Celebrations

We will also take this opportunity to thank the Nanaimo Chinese Cultural Society for partnering with us for the last decade or so to bring the city Chinese New Year Celebrations. Due to illnesses, however, the museum will not be hosting the celebration this year. However, we look forward to once again highlighting this important cultural event next year.

Museum Events

Monday, February 21 at 5 p.m.

Opening Reception for Nanaimo Fortunata!

Join us for the opening reception for the museum's new feature exhibit, Nanaimo Fortunata! (which means *Lucky Nanaimo!*). Refreshments and door prizes.

Saturday, February 25 at 1:00 pm

Robert Service – Bard of the Yukon

The museum staff is excited to offer international performer, Walter Epp, performing some of the many ballads Robert Service wrote such as "Cremation of Sam McGee, The Spell of The Yukon and The Shooting of Dan McGrew". Enjoy Klondike refreshments. Space is limited! Book early! For more information call Bobbi at 753 1821. \$5 adults.

Saturday, March 25 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Italian Cultural Demonstrations

Visit the Italian exhibit and participate in cultural demonstrations such as sausage making, games and crafts.

Saturday, April 8 – 1:00 pm

Italian Connections with author Lynne Bowen

As waves of Italians immigrants become permanent residents in British Columbia towns that first gave them jobs, a strong connection between pairs of communities in British Columbia and Italy was maintained. These connections are as strong today as they were in the past.

Saturday, April 22 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Photograph Restoration Workshop

How do you preserve all those photographs and negatives stashed away in shoeboxes? Join Wilf Hatch, photography instructor, to learn about proper care and storage of new and old photographs.

Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon

Coal Mine Sites Bus Tour

Join Roy Brookbank for this immensely popular tour of Nanaimo's most famous mine sites. Sells out fast so book early! \$30 for members, \$25 for non-members

Saturday, May 21 at noon

Opening of Bastion Season

Watch for opening celebration in conjunction with Empire Days

Saturday, May 27 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Scrap Booking Workshop

Learn the history of scrap booking and some of the techniques for storing and displaying your family and holiday pictures. Bring a few photographs and/or memorabilia and your imagination. To book call Bobbi at 753 1821. Cost: \$10

Board of Directors

President - Joyce Brookbank

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Assistant Curator - Richard Slingerland

Acting Program/Volunteer Coordinator -
Bobbi Williamson

Communications - Mark Corbett

Administrative Assistant - Arvon Brunt

Maintenance - Darrell Bell

Museum Notes

In Memoriam

It is with heartfelt sadness that we say goodbye to museum member Paula Berry, who recently passed away, and extend our condolences to her many family, friends and other loved ones in this difficult time. Paula will be remembered fondly.

Welcome Katimavik!

Once again, the museum is pleased to welcome several Katimavik participants — Aaron Rogers from Dawson Creek, B.C., Stephanie Lefebvre from La Sarre, Quebec and Vincent Poirier from St. Roch De Richelieu, Quebec — who will lend their helping hands to the important work the museum does over the next several months.

Images of Civic Arena

Sean Kraus is looking for images about the Civic Arena so we are asking Museum members if they have any photos, memorabilia, artifacts etc. that can be photographed to appear on the website. If you have any images, please let Sean know by emailing him at slkrause01@aol.com or contact the Museum.



New textiles

The Museum's textile inventory received a boost recently from the Canadian Costume Society of Victoria. Unfortunately, the society is now defunct, but the museum's textile experts, led by Pamela Mar, were able to secure quite a number of costumes and fashions, from the 1850s and up, as a result of the closure. The items pictured above will be on display for a few more weeks.



"Stories of the Southend"

Nanaimo Southend-born-and-raised resident, Laura Ramsay, has generously included Nanaimo District Museum in her project "Stories of the Southend".

The project will gather stories from people who have a history in the Southend and we encourage our members to send in their stories.

Give us your name (including maiden name if applicable), phone number, year of birth, story location, time period and any photos or memorabilia you may have that relates to the story. To get you started...**"Since all remembrances are valued, I remember when...."**

Please mail or email your story (or stories) to Laura Ramsay 1031 Halibuton St. V9R 6N5 or debbie@nanaimomuseum.ca by March 1st please.

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Fax: 250-740-0125
Email: info@nanaimomuseum.ca

Museum Financially Supported by:



We're on the Web!
www.nanaimomuseum.ca

Nanaimo & District Museum Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm

Join us for a
*Special 3D Virtual
Presentation*

on the Museum's new space!