

Timelines

A Quarterly Newsletter of Nanaimo District Museum



February 2007
Volume 1.07

New museum to receive \$2.3 million in federal funding!

At a special ceremony on Feb. 10, Dr. James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Alberni, announced that the Nanaimo District Museum Society will receive a grant totaling \$2,301,301.00 through the Cultural Spaces Canada program. The money will go towards the interior finishing of the new museum and the purchase of specialized equipment.

The new facility, with a total cost of \$7.36M, will be housed within the New Nanaimo Centre and is scheduled to open in spring 2008. The City of Nanaimo has also committed more than \$4M for construction costs.

"The Government of Canada is proud to support the development of the new Nanaimo Museum," said Dr. Lunney. "It will be an important destination for traveling exhibits from across the country and will house First Nations artifacts from Nanaimo."

It was an exciting and long-awaited announcement for Joyce Brookbank, president of the NDMS. "Thanks to this generous commitment, Nanaimo will have an "A" level museum and attraction to interpret and preserve our community heritage" she said.

For Bob Bennie, the museum's fundraising campaign chair, this announcement is exactly what he's been waiting for. "We've been poised to launch our fundraising campaign in Nanaimo for some time now, but until this unprecedented announcement came down the pipe, we didn't know exactly how much we would need," he said.

Debbie Trueman, general manager of NDMS, says the museum is now responsible for raising \$1.16M to pay for functional fittings and installation of the exhibits in the new space.

"Our application to Cultural Spaces included a request for



Dr. James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Alberni, right, presents a symbolic cheque worth \$2,301,310.00 to Joyce Brookbank, president of the museum society, Debbie Trueman, general manager, and John Manning, vice president, at a special ceremony at the museum on Feb. 10.

\$280,000 for artifact storage, prep area and gallery lighting, which I'm pleased to announce was also granted," she said.

The museum will now turn to the community to meet its remaining fundraising obligations. The official launch of the campaign, with a number of exciting new developments, gets under way on Feb. 22. Museum members will be first on the guest list with invitations going out next week.

"These funds, from various levels of government as well as the community, will enable us to meet AA standards as established by the Canadian Conservation Institute," said Trueman.

Nanaimo & District Museum Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 13 at 7 pm

Join us for a

*New 3D Virtual
Presentation*

On the Museum's new space!

More Good News...

The Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, announced recently that Nanaimo District Museum has received a grant of \$21,310 under the Capacity Building component of the *Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program* for the *New Nanaimo Museum Revenue Generation Plan*.

In other words, these funds will support the Museum's efforts to develop a comprehensive strategic business plan as well as plans to generate more revenue for its expanded operations.

~~ *Heritage Week Happenings* ~~

Heritage Week 2007: Vernacular Heritage - Architecture Without Architects

February 17-24

In BC, the third week of February is Heritage Week. It begins with national Heritage Day, always the third Monday in February. The theme for 2007 is: "Vernacular Heritage - Architecture Without Architects". Communities around the province will celebrate with fairs, displays, tours, performances and more.

Heritage Week—Free Admission to the Museum

February 17 and 20-24 (closed Sun. & Mon.) 10 am to 5 pm

Antique Road Show and Sale

Saturday, Feb. 17, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Bring your favourite treasures, keepsakes, collectibles and heirlooms and have them appraised by the experts! First item \$10 each, subsequent items \$5 each, for a brief verbal appraisal. Hourly door prizes. All Proceeds to Nanaimo District Museum and Zonta Club of Nanaimo. This year's appraisers include: Hugh Bulmer and Richard Rosewell (both have appeared on the Canadian Antiques Roadshow), Neil McAllister, Robb Liddicot, Neil Williams, Michael Hartmann, Pamela Mar, Ted Rye, Jeff Ross and Luis Poretta.

Robert Service Recital

Saturday, February 24, 1 to 3 pm

Tickets will go on sale in January. Learn the Nanaimo connection to the Klondike, listen to a recital of Robert Service poems, and indulge in some Klondike fare. Presented by André Begin. Cost: \$5 each.



~~ *Exhibits Now and Around the Corner* ~~

“Adopt an Artifact”

Open Feb. 23 to April 27, 2007

This is a rare opportunity to see a wonderful selection of artifacts from the Museum's collection chosen by staff and volunteers. Some come with great stories, others are beautiful pieces and some, well some just have a special place in our hearts. There will be over 100 objects, many of which have not been on exhibit for many years and for others it will be their debut performance. This is the first step for the Museum's collection development as we prepare for our new space.

Uprooted: A Journey of Japanese Canadian Fishing Families

Open May 18 to Sept. 16, 2007

Using a replica fishing village as a backdrop and a variety of artifacts and media, the exhibit explores the story of Japanese Canadian fishing families living in Steveston, British Columbia from 1890 to the present. Japanese men and women played important roles in the commercial fishing industry as they owned fish boats and worked in canneries and salteries. From the earliest time, anti-Asian sentiment affected their lives and it peaked with the internment and loss of boats and homes during World War II. A replica internment home is used to tell this story together and explain the long period of rebuilding and seeking redress for their losses.

Our Thoughts are With Them...

The passing of two former directors of the Nanaimo District Museum Society in January, Dr. Clarence Karr (past president) and Gerry Berry Sr., was a loss not only to the Museum, which they served so well over the years, but to the entire community. We will always remember their contributions to the preservation of our local history, but more importantly, we will miss them. We extend our sincere condolences to their families in this difficult time.

~~ Coming Events at the Museum ~~

Spring Break Workshop Series:

How Do They Do That?

The cost is \$30.00 for each workshop or all five workshops for \$120 (Receive one workshop free). Nanaimo District Museum members will receive a 15 % discount. All of the workshops are limited to 10 students each (open to students in Grade Three to Grade Six) and pre-registrations is a MUST. Deadline for registering is March 15th. FMI contact Bobbi at 250-753-1821

Monday, March 19

Ornithroper

For over 1000 years man has tried to fly. The first attempts at flight were with man-made wings attached to one's arms and flapped like bird's wings. Leonardo Da Vinci designed a flying machine with flappable wings. In this workshop build an airplane with wings that flap.

Tuesday, March 20

Pysanka - Ukrainian Easter Eggs

Pysanka is better known as hand-decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs and dates back thousands of years to when man stilled lived in caves. Learn the history of Pysanka and how to decorate your own egg just in time for Easter.

Wednesday, March 21

Chinese Knotting – An ancient Chinese art.

For thousands of years the Chinese have been making decorative attachments for their clothing out of rope. Learn the history of Chinese Knotting and make several decorative items of jewelery.

Thursday, March 22

Candle Making

Before electricity and petroleum products were used our homes were lit with candles. Learn the art of candle dipping. See some of the tools used in candle making. Learn some modern methods of making decorative candles. Make your own candles.

Friday, March 23

Transistor Radio

Build your own transistor radio similar to one like your grandparents would have listened to when they were your age and the television only had one channel.

Feature Exhibit: "Adopt an Artifact"

February 23 to April 27

Heritage Week Activities

February 17 and 20-24 (closed Sun. & Mon.)

Free Admission to the Museum.

Antiques Road Show and Sale

Saturday, Feb 17,

Port Place Shopping Centre

Sales: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

Appraisals: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday Feature: Robert Service Recital

Saturday, February 24, 1 pm - 3pm

Tickets will go on sale in January. Learn the Nanaimo connection to the Klondike, listen to a recital of Robert Service poems, and indulge in some Klondike fare. Cost: \$5.00 ea. Presented by André Begin. For more info contact Bobbi at 753-1821.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 7 pm

For more info contact Debbie at 753-1821.

Spring Break Workshop Series -

How do they do that?

March 19 to 23, 10 am - 2:30 pm

This year the Nanaimo District Museum is offering a different workshop each day of Spring Break. The workshops are open to students in Grade Three to Grade Six. *See side bar for details on sessions.* For more info, contact Bobbi at 753-1821.

Estuary Walking Tour

Saturday, April 21, 1 pm - 3 pm

Cost: \$10 each. Call Bobbi at 753-1821.

Coal Mine Bus Tour

Friday, April 27, 1 to 4 pm

Ray Brookbank, long time resident and avid history buff, will take you on an informative, revised tour of local coal mine sites. Join Roy Brookbank for this immensely popular tour of Nanaimo's most famous mine sites. Special Tours arranged for group events. Cost: \$30 each. For more info contact Bobbi at 753-1821.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Monday, April 23, 1 pm to 3 pm

For more info, contact Bobbi at 753-1821.

For up-to-date information on the Museum visit: www.nanaimomuseum.ca

~~ Celebrations, Successes and Special Notices ~~



Christmas School Programs

There were 33 Old Fashioned Christmas Programs booked for Kindergarten and Grade One classes, of which more than 560 students and 170 teachers and parents attended.

Old Fashioned Christmas success!

The Old Fashioned Family Christmas event held on Saturday, Dec. 16 had an impressive 117 people participating by singing carols, listening to stories and doing crafts.

Special Thanks

Katimavik participants: Mark Samborski (Ontario), Guillaume Theriault (Québec), and of course all of our dedicated volunteers whose invaluable contributions make so much more possible for the Museum.

Thanks also goes out to Pamela Mar, Jose Hope, Betty Hamilton, Alexandria Sherlock and Pat McCann for orchestrating the Heritage of Hands textile exhibit.

Volunteers

A docent orientation was held in the fall with 15 new volunteers or volunteers wanting to expand their experience at the Museum. In appreciation of the more than 5,000 volunteer hours worked this past year the staff hosted a volunteer Christmas party.

Nanaimo: A Photographic History

In December the Museum collaborated with Gallery 223 to restore and reproduce some 40 images from its photo collection. All combined, these photographs showcased Nanaimo's significant past and growth to its current presence in British Columbia. All restored images, in various sizes, framed and unframed were made available for purchase. Half of the profits, totally more than \$1,100, were given to the Museum. Special thanks goes to George Leshchuk of Gallery 223, Matt James for the many hours he spent re-mastering the photos, and Lynne Bowen, Jan Petersen and Parker Williams who were all presenters during the supporting Speaker Series. Just goes to show what creativity and good old fashioned collaborations can accomplish!

Museum Winter Hours

We are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. Monday appointments with staff can be made by calling 753-1821.

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Board of Directors

President - Joyce Brookbank
Vice-President - John Manning
Treasurer - Douglas Peterson
Secretary - Eveline O'Rourke
Directors
- Bruno Dragani
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General Manager - Debbie Trueman
Curator - David Hill-Turner
Assistant Curator - Richard Slingerlan
Program/Volunteer Coordinator - Bobbi Williamson
Administrative Assistant - Arvon Brunt
Communications - Mark Corbett
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We're on the Web!
www.nanaimomuseum.ca



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