

TIMELINES

MAKE A DISCOVERY AT THE NANAIMO MUSEUM

January 2016



NANAIMO MUSEUM

CHARACTERS, CON MEN & CELEBRITIES



1903 celebration to honour Samuel Robins (seated behind table). Robins is one of the people featured in the spring feature exhibit (NM I3-15)

Feature Exhibition: February 1 - May 7

The latest feature exhibit includes remarkable people from Nanaimo's past including petty thieves, poets, murderers, politicians, a conservation officer and others. The exhibit features artifacts and photos from the Nanaimo Museum's collections. Thirty fascinating people from Nanaimo's past are profiled in the exhibit. "There are many interesting people in Nanaimo's history who haven't fit with past feature exhibits," says Aimee Greenaway, Interpretation Curator at the Nanaimo Museum. "Characters, Con Men & Celebrities gave us an opportunity to showcase some of these remarkable and entertaining stories for the community." The exhibit includes people from diverse backgrounds including those who were working class, rich, women and various ethnic groups. "This isn't your usual museum exhibit," says Greenaway. "Most of the people have stories that could be turned into a bestselling novel or blockbuster movie."

The exhibit does not place anyone into the categories of characters, con men or celebrities. "The role of the museum was to research these intriguing people and present their stories," says Greenaway. "We hope the visitors will read the stories and be their own judge of who is a character, con man or celebrity." Visitors are invited to go on the Nanaimo Museum's Facebook page and post answers to the question "Who do you think deserves the title of Nanaimo's most fascinating character, con (wo)man or celebrity?" Postings can be made for one person in each category or just a single overall favorite. This in-house exhibit made possible by a generous bequest from Mary Holmes.

ARTIFACTS & COLLECTIONS



Left: Recent artifact donations. Above: Shelves M & N of the Nanaimo Museum's "on-site" storage area.

Artifact Acquisitions

First Nations Stone Tools

Two anchor stones and a fish net sinker were donated to the museum by Gillian Darling Kovanic. Her family has owned property on Gabriola Island since 1915 and she found the tools while exploring Clarke Bay beach in 1965. The museum has other anchor stones and fish net sinkers in the collection but none can be precisely pinpointed to a location in the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nations. Gabriola Island was an important spring and summer village site for the Snuneymuxw.

Collections Plan

We are nearly two years into a full inventory of the artifact collection. This process allows us to ensure artifact locations are updated in the database, review the collection in its entirety and reorganize artifact storage spaces. Getting hands-on with the collection allows the younger generation of staff to learn more about the artifacts and tap into the expertise of long-term staff.

THANK YOU TO...

- The City of Nanaimo for renewing our management agreement
- The Nanaimo Port Authority for their annual Bastion sponsorship donation & bringing in three cruise ships which helped our non-profit gift shop have a record year!
- Harbour City Bingo & Nanaimo Yacht Club for their generous donations

THANK YOU to everyone who visited the museum in December...

Our December 2015 admission donations went to the Loaves & Fishes food bank!



SPRING PROGRAMMING



Toddler Tuesdays

Tuesdays, January 26, February 23,
March 29 & April 26
10:00am-12:00pm

Bring your preschool aged child or grandchild to visit the museum! There are activities to keep small hands busy including Touch tours, an I-Spy game and a petroglyph rubbing station. This is a great way to introduce your child to the museum in a fun way. The program is drop-in and caregivers must be present at all times. Activities are geared towards children 3-4 years old but younger or older siblings are welcome. Preregistration is not required and cost is included in regular admission.

Characters, Con Men & Celebrities Presentations

Tuesdays, February 16 & April 19
1:30pm-2:15pm

Join Interpretation Curator, Aimee Greenaway, for stories and photos from the exhibit including compelling details and characters that were edited out of the exhibit. Greenaway will also provide a behind-the-scenes view of the criteria used to choose historical figures for the exhibit. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$5 per person.

Family Day Heritage Activities

Monday, February 8
10:00am-3:00pm

Explore local heritage with a family visit to the Nanaimo Museum. From 10am-3pm families can participate in self-guided tours like I-spy, Touch and Coal Mine. From 10am-1pm, children can also create coal mine lantern crafts and a heritage toy. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver at all times. Activities are available for children ages 2-12 years. Admission is by donation.

Spring Break

Monday, March 14 - Thursday, March 24

This year, School District 68 is having a two week spring break and the Nanaimo Museum is hosting family activities. There will be Family Discovery self-guided tours & new evening events along with our popular drop-in workshops. Admission is by donation for all of our spring break programming. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver at all times. For more information please visit our website at nanaimomuseum.ca or check us out on Facebook or Twitter.

- **Family Discovery Tours**
March 14, 18 & 21
Self-Guided from 10am-5pm
- **Night at the Museum Activities**
Tuesday, March 15 & March 22
Drop-in Family Activities 5:30pm-7pm
- **Drop-in Kids Programs (1pm - 4pm)**
Wednesday, March 16: Chinatown
Thursday, March 17: Coal miners
Wednesday, March 23: Space
Thursday, March 24: Vikings
- **Friday, March 25: Good Friday**
Museum closed for statutory holiday

EXHIBITS

Hallway Exhibit

From February to April in our community hallway space we are featuring *Getting There: Modes of Transportation*. Archival photos from the museum's collection are on display to tie in with the Heritage Week theme *Distinctive Destinations*.



The Story Behind the Artifact

MAY 20 - SEPTEMBER 5

The best artifacts have an incredible story to tell. This exhibit features artifacts connected to local people, places and events ranging from ordinary household objects to those that have survived fatal accidents.

Voices from the Engraver

SEPTEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 21

Experience the creative process, technical skill and artistry behind Canadian stamps and bank notes. The exhibit features engraving tools, printing plates, photos and drawings and designs that were not used. This is a travelling exhibit from the Bank of Canada Museum in partnership with the Canadian Museum of History.



NANAIMO MUSEUM AGM

MARCH 15, 2016

5:00PM-6:15PM

Join us for the annual general meeting - door prizes, refreshments and free presentation. Members are encouraged to attend. Every member gets a vote! Please email info@nanaimomuseum.ca for details.



Adopt an Artifact

Barbara Mar Memorial Donations

Family and friends of the late Barbara Mar made generous contributions in her memory to the Nanaimo Museum's Adopt an Artifact program at the \$5000 level. After careful consideration, museum staff selected a grouping of three artifacts to be dedicated in Mrs. Mar's name: Chinese pillows for winter, summer and travel. These were donated to the museum by her father, Ed Lee, in the 1960s and 1970s. They are currently on display in the Chinatown section of the Hub City exhibit. Without the support of Ed and Marion Lee, the community would not have such a rich Chinese collection.



MUSEUM NEWS

Pecha Kucha

September 2015

Aimee participated in a Pecha Kucha presentation last fall, *Mines and Yours: Honouring Heritage in Nanaimo* that featured perspectives on Nanaimo's cultural past, present, and future. Pecha Kucha presentations are held all over the world and strictly adhere to a 20x20 format where each speaker has 20 seconds to talk about 20 Powerpoint slides that feature images. The short time frame forces speakers to be succinct and allows audience members to hear from a diverse series of presenters. Aimee focused on her personal connection to Nanaimo's history as a 6th generation resident and how artifacts and their stories can engage the community in local heritage.



BC Museums Association Conference Recap

October 2015

Debbie, Becca and Aimee attended the BC Museums Association conference in New Westminster last fall. As part of the conference schedule, Aimee delivered two presentations. The first was *Embracing Controversy: The Nanaimo Museum's Red Lights & Roulette* exhibit. The purpose of the presentation was to share a small museum's experience creating an exhibit on a controversial topic. The *Red Lights & Roulette* feature exhibit from February 2015 focused on Fraser Street's sex trade at the turn of the 20th century. True to the presentation's title about controversy, a few intense debates were sparked by audience members. The question and answer period was lengthy with great audience participation.

Aimee played a much smaller role in her second presentation where she was on a panel discussing the museum's role as a pilot for the Chinese Canadian Artifact Inventory Project (CCAP). Highlights of this presentation for Aimee included the opportunity to share stories from Nanaimo's Chinatown that are connected to artifacts in the museum's collection.

Suzanne Samborski, Director of Culture for the City of Nanaimo's Culture and Heritage Department also attended the conference. Samborski accepted the "2015 BC Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Corporate Service Award" on behalf of the City. Nominated by the museum, the award acknowledges the City as a culture leader in the province for the innovative and unique creation of the Cultural Managers Working Group (CMWG), which supports the City's initiatives that encourage a creative and engaged community.



Left: Nanaimo's Director of Culture Suzanne Samborski poses with award artist Katherine Freund after receiving her BCMA award. Top: Museum Interpretation Curator Aimee Greenaway presenting at the Pecha Kucha Nanaimo event.

Funders



Canadian Patrimoine
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BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia ~ Gaming Funds

Major Sponsors



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and Rotary Club of Nanaimo North

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Special thanks to Jan Peterson for the continued donation of proceeds from her book *A Place In Time*.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

FEATURE EXHIBIT: CHARACTERS, CON MEN & CELEBRITIES

February 1 - May 7, Mon - Sat 10:00am - 5:00pm

See page 1 for more details about our feature exhibit

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION - CHARACTERS OF NANAIMO

Tuesdays, February 16 & April 19 1:30pm - 2:15pm

Cost is \$5 per person, pre-registration is required: 250-753-1821

FAMILY DAY HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

Monday, February 8, Activities 10:00am - 1:00pm

Admission by donation. See page 2 for more information

SPRING BREAK PROGRAMMING

March 14 - 24, Various Times

See page 3 for spring break programming information

TODDLER TUESDAYS

February 23, March 29 & April 26 10:00am - 12:00pm

Included with admission. See page 2 for more information

NANAIMO MUSEUM AGM: MARCH 15TH, 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Staff

General Manager	Debbie Trueman
Interpretation Curator	Aimee Greenaway
Exhibit Design Curator	Richard Slingerland
Program & Visitor Services	Jamie Franzmann
Exhibit Technician	Jordan Johns
Communications/Rentals	Becka Macdonald
Maintenance	Darrell Bell
Casual Staff	Charlotte DeRook & Linda Kocot

Board of Directors

President	John Manning
Vice President	Ed Yewchin
Treasurer	Douglas Peterson
Secretary	Eveline O'Rourke
Directors	Rob Fletcher Maira Jenkins Shirley Lance Dr. Ralph Nilson Bruno Dragani Paula Waatainen
Special Advisor	Geraldine Manson

The Nanaimo Museum is grateful for the support of all our donors
For a complete list visit:
www.nanaimomuseum.ca



Winter Hours

Museum: Mon - Sat, 10:00am to 5:00pm **Bastion:** Closed for season