

*Robert McArthur's pocket watch stopped at the exact time of his death in the 1918 cage crash at the Protection Island mine. NM 1994.004.001*

# Story BEHIND THE ARTIFACT

## Feature Exhibit: May 20 - Sep 5

A great artifact reveals a story about the past. The upcoming feature exhibit highlights a selection of artifacts from our collection that have the most remarkable stories.

**Story Behind the Artifact** will feature artifacts with local stories. “The best artifacts have incredible stories to tell,” says Aimee Greenaway, Interpretation Curator at the Nanaimo Museum. “And this exhibit is a great opportunity to display some of the best artifacts in our collection.”

The artifacts on exhibit include Robert McArthur’s pocket watch, on exhibit for the first time since it was stolen last June. The staff are thrilled to display Anna Fong Dickman’s nursing

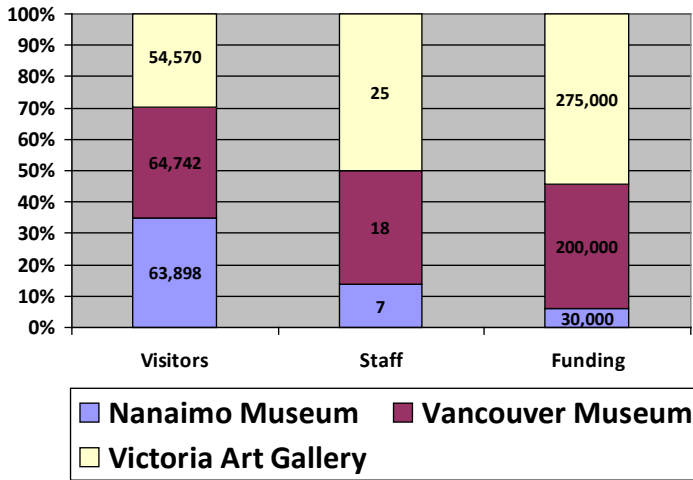
uniform for the first time after its recent transfer from the Museum of Vancouver.

Other recent acquisitions in the exhibit include a jade adze head, Cameron garment collection and a Jack Hardcastle painting of three ships that are important to the development of Nanaimo as a settlement.

The Nanaimo Museum is hosting a presentation for this exhibit on Wednesday, July 6 from 1:30pm-2:15pm.

Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$5 per person. At the presentation, visitors will join exhibit curator, Aimee Greenaway, for a guided tour of **Story Behind the Artifact**.

### 2014 Visitors vs Staff/Funding



### New Look for Website & Marketing

After 8 years, it was time for the museum to redesign its website. The new version has a modern look and new features to make it more user-friendly and functional, thanks to the team at Array Creative. Below is a sample of the new look!

Tours can now be booked and paid for securely online and navigation is easier for PCs and mobile devices. Consistent with the website design, we also have a new look for our marketing materials such as this newsletter, AGM report, brochures and other publications. The new website will launch in early June.

## What's New

### How are we doing?

The Nanaimo Museum is proud of how much we accomplish with a small staff. We've compared our visitor numbers, budget and number of staff with institutions across the country. The information to the left shows how well we stack up next to the two BC organizations with similar visitor numbers.

### Tourism Survey Results

Tourism Nanaimo recently released the results of their extensive Visitor Profile Survey. Under the tourism activities visited category, "Museums and/or cultural interpretive centres" were the most popular response after "Parks/Nature" and "Shopping". The daily noon cannon firing was a big hit, with people writing it into the "Other" section of many questions.

This type of information highlights how important the cultural sector is for Nanaimo. We would like to send out a big Thank You to all the locals who bring friends and family to the museum, and who continue to visit us with the launch of each new exhibit and program. We appreciate your support!





*2015 Wellington Cemetery Tour Group*

# Summer Programming

## Space Drop-in Kids Program

Wednesdays, July & August  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Blast off to outer space this summer at the Nanaimo Museum during our Space drop in program. Kids will get a chance to try some “out of this world” activities. They will even get to make their own paper rocket to take home! Recommended for ages 5-12, caretakers must be present at all times. Program cost is included in regular museum admission.

## Toys Drop-in Kids Program

Fridays, July & August  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Ever wonder what kids did for fun before TV’s and video games? Join us as we explore old fashioned toys. Children will get a chance to try out some old fashioned toys and make their very own toys to take home. Recommended for ages 5-12, Caretakers must be present at all times. Program cost is included in regular museum admission.

## Cemetery Tours

Thursdays, July 7 & August 4  
10:00am - 11:30am

From a madam in Nanaimo’s Red Light district to a disgraced senator, some of Nanaimo’s most interesting stories are featured in a brand new tour of the public cemetery (on Bowen Road). Tour cost is \$10 and pre-registration is required. Please call 250-753-1821 to register, or book online!







**Culture Award**

Debbie Trueman, General Manager, was recently recognized by the City of Nanaimo with an Honour in Culture Award for her contributions towards making Nanaimo a more culturally vibrant community. During her 27 year career here, Debbie was instrumental in moving the museum to its current state-of-the-art space. She is also a cultural leader in the community for her role in the creation of the Cultural Manager's Working Group. Congratulations Debbie!

**Volunteer Appreciation**

On Thursday, April 28 the Nanaimo Museum officially said thank you to its wonderful volunteers with an afternoon event. The museum's success hinges on our dedicated and talented group of volunteers who contributed 3,405.5 hours in 2015.

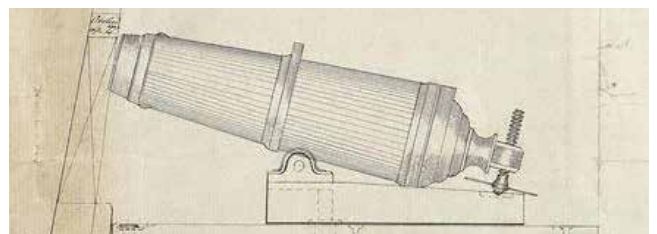
We are moving away from a single Volunteer of the Year Award strictly based on hours. Allowing multiple volunteers to be honoured, factors considered include going above and beyond expectations, unique contributions to the museum and hours.

Longtime volunteer Joyce Command reached her personal milestone of 7,000 hours. Joyce spends her time working with the photo collection. Norm Swanson was acknowledged for once again orchestrating a charitable donation for the museum. Norm is a retired BC Tel employee and obtained the donation from the Team Telus Cares program. Susan Dobson was honoured for promoting the museum's volunteer program on CBC Radio during a program about community museums in BC. Thank you all!

**Cannon's 30<sup>th</sup> Year**

The cannon firing ceremony is celebrating its 30th anniversary this summer! Bag-piper Bill Poppy has participated in the ceremony every year since its inception. Brigadoon Dance Academy will be performing highland dancing at the cannon firing ceremony again this year on Thursdays and Saturdays in July and August. Thanks to the Nanaimo Port Authority for their long standing sponsorship of the cannon firings and Bastion!

The cannon firing re-enactment ceremony takes place daily from 11:45am-12:00pm. The museum is pleased to continue its partnership with Tourism Nanaimo to operate an info kiosk inside the Bastion. The Bastion is open daily 10:00-6:00 from May 20 to the Labour Day weekend.



# Recent Acquisitions

## Cameron garment collection

Nine garments owned by the Cameron family have been transferred from the Museum of Vancouver as they undergo a deaccessioning project. The artifacts date back to the mid-1890s and several were made by Jane (Fraser) Cameron as part of her wedding trousseau. The Camerons immigrated to Nanaimo in 1910-11. James Cameron worked as a locomotive engineer for a coal mining company.

## Nanaimo High School lapel pin

This pin was owned by William Grant (1896-1986). He was a veteran of WWI and was wounded at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He lived in Yellow Point and was a carpenter. Grant worked on community projects including a Bastion restoration project and the Italian fountain. The Nanaimo High School existed from 1886-c.1929.

## Joseph Farrar token

A token that could be redeemed for 10¢ worth of merchandise at Joseph Farrar's store was recently donated. Joseph (1877-1965) and Alice (1880-1956) Farrar operated the Old Country Candy Store at 10 Church Street, near the present location of the Dorchester Hotel. The store was open in the 1950s and 1960s, possibly longer. Joseph Farrar retired in 1965.



*William Grant's Nanaimo High School Lapel Pin: Nanaimo Museum Collection 2016.008.001*

## Anna Fong Dickman nurse's uniform

The nurse's uniform is an excellent addition to the Anna Fong Dickman collection. Since 2014, we have acquired a Nanaimo General Hospital nurse's lapel pin, photo of Dickman in the last nursing class at NGH in 1927 and her nurse's training record. Dickman was later rejected from four RN training programs in BC because she was Chinese Canadian. In 1931 she obtained RN credentials at King's Daughter's Hospital in Duncan and became the first Chinese Canadian RN in the province.

## Red Lights Remembered

A grandson of Ira Eugene Lowe phoned the Nanaimo Museum in March. He had discovered that we conducted research on Lowe for the Characters, Con Men & Celebrities exhibit. In 1893, Lowe was 16 years old and arrested for stealing jewelry from his employer, a local lawyer, and selling the stolen goods to Maude Spencer and Ruby Vernon who worked in a brothel on Skinner Street. The story made headlines all over the province that year. At first our curator Aimee was apprehensive to share the nature of the info filed on Lowe, but his grandson was entertained by the story.



# Calendar

AT A GLANCE

## Summer Season Begins

Museum Open: Daily, 10:00am - 5:00pm

Bastion Open: Cannon Firings Daily @ Noon

## Feature Exhibit: Story Behind the Artifact

May 20 - September 4, Daily: 10:00am - 5:00pm

See page 1 for more details about our Feature Exhibit

## Story Behind the Artifact Presentation

June 1: 1:30pm - 2:15pm

See page 1 for more details about this presentation

## Space: Kids Drop-in Program

Wednesdays, July & August: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

See page 3 for more details about our Summer Programs

## Toys: Kids Drop-in Program

Fridays, July & August: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

See page 3 for more details about our Summer Programs

## Cemetery Tour

Thursday, July 7: 10:00am - 11:30am

See page 3 for more details about our Summer Programs

## Cemetery Tour

Thursday, August 4: 10:00am - 11:30am

See page 3 for more details about our Summer Programs

## Fall Feature Exhibit: Voices from the Engravers

September 12 - November 21: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Check online for more events, exhibits & programming!

## Staff

### General Manager

Debbie Trueman

### Interpretation Curator

Aimee Greenaway

### Exhibit Design Curator

Richard Slingerland

### Program & Visitor Services

Jaime Franzmann

### Exhibit Technician

Jordan Johns

### Communication/Rentals

Becka MacDonald

### Maintenance

Darrell Bell

### Casual Staff

Charlotte DeRook

Linda Kocot

Jason Time

## Board of Directors

### President

John Manning

### Vice President

Ed Yewchin

### Treasurer

Douglas Peterson

### Secretary

Eveline O'Rourke

### Directors

Rob Fletcher

Moira Jenkins

Shirley Lance

Dr. Ralph Nilson

Bruno Dragani

Paula Waatainen

Geraldine Manson

### Special Advisor



## Nanaimo Museum

100 Museum Way

In the Vancouver Island Conference Centre

## Open Daily 10am - 5pm

250-753-1821

[info@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:info@nanaimomuseum.ca)

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

[nanaimomuseum.ca](http://nanaimomuseum.ca)



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