



# Extension BC

## ||||| DIVIDED IN SOLIDARITY |||||

A historic community on the outskirts of the city is the feature of a new exhibit at the Nanaimo Museum. Extension was home to coal miners, famers, strike riots and communists. Extension, BC: Divided in Solidarity runs from **Friday, February 9 until May 4.**

The exhibit explores community life in Extension including its culturally diverse population. In the early 1900s there was a Chinatown and people from all over Europe, the United States and New Zealand lived there. Despite cultural differences, the community came together at times of adversity such as mining disasters. At its peak, Extension had a post office, school, churches, cultural halls, hotels and other businesses.

An array of artifacts, maps, archival records and art works from private collections, archives, museums and an art gallery are on loan for the exhibit. The Royal BC Museum is loaning a child's crib belonging to the Torkkos, a Finnish family that lived in Extension. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is loaning two works by well-known BC painter, E.J. Hughes, for the exhibit. E.J. Hughes and his prominent art career have a surprising connection to Extension. The collections of over a dozen heritage organizations and

families are represented in this exhibit. Support has been so strong that we've been able to expand the exhibit. On public exhibit for the first time is a significant private collection of slides that document Extension residents in the 1940s-1970s.

Lesser known history about the community is featured including the surprising number of proud communists that lived there in the early to mid-1900s. Of national importance is a trade union song inspired by events during the Great Vancouver Island Coal Strike, 1912-14. The exhibit also explores how the community has adapted and grown despite major changes in its history such as the 1931 closure of the coal mines and, more recently, the close of its elementary school in 2001.

**The Nanaimo Museum is hosting a presentation for this exhibit on Thursday, February 15 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, to hear highlights from the exhibit.



**Museum AGM**

**April 24 5:00pm - 6:00pm**

Join us for the Nanaimo Museum annual general meeting - door prizes, refreshments and elections. Members are encouraged to attend. Every member gets a vote! Please email [info@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:info@nanaimomuseum.ca) for details.

**Lawren Harris** Wrap Up

This wonderful exhibit from the Vancouver Art Gallery was definitely our most successful feature exhibit to date. **Thank you so much to everyone at the Nanaimo Hospitality Association for the \$10,000 Festivals and Events grant to support expanded marketing for the Lawren Harris exhibit. The added advertising made a huge difference in attendance for this exhibit, especially in visitors coming from out of town.**

October/November gallery numbers increased by over 400% with many more out of town visitors than usual for this time of year, especially in November. Although we do not have stats on overnight stays, many of the out of town visitors questioned came to town to see Lawren Harris. Total regular gallery visitors were 3,152. However, other visitors for venue rental and programming who may have visited the exhibit boosts that number to 7,250.

Guided tours were offered with the assistance of docents from the Nanaimo Art Gallery, our partner for the exhibit. The Art Gallery also provided volunteer gallery security on Mondays and Saturdays with Museum volunteers covering the other four days of the week.

Gift Shop sales were almost double the same period in 2016. Door prize entries added almost 2000 emails for our promotion database. Information gathered from these forms will tell us which advertising worked well and would be worth repeating in the future. It is a valuable benchmark.

**Giftshop**

The giftshop has been very popular this past year, with sales increasing yet again in 2017. As our most successful fundraising effort to date, the proceeds from our non-profit shop support educational programming & other museum initiatives throughout the year. We appreciate the support of both local community and the tourism market and we look forward to the year ahead. Stop by and check out our latest offerings - we have something for everyone!



# Spring Programming

## Spring Break Programming

March 19 - 31 (Various Times)

Join us for an exciting line up of kid & caregiver friendly activities every day of Spring Break 2018 this March. From Self-Guided tours to special hands-on activities, we have something fun to occupy your entire family this season.

## Drop-in Programming (10am-2pm)

March 19-22 & 26-29

- *Olympics @ The Museum:* March 19 & 21
- *Coal Miners:* March 20 & 28
- *Shipwrecked:* March 22
- *Chewichikan & The Snuneymuxw:* March 26
- *Coal Geology:* March 27 & 29

## Self-Guided Days (10am-5pm)

1:00pm - 2:30pm (Grades 5-7 Age 10+)

## Special Activities (10am-12pm)

Miners Cottage Tours: March 20 & 28

Coal Geology: March 27 & 29

For more information about programming or to register, please contact Stephanie Kveton at 250-753-1821, or email [program@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:program@nanaimomuseum.ca)



## Homeschool Programming

Friday, April 6th (cost \$5/child)

### Petroglyphs Program

10:00am - 11:30am (Grades K-4 Ages 5-9)

Students will discover Snunéymuxw rock art with engaging activities. Make petroglyph rubbings and see a real petroglyph, called the Hepburn Stone, on exhibit. They'll find out about some of the animal, human, and mythical creature symbols that are found in the Snunéymuxw territory.

### West Coast First Nations Art Program

1:00pm - 2:30pm (Grades 5-8 Ages 10-13)

Students will discover the coastal First Nations art forms of petroglyph, basket weaving, and carving. Stories, techniques and traditional artist preparation for creativity will provide a context for traditional and contemporary art. Students will handle carvings from our education collection as part of a guided study of animal symbolism in West Coast art.

*\*Please Note: To show proper respect for the Snunéymuxw First Nation who have advised us and worked closely with us on this program, no one under the age of 10 is allowed to attend West Coast First Nations Art.*

## Family Day Weekend

Saturday, February 10 10:00am - 3:00pm

Become a Museum Olympian by taking part in the Olympics @ the Museum activities! For visitors aged 5-95, our Olympics features museum-themed events: *Freestyle Framing* lets you hang your own exhibit, *Artifact Pentathlon* challenges you with mysterious artifacts, and *Olympics Eye Spy* leads you to our homegrown Olympians in the Sports Hall of Fame! Share your achievements on social media with #nanaimomuseumolympics! Caregivers must be present at all times & admission is by donation.

## Welcome Tammy Reid

My family and I moved from Winnipeg three years ago and are loving every minute of island life! I am very excited to be working at the museum, learning more about the history of Nanaimo, and establishing deeper roots within the community. I have degrees in business, arts and education, along with over 15 years of experience in sales, marketing and customer relations. I am excited to use my abilities to make the visitor experience at the museum a memorable one.



## Staff Restructuring

By Debbie Trueman

A restructuring plan has been in place for a few years but the timing was finally right to start implementation. The museum has evolved dramatically since moving to Commercial Street in 2008. Increased demands on the front desk, record gift shop sales and growing attendance numbers have put overwhelming stress on all functional areas of programming, gift shop, venue rentals and feature exhibits. Changes in staff responsibilities that have been evolving over the last several years were formalized last fall.

Aimee Greenaway's title became *Curator* to recognize the scope of her job and changes of duties that had been happening. Becka Macdonald has been relieved of her overburdened work load related to gift shop cash to focus on ever-growing venue rentals and communications tasks.

The *Program Coordinator* position no longer includes another job area (i.e. the former Program & Visitor Services Coordinator). A dedicated Program Coordinator position will allow Steph Kveton more focused time on the school programs and the opportunity to create public programming development.

A new *Gift Shop & Visitor Services* position was created in October, marking the first time the museum has had a full-time person at the gift shop and front desk. Tammy Reid joins the museum in this position and is looking at opportunities to increase sales. I'm pleased with the opportunities for growth these staffing changes will provide over the next several years.



# Recent Aquisitions

## Bryce Family Typewriter & Toy Boat

These artifacts were owned by the Bryce family from South Wellington. George Bryce (1903-1979) used this typewriter when he worked for the United Mine Workers of America, Nanaimo Local 7355 as secretary-treasurer and business agent in 1950s. Bryce was well-liked and respected by the South Wellington miners he represented, especially during times of labour strife.

George Bryce was born in Bathgate, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1927. He worked at the Granby,



Northfield and No. 10 South Wellington mines before working for the UMWA. In 1935, Bryce married Mildred Knowles who was born in Nanaimo in 1912. They had three children: Georgina, James and Arthur.

After the mines closed, Bryce worked as a bookkeeper at Adirim's Junk Yard and then as a driver for Criterion Cleaners. Later, he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Nanaimo Local of the Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Worker until he retired. Bryce was a City alderman in the 1950s and 1960s and active in the Nanaimo Soccer Association.

*Left: This typewriter was used by George Bryce, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, Nanaimo Local 7355 in the 1930s-1940s.*



*Above: This toy boat was owned by James, George Bryce's son, in the 1950s. It is in great condition and has been exhibited even though it only arrived in November!*



## In Memory of Joyce Command (1926-2018)

We are sad to announce the passing of long-time volunteer Joyce Command. In 1993 she started volunteering at the museum and continued until 2017. Joyce contributed an astounding 7,949 hours to the museum over the years, volunteering at the gift shop in the centennial museum building and later assisting with the photo collection. Joyce even earned Volunteer of the Year four times for achieving the most volunteer hours! The museum's staff and volunteers will miss Joyce's attention to detail and quick smile.

# Calendar

AT A GLANCE

## Feature Exhibit - Extension BC: Divided in Solidarity

February 9 - May 4, Mon-Sat 10:00am-5:00pm

See page 1 for more details about our Feature Exhibit

## Family Weekend Activity - Museum Olympics

Saturday, February 10 10:00am - 3:00pm

Monday, February 12 10:00am - 4:00pm (Eye Spy Only)

See page 3 for details on family programming

## Extension Exhibit Presentation

Thursday, February 15 1:30pm - 2:30pm

See page 1 for more details. Cost is \$5, please pre-book

## Nanaimo Museum AGM - Members Welcome!

April 11, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, light refreshments

See page 3 for more details. Members welcome!

## Spring Break Activities: March 19-31

### Curated Programming (10:00am-12:00pm):

Miners Cottage - March 20 & 28

Coal Geology - March 27 & 29

### Self-Guided Discovery Tours: (10am - 5pm)

March 23, 24, 30 & 31

### Drop-in Programming (10am - 2:00pm)\*

Museum Olympics, Coal Miners, Shipwrecked,

Chewichikan & The Snuneymuxw, Coal Geology

\*See page 3 for more details on programs & timing

## Homeschool Programs - April 6

Petroglyphs (Grades K-4) 10:00am - 11:30am

West Coast First Nations Art (Grades 5-7) 1:00pm - 2:30pm

## Staff

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>General Manager</b>           | Debbie Trueman   |
| <b>Interpretation Curator</b>    | Aimee Greenaway  |
| <b>Program Coordinator</b>       | Stephanie Kveton |
| <b>Exhibit Technician</b>        | Jordan Johns     |
| <b>Communication/Rentals</b>     | Becka MacDonald  |
| <b>Maintenance</b>               | Darrell Bell     |
| <b>Visitor Services/Giftshop</b> | Tammy Reid       |

## Board of Directors

|                        |                  |
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|                        | Dr. Ralph Nilson |
|                        | Bruno Dragani    |
|                        | Paula Waatainen  |
| <b>Special Advisor</b> | Regan Seward     |



## Nanaimo Museum

100 Museum Way

In the Vancouver Island Conference Centre

## Open Mon-Sat 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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