



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

January 19, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nanaimo Museum

### **Nanaimo Museum Feature Nanaimo Mysteries**

Nanaimo - A safe-cracking ex-cop, the last public hanging in the city and sea monster sightings are just a few of the mysteries under investigation in the Nanaimo Museum's latest feature exhibit. *Nanaimo Mysteries* runs from Saturday, February 16 until September 2.

*Nanaimo Mysteries* explores aspects of local history that are usually left buried and busts the myths surrounding some of our most infamous stories. "This exhibit pulls together stories that you wouldn't expect to find in one exhibit," says Aimee Greenaway, Curator at the Nanaimo Museum. "From cold cases and solved murders that date back 125 years to ghost stories and a psychic brought in to solve a missing persons case, visitors will be surprised, entertained, and saddened by Nanaimo's history." Vanished heritage also makes an appearance in the exhibit, including a number of buildings and places that no longer exist such as a World War I internment camp and the Green Mountain Ski Hill.

Inspector John Vance, known in his time as "Canada's Sherlock Holmes," makes an appearance in the exhibit. Using cutting-edge techniques for the 1930s, Vance was key to putting a local safe-cracker, George Hannay, behind bars. "Hannay was so afraid of Vance's testimony that he tried to have the inspector murdered," says Greenaway. "We are excited that the Vancouver Police Museum & Archives have loaned us some of Vance's own case files for the exhibit."

The Nanaimo Museum is hosting a presentation for this exhibit on Wednesday, February 27 from 6:30-7:30 and on Wednesday, July 24 from 6:30-7:30. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$10 per person. At the presentation, visitors will join curator, Aimee Greenaway, to hear highlights from the exhibit.

A new program, *Case Files: Bound for Murder*, is a chance for youth (ages 13-17 years) and adults to put on their detective hats and investigate a tangled, twisty murder from Nanaimo's past. Unreliable witnesses, family drama, and a few true-to-history red herrings will keep everyone guessing. Pre-registered participants will follow clues and complete puzzles to unlock boxes and solve the scandalous 1909 murder in less than an hour. The first *Case Files: Bound for Murder* program will be held on Saturday, April 13. For more details, please email Steph Kveton, Program Coordinator at [program@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:program@nanaimomuseum.ca)

The museum is open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. The Nanaimo Museum is located in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, beside Serious Coffee. For more information please visit [www.nanaimomuseum.ca](http://www.nanaimomuseum.ca) or call 250 753-1821.

-30-

Contact:

Aimee Greenaway, Curator  
250 753-1821  
[aimee@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:aimee@nanaimomuseum.ca)

Steph Kveton, Program Coordinator  
250 753-1821  
[steph@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:steph@nanaimomuseum.ca)