

## President's Note

Susan Garcia, President

Hello from your new Nanaimo Historical Society President Susan Garcia, formerly a Director-at-Large. I would like you to get to know your Board of Directors, all extraordinary volunteers and I want you to know what they do.

Sue Creba is Vice President, newsletter editor and Communications Committee chair. After some arduous COVID-19 years, Past President, David Hill-Turner is stepping back from the president's role to travel and pursue his other commitments but staying on the Board and committees. Former NHS presidents Darrell Ohs is Programme Chair, and Lifetime Member Gordon Miller is Secretary. Director-at-Large Ted Lord is starting up walking tours (see the Departure Bay Historical Stroll coming on October 8 on page 3). A treasure himself, our excellent Treasurer and event videographer Tony Orchard makes seven. A warm welcome to new Grants Committee member Mali Bain, and Facebook coordinator Ross Gray.



Our superb Programme Committee created a successful "Welcome Back Picnic" June 18 at the Morden Mine tipple, thanks to Archivist Christine Meutzner's ideas and organization. One of my goals as president is to encourage NHS members and the public to learn about our society out in the community this way, and to share stories in the newsletter and on social media. *(continued on page 2)*

## ***President's Note (continued)***

I am also hoping for a closer relationship with the original Nanaimo people, the Snuneymuxw. (See Elder Geraldine Manson article on page 4)

This coming year will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS. Let's make it about leaving the kind of legacy that preceding NHS presidents like Arthur Leynard imagined. Please join in when you can and keep us accountable to our own history in Nanaimo. All ideas are welcome! *Susan Garcia, NHS President*

## ***September 8: Nanaimo's Last Hanging and the story of Jack the Flying Dutchman***

At the Nanaimo Historical Society's first Fall meeting on Thursday, September 8, Dave Flawse will reveal the story of Nanaimo's last hanging and Jack the Flying Dutchman. The meeting will be at Bowen Park, Activity Room 1. Doors open at 7:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Dave Flawse is a freelance writer and editor based on Vancouver Island. He writes about history, but also other lesser-known, remarkable stories hiding in plain sight. A firm believer in literary citizenship, he promotes and furthers literary arts in British Columbia with the goal of helping this robust, and diverse community impact as many readers as possible.

Dave will also be speaking about his website, Vancouver Island History, and his experience developing it, finding stories, interviewing regional historians etc. You can visit his website at

[vancouverislandhistory.com](http://vancouverislandhistory.com)



## Departure Bay Historical Stroll October 8

Join Ted Lord, a Director of Nanaimo Historical Society, for a leisurely stroll along the Departure Bay waterfront walkway on Saturday 8th October at 11 00 am. Starting at the Kin Hut where Dave Bodaly will provide information about the St'ilep Village Site, we'll proceed along the waterfront to the gas station, stopping periodically to talk about some of the historical events that shaped Departure Bay. These include the geological setting, the St'ilep Village Site, Saysutshun (Newcastle Island), pre-emption of land in 1861, Hamilton Powder Company (where Cilaire is today), Pacific Biological Station, herring saltery, shipyard and BC Ferries Terminal. Learn about the buried sewer collector pipe and observe the remains of the coal wharf loading berms. Bring your binoculars. Following the walk, visit local establishments the Drip for coffee, or the Felice Café for lunch. (note: coffee or lunch are not included).

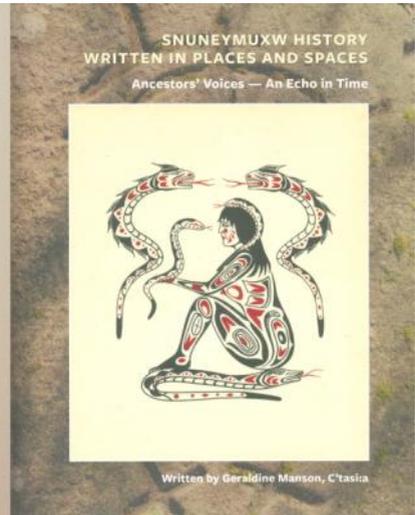
The Walking Tour is free, and will go ahead rain or shine. No registration is required, but check the NHS website homepage or Facebook in case of emergency cancellation on the date.



## New book about Nanaimo area Petroglyphs

Vancouver Island University (VIU) Elder-in-Residence C-tasi:a - Geraldine Manson has authored a book that looks at the history, stories and meaning behind the petroglyphs that exist throughout the Nanaimo area. The book was launched on June 20 on Gabriola Island, in conjunction with the Gabriola Museum, who Manson is working with to reproduce the images on the museum grounds.

Manson says the book, ***Snuneymuxw History Written in Places and Spaces: Ancestor's Voices—An Echo in Time***, was created to give people a “clear understanding of the history of our ancestors – our Elders’ Elders – and the work that they do, and to help share the background about the images.” A member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, Manson spent a couple of years researching and writing the book, from knowledge that she holds with her. Contact the Gabriola Museum to learn where to buy the book <https://gabriolamuseum.org>



Article and photo: Vancouver Island University

## ***"Name Our Newsletter" Contest***

As part of our celebration around the 70 year anniversary of the Nanaimo Historical Society, in the spring of 2023, we will be launching a contest to name this newsletter, with a prize for the contributor of the winning entry.

In addition, we hope to feature seven articles about area history, one for each of the seven decades. Please consider submitting your story about Nanaimo's history to our newsletter, and qualify for a prize.

Stay tuned for more information and upcoming events in our coming newsletters.

## ***Local National Day for Truth and Reconciliation***



Snuneymuxw First Nation, the City of Nanaimo and Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools invite you to honour our children and recognize a day of reflection for Truth and Reconciliation in our community together.

**September 30**

**Stadium District , 745 Third St, Nanaimo**

Join us in the morning to honour survivors and their families, followed by food vendors available at noon, FREE performances and activities for all.

## ***Visit the NHS Website***

Our Nanaimo Historical Society website features upcoming and past events, news and resources and much more! We invite you to visit <https://www.nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca>

## Heritage Homeowners Insurance

Homeowners of older and heritage homes often have difficulties securing home insurance. This summer, Heritage BC began participating in the dialogue occurring between stakeholders regarding heritage property insurance. We are pleased to announce a preliminary outcome from our conversations with BC Financial Services and the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC): A helpline for heritage property owners and other interested parties to call to reach IBC's Risk Management Services.

Phoning the helpline with your questions will help IBC better understand the insurance needs for heritage property owners and help us communicate the need for better policies and support in insuring heritage properties.



**IBC**  
Insurance Bureau  
of Canada

Do you have insurance  
questions for your  
heritage property?

IBC has consumer information centres in each of its regional offices to address your specific questions. If IBC's information officers do not know the answers to your questions, they will direct you to someone who does.

Consumer Information Centre

Toll-free: **1-844-2ask-IBC (1-844-227-5422)**

Or email:

**ASKIBCWest@ibc.ca**

 @InsuranceBureau  
 facebook.com/insurancebureau  
 youtube.com/insurancebureau

# ***Nanaimo Community Plan Honours Heritage***

Nanaimo's official Community Plan, ***Nanaimo Reimagined***, was adopted on July 4, 2022 by City Council. The plan was shaped by the ***Reimagine Nanaimo*** community consultation process. The work of our society fits within the plan's goals for archeology and heritage.

Here is the preamble to **Section C4.6 ARCHAEOLOGY & HERITAGE**

Natural, cultural, and built heritage tell stories of the richness of our past and create a sense of place, belonging, and pride for First Nations (whose Territories the city is located on) and all Nanaimo residents. This past is reflected in archaeological sites, First Nations cultural heritage sites, cultural landscapes, historically significant buildings and structures, traditions, and more. Heritage conservation seeks to maintain and share information about these reminders of the past so that people can exchange knowledge, learn about, and understand how the past has contributed to who we are today.

## **Desired Outcomes**

Tangible, or physical, heritage resources, are identified and protected from impacts that could destroy their heritage attributes, including archaeological sites, First Nations cultural heritage sites, cultural landscapes, buildings, and structures. Intangible, or non-physical, heritage resources are safeguarded and passed from generation to generation, including oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, knowledge, and craftsmanship. First Nations cultural heritage is recognized and protected in keeping with their protocols. Heritage resources, both tangible and intangible, continue to support a distinct community identity and contribute to community prosperity and quality of life for all. Residents and visitors are aware of, and support, ongoing protection of heritage resources, both tangible and intangible.

The entire Community Plan is available here:

[nanaimo.ca/docs/city-plan-documents/city-plan---full-resolution-2022-jul-04.pdf](https://nanaimo.ca/docs/city-plan-documents/city-plan---full-resolution-2022-jul-04.pdf)

## Leynard Legacy Heritage Grants

The Nanaimo Historical Society is offering micro-grants for projects that will improve our knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Nanaimo area.

- Individuals and organizations based in the Nanaimo area are eligible to apply.
- In most cases, the Society will provide a one-time-only award to an individual or organization to encourage community engagement in our history and heritage.
- The value of a grant will not exceed \$2,000 and is subject to available funds.
- The project's purpose must be connected to the natural or cultural history within the Nanaimo area.

For grant guidelines, parameters for activities and application process, please visit

<https://nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca/get-involved/microgrants/>

Two grants have recently been awarded: \$1,000 towards the printing costs of Dalys Barney's publication ***Message on a Bottle: Nanaimo's Soda History***, and \$300 to VIU History students' project ***The Word on the Street: Roads that Built Nanaimo*** exhibition at the Nanaimo Museum..

## Watch NHS Events Online

**Did you know?** You can watch online presentations and field trips of the Nanaimo Historical Society on our YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/300ItRR> Here is the lineup:

- ~ October 2020 - Christine Meutzner "Wellington Cemetery tour"
- ~ January 2021 - Show and tell meeting and Tony Orchard "History of the Colliery dams"
- ~ April 2021 - Dave Bodaly on Sayshutsun (Newcastle) Island and family history
- ~ June 2021 - Virtual field trip to Mt. Benson site of October 1951 crash of Queen Charlotte Airlines Canso aircraft
- ~ September 2021 - Hayley Healy "Vancouver Island Women"
- ~ October 2021 - Greg Fraser "Joseph McKay biography"
- ~ November 2021 - Brian McFadden "Dam Busters, Nanaimo connection"
- ~ January 2022 - Annual Show and Share Meeting
- ~ February 2022 - Catherine Marie Gilbert "The history of Strathcona Provincial Park"
- ~ March 2022 - Susan Garcia "Murder on Mayne Island"
- ~ April 2022 - Sean Enns "Charlie Abbott, the Chemainus Hermit"
- ~ June 2022— Liam Hall "Morden Mine Restoration" and Welcome Back picnic

## *Important Membership News*

Beginning with the 2022 year, Nanaimo Historical Society membership fees are:

- personal membership - \$10
- family membership (2 or more members at same address) - \$15
- group membership (business or other organization) - \$15
- student membership - \$5

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022, please contact Gordon Miller at [nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca](mailto:nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca)

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In 2021, the British Columbia Historical Federation ended the bulk subscription program for ***British Columbia History***, their quarterly magazine. If you wish to subscribe to this magazine (available in paper or digital edition), contact the British Columbia Historical Federation directly at <https://www.bchistory.ca/members/join-the-bchf/>. Renewals and new subscriptions are \$25 and can be made online, by phone or mail.

## *Member opportunities*

The Nanaimo Historical Society is a volunteer-run society. As the society reorganizes and prepares for new programs and events, please consider joining us as a volunteer at the board or committee level. It is an opportunity to meet people who share your interest in history and is an opportunity to share skills or develop new ones. (Note: some Committees meet regularly, others 1-2 times per year)

- Board of Directors: We welcome the addition of people with adult learning, project planning and communications experience and interest..
- Governance Committee - advises the board on policies and procedures
- Programme Committee - speaker support (new!), developing learning programs, organizing refreshments, organizing rideshare
- Communications Committee - website, Facebook, YouTube, newsletter, media promotion
- Leynard Microgrant Program - developing our community grant program

## About the NHS

Founded in 1953, the Nanaimo Historical Society has been an influential partner in advocating for the awareness, understanding and appreciation of our community's diverse heritage.

### Nanaimo Historical Society

President:	Susan Garcia	Past President:	David Hill-Turner
Vice President:	Sue Creba	Directors at large:	Darrell Ohs
Treasurer:	Tony Orchard		Ted Lord
Secretary:	Gordon Miller		

### How to reach us

**web**

<https://www.nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca>



[nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca](mailto:nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca)



[facebook.com/NanaimoHistory/](https://facebook.com/NanaimoHistory/)



<https://bit.ly/30OItRR>

**Mailing address Box 933, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5N2**

*We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people from whom Nanaimo takes its name.*

## Nanaimo Historical Society Tapes Digitized

Nanaimo Historical Society owned many tapes going back decades of interviews and lectures on historical topics. They have now all been digitized by Vancouver Island University and are available for listening here: <https://viurrspace.ca/handle/10613/14188>

Thank you Vancouver Island University Library for this service!