

## President's Note

Susan Garcia, President

Nanaimo Historical Society (NHS) took part in history on National Truth and Reconciliation Day Sept 30, 2022. This was the second year of its recognition, but the first where people could gather. And they really did. A sea of orange shirts filled the Rotary Bowl field at Nanaimo District Secondary School. We witnessed peace, kindness and respect all day. NHS Board Members welcomed young artists to colour at the interactive booth, while many adults joined as new NHS members.

The Snuneymuxw people have given the field the new name: **q'unq'inuqwstuxw (pronounced ki-KIN-ish-TOOK)** which the City of Nanaimo's website explains "translates to "return/give back". The word has different meanings within the Snuneymuxw way of being. The new name of the field along with the Snuneymuxw artwork by Noel Brown placed at the entrance, is the first step in honouring the Land and is a reminder to give back more than we take from the Land. In a sports context, *q'unq'inuqwstuxw* is used in ball games, to ask for the ball back from fellow players." <sup>1</sup> *(continued on page 2)*



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR220914HonouringOurChildrenByHonouringASnuneymuxwWayOfBeing.html>

## President's Note (continued)

A week later, NHS director Ted Lord and Snuneymuxw knowledge keeper David Bodaly met with a crowd of about forty interested persons on October 8<sup>th</sup> for a tour of Departure Bay, site of the historic Snuneymuxw village, *Sti'ilnep*. Looking from the shoreline walkway people saw a beach with a history. The crowd was invited to imagine a place rich in sea life where thousands have thrived before colonial settlement. Ted described the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century industries coal, herring salteries, ferries, blasting powder works, a biological station, an underwater sewer line and an amazing geological formation all once out in front. (see photos page 3)

We feel the growing interest in the history of this living place that takes its name from the word, *Snuneymuxw*. We will look at the fascinating E&N railroad November 10 at Bowen Complex and adjourn until January 12, 2023 for members' Show and Share.

*Susan Garcia, NHS President*



*NHS booth on September 30.  
Above: colouring table for kids.*

## Departure Bay Historical Stroll October 8

Photos from the October 8 historical stroll along the Departure Bay waterfront. Top left: Snuneymuxw knowledge keeper Dave Bodaly and NHS director Ted Lord.



## ***In Memory of Beverley Sherry***

Born in Victoria May 26, 1941, Bev passed away in Nanaimo on August 17, 2022. Predeceased by her parents Margaret and John, sister Evelyn and son-in-law Wayne.

Survived by her husband Loyd of 56 years, daughters Jennifer (Glen), Ellen (Ken), Gwendda. Grandchildren Kyle (Nicole), Kody, Kaitlyn (Kelvin), Gregory and Brooke as well as Great Grandchildren Oliver, Jordyn, Graesyn, Rein'a, Rayvenia, Aubrey, Abigail and Amelia, along with numerous family and friends.

Her working career was with School District 68 as a school secretary in several elementary schools and retired from Waterloo School.

She was a descendant of the Malpass family who arrived in Nanaimo on the Princess Royal in 1854. Bev was a long time member of the Nanaimo Genealogy Society and (Nanaimo) Historical Society (she served as treasurer of NHS for many years). Bev and Loyd were members of the Traveling Squares for 50 years.

A celebration of life was held on September 1, 2022 at Sands Funeral Home, Newcastle Avenue, Nanaimo. Donations in Bev's memory can go to the Alzheimer Society or Canadian Cancer Society.



## ***January 12 Show & Share Meeting***

Join us at our annual Show & Share meeting on January 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Bowen Complex, when members and guests bring artifacts to display and discuss. Always illuminating!

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

As part of our celebration around the 70 year anniversary of the Nanaimo Historical Society in 2023, we will be launching a contest to name this newsletter, with a prize for the contributor of the winning entry. We also hope to feature seven articles about area history. Please consider submitting your story about Nanaimo's history to our newsletter, and qualify for a prize.

## Recent Post-Secondary History Scholarships

Two VIU history students received annual awards that Nanaimo Historical Society supports. Brianna Mackey was the 2022 recipient of the Ethel Barraclough Memorial Award for her research paper “Birthing Practices of North American First Nations Women: Community Bonds and the Power Within”. Isabella Ranallo was the 2022 recipient of the Peggy Nicholls Memorial Award for her research paper “Inca Women Before and After Spanish Colonialization of the Andes”. Both of these papers are available on the NHS website, in the News section.

*Brianna Mackey (left) receives the Ethel Barraclough Award from NHS President Susan Garcia on September 22, 2022 at VIU.*



## 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/>

## Mystery Industrial Casting Found in Linley Valley



Earlier this year I stumbled across this heavy cast component in Linley Valley, at a location somewhere between Cottle Lake and Lost Lake.

Dimensionally, it's about 30" in height. There are lots of bolt holes in the mounting flange suggesting that its designed to operate under significant stress or pressure.

Maybe some readers are familiar with any historic commercial or industrial activity that took place in Linley Valley can provide some insight?

Darrell Ohs, NHS Programme Committee

## 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/30OItRR> 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
- ~ September 2022 - Dave Flawse "Nanaimo's last hanging & Jack the Flying Dutchman"
- ~ October 2022 - Ted Lord and Dave Bodaly "Departure Bay Historical Stroll"

## ***Harewood Mines Area Hikes: Parker Williams***

*The following article by Parker Williams (long time member of NHS) appeared in the September 2007 issue of the NHS newsletter. Submitted by Gord Miller.*

I have guided two hikes to the Harewood mines area (in September '06 and April '07) for members and friends of our Historical Society. I was assisted by my hiking companion, Alf Collier, a Nanaimo born resident who grew up in Northfield. We have a common interest in exploring outdoor points of interest. To that end, we have spent many days during the past few years locating old logging railway grades and coal mine sites.

For the Harewood mine tour, we start at Harewood Mines Road where the power line crosses. This is the location where the first of three unsuccessful attempts were made to develop a viable coal mine. This was also the mine terminus of the Aerial tramway that was constructed to carry the coal from the mine to a shipping dock 2.8 miles away on Cameron Island. The tramway was not a success and that resulted in the failure of the second attempt to develop a profitable mine.

The second point of interest is at a small dammed up lake where the main mining activity took place. During 1900, the New Vancouver Coal Co. sank a shaft 230 feet to a workable coal seam. The Company also built a rail line to the site. They worked this site for a few years until they encountered geological problems underground. The mine then closed in 1907. In 1917 the Western Fuel Co. re-opened the mine and had a few years of high production. The mine was permanently closed in 1923.

The next point of interest is the Perry Shaft. This shaft was sunk in 1892 and was originally planned to be their base of operations. A rail line was also built to this site. However, the shaft did not live up to expectations, so was later used only as a ventilation shaft for later operations. This is still an open shaft, but full of water.

The final point of interest is under the power line on Harewood Plains where petroglyphs may be viewed. Some of the rock carvings are faint due to erosion and being open to traffic. There is one good example that has been somewhat protected.

The hike described above is fairly easy and takes 2 1/2 to 3 hours. There is another proposed hike of the Harewood Mines area that is strenuous because of the steep terrain. It covers visiting the Furnace Portal, #2 and #3 Lewis Portals, and the South-West heading tunnels. (*see chronological history of Harewood Mines on page 8*)

## Chronological History of Harewood Mines

**1862-3** Dr. Alfred Benson applies to Colonial Government to lease 3000 acres of land to develop a coal mine. – Denied.

**1863** Dr. Benson engages naval officer Horace Lascelles, who purchases 9000 acres (Harewood Estate), and coal rights to develop a coal mine.

**1864** Robert Dunsmuir taken in as partner to develop Harewood Coal Mine.

**1865** Dunsmuir turns in an unfavourable report regarding the possibility of developing a viable coal mine and severs relations with Harewood Coal Co.

**1866** Benson and Lascelles unable to raise capital to build a railway from proposed Harewood mine to Departure Bay.

**1869** Horace Lascelles dies unexpectedly and prematurely leaving the Harewood property to his sister in England who has no real interest in this property in a far off Colony.

**1874** Lascelles' sister leases the coal mine properties to Thomas A. Bulkley who proceeds to develop a coal mine.

**1875** Bulkley constructs an Aerial Tramway from the Harewood mine to a dock on Cameron Island. This was to solve the transportation problem of shipping coal from the mine. In the meantime, coal was being stockpiled at the mine site.

**1876** Tramway starts operation transporting coal to Cameron Island.

**1877** Tramway not functioning well.

**1878** Bulkley closes mine – gives up lease – unprofitable venture.

**1884** Vancouver Coal Mining & Land Co. purchases Harewood Estate to hold for future development.

**1892** VCM&L Co. sinks Perry shaft to 150 ft. level. Did not prove out as expected.

**1893** VCM&L Co. prospecting and tunnelling on property.

**1899** VCM&L sinks a new shaft to 230 ft. level.

**1900** Railway constructed from Southfield rail line.

**1903-04** Coal being transported from new shaft over railway.

**1904** Geological problems encountered – mine closed.

**1917** Western Fuel Co. re-opens Harewood mine, encouraged by government subsidies on coal production (WWI).

**1918-21** Most extensive coal production in the history of this mine.

**1923** Mine closed.

**1941-45** Lewis #2 and #3 tunnels worked by Lewis Bros. for local consumption.

**1945-51** Biggs worked Furnace Portal Tunnel for local consumption.

**Summary:** Mining activities started in 1863 and ended in 1951 for a period of 88 years of activities, although not continuously.

*Above information provided by Parker Williams in September 2007 NHS newsletter.*

## *Important Membership News*

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

Renewals are due by January, 2023. Please contact Gordon Miller at [nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca](mailto:nanaimohistoricalsociety@shaw.ca) to renew your membership.

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 Nanaimo Historical Society

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.*

## Visit the NHS Website and Facebook

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> If you follow Facebook, visit [facebook.com/NanaimoHistory/](https://facebook.com/NanaimoHistory/) to learn about events and news about local history.