

# Reports of Officers' and Committees for 2022

## President's Report for 2022

prepared by Susan Garcia

We had a year of transitions in 2022. David Hill-Turner retired as President and is now Past President, and Susan Garcia took over as President July 1, 2022. Our board increased by one Director-at-Large, Ted Lord. I want to acknowledge the commitment and work of those previously mentioned and Board of Directors: Vice-President Sue Creba, Secretary Gord Miller, Treasurer Tony Orchard, and Director-at-Large Darrell Ohs.

Behind the scenes: Although our Board of Directors is only 7 in number, we operate these Committees/activities:

Communications: chaired by Sue Creba with David Hill-Turner, Ross Gray

Programme: chaired by Darrell Ohs with Susan Garcia, Ted Lord

Finance: chaired by Tony Orchard, with Gord Miller, Susan Garcia and Clive Hadfield.

Grants: chaired by David Hill-Turner, with Mali Bains.

Governance: chaired by Gord Miller with David Hill-Turner

VIU Awards: Susan Garcia and Gord Miller.

Refreshments: Wanita Malkiewicz

Thanks! Former NHS Board member, Christine Muetzner, guided our historical way throughout the year in every way we needed. Much appreciation to Christine for her support and expertise.

General Meetings: Our last Zoom General Meeting was the January 2022 Show & Share. We returned to in-person meetings in March, April, September, and November of 2022. We added a "first annual" picnic in June, an interactive booth at Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Truth & Reconciliation Day, a Departure Bay history tour in October, and a Christmas lunch in December.

The NHS website [nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca](http://nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca) was launched in March 2022. The first two NHS Leynard Legacy Grants to a total of \$1400. were awarded to history projects in Nanaimo this year. We hope these public opportunities to provide local histories will be nudged to a higher dollar value in 2023. Two NHS-sponsored History scholarships were also awarded at VIU, and the papers may be read on the website.

My personal focus has always been on outreach. I'm very pleased at the excellent membership response in 2022. I look forward to greeting all members who wish to join as Directors or Committee members in 2023. I'd love to see gender balance on the Board. Our mandate is to educate and promote the history Nanaimo and area. Going into our 70<sup>th</sup> year of operation, are we currently offering what the membership and community wants? Let us know by email or in-person.

## Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report for 2022

prepared by Tony Orchard

The Nanaimo Historical Society finished 2022 with a surplus of \$13,153, compared with a budgeted surplus of \$5,800. Our surplus resulted from less than planned expenditures for grants, further website development, and lower meeting expenses. The final disbursement from the Leynard bequeath was received during the year. A deficit is planned for 2023 as programming is expanded, and the Grants program gets fully underway.

The Finance Committee members are unchanged from 2021, with Tony Orchard, Treasurer as Chair and members Gordon Miller, Susan Garcia, and Clive Hadfield.

The Society transferred most of its investments from Coastal Community Credit Union to their affiliated Credential Securities in 2022. Over the long term this is expected to improve returns while maintaining a low risk portfolio. The Society is busy building our infrastructure for the future!

The Financial statements for FY 2022, the 2023 Budget and the report from our accountants may be found on at <https://nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca/annual-general-meeting-2023/>

## **Secretary's Report for 2022**

Prepared by Gordon Miller

In addition to taking and distributing minutes of the Society's general and Directors' meetings, the Secretary also manages and operates the Society's email service. The Secretary maintains the membership database and is responsible for keeping the Society's records.

Membership rebounded during 2022. Special recruiting efforts were made at the National day for Truth & Conciliation celebration in September and Departure Bay beach walk in October. Membership (Dec 2021) - 74 members including 1 life member.

A membership survey was conducted early in 2022. The results were sent to members and have been used by the Directors in conducting the business of the Society

The new website has made an impact on the number of requests for information received by the Society. In 2022 Society representatives responded to 21 major requests.

## **Programme Committee Report for 2022**

prepared by Darrell Ohs

**January** The annual **Show and Share** meeting was held via a Zoom

**February** Making an encore presentation (by Zoom this time) to the NHS, Vancouver Island author an historian, Catherine Marie Gilbert, presented a talk and images based on her new book, **A Journey Back to Nature, the History of Strathcona Provincial Park.**

**March Murder on Mayne Island** With a waning pandemic risk we held an in-person AGM where Susan Garcia compiled crime scene investigation and court reports about the murder of settler Robert Clarke on Mayne Island in 1870.

**April A Conversation with Charlie,** Sean Enns took us through the story of Charlie Abbot, Chemainus' beloved hermit, exploring his origins and how he arrived to become the Hermit of Chemainus.

**June Field Trip to Morden Colliery Historical Park** . Members and guests enjoyed a catered picnic lunch on site and were intrigued with speaker Liam Hall's descriptions of the complex task of restoring the monumental 100 year-old concrete coal mine tibble.

**September** Dave Flawse revealed the story of **Nanaimo's last hanging** and career criminal Henry Wager alias "Jack the Flying Dutchman" final attempt at burglary at a Union Bay general store.

**October** NHS Director Ted Lord, hosted an interpretive stroll back in time along the **Departure Bay waterfront walkway**.

**November The E&N Railway: Route Obstacles & Challenges That Are Still Visible Today** Mike Bonkowski gave a beautifully illustrated talk describing selected sections of the now overgrown and silent E&N railway

**YouTube channel** All of the 2022 meetings were recorded and are viewable on our Youtube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@nanaimohistoricalsociety1953>

## **Communications Committee report for 2022**

Prepared by Sue Creba

The Communications Committee is comprised of David Hill-Turner, Sue Creba (chair), and Facebook moderator Ross Gray. Many thanks to Christine Meutzner, who assists with YouTube. The main work of the Committee has been to publicize the events of the Society through Facebook, emailouts to members and others on our email list, and to local media. Three newsletters were produced this past year, and we raised our profile at two public events.

Our [nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca](https://nanaimohistoricalsociety.ca) website was launched this year and we continue to make improvements to it for our members and the public. The website augments our Facebook and YouTube presence, and will enable us to accept memberships, donations, applications for research grants, and to provide secure access to documents for members and Board directors.

For our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023, we plan to create a printed rack card, advertise in the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, on CHLY Radio, the VIU Navigator, in addition to our normal advertising outlets. We will be making presentations to the Nanaimo and Harbour City Newcomers Groups in March. We welcome members to our committee who are interested in spreading the word about our organization!

## **Governance Committee for 2022**

Prepared by Gord Miller

The principal role of the Governance Committee is to advise the Board of Directors on matters relating to the policies and practices governing the Nanaimo Historical Society. This involves review of the constitution and bylaws, policies, procedures and practices affecting the Society.

During 2022 the Governance Committee was not as active as in previous years. The following policy was approved by the Board

- Honorarium and expenses for speakers

## **Grants Committee Report for 2022**

prepared by David Hill-Turner

The Grants Committee was formed in 2021 to encourage the community's interest in Nanaimo's cultural and natural heritage. The Leynard Legacy Heritage Grant Program provides a microgrant to successful applications from individuals, societies and learning organizations.

The first grants were awarded in 2022 to the History Department, Vancouver Island University and to NHS member Dalys Barney.

The committee, comprised of Director David Hill-Turner and NHS member Mali Bain, continue to refine the program in preparation for launching application requests in 2023.