

**NOTES FROM THE 2009 NANAIMO HERITAGE SUMMIT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 2009-FEB-19, 7 – 9 P.M.,  
AT THE VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE LANZTVILLE ROOM,  
HOSTED BY THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**

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**Attendees:**

Gord Miller	<i>Nanaimo Historical Society</i>	Matt Hussman	<i>Downtown Nan. Partnership</i>
Daphne Paterson	<i>Nanaimo Community Archives</i>	Leonard Krog	<i>MLA Nanaimo</i>
Patrick Dunae	<i>VIU History Department</i>	Diana Johnstone	<i>City Council</i>
Christine Meutzner	<i>Nanaimo Community Archives</i>	Pamela Mar	<i>Nanaimo Historical Society</i>
Sheila Boucher	<i>Nanaimo Yacht Club</i>	Jill Stannard	<i>Heritage Commission</i>
Bobbi Williamson	<i>Nanaimo Museum</i>	Bill Gard	<i>Heritage Commission</i>
Julie Cowie	<i>ASBC Nanaimo</i>	Vicki Harrison	<i>Retired Teachers Association</i>
Evan Mitchel	<i>St Paul's Anglican</i>	Fred Pattje	<i>City Council</i>
Loyd Sherry	<i>City Council</i>	Mayor John Ruttan	<i>City Council</i>
David & Ria Stanley	<i>Go Nanaimo/Newcastle Neigh. Association.</i>	Dennis Watson	<i>Retired Teachers Association</i>
Michael Harrison	<i>Brechin Hill Neigh. Association</i>	Leigh Watson	<i>Retired Teachers Association</i>
Mark Drysdale	<i>Tourism Nanaimo</i>	Les Skipsey	<i>Retired Teachers Association</i>
Colleen Parsley	<i>ASBC Nanaimo</i>	Valarie Hannan	<i>ASBC Nanaimo</i>
Ken Williams		Eric Ricker	
Gennifer Tooke	<i>Wellington Action Committee</i>	Barbara Johnstone	
Chris Sholberg	<i>Heritage Planner</i>	Rebecca Tubbs	<i>Recording Secretary</i>

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**1. Introduction and Overview:**

C. Sholberg welcomed everyone to the 2009 Heritage Summit and introduced the speaker, Dr. Patrick Dunae, members of the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission, Mayor John Ruttan, and Councillors in attendance.

**2. Heritage of Education – A Historical Overview of Nanaimo's Educational Institutions:**

Dr. Patrick Dunae, from V.I.U.'s Department of History, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Nanaimo's education system and educational heritage structures.

- The Hudson's Bay Company had an obligation to provide educational services for the children of its employees.
- Nanaimo's first schools were located where present-day Devrille Square is.
- Free non-denominational public schools – Cornelius Bryant 1870
- Charles Bailey was first Public School teacher in B.C. (1853-1855)
- When financial strain took hold (Klondike) the government pulled funding (schools were non-denominational but no longer free).
- When schools of the British Colony closed, Nanaimo's schools stayed open.
- Nanaimo has the longest continually operating school district in British Columbia.
- When B.C. joined confederation, the Public Schools Act was put into place
- Money was now being put aside for educational costs (teachers, buildings, etc)
- The Crace Street Boys' school (1873) was the first provincial school in B.C.
- Highschool was established in 1886.
  - First Principle: Edward Paul
- North Ward school (1893) is located beside present-day Pauline Haarer School.
- South Ward school (1893) is located on the corner of Needham and Strickland Street.

- Central school (1896) is located on the corner of Franklyn and Selby Street, and was designed by J.J. Honeyman.
- In 1896, recess becomes mandatory.
- Central school (1896), Quennel School (1912), and the Manual Training School (1913) were built side-by-side.
- Harewood school (1914) is located on Fifth Street, and was built by the Public Works Department.
- Thomas Hodgson school was originally built as an Agricultural Hall, but became a school in 1920.
- Provincial Vocational School (1936) – first in B.C. – fed and provincially funded
- Vocational Training School (1950)
- Harewood, Brechin, Northfield, and Lantzville were their own school districts.
  - consolidation was being planned for these districts but there was resistance by residents
- Princess Royal School (1949)
- Nanaimo District Secondary School (1953)
- John Shaw School becomes a junior high (1950's)
- Wellington and John Barsby highschools (1955-1957)
- Post-secondary education: Malaspina College (1969)
  
- What is the future of Nanaimo's educational heritage structures?
  - Manual Training school: uncertain
  - Harewood school: uncertain
  - Northfield school: uncertain
  - Crace Street school: recently demolished (historically important as the first provincial school)
- There are a few encouraging signs:
  - The Princess Royal school building is now used as the Princess Royal Family Centre.

On behalf of the Heritage Commission, C. Sholberg presented speaker Patrick Dunae with a gift certificate to Chapters and City vest as a token of gratitude for presenting at the Summit.

### **3. Round Table Discussion:**

The following updates were given by community organization representatives:

#### **Christine Meutzner – Nanaimo Archives:**

- The Archives main goal is to acquire and process historical records to make them accessible to the public.
  - records are available both on-site and on-line
- They have recently acquired two new computers and a backup storage unit which can store more information.
- Currently have 22 databases.
- Have hired a new employee whose work has been focused on the website
- They strive to get as much information to the public as quickly as possible.
- Has collaborated with many community groups.
  - production of plaques, interpretive signs, brochures
- Have been working on Neighbourhood Walking Tour brochures which seem to please the neighbourhood associations.
- Has held consultation workshops with Parksville, Qualicum, Gabriola, Ladysmith, and Protection Island.
  - these workshops have proved to be mutually beneficial
- The 13-year project to get the E.J. Hughes mural on display will be complete when the mural is unveiled in May at the Port of Nanaimo Centre.
  - currently working on the unveiling ceremony
    - has contacted descendents of E.J. Hughes

**Mark Drysdale, Executive Director – Tourism Nanaimo:**

- Tourism Nanaimo is located in Beban House, which is 1 of 6 municipally designated heritage buildings.
- One of Beban House's claims to fame is that it is haunted.
  - M. Drysdale hasn't encountered any ghosts yet
- It has been one of Tourism Nanaimo's goals to get a location in the downtown area.
  - a kiosk will soon be built within the Port of Nanaimo centre
- The 2009 Visitor Guides are now available.

Evan Mitchell – St. Paul's Anglican Church:

- Was the first church established (1861), and is the third church to be located on that site.
- Currently planning their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for 2011.
  - will be holding public and private events to commemorate the occasion
  - hoping that the Governor General will attend

Less Skipsey, Retired Teachers Association:

- The Association is located in N.D.S.S., Room 159, courtesy of SD68.
- Hoping to acquire old school texts to make information available to students
- There are some school texts that date back to the early 1900's.
- They have some lovely memorabilia items (i.e. awards, school bells, boxes of chalk, ink blotters).
- Has received tremendous support from the school board.
- Hoping to have an Open House in April.

Vicki Harrison, Nanaimo Heritage Education Collection:

- Are located at N.D.S.S. in Room 159.
- Wanted to emphasize the large collection of historic material that they have.
  - the collection will be soon catalogued online
  - not quite able to have it open to the public yet

Julie Cowie, Archaeological Society of B.C. – Nanaimo Branch:

- The Archaeological Society's goal is to educate about heritage conservation through public education.
- meetings are held every second Friday of the month at V.I.U.
  - the meetings are B.C.-themed when possible
- Some hands-on projects include:
  - Discover Archaeology – held at the Nanaimo Regional Library
    - teaches people the importance of preserving artifacts
  - hosted a booth at the V.I.E.X.
    - many people didn't know that the Society existed
- Recently participated in the Archaeological Illustration program.
- Currently working on a project at the Colliery Dam Park documenting culturally modified trees.
- Are interested in doing collaborative work to have plaques and interpretive signage installed in the park.

Dr. Patrick Dunae – Vancouver Island University, Department of History:

- Students are currently participating in a South End Neighbourhood field study in which they are identifying buildings with heritage potential.

Gordon Miller, President – Nanaimo Historical Society:

- The Society was established in 1953.
- Their goal is to preserve, record, promote, and communicate history, with an emphasis on Nanaimo and area.
- The Society meets once per month from Fall to spring, and features a guest speaker at each meeting.
- They are responsible for the preparation, management, and directing of the Princess Royal Day Celebrations (November 27<sup>th</sup>, since 1954)
- The committee has completed a series of three revised books regarding the Princess Royal Families.
  - publications are for sale at the Nanaimo Museum and the Archives for \$12.00 each
- Ships That Built Nanaimo interpretive signs:
  - These signs are a series of interpretive panels that feature ships that have been associated with the development and themes of Nanaimo's maritime and transportation history.
  - Two have been installed on the waterfront railing, next to the Pacific Sails sculptures.
  - Two more signs are in preparation.
    - cost for the signs has been funded by BC150 and the Nanaimo Port Authority
- Pacific Biological Station's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:
  - Celebrated their centennial anniversary last year (1908-2008).
  - In light of the celebration, a large amount of historical material has been gathered.
    - approximately 3,000 images have been scanned
  - The building has been cleaned up and esthetic changes have been made.
  - On March 15, the station will be hosting a presentation regarding women's role in Science and Biology.
  - The Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission recognized the station's centennial anniversary by presenting them with a plaque.
  - The building is currently going through the process to receive National Historic Site status.
    - the site would then be designated a site of historical significance in Canada

Warren Jaques, Newcastle Neighbourhood Association:

- Has been trying to revitalize the association.
- Started to plant some trees.
- Future plans include helping to finish Vancouver Avenue.
- Have started a website.

Sheila Boucher - Nanaimo Yacht Club Heritage Committee:

- Are starting to become active again.
- Currently learning the correct archiving process for their records.

Matt Hussman, Director - Downtown Nanaimo Partnership Society:

- Introduced himself and shared his background in historic preservation.
- The B.I.A. renewal process is currently taking place.
- Does believe that the B.I.A. renewal will be accepted.

Chris Sholberg, Community/Heritage Planner, City of Nanaimo:

- Gave an overview of the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission's work over the past year and work plan for 2009. Highlights include:

- Developed a Harewood Heritage Walk brochure
- Developing a Nob Hill Heritage Walk brochure
- Portals to Our Heritage totem carving and plaque at Departure Bay
- Snuneymuxw burial site, fence and plaque:
  - *Completed*
- Annual update of City's Heritage Register:
  - *Underway*
- Ships That Built Nanaimo interpretive plaques:
  - *Completed*. Two more coming
- Co-hosted a Heritage Art Event with the Nanaimo Arts Council: Heritage Paint-Out/Shoot Out
- Hosting the Heritage Summit
- Hosted a booth at the V.I.E.X.

Future projects include:

- A Heritage Walk kiosk in Nob Hill Park.
- Installation of a bench at Pioneer Cemetery Park (possibly ornamental gateways and other improvements).
- A review of the Heritage Action Plan.
- Installation of a recently found marble coat-of-arms at City Hall.

C. Sholberg then thanked everyone for attending and participating in the 2009 Heritage Summit.

The Summit concluded at 9:11 p.m.