



VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

NUMBER 37 AUTUMN, 2013

Victoria Historical Society Speakers for 2013-2014

26 September, 2013

A Fishing Holiday with the Dunsmuirs. Diana Pedersen
In August 1913, a young English visitor enjoyed a two-week fishing trip up the east coast of Vancouver Island, sailing on James Dunsmuir's yacht, *Dolaura*. Social historian Dr. Diana Pedersen will discuss Ivan Chinnery's newly discovered travel diary that records his impressions of coastal settlements and of fishing and camping with the Dunsmuir family.

Dr. Pedersen taught Canadian social history at Concordia University. She is now an independent historian and freelance editor living in Victoria. Her current research interest is early sport fishing and angling tourism on Vancouver Island.

24 October, 2013

The River Returns to Its Source: Seven Generations of the Jewish Community in Victoria. Shoshana Litman
Shoshana Litman is Canada's first ordained Maggidah (a female Jewish storyteller, inspirational speaker and teacher). She received ordination (S'micha) in May 2008 from Maggid Yitzhak Buxbaum of Brooklyn. She is a member of the Victoria Storyteller's Guild and Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada.

28 November, 2013

The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Story, 1905-2013.
Robert Turner

The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Story, from 1905-2013. Photos of the people, places, events and developments that shaped and transformed the E&N Railway and so much of Vancouver Island's history will enhance this talk.

Robert Turner is a well-known historian and author of a number of very fine books on shipping and railways in B.C.

Saturday, 07 December, 2013

Lunch at the Embassy Inn ~ 12 noon

Christmas Memories with Emily Carr. Molly Raheer Newman

Molly Raheer Newman is well-known for her portrayal of Emily Carr. She joins us to share Emily's writings about Christmas including childhood memories and vignettes as a landlady.

23 January, 2014

The Royal Theatre at 100. Ken Johnson

Ken Johnson is president of Hallmark Heritage Society, a member of the VHS, and is a heritage masonry conservation consultant.

27 February, 2014

Francis Rattenbury's Yukon Venture. John Motherwell
John Motherwell, a Victoria surveyor and engineer, worked in the Yukon for many years. He developed a life-interest in its history. His recently published book, *Gold Rush Steamboats, Francis Rattenbury's Yukon Venture*, presents a fascinating account of Rattenbury's activity in the north.

27 March, 2014

1907 Victoria, as Seen Through the Lens of William Harbeck. Helen Edwards

A copy of William Harbeck's early movie of Vancouver and Victoria was found in Australia some years ago. See Victoria as your grandparents might have known it.

Helen Edwards has a long involvement with heritage, having worked for the Hallmark Heritage Society for many years, and is the B.C. director for Heritage Canada Foundation. She is also a member of VHS and acts as our webmaster.

24 April, 2014

The Life and Times of the Hon. Alexander Rocke Robertson.
Ian Robertson.

A native of Ontario and a lawyer, Robertson came to Vancouver Island in 1864. Because the Vancouver Island bar only accepted British-trained lawyers, he had great difficulty in joining it. He served as Mayor of Victoria in 1870, went into provincial politics, established the Public Schools Act, and became a Supreme Court Justice in 1880, sadly only to die a year later. Several members of his family have become lawyers and judges.

Ian Robertson, a family member and lawyer, recently retired and moved to the island. He is a member of the VHS.

22 May, 2013

More Than Emily Carr's Sketching Partner: The Life and Art of Edythe Hembroff-Schleicher. Christina Johnson-Dean
Christina Johnson-Dean is a graduate of U of C, Berkeley, and has an MA from U.Vic. She had the good fortune to meet Edythe. She has written on the Unheralded Artists of B.C., such as Ina Uhthoff and Edythe Hembroff-Schleicher.

May being the date of AGM the business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the James Bay New Horizons Hall, 234, Menzies St. Victoria unless otherwise noted.

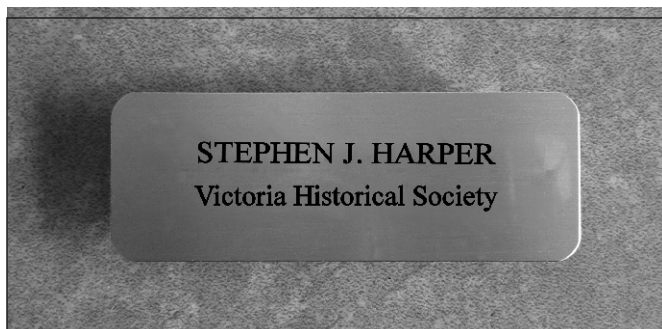
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WHAT'S IN A NAMETAG?

The VHS strives to be a friendly society and as we now number well over 100 members, we use nametags at our monthly meetings to help members especially newcomers get to know who people are. Last year we successfully introduced a metallic nametag which members buy and take charge of. These nametags are



available at a cost of \$7.00; just sign up with our treasurer Tom Pound and he will order one for you. The nametag has a metallic backing which means no more pins and it sticks to the filing cabinet or fridge. If you put it in a prominent place with the handout of this year's program, you'll have a double reminder of the next meeting and to remember your badge!

We do encourage members to consider this option, although you can continue to use the paper/pin badges as well.



BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH

Beating About The Bush: Random Memoirs of an Ex-Brit by Barry Cotton, published by Friesen Press, December 2012, 301 pages including 20 pages of black and white photographs, soft cover and is available for \$25 from Ingram Book Company and the author, Barry Cotton, Vancouver, B.C.

This is a witty book packed full of the colourful, well-chosen life experiences and narrow escapes that were Barry's life. It is full of bits of survey information and anecdotes about some of his associates. It is the story of a life well lived.

Barry Cotton is an ex-Brit and his collection of episodes is indeed, only the tip of the iceberg in his remarkable and extremely lucky life. He came to Canada in June 1946 after his middle class British public school education and his six and a half years in the British Army serving in various capacities, that included a stint with the number 4 Commando Unit. In the summer of 1939 Barry joined the Royal Horse Artillery and by early September his outfit was guarding the main railway tunnel under the Thames against expected saboteurs. In 1941 Barry took part in a successful commando raid on the Lofoten Islands off the coast of Northern Norway. He saw action in North Africa and in Italy where he was given orders to occupy and hold a hill top until relieved. Unfortunately for the company, the hill top was marked as a trig station on every map in existence with the exact coordinates easily determined, so for the next ten days they were shelled with precision accuracy by the Germans. Eventually he

was sent to Palestine to keep the peace between the Arabs and the Jews. On VE day his outfit was moved up to Syria, then Cairo where he was 'demobbed' in the spring of 1946.

Barry writes about his June arrival in Vancouver, "I remember Vancouver in 1946 because it marked a turning point in my life". For the City of Vancouver and for Barry it was off with the old and on with the new. He started life in BC at a logging Camp on Loughborough Inlet as the novelty English Limey and tried his hand at many skills including setting chokers and back rigging and took his share of ribbing as a greenhorn. Next he was hired as a compass man with a Forestry consultant firm in a camp at Glacial Creek, Jarvis Inlet, followed by another job at Anderson Lake helping to lay out steel towers for the first Bridge River Power Line. In the spring of '47 he was offered a chainman's job at one of Vancouver's senior survey firms and he was on his way. Barry wrote his preliminary BCLS exams in April and began his articles, and was soon surveying in places like Big Bar Creek, Ucluelet and the Columbia Cellulose Pulp Mill at Prince Rupert. During these early years in Vancouver his book carefully details how surveying was carried out and recalls his remembrances of Vancouver as it was immediately after the war.

In late 1948, he met his wife Kitty, who some of you will remember as a very lively attractive ex-army nurse. By coincidence, each had served in Palestine at the same time but had never met. They married in Aug 1949 and honeymooned at Yellow Point and continued to return there over the years on their anniversary. Meanwhile in the spring of '48 and again in spring '49 he was working at Port Edward laying out tunnels for the proposed mill site. Kitty joined him in the fall and they stayed through the winter, returning to Vancouver in the spring of 1950.

March saw the creation of a brand new surveyor, #290 and he signed on with Bob Thistlewaite, future Surveyor General of Canada, on a Provincial Boundary Alberta-B.C. survey from a point about 60 miles north of Ft. St. John, northerly along the 120th meridian. This was a tough job with the flies, muskeg and total isolation and a test of the mettle of the entire crew.

They came out of the bush in October, "ragged, dirty and smelling of pine needles".

Barry started his own survey private practice in Lonsdale in the spring of 1951 and for the first while he existed on referrals from other surveyors. A large job was defining the boundaries of the Nelson and Cypress creek watersheds, followed by Zeballos, Skookumchuck and the Queen Charlotte Islands. Another mining job near Cape Scott that he undertook had them living off, "stinky cheese". In July 1952 he tackled a very difficult mineral claim survey at Piebiter Creek, near Bralorne. His client was a somewhat eccentric but extraordinary pioneer woman named Mrs. D.C. Noel. What started as a simple four claim survey ended with a survey involving 24 over-staked, lapsed, disallowed, and re-staked claims and fractions therefrom. It was a 'baptism by fire', a 'dog's breakfast'. The following year Barry returned to the Gold Bridge area for more claim surveys and a few local jobs, some of which were for the Federal Government, Legal Survey Department. Kitty acted as cook and became the first female employed by the department in a field camp. He talks about the difficulty of doing an Indian Reserve survey at the end of the Douglas Channel across the inlet from Kitimat, that at the time was still under construction and how he had to hire a tug boat and a fishing seiner to get them in and out as the normal transportation was fully booked.

By 1953 Barry was starting to ponder the advantages of having a partner in his business and carefully lists all the pros and cons. Shortly afterward he joined forces with an old workmate and the firm took on many remote jobs such as at Masset and a mineral claim job at Camborne, high in the Selkirk Mountains where they stayed in an abandoned, fallen down miner's cabin. During the night they were naturally bothered by the usual pack rats but solved the problem by shooting one with the rifle from a distance of 6 inches. The resulting noise and mess frightened the others off for the rest of the trip. Another job was the running of part of the northerly boundary of Revelstoke National Park gradually extending it from the Big Bend Highway to the Alpine plateau at an elevation of about 6,500 feet.

New Zealand and/or Australia, and moved all their worldly goods down under. They found things interesting but much different down there. He tried his luck in both countries and was able to obtain survey employment but they soon realized they had a better life back in B.C., so by June 1962 Barry was back on Canoe Mountain, near Valemount, surveying in microwave towers. Afterwards, he was able to purchase a partnership in another old-established Vancouver survey firm and had a few years of exacting city surveying—as he says quite different from rural surveying.

Barry returned to doing a few of the more remote surveys in 1972 by doing work on the Charlottes and Belize Inlet and kept returning to the Gold Bridge Country. He had bought a lot on Tyaughton Lake back in 1956 and by 1974 he thought he had the time to build a house on it. At age 63 he retired from his partnership and he and Kitty moved into their newly built house and still managed to do a bit of local surveying for a while. Finally as they became older they moved to Ganges on Salt Spring Island and remained there happily until 2006.

If you would like to read about the life of this interesting B.C. Land Surveyor, you will enjoy and learn something from this book..

John A. Whittaker, B.C.L.S. (retired)



**THE ONES WHO HAVE TO PAY
THE SOLDIERS-POETS OF VICTORIA BC IN THE
GREAT WAR 1914-1918**

By Robert Ratcliffe Taylor

When war in Europe broke out in 1914, why did so many men from Victoria, BC, Canada, enlist enthusiastically? What did they feel about the war they were fighting? What were their personal values? Were they ever disillusioned in the trenches of the Western Front? To what extent did they enjoy combat? How did they regard the German enemy? And faced with artillery bombardment, execrable living conditions, and the fear of death or maiming, what helped them to carry on?

In researching these questions, the author found that Victoria was a unique city in several ways and that some assumptions about Canadian soldiers' trench experience may not apply to volunteers from that city. Moreover, the culture of the time was different from that of Canada today so that the enthusiasm for military life and for "the empire" may seem bizarre to young people. Ideals of masculinity may seem outdated, and the concepts of personal honour and duty, which these men supported, may be obsolete. This essay tries to understand the culture of Canada and especially that of Victoria, BC, a century ago, a pertinent exercise considering the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

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Hedley Bus Tour June 24 - 26 2013

Day One, Monday, 24.

On Monday morning 21 sleepy people met at 7 a.m. under the clock at Mayfair Mall to board our bus heading off to catch the 9 a.m. ferry to Vancouver. Joining us on the ferry were Joyce Clearihue and Warren Ladecki. Including our bus driver Bud Potter we totalled 24 people. The weather was poor with rain and fog which made the drive to Hope less than



Abandoned cabin, Granite Creek

exciting but most of us had seen it before. We stopped for lunch at the famous Rolly's along with another tour bus; but Rollys can handle anything even 20 picky seniors. Back on the bus and on to Princeton over the Hope Princeton Highway, with John Whittaker telling us many interesting facts about the trails that ran off the Hwy. Passing the site of the Hope slide of 1965, he told us that the late Gerry Andrews, BC Surveyor General, was alerted to the catastrophe in the middle of the night and had pictures of the slide on the minister's desk by noon.

Our first stops were the towns of Coalmont and Tulameen where we learned some of the history of these two small towns. Coalmont is basically a ghost town. The general store is no longer open and the hotel (reputedly owned by the Hell's Angels) was closed but we were able to look in the windows and see the beautiful interior. The outer buildings are mainly gone, just a few fallen-in cabins. Our next stop was Tulameen, population about 250, which once, thanks to the gold rush, claimed to be the 3rd largest town in B.C. We were met by Bob and Colleen Hughes (local Historians). Bob took us on a tour of the town and to the 716 acre camp ground on Otter Lake. The town was originally called Otter Flats. We continued on to the cemetery at Granite Creek. Very interesting and well looked after. We were treated to homemade hamburgers and the trimmings put on in the community hall by Colleen. We arrived at our motel in Princeton about 8:30 and after some confusion getting us all sorted out we retired to our rooms for a well deserved rest. Even Kathleen slept well after breaking the headboard off of her bed.

Day 2 Tuesday June 25

After a complimentary breakfast at the motel we were on the bus on our way to the Mascot Mines In Hedley. We were met at the Snaza'ist Discovery Centre by Brenda Gould who manages the centre. Tours of the mine begin at the Interpretive Centre, so we abandoned our bus and transferred to the mine tour bus. We were met by our tour guide Rick Holmes, a native of Hedley who lives and works at a mine there. The last short leg of the road had to be walked as it is even too rocky for the bus. Once at the top of the mountain you are given

the choice; stay at the top or walk down the 589 wooden stairs which snake down the mountain to the actual mine. Once down, there is only one way to get back, you guessed it WALK UP 589 stairs. The altitude



is about 4900 ft — almost 200 ft higher than the Rogers Pass. About 10 brave people went down and made it back (I will never try that again!). The best climber was Dr Clearihue (way to go Joyce!). At the bottom Rick explained the mining process. This is an underground mine, the gold is in the rock and the miners had to dig underground much like the coal miners. The gold is then processed by removing the gold dust from the rock. The native community is working on restoring the buildings and making the mine a tourist destination. The mine tunnel is visible but not accessible due to safety concern. It is dark dank wet and rocky — a most unpleasant place. By the way there are another 70 stairs to the very bottom. There are a number of buildings including the office bunkhouses etc and other areas where the machinery for removing the gold is and was. We all returned to the bus gasping and panting and went to the Hitching Post Restaurant for lunch where we met by some of Russ and Ron Fuller's many relatives. After a quick walk and visit to the museum we left Hedley and drove to Princeton where we toured their very interesting museum. The mine tour took about 4hrs so we were running about ½ hr behind. We boarded the bus heading to Hope with a short stop at the Dewdney Trail Head. We arrived at Hope checked into our motel which was conveniently across the street from Rolly's and had a very late dinner.

Day 3 Wednesday June 26

We boarded the bus at 9:30 after breakfast at you know where (they said please come again). We went to the Othello Tunnels via the old road. Very few people realize this amazing site exists right off the Coquihalla Hwy. There are 5 tunnels running along the Coquihalla River which were built to accommodate the CPR railroad. The scenery was spectacular. We took a short walk along the HBC Brigade Trail which went from Fort Langley to Fort Hope to Tulameen. and then returned to Hope for our last lunch your choice of restaurants we all went to Rolly's I think. We made great time thanks to our great bus driver Bud and caught the 5 p.m. ferry. We were home and I'm sure in bed by 10 after an amazing 3 days. One of John's best tours yet. Thanks to everyone for the fun, laughter and companionship.

Joyce Mackie.



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF "A BRIGHT GEM"

One of the highlights of my summer was to participate as Pioneer Player Mrs. W.J. Macdonald in the impressive parade and ceremony on June 2 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the Synagogue of the Congregation Emanu-El. The Macdonald and other pioneers could well have been at the original ceremony in 1863 as it was very much a community and ecumenical event. We can be grateful that The British Colonist gave such a detailed report of the proceedings the next morning and I thought members might be interested in some excerpts:

Precisely at 2 p.m. the Band of HMS *Topaze* was met by the Congregation Emanu-El and the Germania Sing Verein opposite their rooms on Yates street; they proceeded to the Star and Garter Hotel where they were joined by the Hebrew Benevolent, French Benevolent and St. Andrew's Societies, and then marched to the Masonic Hall on Langley street, where they received the members of the Victoria and Vancouver Lodges. The procession then formed two deep...and marched to the spot where the ceremony

was to take place on Cormorant street.

In the original ceremony, there were actually two cornerstones laid. Part of the first ritual to lay the south corner stone was in Hebrew, including Psalm 127. There were a number of speeches and the text of the speech of Samuel Hoffman, Vice-President of the Congregation, was printed in full. His address to the Congregation, which is abridged below, still inspires and is particularly poignant given subsequent world events.

My friends and brethren:... We are here on an occasion that should make every true religious heart throb with joy and satisfaction. We are here to lay the foundation of the first Synagogue in Her Majesty's dominions on this side of the Pacific. Should we not rejoice with all our hearts to behold an edifice dedicated to God, in this far Northern clime? Yes; we should rejoice with all our hearts at the erection of either a church, chapel or temple. Does it perhaps, matter, with what form or ceremonies we praise our Maker? ... I believe not. But I do believe that a most essential part in religion exists in the trueness, goodness and uprightness of every man's heart. I am glad both of my assertions manifest themselves so plainly here today. For, as I look around me, I behold adherents to every creed, to witness the erection of another edifice wherein the name of the Almighty will be hallowed and sanctified. I therefore repeat again, we should hail with joy the erection of buildings devoted to prayer. Prayer is the basis of morality, education and the welfare of a great nation.....

With feelings amounting almost to envy, we have beheld the erection in this city of churches of almost every denomination extant; but what could we, a handful of people, do to gain a similar edifice? It is easy to remember the advent of the first Israelite. Nevertheless, scattered as our race are all over the world, and limited in numbers, as we generally are, compared to our Gentile brethren, I am proud to say that since we first made our appearance, one by one, we have each and all striven manfully to uphold the religion which has been handed

down to us by our forefathers.

Though our past life may have been a very rugged one—though pangs and dismay may have shot through our hearts—though dismal clouds may often have obscured the rays of our happiness, circumstances may have bid us thus to leave our relatives, friends and home behind us to wander forth to a strange land; yet as I behold this scene before me, hope shines more serenely bright and soft-eyed Mercy sheds a glistening tear—a tear of joy and love.

...When we look back into the history of our nation we find there ample room for reflection. ... from the time of our deliverance from slavery in Egypt,... the Jews have been trampled upon and coerced.... Even in modern ages, the time has not long passed by when their rights were denied to them, and they had to submit meekly to the scorns, scoffs and contumelies of their fellow creatures. But how different it is now! The rays of justice and true feelings of humanity have at last entered into the benighted and bigoted souls of our persecutors. Our chains are thrown aside—our rights restored—and in almost every country we enjoy with our fellow citizens the same rights, the same blessings and the same laws. Religious liberty—the doctrine inculcated by the Almighty Himself—is spreading its benign influence over every land on the face of the globe, and the Jews of today, I am proud to say, stand second to no other sect.

My friends:...Before I conclude there is one essential thing which I would most particularly impress upon the minds of my fellow-members: it is the good doctrine of union and harmony. If peace and harmony be your guiding star, let it be the motto inscribed in the heart of every member of this organization, and God will shower his blessings upon you. As the stone which we are about to lay will be the foundation upon which the structure will rest, so let peace and harmony be the foundation stone of your hearts, without which your structure will crumble into dust, your cherished hopes disappointed, your plans

frustrated.

In conclusion, I would fervently pray to God that he may support us in our undertakings—that he may infuse a feeling of peace and harmony in hearts of my brothers, and that this temple may become a bright gem among the glorious constellation of churches in this our adopted country.

The cornerstone, which contained subscription lists and the constitution of the Congregation, was then laid by Mr. John Malowanski. This was followed by an elaborate Masonic ceremony for the laying of the North cornerstone in which the Right Worshipful Master Robert Burnaby declared “I shall have much pleasure in laying the cornerstone of this Temple with all the ancient honours of this order” and he was gifted with “a little silver Trowel” to mark the occasion.

The newspaper report concluded “thus terminated an eventful day in the history of the Jews of Vancouver Island and it must ever be a source of infinite gratification to that body, that the ceremonies...were participated in by all classes of our community, with a hearty good will and brotherly feeling, evidencing in acts more powerful than words, the high estimation in which they are held by their fellow townsmen in Victoria.”

A visit to the Synagogue one hundred and fifty years later underscores that it has fulfilled the hopes of its founders. It is indeed “a bright gem” among our sacred historical buildings. I hope many of you were able to take in the excellent tours offered this summer to see the special anniversary exhibits.

A delightful memento of this anniversary year is the special Calendar available for 2013-14 and we can look forward to Shoshana Litman’s presentation at our November meeting about the Jewish history of Victoria.

(Transcribed excerpts are from *The British Colonist*, June 3, 1863, p. 3.)



Sylvia Van Kirk

THE CASE OF “NISGA’A GIRL”

The Canadian Museum Of Civilization And Bill C-49:

Background

The Senate scandal has arisen again, while another more scandalous loss is happening—without media notice—to Canadian history. The crisis of national, subverted history continues, deserving notice and opposition.

Canada is a country containing multi levels (national, provincial, municipal, and local) all interwoven. Direct links connect these levels while federal aims affect the connected parts. Discussion on the impact of national history institutions, (Library and Archives, museums) on citizens and local history is in this article’s second section.

Recently the government has been targeting the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) to transition from social history to the two old pillars: the military and politics. The CMC is renowned in the world and the most visited and popular of Canadian museums. Its exhibits and holdings represent outstanding social history, with a high percentage of Canadian content. The Federal wish for a name change to the Canadian Museum of History reduces the mandate from interest in many aspects.

Contained in the last Omnibus Bill C-60 was legislation to take over managerial control of all the crown corporations, specialized activities requiring highly specific knowledge, from trains (VIA) to Museums, to Ports to the Canada Council and the Bank of Canada. (The last is supposed to advise the government; government control causes conflict of interest.) Bill C-60, passing the Senate by June 25th, received Royal Assent June 26.

Other acts exist to protect the independence of various corporations; the Museums Act looks after these national institutions. Bill C-49 is an amendment of that act to remove, what the then Minister Moore of Canadian Heritage at his Committee Meeting, called “barriers” to government daily control. Bill C-49 has not yet passed in the Commons and waits for a fall vote,

so time remains time to protest Bill C-49, before the changes to name and regulations are legal.

A Controversial Event re Nisga’a Girl

A controversial event happened at CMC in May, while both bills were in process. The Canada Hall, a walk through Canada’s history from Vikings in the East to scenes across our country, ended in the west with “*Nisga’a Girl*,” a Japanese-built fishing boat used later by the West Coast aboriginals. Both cultural groups had agreed to the museum donation fifteen years ago and the Japanese had raised funds to send the boat to Ottawa.

Suddenly this spring, the Nisga’a tribe was asked to take the boat back. Objections continued with the discovery that the exhibit was demolished. Since the government did not yet have the right to order this, the museum administration must have bowed to pressure ahead of time. A meeting happened in Winnipeg on July 8 between the representatives of all those involved. On July 9, CBC radio news announced that the museum would “house” the boat, a word implying only storing it. Interestingly, Jason Kenney, then minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, had sent a letter explaining the Japanese contribution in sending the boat, its historical importance and the need to include it in the new exhibit.

This incident has several implications One is that they might not be full unity on the museum issue. Secondly, the incident shows likely future objections resulting from trying to give back officially donated artifacts and thirdly the impossibility of Minister Moore’s proclamation, at his committee on May 22 (“Heritage Minister defends creation of new.museum,” Ottawa Citizen May 23). His intent to “send 3.5 million artifacts” across Canada, presumably to give some to museum, sounds like a wholesale giveaway of social history artifacts!

This action would not be possible, as sending out artifacts requires assurances of storage room and funding for care and documentation. The few large museums may not have much spare room and museums in smaller places often combine with local archives. Under Minister Moore, cutting off grants for

small archives projects already put at risk these smaller institutions. Many are near failing and could not take any objects; those surviving only a few.

The minister's ignorance of how museums work should make citizens wonder if the government is able to manage specialized crown corporations without causing huge problems. Ignorance shows in his allotting only \$25 million for destroying present exhibits and creating new. Several retired CMC employees explained that carefully done exhibit construction is highly expensive, as is its deconstruction. Changing Canada Hall would leave little money for new exhibits. Destroying carefully crafted permanent exhibits and getting rid of significant items seems barbaric. Loss of present social history artifacts seems sure and meaningful artifacts, not yet known, would not be saved.

Possible Reasons for Changing the Kind of History

Why does the government go so far for a narrower version of history? Finding reasons come through understanding of social history, which takes into account economic, social, and cultural influences in topics and deals with individuals, peoples and places. Social history artifacts contain layers of meaning, like the boat symbol alluding to war depriving a specific race of its living and rights and 2) to the cultural meaning of fishing for aboriginals.

Historians focusing on military and political history could deal more with events and less on causes in presenting these powerful, hierarchical organizations. These are easier to turn into propaganda for the government's aims. Three historians have expressed concern about the resulting increase of militarism. (There's already a large, shiny War Museum.) Another reason is that these organizations' power discourages change or opposition.

In contrast, social history gives the stories of individuals making a difference. It is inspiring to museum visitors to see how significant one person's or group's direct action can be. Such independent thinking for citizens is not desirable to a government seeking controls.

At CMC, the "Face to Face" hall held exhibits on contributors to Canada, including ordinary citizens.

Two examples continue to influence from around 1900:

1) Alphonse DeJardins helped his fellow citizens financially with loans through the *caisse populaire*. His name remains on credit cards from the credit union.

2) Adelaide Hoodless changed social factors, by establishing Domestic Science for better health standards. Canada's Food Rules retain her food groups and some rules.

The need for opposition rises with the fact that CMC administration does not seem to have learned from the "*Nisga'a Girl*" incident. Without Bill C-49's legality, the museum name has already been changed. Working to preserve the Canadian Museum of Civilization is about saving Canadian civilization itself. The situation is a greater long-term scandal than senate money.

Reasons Why National Institutions Matter

Answers to Two Questions

1. Does limiting history matter to Canadians? Yes, for the following reasons:

Citizens use the genealogical and literary resources at Library and Archives Canada LAC. Now this holder of documentation—starved of funds—collects little. Some missing documentation cannot be regained later.

Opportunities to consult with skilled historians diminish since museum workers are added to the list of muzzled professionals. Intergovernmental consultations are lost, so that provincial and local exhibits might have some lacks.

National exhibits show our values and progress. As citizens, do we want skewed propaganda with serious omissions for ourselves and those new to Canada?

If Bill C-49 passes, then the other museums would be immediately censored to fit the government's narrow views on nature, science and technology.

History propaganda that is not opposed or questioned leads to wrong actions in different aspects of life. By opposing the first signs, we are helping prevent worse actions.

2. Does the limiting change matter to local history groups which carry on with social history? Yes it does

matter and limits information for local historians for several reasons:

A national museum is a collection from all parts of Canada: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. One of the first pictures in a CMC exhibit, 'The History of Nursing in Canada', was the Pemberton operating room at the Jubilee Hospital. Hey, we contribute!

Seeing the whole gives the value of context, especially in finding out which parts of our history follow movements and which parts are unique.

The national institutions hold materials not otherwise available. The first photo of Francis Roscoe (Ross Bay Villa) came from the National Archives photos of parliamentarians.

There could be a drip-down effect in subtle ways with controls on many aspects of life.

Standing up for our independent history is urgent and we never know where there may be unexpected help. Letters to politicians should be copied to the CMC administration.

Information re Sending To People/Places

After the cabinet shuffle, Hon. Shelley Glover, became Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages

Email: shelley.glover@parl.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-995-0579 Fax: 613-996-7571
Address: House of commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Right Hon Stephen Harper Prime Minister
Email. stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca
Phone: 613-992-421 Fax: 613-941-6900
Address: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Hon, Jason Kenney (still advises his former ministry).
Minister of employment and Social Development
Email: jason.kenney@parl.gc.ca
Phone:613-992-2235 Fax: 613-992-1920
Address: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Canadian Museum of Civilization directorate
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