

### BUILDING A MUSEUM AS EXTRAORDINARY AS THE COMMUNITY IT WILL SERVE



#### Q&A with NVMA'S NEW DIRECTOR, WES WENHARDT

**Why did you choose the object in the photo?**

I chose the hardhat because it best reflects the path ahead of perseverance and hard work, bearing in mind the best is yet to come!

**How do you see your role with the NVMA?**

I am honoured to be able to contribute to the team to launch, open and operate the new Museum of North Vancouver in the fall of 2020. I am looking forward to helping create an exciting new community and tourist destination in the dynamic Shipyards District. It's a privilege to accept the baton from retiring NVMA Director Nancy Kirkpatrick, and draw on the energy and enthusiasm of the staff, volunteers, Friends, Commission and supporters. I look forward to having great supporting partners including: City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and The Shipyards District. Our key priority is to open the doors and breathe life into the new Museum of North Vancouver.

**What personal characteristics do you bring to your work?**

I have been fortunate to work with many dynamic teams in launching museum and science centre projects in several cities. I enjoy working with people, focusing their diverse, yet compatible skills and assisting them to move in a common direction, to attain uncommon results! The new Museum of North Vancouver is a very special museum project, on the shores of Burrard inlet, nestled in the natural beauty of North Vancouver. I look forward to strengthening our community through the creation of a dynamic new museum for today and for future generations.

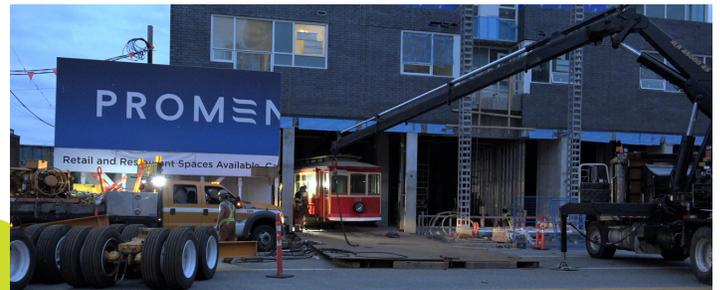
**What is your favourite item in the collection?**

The ice axe and crampons from the early days of mountaineering. It is amazing how these tools enabled teams of climbers to pursue their passion for icy trails and scaling high peaks. This reminds me of Team North Vancouver Museum & Archives: "Taking it Step by Step".

**IGNITING CURIOUS MINDS WITH  
stories of North Vancouver**

#### STREETCAR #153'S NEW HOME

July 2nd 2019 was an eventful day for North Vancouver. This was when the historic Streetcar #153 was moved into its permanent home, in the future museum, at 115 West Esplanade. The day was decades in the making.



top: Streetcar #153 installed in the new Museum, courtesy of Triangle Video.

Streetcar #153 had served on the hilly Lonsdale route from 1912 to 1946 and was part of a 'perfect little streetcar system' – an innovative and pioneering approach to public transit. The streetcars made it possible for residents to access affordable housing and to commute to work and shops. Streetcar #153 witnessed North Vancouver's transformation from a small rural community to a suburban center.

The Car was saved by BC Transit employee Brian Kelly in 1986 when he spotted it on a farm in the Fraser Valley and set about refurbishing it to its original form. The bulk of this task was undertaken by volunteers Bob Booth, Carl Andersen and, in more recent years, by railroad preservationist Don Evans and members of the Westcoast Railway Association.

On Canada Day, Streetcar #153 was featured in the celebratory parade while transported on a Nickel Bros. flat bed truck. The Car was then prepped for its move, two days later, to Lower Lonsdale. That move happened in the dark of night, when traffic was light and the truck carrying its precious cargo could move slowly with little disruption. At the Esplanade site, the Car was lifted onto its wheel assemblies (called 'trucks') and secured on tracks. The installation of that equipment alone involved a four man crew working for three days.



Streetcar #153 is now secure within the new site and awaits some final interior refurbishment before making its debut in Fall 2020 as a feature exhibit at the new Museum of North Vancouver.

Streetcar #153 in the lobby of the future new museum, courtesy of Dianna Foldi

# New Museum of North Vancouver in Lower Lonsdale

## POP-UP THEATRE

This summer our student actors, aka the Shipyard Pals, popped up around North Vancouver performing at indoor sites, local parks, and the Civic Plaza. They provided theatrical experiences to residents and tourists alike with two new shows that featured mountain tales and the historic Streetcar #153. As they shared North Vancouver's stories of risky mountain adventures and transportation challenges from our earliest days, they also spread the word about the New Museum's opening in 2020. We will miss actors Silken Lawson and Tristen Foy as they will return to theatre school this fall but anticipate bringing more theatrical interpretation to the community in the coming year.

Funding for this program was made possible in part through a contribution from the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

## VOTING FOR PROGRAMS

'Dotmocracy' or 'dot-voting' is a quick, fun way of capturing what people think about a specific subject. In this case, we wanted to learn what public programs the community would enjoy at the new Museum. We didn't use dots – we used smiley faces on our 'dotmocracy' boards at summer community events in Lynn Valley, Waterfront Park and The Shipyards. We gathered quick feedback on our public program ideas. 158 people took part, voting on a range of options from social nights and guided-tours to heritage hikes and science shows. The results are in!

Adults are primarily looking for evening social events with music nights, movie nights and lectures proving the most popular. Alongside this was a huge amount of support for heritage hikes and interpretive walks. As for families, they are most interested in hands-on



demonstrations and interactive science shows as well as sensory-friendly events. People had lots of fun taking part; it was a great way to have engaging conversations about the future programs at the new Museum.



Shipyard Pals, Tristen Foy and Silken Lawson, photo: Javid Rabanifar

*"This was very enjoyable. Thanks for bringing theatre to the streets!"*

- Streetcar Pop-up Audience Member

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

Community fundraising campaigns rely on the help of dozens of volunteers. Over the past year, our campaign volunteers have met one-on-one with potential donors to introduce the new museum project and solicit leadership gifts, sometimes called 'major gifts'. The major gift phase of any campaign takes place 'quietly' and without public fanfare, hence the term "quiet phase". While the new museum campaign's quiet phase continues, our staff and volunteers are also planning the campaign's "public phase". Scheduled to launch in spring 2020, the public campaign will invite community members to make donations of any size. If you would like to get involved with the campaign, or indicate your interest in making a donation, please get in touch.

Our thanks to CN, which just announced a gift of \$100,000 to support the "Connections Exhibit" in the New Museum. The donation was made in celebration of CN's 100th anniversary.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Sign up for new Museum information at [nvma.ca/extraordinarymuseum/](https://nvma.ca/extraordinarymuseum/)

The Friends of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives Society is the fundraising arm of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives. Charitable Number: 89031 1772 RR001



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