



Friends of the North Vancouver
Museum & Archives Society

EXPRESS NEWSLETTER: Friends Society Quarterly Update

Spring Newsletter April 2026 Issue



Cherry blossoms in Central Lonsdale (Second Wave—April 17, 2024)

Spring 2026

Cherry Blossoms

We hope that you are enjoying the beautiful cherry blossoms that we are privileged to see every spring. Today there are over 40,000 cherry blossom trees in Metro Vancouver thanks to the generous gift of 500 cherry blossom trees given to the city in the 1930s from the mayors of Kobe and Yokohama, Japan in honour of the Japanese Canadians who fought in World War I. Vancouver received more donations in the 1950s.

Did you know that there are **three waves** of the cherry blossom season in Vancouver?

The **first wave** is called the early bloomers and is from late February to mid-March. The early bloomers are bright pink and include the Whitcomb and Accolade trees. The

second wave takes place during early March and mid-April and are the cherry blossoms trees are called Akebono. And lastly, the third or final wave occurs late April until early May (which we see now) and are the Kanzan trees with big fluffy deep pink blossoms.

The Japanese word for cherry blossoms is Sakura and viewing them is a celebrated annual festival in Japan and Vancouver when admirers sit under the beautiful trees and have a picnic—the tradition is called Hanami.

Friends Society and Donors Support Digitization Work at the North Vancouver Archives



Reference Historian Georgia Twiss and the Archives' new photo negative scanner (left)

A donation in honour of the 1958 classes at North Van High directed to the Archives started the ball rolling. The question was what to do with the funds? The Friends Executive was aware of some funds remaining from the long-ago fundraising campaign associated with the Veteran and Community Plaza that were earmarked for the Archives. (Some of you may remember the engraved bricks with the names of Veterans and Community members placed in the Plaza immediately west of the Archives). Together, they would increase the options of what could be done at the Archives.

But that is not the end of the story. During the discussions with Rebecca and Georgia at the Archives to determine the best use for the funds, a second donor came forth. The total amount available had now grown to \$5500. And when an agreement was reached to use the funds to advance the digitization of records, the Friends Board gladly approved the expenditure at its January 2026 meeting.

The first step was to acquire a negative scanner not only capable of achieving good resolution but, most importantly, capable of digitizing 35mm film rolls automatically. This latter feature is particularly important as the Archives need to start digitizing the massive collection of 100,000 photo negatives donated by North Shore News.

The next steps will be for the balance of the approved funds to be used to pay third parties with the required specialized equipment to digitize maps, film reels and/or audio tapes. Some of those records, mostly film reels and audio tapes, cannot even be viewed today because the Archives do not have the required viewing equipment. Digitization is a means to make those records available.

Needless to say, a lot of digitization work is needed. Rebecca, Georgia and Zoe have the hard task of deciding what will get done with the available funds. The Friends are happy to support their work.

MONOVA

Tourism Challenge

This year the Tourism Challenge started on **April 18 and will be ending on May 31**. MONOVA will be participating and giving passports to the museum volunteers. The goal of the challenge is for volunteers to visit as many of the participating attractions as possible and collect the stamps for their passport. For all the rules and Tourism Challenge map visit the official website <https://www.tourismchallenge.ca/free-attractions-2026>

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week overlapped the Tourism Challenge and was between April 19 and 25. This year's theme was Ignite Volunteerism and many organizations throughout Metro Vancouver celebrated and gave thanks to their volunteers.

Sḵw̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Feature Exhibit | June 2026 – March 2027

Presented in collaboration with Sḵw̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw and curated by Chief Dr. Janice George, MONOVA's latest Feature Exhibit will showcase treasured ancient

Skw̓wú7mesh belongings alongside works by contemporary Skw̓wú7mesh artists and artisans.

The launch also ties in with 'Welcoming the World', which will be welcoming visitors from all over the globe to experience the Museum with Pay-What-You-Can entry between June 10 – July 12

FIFA World Cup



Close- up photo of the FIFA World Cup Trophy

Vancouver is hosting the FIFA World Cup competition and will be taking place at BC Place Stadium from **June 11 to July 19.**

*MONOVA is thrilled to be Welcoming the World with **completely Pay-What-You-Can admission between June 10 – July 12.***

This open-door celebration of culture and community invites visitors and locals alike to drop in and explore the powerful stories of this land. So, whether you're visiting from around the corner or far across the globe, step inside, follow your curiosity, and commence your cultural kick-off right here at MONOVA!

Seasonal Update from Indigenous Cultural Programmers

MONOVA Indigenous Cultural Programmers Tsawaysia Spukwus and Jordan Dawson have done wonderful work at the museum, connecting with the community and

educating children and adults with their interactive activities and events. We are happy to share their second Seasonal Update.



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PROGRAMMERS

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LHAWT'
2026

STS'ITS'ÁP'-CHT

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- 6 Elementary schools, 149 students
- 3 virtual/online programs, 76 students

TEACHER PRO-D DAYS

- February 13th 2026
 - 17 teachers learned Skwxwú7mesh sníchim greetings and village sites.

EVENTS

- Winter Weaving Workshops
 - Offered in December and February
- New Voices Exhibit Opening at MONOVA
- "Reach For the Stars Gala" hosted by the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw's Training & Trades Center
- Indigenous Artisan Market
- Volunteer Conversation Sharing focused on Skwxwú7mesh village sites of the North Shore and the weather in sníchim.

CONNECTIONS BUILT

- Yúusnéwas Residential School Research Project
- Nexw7áystway' | Skwxwú7mesh's Training and Trade's Center
- Ta na wa Ns7éyxnitn ta Snewíyelh | Language & Cultural Affairs (Lands filming project with Calder and Elders at the Archives)
- Chief Joe Mathias Center After-School Programs
- School District #44 Indigenous Educator John McGowan
- Capilano Community Services Society in partnership with Norgate Elementary and At-Risk Youth
- salilwatał Archival Image support by Archives staff

CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

We were invited to the Skwxwú7mesh's Training and Trade's Center's "Reach For the Stars Gala" hosted at the Westin Bayshore this year to provide a cultural experience for their guests. Indigenous Programming, curatorial, and archives staff worked together to share belongings from the Jack Louke's collection held at MONOVA's archives building. Included in the Jack Louke's collection are carvings done by students at Carson Graham in the 1990's. We also shared archival records and newspaper clippings highlighting work completed by past leadership of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw.

INDIGENOUS ARTISAN MARKET

This March, we hosted our 8th Annual Indigenous Artisan Market, inviting 10 vendors to share their crafts with guests visiting the museum and Lower Lonsdale. Crafts included beadwork, rattles and drums, custom designed clothing, toxic-free wellness products, carved silver jewelry, woven items, painted prints, and more.

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

Coast Salish Weaving Workshop

Sunday, April 12, 2026 (1pm and 3pm)

Coast Salish Plant Walk in Lynn Valley

Sunday, April 29, 2026 (1:30pm - 2:30pm)

Red Dress Beaded Pin Workshop

Thursday, April 30, 2026 (5:30pm)

Honouring Indigenous History Month

Sunday, June 7, 2026 (11am - 4pm)

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw Feature Exhibit for Fifa World cup

June 2026

Indigenous Cultural Programmers Jordan Dawson & Tsewíyisla Spukowus Email: programs@monova.ca Phone: 604-990-3700

Opening Hours 10AM - 5PM (Wed, Fri - Sun) 10AM - 8PM (Thu, from Jan '26)

monova.ca @VisitMONOVA

Coast Salish Programming is generously supported by BMO

2026 Events at MONOVA

Upcoming events at the museum are:

- [Beaded Pin Making](#) will be led by Indigenous Cultural Programmer Tsawaysia Spukwus on **April 30 at 5:30 pm**. The pin making workshop is to recollect stories that educate and respect the memories of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirited People. The event is for 16+ and costs \$40 and \$30 for concession. Generously supported by BMO.
- [Pay-What-You-Can Day](#) the first Sunday of every month starting **May 3 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm** open for all ages. Generously supported by Port of Vancouver.
- [Music at the Museum](#) this special programming is part of Pay What You Can Day and will be on **May 3 from 11:00 am to until 2:15 pm**. Music performances by North Shore Choirs and North Shore Celtic Ensemble. Generously supported by the Port of Vancouver.
- [Kids' Night Out](#) – at the Archives, second Thursday monthly from February 12 to **May 14, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**. A chance for parents to have a night out while MONOVA entertains your children ages 5 - 11 with cultural learning through arts, crafts and games. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration required.
- [Sensory Friendly Sundays](#) will start on **May 17 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm** and is for neurodivergent attendees and their families to enjoy. It is for all ages and drop-ins are welcome. Generously supported by Vancouver's North Shore.
- [Coffee Mornings](#) for Social Seniors starting **May 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm** (pay-what-you-can). January Theme: Discover the dramatic history behind North Shore Rescue! Join Richard Foster for a visually rich journey through a century of mountain rescues, legendary incidents, and the evolution of Canada's premier SAR team. Hear gripping stories, pivotal moments, and personal insights from his book *Trials and Errors*. Generously supported by Neptune.
- [Coast Salish Wool Weaving](#) will be led by Indigenous Cultural Programmer Jordan Dawson on **June 14 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. The audience is for 10+ and costs \$25 and \$15 for concession. Registration is required. Generously supported by BMO.
- [From Roots to Roots: A Newcomer's Journey Across North Vancouver](#) The new exhibit, *From Routes to Roots: A Newcomer's Journey Across North Vancouver* celebrates the vibrant places and cultures of 12 newcomers to BC. This inspiring exhibit explores the unique stories of our 2026 'New Voices' volunteers who, over 16 weeks, came together to create a cultural project about their experiences of the place they now call home. It will be on display until **May 31**. Generously supported by Deux Mille Foundation.

- [After Hours Thursdays](#) **Every Thursday** evening from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** you can now visit the museum and pay what you can!
- [Archives Drop-In Day](#) – now on **Tuesdays every week**. All ages are welcome to visit between **12:30 pm to 4:30 pm**. If you cannot make it in on Tuesday, visitors are welcome to make an appointment for Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

In the Neighbourhood

Lower Lonsdale Block Party



Lonsdale Quay Market

The **Lower Lonsdale Block Party**, formerly known as the Shipyards Festival, will be on **June 27, 2026**, from **12:00 to 7:00 pm** on **East 1st Street**. The event hosted by the Shipyards District Business Improvement Association (BIA) will have activities for the family to enjoy, live music from local artists all day long, and a site-wide beer garden. The festival line up will be announced soon on their [website](#).

Shipyards Night Market

The annual summertime festivities at the [Shipyards Night Market](#) from **May 15 and September 11**. There will be food trucks, live music, artisan vendors and a beer garden! We look forward to this market every year.



The Shipyards Night Market

Happy Spring!

Happy Spring from all of us at the Friends Society. We appreciate all the hard work you put into volunteering at the Museum and Archives, and the contributions you make throughout the year.



Photo of Magnolias taken April 21, 2025

This newsletter was prepared by Communications Liaison Mayumi Izumi. The Digitization Scanner article was written by Treasurer Ginette Handfield and long-time Board member and our new VP Julie Wytwral assisted with editing.

If you would like to add or contribute to our next quarterly update, please contact Mayumi at friendscommunications3203@gmail.com.