

arts alive

NORTH SHORE

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Jan
10

www.artsalivenorthshore.ca

A publication of the North Vancouver Office of Cultural Affairs in partnership with Capilano Performing Arts Theatre, Centennial Theatre, Kay Meek Centre, North Vancouver Museum & Archives, North Vancouver Community Arts Council, Presentation House Gallery and Presentation House Theatre.



Portage of canoes at the upper gate, Murchison's Rapids, North Thompson River, BC, 1871
© McCord Museum [I-70020.1]

Laid Over to Cover

Photography and Weaving in the Salishan Landscape.

Throughout its gradual advance across Canada in the 1880s, the Canadian Pacific Railway helped in the creation of detailed inventories of documentary photography to advertise its transcontinental line and to further publicize its ambitious involvement within a wider scheme of exploration and development. Photographs taken by Benjamin Baltzly, John Hammond and William Notman & Son within Interior and Coast Salish territories of British Columbia documented picturesque mountain scenery and landscape features, as well as tangible points of contact between aboriginal inhabitants and colonial intruders.

Functioning, as it did in an oral tradition without writing, the Salishan language, like the spiritual culture contained by it, could not become the subject of photographic absorption. Aboriginal traditions of cedar basket-making and ceremonial wool blanket production were similarly rendered unobservable. **Laid**

Over to Cover interprets this pattern of persistent invisibility. It counters and reasserts the observable presence of Salishan culture previously omitted from western pictorial and written records by bringing together traditional Salishan weaving and early CPR photographs of British Columbia. Included in the exhibition are important examples of Coast and Interior Salish weaving, highlighted by the work of contemporary practitioners Melvin Williams of the Lil'wat Nation who lives in Mount Currie and Keith Nahanee of the Squamish Nation who lives in North Vancouver.

Public programs for **Laid Over to Cover** are produced in collaboration with the Esliha7an Learning Centre, the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre and the New Westminster Museums and Archives, and with the support of the North Vancouver Office of Cultural Affairs and the Audain Foundation.

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Prints and Pints...

Documenting History

Two exhibitions with First Nations themes are now on display at the North Vancouver Museum in Presentation House.

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw:

The Squamish Community: Our People and Places

presents historic photographs from North Vancouver's Archives. These photos of significant Squamish people and places (dating from the 1900s to the 1970s) were selected by the Squamish Elders and Language Authority. In contrast with the anonymity that often characterises older images of indigenous peoples, these photographs feature named individuals and places. This is the first collaborative project undertaken by the North Vancouver Museum & Archives and the Squamish Nation.

The Edward Curtis Project, Photographs by Rita Leistner

is a world premiere exhibit born from a unique collaboration between a playwright, Marie Clements, a photojournalist, Rita Leistner, and numerous individuals in First Nation communities in the West and North. Clements wrote a play about Edward Curtis and

his epic and controversial photographic record of America's first peoples called **The North American Indian** (1900-1930). Leistner was asked to create a parallel photographic investigation of Curtis's work and practice that chronicled the lives of contemporary First Nations' people. Together, the photographer and the playwright travelled to five First Nations — in the Arctic, Haida Gwaii, the Downtown

Eastside, Arizona and Oklahoma — where they conducted research, led community workshops, recorded interviews and took photos as a means of building a dialogue between peoples, communities, perspectives, artistic forms and disciplines. The exhibit, which closes on May 23, 2010, is a collaboration between the North Vancouver Museum & Archives and Presentation House Theatre.



Jeffrey Williams, Old Masset, Haida Gwaii, June 2008.
Photo by Rita Leistner.

Dan Kijkes, 'Old' Julian, Willie Baker and Steven Antone, at **Eslha7án** (Mission Reserve), with newly-made canoe, circa 1912. NVMA 26-3-5



north shore news

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Own your outerwear look
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Caddy makes wagon cool
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West Van: 124 pages North Van: 104 pages

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From page 25

going to www.pronova.ca.

Orpheum Theatre:

Vancouver. Tickets:
Ticketmaster, 604-280-4444
or www.ticketmaster.ca.

Presentation House

Theatre: 333 Chesterfield
Ave., North Vancouver. Box
office: 604-990-3474 or
www.phtheatre.org.

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Playhouse: Hamilton at
Georgia, Vancouver. Tickets:
Ticketmaster, 604-280-4444
or www.ticketmaster.ca.

**Roundhouse Community
Arts and Recreation**

Centre: 181 Roundhouse
Mews, Vancouver. Info: 604-
224-6201.

Seymour Art Gallery:

4360 Gallant Ave., North
Vancouver. Info: 604-924-
1378. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-
5 p.m. daily.

Silk Purse Arts Centre:

1570 Argyle Ave., West
Vancouver. Info and
reservations: 604-925-7292
or www.silkpurse.ca.

Keyboard Phrases: Pianist
Terence Dawson, performs
Schubert, Brahms, Chopin,
Debussy, Barber, Janacek and
Scriabin, Tuesday, Jan. 19 at
10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$12/\$10.

Mozart in Vancouver?:

Pianist Gregg Schiller
celebrates Mozart's
birthday in costume, story and
performance, Tuesday, Jan. 26 at
10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$12/\$10.

In the Mood: Clarinetist Julian Milks and pianist
Eugene Skovorodnikov perform, Thursday, Jan. 28
at 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$15/\$12.

Trio Vocé: Piano trio Jasmine Lin, Marina Hoover
and Patricia Tao perform chamber music, Tuesday,
Feb. 2 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$15/\$12.

St. Andrew's United Church: 1044 St. Georges
St., North Vancouver.

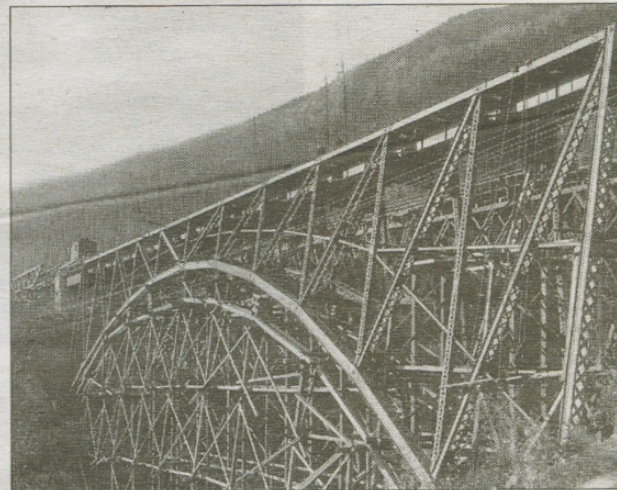
A Gift of Song: The Laudate Singers perform
a benefit concert for SAGE Transition House,
Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. Admission: \$25/\$20.
Tickets: 604-729-6814 or www.laudatesingers.com.

THEATRE

Capilano University Performing Arts Theatre:
2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver. Box Office:
604-990-7810 or www.capilanou.ca.

Medea: A classic Greek tragedy and revenge story,
Feb. 2-7, 8 p.m. and Feb. 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets:
\$10-\$12.

Centennial Theatre: 2300 Lonsdale Ave., North
Vancouver. Box office: 604-984-4484.



photos courtesy McCord Museum/ Laid Over To Cover: Weaving and Photography in the Salishan Landscape

Deep Cove Shaw Theatre: 4360 Gallant Ave.,
North Vancouver. Info and reservations: 604-929-
3200 or www.deepcovestage.com.

Firehall Arts Centre: 280 East Cordova St.,
Vancouver. Box office: 604-689-0926.

Kay Meek Centre: 1700 Mathers Ave., West
Vancouver. Info and tickets: www.kaymeekcentre.com or 604-913-3634.

Mom's the Word — Rentixed:

Highlights from *Mom's the Word* and *Mom's the
Word 2: Unbinged*, Jan. 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets:
\$37/\$33/\$20.

North Shore Neighbourhood House: 225 East
Second St., North Vancouver.

Presentation House Theatre: 333 Chesterfield
Ave., North Vancouver. Tickets and info: 604-990-
3474 or www.phtheatre.org.

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival: A
Métis journalist finds herself slipping from existence
in *The Edward Curtis Project*, Tuesday-Saturday,
Jan. 21-31 at 8 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 2
p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$22-\$28.

Grand Theft Improv: An improv sketch show that

uses audiences suggestions to create 90 minutes
of stories, scenes, songs and comedic chaos, every
Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10.

Stanley Industrial Alliance Theatre: 2750
Granville St., Vancouver. Box office: 604-687-1644
or www.artsclub.com.

St. Andrew's United Church: 1044 St. Georges
St., North Vancouver.

The Gospel of John: A modern translation of the
fourth book of the *New Testament* with choral
speaking, storytelling and song, Sunday, Jan. 31 at
7:30 p.m. Admission: \$20/\$15. Tickets: 19th St.
Physiotherapy Clinic, 224 West 19th St., North
Vancouver or Debbie, 604-988-5221 or at the door.

St. Martin's Church Hall: 195 East Windsor Rd.,
North Vancouver.

The Wizard of Oz: A pantomime loosely based on
this classic story, Jan. 21-23, 28-30 at 7:30 p.m.
and matinees, Jan. 23 and 30 at 2 p.m. Admission:
\$16/\$12/\$10. Tickets: 604-767-0665.

Theatre at Hendry Hall: 815 East 11th St.,

See more page 30



photo Meirion Cynog Evans

PHG exhibit documents a world in transition

PRESENTATION House
Gallery's new exhibit,
Laid Over To Cover:
Photography and
Weaving in the Salishan
Landscape, presents
19th and 20th century
wool and cedar weavings
alongside photographic
documentation of the
region between the
Rocky Mountains and
the Pacific Ocean made
by the Canadian Pacific
Railway (C.P.R.) during its
advance across Canada
in the 1880s. Curated
by David Bellman and
Meirion Cynog Evans,
in conjunction with
the Walter Phillips
Gallery, Banff, the
artifacts on display
include a berry-picking
basket, Squamish/
Skwxwú7mesh territory,
c.1910 (above), as
well as images such
as Geological survey
party at Canoe River,
North Thompson River,
B.C., Oct. 1, 1871 (top
left clockwise), Royal
City Saw Mills, New
Westminster, B.C., 1887,
C.P.R. Hotel Vancouver,
B.C., 1887, Stoney Creek
Bridge, Glacier Park,
about 1895. The exhibit
runs Jan. 15 through
March 14.

CALENDAR



photo Erik F Hood

In the tradition

AN installation view of the Presentation House Gallery's current exhibit, *Laid Over To Cover: Weaving and Photography in the Salishan Landscape*, shows some of the pieces on display. Tomorrow from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Squamish Nation's Eslha7an Learning Center, (345 West 5th St, North Vancouver 604-985-7711) there will be a lecture and discussion with exhibition curators and practitioners. In the PH Gallery on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. Keith Nahanee and the curators will host a weaving demonstration.

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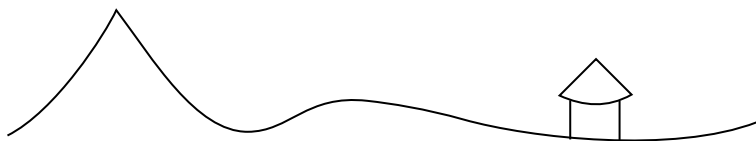
Valentine's Day
re-interpreted
by Asians
Page 3



The Source

forum of diversity

1999-2010



Salishan Landscape

Examined in Gallery Exhibition

by **KERRY HALL**

A current display of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal craftwork alongside photographs of hereditary lands reveals local history in a fresh way.

Laid Over to Cover: Photography and Weaving in the Salishan Landscape runs until March 14 at Presentation House Gallery in North Vancouver. Meirion Cynog Evans and David Bellman, who have developed a close affinity with First Nations people over the years, are the guest exhibition curators.

The 75 black-and-white photos date from 1871 to 1904, when the Canadian Pacific Railway was expanding into B.C. said Evans. They document how the CPR was influencing changes in the province as well as how it unified Canada. He and Bellman looked at them anew and researched their history. The exhibition identifies the locations of the photos as well as reveals the true First Nations territory.

The Salishan landscape, between Banff, Alberta, and Vancouver, is defined by certain distinct language groups and their self-contained cultural/geographical boundaries—Coast Salish includes the Halkomelem Musqueam (Upper/Lower Fraser Valley) and Squamish nation; the Interior Salish includes the Shuswap, Okanagan, Upper/Lower

Thompson, Lillooet (Upper/Fraser River and Lower/Lil'wat).

The exhibit also features 49 artefacts that demonstrate the continuous tradition of cedar and wool weaving within Salishan territories. These include many fine examples of weaving in from historical and contemporary times—ceremonial hats, cradles, baskets for berry picking, fishing, storage and so forth. Melvin Williams of the Lil'Wat Nation in Mount Currie has been weaving for 30 years, since he was 14. He has several recent examples of his work on display. He creates many of these from looking at old photos or museum pieces.


"It takes a lot of thought," Williams said, adding he must visualize the design before starting it plus he requires undivided attention. One gathering basket on display is based on an example from the UBC archives, which had been dug up. He said he studied it for three weeks before starting to weave it. Production also needs time, for example, a hat takes eight hours every day for about 10 days. When he was younger it was his main occupation but now Williams works mainly by commission.

Keith Nahanee is from the Squamish Nation. He has been weaving with wool for more than 20 years. He has a few examples of ceremonial blankets

See "Salishan Landscape" Page 6 ►

► *“Salishan Landscape” from page 5*

on display in the gallery, one of which is a replica of a 150-year-old blanket that was made of 80 per cent mountain goat and 20 per cent woolly dog. He said back then the weaver would have kept a pack of up to 50 of their own dogs, isolated on an island to ensure pure breeding, to provide raw wool. Blankets are used as gifts at ceremonies and for special guests. It takes about 10 days to two weeks of weaving full time to create one blanket. He uses a Salish three-bar loom to produce his blankets, which are also commissions.

Both Williams and Nahanee said there's been a resurgence of weaving in their lifetimes. Williams said when he started as a young man not many people were doing basket weaving at that time. Nahanee said he's especially noticed this amongst the Squamish for wool weaving in the last three or four years. He figures about 200 people have taken classes in that time period. 

Presentation House Gallery is located at 333 Chesterfield Ave. in North Vancouver and is open Wednesday through Sunday, 12–5 p.m., Thursdays 12–8 p.m.



Photo by Kerry Hall

Lil'wat artist Melvin Williams shows his handiwork in a ceremonial cedar bark hat.

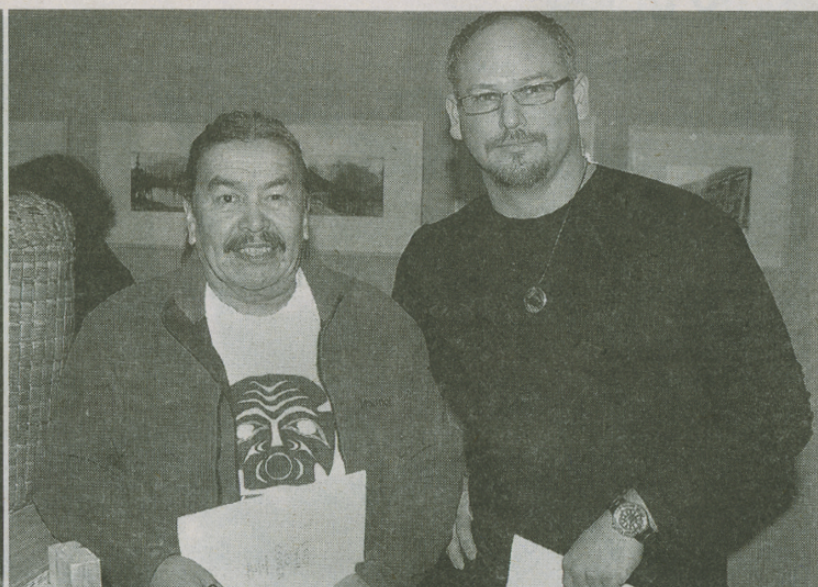
BRIGHT LIGHTS *by Paul McGrath*

Presentation House Gallery exhibition opening



John and Mary Williams bring their great-grandson **Estsmet**.

The opening reception for Presentation House Gallery's latest show, entitled Laid Over to Cover: Photography and Weaving in the Salishan Landscape, was well-attended Jan. 16. Gallery-goers viewed historical photos shot as the Canadian Pacific Railway advanced across Canada, as well as examples of 19th and 20th century wool and cedar weavings. The show is jointly curated by David Bellman and Meirion Cynog Evans and will remain on display until March 14. Info: www.presentationhousegall.com.



Squamish Nation Chief **Bill Williams** and **Aaron Nelson-Moody** take in the exhibit.



Squamish Nation education department's **Vanessa Campbell** and North Vancouver Museum and Archives' **Nancy Kirkpatrick** attend.

Jerry Loychuk views the many works on display.



Sandra Issac, Bryan Larrabee and Chief **Rhonda Larrabee** of the Qayqayt First Nation show their support for the exhibition.



Jerry Nahanee and his brother **Keith**, a contributing artist, celebrate a successful opening.



Curators **Meirion Cynog Evans** and **David Bellman** flank **Faye Halls**.



New Westminster Museum and Archives curator **Rob McCullough** joins Presentation House Gallery director **Reid Shier** and exhibiting artist **Melvin Williams**.