

CONNECT... ART HISTORY CULTURE

The Newsletter of Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History

Executive Director's Message – by Leah Best

Scaffolding. If you swing by the Touchstones Nelson facility between August 22 and September 4, you're going to see a lot of it. The thirty-year old shingles on the steep roof are being replaced during that time and scaffolding is the only way to do the job safely. We'll be open as usual, which is a good thing with two new exhibitions being launched just before the Labour Day long weekend (our latest *Community Matters* exhibit and the installation work of local artist-duo, Heartlab). We'll take advantage of the scaffolding to do some much needed cleaning on the front façade too.

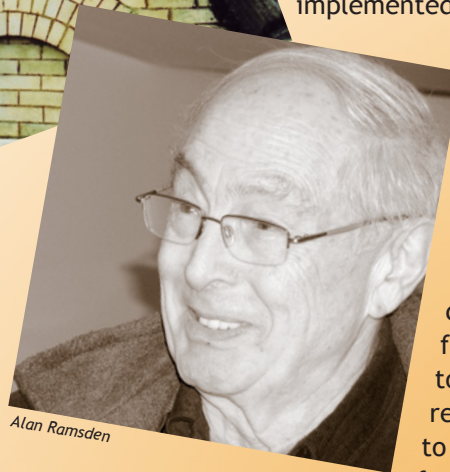


Photo: Redfern
Photographics

The Society is paying for this substantial maintenance upgrade from its building reserve. Project costs will largely deplete this fund. However, replacing the shingles is one of the last capital building upgrades needed at the facility. Regular maintenance is covered through the Society's annual operating budget and given the 2006 rehabilitation of the building there are, thankfully, few hiccups with the many building systems we require to run a public museum, art gallery and archives.

Of course, anytime we deplete our reserves we need to fundraise to build them up again. I hope you will join us in November for a new fundraising dinner in partnership with the Nelson Public Library. This gala event will be at Mary Hall and will include a delicious dinner and some very stimulating entertainment. We are also selling (only 200!) raffle tickets for a Carol Reynolds painting. Sales start in September and will wrap up in late October. Please help support us by taking part in these events.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the recent board retirement of Alan Ramsden after 56 years of service. A new Society constitution adopted six years ago implemented six year term limits for board members.



Alan Ramsden

Alan stepped off in accordance with our constitution - but his presence is felt everyday.

Thank you, Alan, for your half century of dedication, passion for and contributions to the Society. There really is no comparison to your individual and family support of the

organization. I know if I need you, I will find you in the archives, reading the Nelson Daily Newspaper.

FALL/WINTER 2011-2012
Issue No. 3
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2011 Community Matters Exhibition

Change: What's in it for you?

September 3 to November 20

Gallery A • Curator: Rod Taylor

Did you know that on April 2, 2007, Leaf Rapids, Manitoba (population approximately 600) became the first community in Canada to ban plastic bags in retail stores?

From bike sharing to composting, this exhibit will feature similar efforts that are immediate and accessible. Although seemingly small in relation to the scale of the problem,



Ideas for Change

individual and local action is an important step in addressing climate change.

Also featured will be an exciting in-gallery contest, *Ideas for Change*, a showcase of local ideas addressing climate change that would benefit from a little money.

Visitors to the gallery will be given a coin that they can either choose to keep, or put towards the entry of their choice.



Posted to Flickr by normanack

All entries can keep the change they collect, and the top entry from each category (under 18, 18+) that accumulate the most money will be given additional prizes at the end of the exhibit.

Gallery A Joint Opening Reception:

Friday, September 2, 7-9 pm, Members Preview 6:30 pm

Night or Day?

Day Clothes vs. Evening Wear

September 3 to November 20

Gallery A • Guest Curator: Katherine van der Veen

Vintage Fashion Show

with fashion historian Ivan Sayers

September 28 at 7pm

What to wear? Do clothes make (or break) the person? This exhibit features men's, women's and children's garments from the Touchstones Nelson permanent collection. The design, functionality, and manufacturing of clothing will be examined in relation to gender roles, labour requirements, social classes, and cultural values from the turn of the twentieth century until the late 1960s.

Focusing on the differences between clothing worn during the day and the evening, this exhibit will examine how changes in past fashions have affected the development of designs and clothes today.



*Eaton's catalogue from fall and winter 1947-1948.
From the Permanent Collection of Touchstones Nelson.*

Exhibitions August 2011 – February 2012

heartlab presents: *Re-surface* August 27 to November 13

Gallery B • Curator: Jessica Demers

- Opening Reception: Friday, August 26, 7-9 pm
- Members Preview 6:30 pm
- Art workshop with heartlab:
Thursday, September 8, 7 pm

An ongoing creative collaboration between artists Anita Levesque and Bradley Smith, heartlab explores the relationship between the visual arts and writing, as well as the dynamics between the two artists. *Re-surface* will combine heartlab's delicate aesthetics with references to regional geography utilizing drawing, printmaking and sculptural forms.

An interactive website will be launched to complement the exhibition in late September.

Heartlab will also be offering a workshop where participants will playfully explore the dynamics between text and image, and between one another as collaborators.



Resonance (detail).
Mixed media 2010

Two Views

Photographs by Ansel Adams and Leonard Frank

November 26 to February 5, 2012

Gallery A

- Opening Reception:
Friday, November 25, 7-9 pm
- Members Preview: 6:30 pm

On loan to Touchstones Nelson from the Japanese Canadian National Museum in Burnaby, BC, this compelling collection of photographs presents two views of internment and incarceration in the early 1940s. Through them, we have an opportunity to reflect on the nature of forced separation and uprooting and the effects that it has on its victims.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, both the Canadian and American governments forced the relocation of citizens of Japanese ancestry from the coastal regions. Nearly 120,000



Ansel Adams: *Calisthenics. Manzanar Relocation Center, 1943.* Courtesy of Library of Congress

Japanese Americans and 22,000 Japanese Canadians were affected.

The experiences in the US and Canada had many similarities, and also many differences. Ansel Adams took an intimate approach to illustrate the vitality and fortitude of the people. In contrast, Leonard Frank's photographs are a clinical documentation of the government process. Regardless of approach, these photographs clearly illustrate the suspension of civil rights in both countries.

The White Line: *Engraving Prints from the Studio and Collection of Gene Leavitt*

November 19 to January 29, 2012

Gallery B • Curator: Rod Taylor

- Opening Reception: Friday, November 25, 7-9 pm
- Members Preview: 6:30 pm

In contrast to much of the digital imagery that surrounds us today, the relief printmaking process of wood engraving is typically a low-tech, high-

precision endeavour. Local artist and teacher Gene Leavitt has long been interested in creating and collecting relief and wood engraving prints. The *White Line* will feature prints from his impressive personal collection, as well as those he has created.



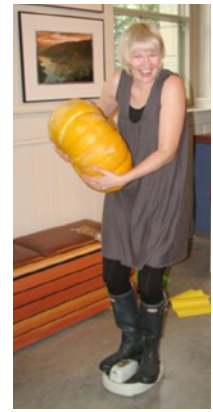
They just keep getting bigger
Wood Engraving 2010

Fall Family Fair

Touchstones Nelson's annual Thanksgiving Day celebration will be held on Sunday, October 9, 12 pm - 4 pm! Bring your family and friends down for a day of heart-warming seasonal crafts and activities, fun guessing contests and refreshments. The museum, art galleries and archives

will all be open. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Touchstones Nelson will host this event by donation with half of all proceeds raised over the course of the day donated to a local charity.

Touchstones Nelson's Archivist Laura Fortier weighs in at the 2010 Fall Family Fair! Photo: John Best.



Fall Programs

The Missing Pages Eileen Delehanty Pearkes

Thursday, September 15, 7 pm
Members \$5

A look at what the explorer David Thompson recorded in his journals when he arrived in the West Kootenay 200 years ago - and what he may have overlooked. Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, is the author

of *The Geography of Memory*. She helped write and research the permanent museum exhibit and hydro films, and is currently working on a history of the upper Columbia River.

A Vintage Fashion Show

Ivan Sayers

Wednesday, September 28, 7 pm
Members \$15

Renowned Fashion Historian, Ivan Sayers, presents a Vintage Fashion Show featuring women's fashion from the Victorian Era to the 1950s. Join us for an unforgettable evening of fun and fashion history!



Robert Sanford

Friday, November 4, 7 pm

Bob Sanford works to bring broad international example to bear on Canadian water issues such as the Columbia River Treaty. In 2011, Bob was invited to be an advisor on water issues by the InterAction Council, a global public policy

think-tank composed of more than twenty former Heads of State including, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, U.S. President Bill Clinton and President of Mexico, Vicente Fox.

Fundraisers

Tales & Tapas Gala Dinner

November 4, Mary Hall

Join us for a new fundraising dinner in partnership with the Nelson Public Library. Hosted by CBC's Mark Forsythe.

This gala event will be at Mary Hall and will include a delicious dinner and story telling.

Raffle! Carol Reynolds Painting

Only \$10 per ticket!
We'll be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Carol Reynolds painting this fall.

Only 200 tickets are printed in order to improve your chances of winning.

Gift Memberships for the Holidays

A great stocking stuffer for your favourite family member, friend, colleague or neighbour.

Give the gift of creativity and ideas! Available at Touchstones Nelson.

Archives & Collections – by Laura Fortier



*Nelson 1908 Panorama • Restoration by Nicole Tremblay
Copies available for purchase in The Shop*

Summer was a very productive time for the Archives/Collections. With the help of Talis Jacobsen, the summer archives assistant, a project to address the Archives' large collection of photographs got under way. This involved weeding through the collection to locate duplicate prints and then determining which of the duplicates were in the best condition for continued preservation within the collection.

Photographs that did not fit within the Society's mandate were also identified. These photographs were pulled and will later be transferred to institutions better suited to house them. The removal of duplicate photographs allows for additional storage space in the ever-expanding collection.

The project also involved creating a binder of reproductions to sell in the gift shop. This binder will allow visitors to get a sense of the extensive photo documentation of the history of Nelson and area contained within the archives.

Talis worked on cataloguing photographs that had not yet been entered into the inventory. While doing so she also assisted with stream-lining the subject-based system of retrieval to enable patrons to more easily find desired photographs.

Another project completed with the assistance of Nicole Tremblay was the digitization of a panorama depicting Nelson in 1908. The panorama was scanned in parts, then stitched together and "touched up".

This panorama is now available for sale in the gift shop. There are plans to digitize similar images and make them available soon.

A generous donation has recently enabled the archives to provide wireless internet. This allows researchers who come to the archives to connect their laptops, smartphones, ipads, etc. to the World Wide Web thus assisting them as they perform various searches in their quest for information.

As we say goodbye to a busy summer at the Shawn Lamb Archives, we look forward to all the projects and research inquiries that await us this fall.



The Shop – by Alex Dudley

What a great summer we had at Touchstones Nelson! Nature may not have been very cooperative but with all the activity inside we hardly noticed!



Lainey Benson, Brewery

ArtWalk was a huge success as always. We were lucky to showcase two very talented and very different artists, Lainey Benson and Oliver Arthur. This year we had a table at the Baker St. Market for the entire summer, allowing

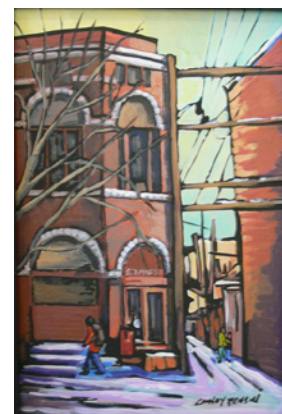
us to get out of the building and bring Touchstones Nelson to the public. The response was fantastic!

We also turned our attention to the Shop page of our website (<http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca/store/shop.php>) and have added work by local artists as

well as many of our archival prints. Now you and your out-of-town friends can shop from home.

The Shop has some exciting events lined up for the fall. Frances Welwood has written a new book, *Passing Through Missing Pages: The Intriguing Story of Annie Garland Foster* that will be launched at Touchstones Nelson in the early fall. The date and time will be announced.

The Christmas Market will return this year in November and the always anticipated Members-Only Sale will take place starting on Saturday, November 5. Mark your calendars!



Lainey Benson, Express Alley

Summer Students

The staff and volunteers of Touchstones Nelson give a big THANK YOU to our terrific summer students! From left to right:



- **Talis Jacobsen** (Archives Assistant) earned an English Degree from the University of Lethbridge and is going into her second and final year at the Kootenay Art Therapy Institute here in Nelson.
- **Hélène Miles** (Program Assistant) has completed a two year International Development Program at Capilano University and has transferred to UBC into a three year Geography Degree.
- **Katelyn Ward** (Visitor Services Coordinator) is in her third year at Queen's University, in Kingston Ontario and is majoring in both Psychology and Art History.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director:

Leah Best—director@touchstonesnelson.ca

Curators (shared):

- Rod Taylor—rod@touchstonesnelson.ca or exhibitions@touchstonesnelson.ca
- Jessica Demers—jessica@touchstonesnelson.ca or exhibitions@touchstonesnelson.ca

Archivist/Collections Manager:

Laura Fortier—collections@touchstonesnelson.ca


Visitor Services Manager:

Alex Dudley – shop@touchstonesnelson.ca

Executive Assistant, Volunteer/Membership Coordinator:

Linda Sawchyn – linda@touchstonesnelson.ca
or info@touchstonesnelson.ca

good look
graphics

Touchstones Nelson's newsletter  development courtesy of Good Look Graphics

The Society recognizes the generous and ongoing support of the City of Nelson and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and Gaming Revenue and premiere exhibition sponsor Nelson & District Credit Union.



City of Nelson



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Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History • 502 Vernon St., Nelson, BC V1L 4E7
P 250.352.9813 • F 250.352.9810 • www.touchstonesnelson.ca