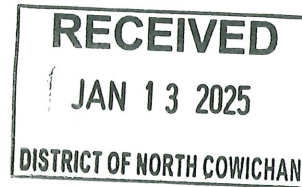




CHEMAINUS VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Non-Profit Organization Est. 1963

9799 Water Wheel Crescent, Box 172 Chemainus, BC V0R 1K0
Phone: 250-246-2445 email: cvhsMuseum@shaw.ca chemainusvalleymuseum.ca



November 19, 2024

Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans Canada Highway
Duncan BC V9L 6A1
Attn: Mayor Douglas

Dear Mayor Douglas:

This letter is in reference to the project initiated by the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society and the Festival of Murals Society celebrating and honouring the Japanese Canadian community, which once called Chemainus home. As I understand it, the project is to include a new mural, sited on municipal land, and is to be completed in August 2026.

The Chemainus Valley Historical Society has a strong interest in exploring the complex history of Japanese Canadians of Chemainus. The society is in the preliminary stages of planning a special exhibit at the museum that approaches the topic through 5 key questions: When did the Japanese settle in Chemainus? What was the Japanese Canadian community like? What happened to the Japanese Canadian community? Why did none of the Japanese Canadians return to Chemainus? What are the lessons of these events, some 80 years removed?

As currently envisioned, our special exhibition would be on display at the museum from late July to early October 2026, timed to coincide with and compliment the unveiling of the new mural.

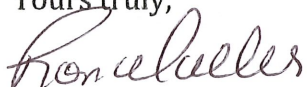
The purpose of the special exhibit would be to present the experience of the Japanese Canadians living in Chemainus in the context of local, national and international events. It is the story of Japanese Canadians specifically related to the historic evolution of the community. It is a story of immense importance, only a part of which is in public view. With Chemainus receiving recognition as a place of significance from Heritage Canada, it is a story that needs refreshing and greater exposure.

The Chemainus Valley Historical Society is a small community-based organization, the functioning of which is largely dependent on volunteer commitment. As we move forward with this special exhibition we will be reaching out to other museums and institutions for assistance and guidance. Although the experiences of Japanese Canadians have been well researched and documented, our challenge will be to draw out and present the material directly related to Chemainus.

Before the museum begins the process of approaching others, the Board believes it is important to first advise your organization, and your partners, about our intent and by highlighting the linkages we see with the project initiated by Japanese Canadian Legacies Society and the Festival of Murals Society, with the support of the Municipality. In this regard, the Chemainus Valley Historical Society would be interested to know of any issues or concerns you may have. We have yet to chart a fixed work schedule but would like to be able to reach out to other museums and groups for advice and to discuss possible material loans early in the new year (2025).

It is hoped that you will share our view that exploring the full story of the Japanese Canadians in Chemainus is an important undertaking for the museum and a benefit to the community. Your thoughts and any questions about what we propose would be most welcome.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Waller".

Ron Waller, President
Chemainus Valley Historical Society