

## Local Family History Resources

By Norma O'Toole

The Comox Valley and upper Vancouver Island area are well-served with resources for family history research. There are several genealogy groups to assist those who are interested in beginning their own search. The Comox Valley Genealogy Group (CVGG) meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May at the Latter-day Saints Church at 1901 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Courtenay. This very active group gives a variety of presentations at their monthly meetings and gives tips to assist their members in solving "brick wall" problems. Volunteers took part in a long-term project to catalogue birth, marriage, and death notices from the local newspapers, and have recorded and published monument inscriptions and burial records in four of the local cemeteries. Although some of the members are not able to attend the monthly meetings, the \$10.00 yearly dues entitle them to receive frequent updates via e-mail of new genealogy research resources that are located on the Internet.

The Evergreen Club has a genealogy group meeting on the third Thursday of each month from September until June at 1:00 p.m. in the Soroptimist Lounge at the Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay. This small group concentrates on assisting seniors with genealogy research problems.

There are other sources available on the North Island to assist those who are interested in family history research. The Vancouver Island Regional Library has the Library Edition of Ancestry.com for in-branch use only. On their web site they also provide an excellent list of web sites for accessing genealogy research via the Internet as well as lists of books on the subject. Interlibrary Loans are also available.

The Comox Archives and Museum Society (CAMS) located at 1729 Comox Avenue, contains exciting exhibits and they sponsor local events to bring the history of Comox to life.

The Courtenay and District Museum and Palaeontology Centre at 207 Fourth Street, Courtenay provides research materials about the history of the Comox Valley and the north Island region such as newspapers, historic photos, interviews, maps, newspaper clipping files, early logging records, books and manuscripts. The Archives are open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. If you are planning specific research, please phone ahead (250) 334-0686 ext. 104 for an appointment so that the staff may have your requested material ready when you arrive. More in depth archival research is available on a fee-for-service basis. Please phone or fax (250) 338-0619 if you would like more information.

Just a little further afield is the Campbell River Genealogy Society at the Maritime Heritage Centre. CRGS holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month except July and August and has an excellent genealogy library.

The Nanaimo Family History Society is closing their research library due to loss of government funding, but remains a very active group. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month

(except July and August) at 7:00 p.m. in the Beban Park Social Centre, Rooms 7 and 8, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC.

The Qualicum Beach Family History Society promotes the study of genealogy and family history through accurate, ethical and thorough research principles and techniques. They maintain a library of genealogical books, magazines and research materials; provide workshops, courses and speakers to assist you with your research, and publish a quarterly newsletter. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the meeting room at the rear of the Royal Canadian Legion, 180 Veterans Way, Qualicum Beach. Guests are always welcome.

Unfortunately, the Courtenay Family History Centre closed in 2014. FHCs are available in Campbell River in the Willow Point area at 460 Goodwin Road, Phone 250-926-0480. The Nanaimo Family History Centre is in the LDS Church 2424 Glen Eagle Crescent. Hours: open Tuesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Family history research has been simplified in recent years with the adoption of digitization of historic records by many governments and organizations. It is now possible to download digital copies of documents for a small fee per record, through a paid subscription, or in some cases for free. To explore the fascinating world of genealogy, record what you know about your family, talk to your relatives, read books on the subject, and visit some of the many web sites that exist to help people with their research.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Web Address</b>
Campbell River Genealogy Society	<a href="http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bccrgc/">http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bccrgc/</a>
Comox Museum and Archives	<a href="http://www.comoxmuseum.ca/">http://www.comoxmuseum.ca/</a>
Comox Valley Evergreen Club	<a href="http://evergreenclub.me/">http://evergreenclub.me/</a>
Comox Valley Genealogy Group	<a href="http://www.cvfamilyhistory.org/">http://www.cvfamilyhistory.org/</a>
Courtenay and District Museum	<a href="http://www.courtenaymuseum.ca/">http://www.courtenaymuseum.ca/</a>
Dave Obee's Canadian web site lists	<a href="http://www.cangenealogy.com/">http://www.cangenealogy.com/</a>
Family History Library Catalogue	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/">https://www.familysearch.org/</a>
Nanaimo Family History Society	<a href="http://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/">http://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/</a>
Qualicum Beach Family History Society	<a href="http://qbfhs.ca/">http://qbfhs.ca/</a>
Vancouver Island Regional Library	<a href="http://virl.bc.ca/">http://virl.bc.ca/</a>