

# North Van Museum and Archives feels the pinch after federal funding cut

Published: May 24, 2012 1:00 PM

Compared to many of the small, volunteer-run community archives found throughout B.C., the North Vancouver Museum and Archives is a lucky place.

Headquartered in Lynn Valley's spacious Community History Centre, the NVMA enjoys the relative luxuries of paid staff, spacious offices and an associated charitable organization, the Friends of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives.

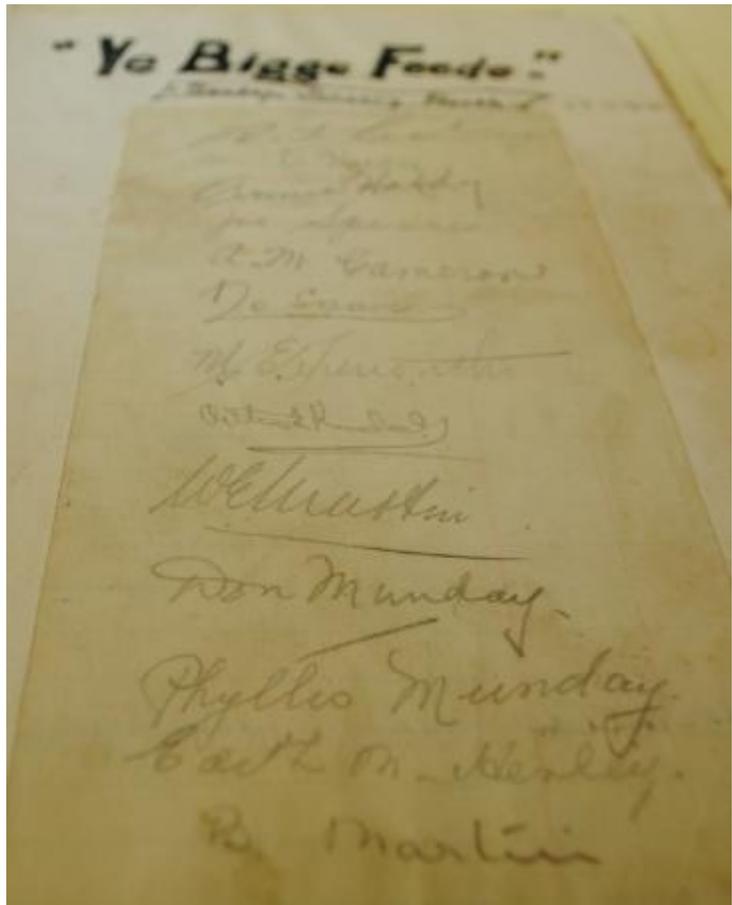
But the NVMA, along with community archives from coast to coast, is coping with a new, grim financial reality after funding for the National Archival Development Program was cut last month.

Established in 2006 — although the federal government has been giving money to archives since the 1980s — the NADP was tasked with disbursing funds

to each of Canada's provinces and territories. It was then at the discretion of the provinces to dole out the money according to the grant proposals submitted. Each individual community archive awarded a grant was expected to match any money received by at least half.

For 2012/2013, \$1.7 million was to come from Ottawa to the NADP. Of that total, \$117,000 was earmarked for B.C. About \$50,000 of that money was to be dispersed to individual archives and \$67,000 was to go to the Archives Association of BC, a provincial body in charge of advisory services for member archivists, a preservation service for materials and maintaining the online archival database, Memory BC.

"We depended on that funding this year. We wanted to hire a contract archivist to arrange and understand a new collection," said Janet Turner, NVMA archivist. "It has 10 metres of linear shelf space worth of materials."



A selection from the BC Mountaineering Club collection, signed by famed mountaineers Don and Phyllis Munday, now at the North Vancouver Museum and Archives.

*Sean Kolenko photo*

The collection in question — what Turner called “a jewel in the crown” — is the records of the BC Mountaineering Club. Dating back to 1907, the mountaineering club kept ample photos, journals, and glass slides, some of which came from famed mountaineering couple Phyllis and Don Munday, who lived in a cabin on Grouse Mountain.

Due to some timely support to the NVMA, the BC Mountaineering Club materials will still be made available. But, according to Turner, it will be reduced in scope. “With the archival material, we can describe the project as a whole and some of the groupings within it,” said Turner. “But maybe not as granular as we’d like.”

To mitigate the funding loss, NVMA director Nancy Kirkpatrick said the organization has plans to work closely with the Friends of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives Society to increase memberships and donations.

An online petition to restore the funding has also been started. A link to the petition is available at [archivesnext.com](http://archivesnext.com).