



CITY OF QUESNEL NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
November 1, 2005
Museum to host traveling exhibit**

QUESNEL, B.C. – The Quesnel and District Museum & Archives will play host to an intriguing display over the next two months.

Imagine a ghost town so ghostly that even the ghosts have left. A town believed to have had the first electric lights on the west coast north of San Francisco as well as the first telegraph link in this area to the rest of the world. A town that set a standard for lumber exports that was not equaled for another 20 years. A town that opened the area's first library, school, museum and golf course as well as the Mechanics Institute and Masonic Lodge.

The lost sawmill community of Moodyville was the first significant non-First Nations settlement on Burrard Inlet, now the harbour of Vancouver. Surrounded by lush forest, it had easy access to a seemingly never-ending supply of raw material. But by the late 1890s, voracious logging and a worldwide depression had depleted its trees and fortunes. The mill closed in 1901 and the City of North Vancouver gradually absorbed the site. Curiously, almost no physical traces have survived – no buildings or landmarks, and only a few artifacts and photographs remain.

This fascinating tale of prosperity turned to desertion is on display now at the Quesnel and District Museum & Archives. Curator Ruth Stubbs says the opportunity to learn about Moodyville is not to be missed.

“It's such an interesting story and one that people in Quesnel may not be aware of,” Stubbs said. “We have the chance to learn more about such a unique time in our history and how it affected one small community. I really encourage people to visit us and take in this display.”

The traveling exhibit runs from November to December 2005. Admission to the museum, which is open Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for those ages 13 to 17 and free for those 12 and under.

-30-

This release is available at www.city.quesnel.bc.ca under What's New.

For further information, please contact:

Ruth Stubbs, Curator
Phone: (250) 992-9580
Fax: (250) 992-9680
E-mail: rstubbs@city.quesnel.bc.ca

Matt Wood, Communications Supervisor
Phone: (250) 991-7475
Fax: (250) 992-2206
E-mail: mwood@city.quesnel.bc.ca