

New Pathways to Gold

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**August 2008
eNewsletter**

Toff vs. Proff debate garners global headlines for Lytton



Hon. Henry Cobbald-Lytton

“A dark and stormy night” is turning into a moment in the sun for Lytton.

NPTGS co-chair Mayor Chris O’Connor has organized a public relations coup by inviting The Hon. Henry Cobbald-Lytton (great-great-great-grandson of Victorian novelist and politician Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton) to debate his ancestor’s prose style with Professor Scott Rice of San Jose State University, head of the Bulwer-Lytton Writing contest.

The Great Bulwer-Lytton Debate, set for August 30, 3:00 p.m. in Lytton, has garnered international headlines. The announcement of the literary slugfest between “the Toff and the Proff” resulted in O’Connor being interviewed by [CBC radio’s “As It Happens” program](#), which is broadcast internationally via satellite and shortwave. A press release on this NPTGS-organized event was picked up by Canadian Press Vancouver and has run on CTV’s all-news channel and been printed across the country in newspapers like the [Fredericton Daily Gleaner](#), the [Toronto Star](#) and on the [Toronto Sun’s Canoe news service](#).

The debate between Cobbald-Lytton, heir to the barony of Cobbald, and Professor Rice will be refereed by popular Global TV journalist Mike McArdell. Although billed as “a no-holds barred literary slamfest,” it’s obvious the two combatants have their tongues firmly planted in their cheeks.

“I am very pleased for the opportunity to defend Bulwer Lytton’s literary reputation in debate with Professor (Scott) Rice, whose scurrilous Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest cannot even spell the great man’s name correctly,” said Cobbald-Lytton.

For his part, Rice isn’t afraid to take the gloves off to defend his contest.

“I come to bury Lytton, not to praise him,” said Rice. “The evil that men do lives after them, in Lytton’s case in twenty-seven novels whose perfervid turgidity I intend to expose, denude, and generally make visible.”

The trans-Atlantic debate is a centerpiece of [Lytton’s Riverfest celebrations \(Aug. 29-31\)](#) and was organized by the New Pathways To Gold Society. It also marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Lytton.

For more information on this pageant of pugilistic purple prose, contact Mayor Chris O’Connor at 250-455-2355 or Don Hauka, Communications Consultant at 604-524-1884 or ddclauka@shaw.ca.

Stephen Hume follows in Simon Fraser’s footsteps



Stephen Hume in Williams Lake

Journalist, author and poet Stephen Hume has already logged many miles in the footsteps of Simon Fraser, but during his New Pathways To Gold/Harbour Press lecture series, he went to communities where the blunt, tenacious Nor’wester never set foot.

Not only has Hume retraced Fraser’s route from Prince George to Vancouver on the 18-community tour, he went beyond the Fraser River corridor to communities like Skatin and Logan Lake. And he spoke to audiences in venues as varied as a First Nations longhouse and a bowling alley.

And the best thing is he’s not done yet. Due to the overwhelming success of the May-June tour, Hume has agreed to hit the road again this fall to bring his compelling portrait of Simon Fraser to even more communities.

“The New Pathways to Gold Society’s lecture series on Simon Fraser to celebrate the bi-centennial of his epic journey down the river was thoroughly enjoyable for me,” said Hume. “The response to the society’s lectures in communities as far flung Prince George, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Soda Creek, Lytton, Lillooet, and Logan Lake was consistently phenomenal.

“We got spectacular turnouts there, and in Hope, Mission, Skatin, New Westminster and Vancouver. These audiences are evidence of the appetite among British Columbians for the province’s astonishingly rich and exciting history and how their own communities are rooted in that history, shaped by it and how their dramatic past can offer new economic opportunities for the future. I hope we can do more of this.”

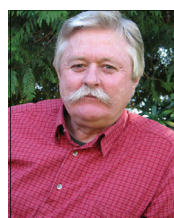
The Motherlode tour helps communities make history

They’ve ridden the rails and teamed up the Cariboo Road to help communities from Hope to Barkerville make history. And their high energy musical theatre show is a smashing success from Prince George to Hope, from Sparwood to West Vancouver.

Theatre Royal’s critically-acclaimed Motherlode touring troupe is performing in dozens of towns all over the province, weaving a rich tapestry of B.C. history to mark B.C.’s 150th anniversary.

For more information, call the Theatre Royal at 250.994.3225 or visit www.theatreroyal.ca.

Fraser River Lecture Series celebrates diversity



Rick Blacklaws

The New Pathways to Gold Society is teaming up with Langara academic Rick Blacklaws to present the Fraser River Lecture Series this fall. This community-based event focuses on the ecological diversity of the Fraser River and the significance of the Simon Fraser Bicentennial.

Kicking off in September, the series is will take place in five communities located along the Fraser River corridor. Blacklaws says it’s a chance for the public to find out just how important this waterway is to B.C.

“This lecture series will provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the Fraser River and the role it continues to play in defining our province, our communities, and ourselves as well as the importance the health of river has on our future,” Blacklaws said.

It is hoped the series will become an annual event. This year’s theme focuses on the Bicentennial of Simon Fraser’s 1808 journey of discovery and the origins of modern British Columbia. Future years may address such issues as salmon, water quality, state of the river and ecotourism.

So come celebrate the Fraser with Rick and friends. Watch for more details on the [NPTGS website](#).

Canyon War documentary to shed light on shadowy chapter of B.C. history

A ground-breaking documentary on the Canyon War of 1858 will shed some lights, camera and action on a shadowy chapter of B.C.’s history this fall.

The NPTGS has received funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, BC150, and Heritage Canada to shoot the documentary, bringing to life the dramatic events that helped shape the founding of B.C. Additional support has been received from CN Rail and CP Rail.



Eva Wunderman

The project documentary will be shot by award-winning Hope filmmaker [Eva Wunderman](#). Kevin Loring, a First Nations playwright and actor from Lytton, and NPTGS Universities Caucus chair

Dr. Dan Marshall will also lend their considerable talents to the production.

The documentary will guide viewers from the war’s origins to the Battle of Boston Bar and the final peace treaty of Camchin, painting a vivid picture of how close the Canyon War came to engulfing the entire Pacific Northwest in a bloody conflagration.

Shooting begins in late August and will continue into September. Look for updates - and eventually, show times - on the [NPTGS website](#).



Premier Gordon Campbell with Motherlode cast members.

The New Pathways To Gold Society is a community-based organization dedicated to continued reconciliation with First Nations, investment in BC heritage and economic development for [BC150](#) in 2008, and beyond.

For more information on the New Pathways To Gold Society, please contact Don Hauka, Communications and Creative Director, at 604.524.1884 or ddclauka@shaw.ca.