

**The Case to be Made for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies in Canadian Material Culture.  
About Culture and Consciousness, and the Contribution of  
Cultural Interpretation and Research.**

**Cultural Interpretation and Research -see HHCC Essential doc 3, P. 14**

**About Science and Our Post-Industrial Times - Making the Case as Concept, Construct,  
Principle, and Key Idea:**

**See Kerlinger, et al.**

**About History:**

...I am reminded of the centrality of “history”, “culture” and “cultural heritage” in our post-industrial, information rich, 21<sup>st</sup> century times:

*“... history is not merely a place to find comforting images of the past, nor measures of human progress, but the place where richer fuller understandings of the future can be found”.*

*“We anticipate and plan for the future drawing on the wisdom of the past, but with knowledge and understandings of the conditions and needs of the future”.*

*“History and the task of living in history are now central...The central task of a people....is learning....an ever deeper maturity .....The goal of history is for human beings to achieve that sustainable, but dynamic, prosperity which is possible with in a mature community....”<sup>1</sup>*

**About Culture and Consciousness:**

**The Contribution to Canadian Culture and Consciousness:** The centrality of cultural knowledge to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and human understanding has been further underlined by Canadian Futurist Ruben Nelson. He concludes that, for Canadians as a post-industrial, Western people, technology and the many devices it spawns, are “principal carries of our culture and consciousness”<sup>2</sup>. They are major driving forces of our awareness, perception, and understanding of our rapidly unfolding world. Similarly, it has been noted, earlier, by cultural historian Warren Susman that our visual world has become one dominated by signs and symbols – in short a new “hieroglyphics civilization”<sup>3</sup>

Find Paul’ definitive quote on culture

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<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A position elaborated by Canadian futurist Ruben Nelson. See “The Post-Industrial Future Project, Working Paper No. 3, “Technology: Carrier of Consciousness and Culture”, 1989, Square One Management Ltd, unpublished paper

<sup>3</sup> See “Culture as History, The Transformation of American Society in the Twentieth Century”, 1984

### **About Cultural Conservation:**

The foundation stones on which HHCC's collections research and cultural interpretive program lie are in the two adjoining fields of "Cultural Conservation" and the "New Museology". Together they provide 21<sup>st</sup> century ways of thinking and talking about the meaningful transmission of cultural information, and the cultural meaning and significance of objects.

In the matter of cultural conservation, it has been said that: *"Cultural conservation permits the meaningful transmission of cultural information....That transmission is ultimately dependent on the degree to which people care if they attach emotional values to our monuments and sites – values shared publicly and politically, values which can generate public and private respect"* [Herb Stovel]<sup>4</sup>

The "new museology", in turn, teaches, among other things, that for a post-industrial, Western people, it's not the artifact that is important, so much as the stories it tells of people, place, and times. These 21<sup>st</sup> century style insights would become major driving forces for the cultural interpretation of HHCC's founding artifact collection.

About Research see HHCC Essential doc 3 text OA2007C, P,14

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<sup>4</sup> Professor Herb Stovel, ICROM, Rome, "Defining the Canadian Identity", Occasional paper, PP. 5, Golitz, East Germany [undated], Private Collection.