



Moments in Time

Paul Slipper

April 2009

**Cloverdale Town Centre,
176 Street between 56A & 58 Avenue**

Three figurative sculptures, carved in granite, have been placed at intervals along Cloverdale's historic main street. Each 8-foot-high work celebrates an aspect of Cloverdale's past. The symbolism of these traditional figures is amplified by granite markers engraved with historic facts and inlaid at the base of each sculpture.

Artist Paul Slipper has worked closely with local business and historical groups to develop the characters depicted. Community involvement includes Cloverdale area residents Mike Burns, Frank Horne and Penny Smythe, who served as models for the sculptures. Their occupations, clothing and character are representative of the local history.

The first figure, Farmer, evokes Cloverdale's agricultural history and alludes to William Shannon, an early settler who named the area "Clover Valley" after the wild clover found in the area. The hay bales beside the figure symbolize the early local production of hay and grain before the shift to mixed farming following the introduction of the automobile.

The second figure, Train Conductor, represents Cloverdale's early transportation history. The Southern Railway, The B.C. Electric Railway, and the Great Northern Railway all made stops in Cloverdale in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The presence of this figure also marks an absence: the decline of local railway services after the opening of the Pacific Highway in 1923.





The third figure, Cowgirl, celebrates the enduring tradition of the Cloverdale Rodeo, first held in 1945. It also honours Patricia Kronebusch, who was crowned Cloverdale's first Rodeo Queen in 1950. Among the engraved stones at the sculpture's base are references to the history of women in the Cloverdale area. These include the establishment of the Tynehead Women's Institute in 1916, the first of its kind in British Columbia, which sought to better the conditions of women in rural life.

About the Artist

Paul Slipper is an award-winning stone sculptor, based in Vancouver. He graduated from Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1983 and works in a realistic and figurative tradition, often with an element of humour. The appearance of his work has evolved over the years, from refined, highly polished forms to more roughly hewn surfaces which reveal the natural character of the material. "In transforming the stone into a recognizable form," he says, "I let the stone dictate to me."



Slipper has exhibited his sculpture in international exhibitions and biennales, and has won a number of public and corporate art commissions in Canada and the United States. Locally, his work may be seen at the Vancouver International Airport and the North Vancouver District Archive building, among other sites.

