



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As the Nanaimo Museum prepares for its move to the Port of Nanaimo Centre, it continues to be the beneficiary of community goodwill and sponsorship dollars.

The Rotary Club of Lantzville, the Rotary Club of Nanaimo Daybreak, the Rotary Club of Nanaimo, and the Rotary Club of Nanaimo North joined forces to become the next Major Sponsor in the museum's capital campaign. The four Rotary Clubs will join a select group of museum Major Sponsors (at the \$50,000 level), a group that includes the Nanaimo Port Authority and the Coastal Community Credit Union.

"We believe that proactive support is important to try and create an environment that is inclusive and educational so that all people can grow. Setting young people up for success is our best tool for a healthy environment," says Donna Allen, Rotary Club of Nanaimo Daybreak President. "In that vein, Nanaimo Rotarians are proud to be a Major Sponsor of the new Nanaimo Museum and help create the opportunity for people to learn about the roots of Nanaimo."

"We are delighted that these Rotary Clubs have seen the value in supporting the museum," says museum chairman John Manning. "Their support means the community will benefit from having its collective history preserved for future generations."

The news came on a momentous day for the museum, as it moved the first of its display cases into its new home in the Port of Nanaimo Centre.

When the new museum makes its grand debut this summer, the public will get an unusual opportunity to see what their new museum will look like from the inside out. In addition to the AA-rated, climatically-controlled artifact storage area, there will be a first-class artifact prep area, a new public program room, a wonderful new lobby that will double as a venue rental area, a Sports Hall of Fame that will open in the fall, a gift shop, an administration area, a volunteer/staff room, a feature exhibit space, with traveling exhibits scheduled for 2009, and Phase I of the new exhibit





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gallery (permanent collection) that will grow, develop and fill over the next two years with input from the community.

The museum will occupy a much larger space than it did before. Once fully completed, the museum will have more than double the exhibit space that existed in the old museum. In fact, the total exhibit space alone in the new museum will be almost as large as the entire space occupied by the old museum.

“It is so exciting to finally be working on the installation of the first phase of our new exhibit space,” says Debbie Trueman, the museum’s general manager. “With the help of consultants Alan Graves and Kevin Neary, museum staff can now bring the interpretation plan for the new exhibits to life.”

Much of the gallery space will be empty when the museum opens this summer, says Trueman.

“We’ll need the community’s help to boost the collection in some areas. This is a process that will take at least a year as the museum will be depending on the community to add artifacts and images to the collection to help us tell all the stories that are part of our community’s development right up to today. Once we’re settled in we’ll be actively encouraging the community’s support in this area,” she says.

History is not static. It lives and grows, so the stories and objects that describe what took place just yesterday will give context to future generations when they look back on how the community developed and why it chose the paths it did. And from this summer onwards, the people of Nanaimo will truly have a handsome attraction to captivate its residents and visitors alike.

For more information please contact Debbie Trueman, General Manager of the Nanaimo Museum at 250-753-1821 or email her at debbie@nanaimomuseum.ca.





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PHOTO CAPTION:

Len Olson, Rotary Club of Lantzville President; Frank Shoemaker, Rotary Club of Nanaimo President; Donna Allen, Rotary Club of Nanaimo Daybreak President; and Rod Smith, Rotary Club of Nanaimo North President with the first of the Nanaimo Museum display cases to move into the museum's new gallery space in the Port of Nanaimo Centre.

- 30 -