

Museum Update

Message from the President

by Joyce Brookbank

In the wake of our AGM, I would like to thank all of our Board members for continuing to serve another year. Our current Board consists of Jack Bernard, Lillian Carefoot, Bruno Dragani, Rob Fletcher, John Manning, Marjorie O'Callaghan, Doug Peterson, Gordon Reed and our City Council representative, Lloyd Sherry.

I would also like to thank some of our Board member's representative businesses, such as the Coastal Community Credit Union for including the Museum in its Annual Report. The Port Authority has also been very accommodating to the Museum by way of Doug Peterson, the organization's Marketing Director. As always, Tourism Nanaimo's involve-

Message from the General Manager

by Debbie Trueman

As mentioned on the front page, all roads lead to the Bastion this month! The *Back the Bastion* campaign is under way and again enjoying success. Thanks to last year's efforts, the beautiful new cannon carriages we had commissioned will be unveiled May 19th during Empire Days. The unveiling ceremony will also give us the opportunity to thank both the 2000 and 2001 campaign supporters as well as announce the launch of the Bastion endowment fund. This fund represents the Museum's first efforts at a formal planned giving campaign to ensure the long term preservation and interpretation of both the Bastion and the community collection we hold in trust.

A big thank you to David Hill-Turner and our school program docents for their extra effort as we work to fill the Program Coordinator position. Welcome to Dawn Arnot who will be with us for the next year as the Collections Assistant. Dawn fills a broad spectrum of duties and is a wonderful addition to the team.

In April, I attended a colloquium on governance and municipal partnerships at Fort Langley that proved to be very informative. In the end, I realized that our interactions and support from our municipal govern-

ment is an integral part of our success, not only because of Jack Bernard's time, but with the inclusion of the Museum in other tourism initiatives.

Discussion continues for new space in the future as an essential part of our strategic planning. Over the past two years, new initiatives at the Museum have been tied to the strategic goals we are working towards. Highlights of these goals are to make collections relevant and accessible, to connect programming and temporary exhibits to the community and to raise the profile of the Museum through product and community collaborations.

Watch for all the exciting things happening this year at the Museum and thanks to all our members for their on-going support.

ment is possibly one of the better models in the province. The forum also provided the opportunity to learn of the concerns and priorities of representatives from our provincial funding bodies. (NDM recently got a "raise" thanks to an increase in funding to the Cultural Services arm of the BC Arts Council.)

My attendance at the Canadian Museums Association conference proved valuable in a number of areas. I was also able to network with delegates from across the country, generate some leads on possible temporary exhibits, offer input on other museum projects and formulate a number of creative display ideas from the Museum of Civilization and the National Gallery. A major infusion of new funding, hinted at during the conference, was confirmed recently with an additional \$560 million in federal funding going to arts and culture over the next three years. I am hopeful this will mean positive news for the future expansion ideas we have held for many years.

The "Celebration of Blue" event (inspired by the Museum's temporary exhibit, *Legacy of Blue*, which opens June 9th) led to a wonderful collaboration with the Nanaimo Art Gallery. You can learn more about "Celebration of Blue" in the enclosed brochure and in the Schedule of Events section of Timelines.