



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

100 Museum Way, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J8  
TELEPHONE 250 753.1821  
info@nanaimomuseum.ca www.nanaimomuseum.ca

Media Release  
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For Immediate Release

### **Bastion Restoration Project Receives a \$50,000 Private Donation**

The crusade to restore the ailing Nanaimo Bastion, a campaign that is now called *Passion for the Bastion*, received a serious financial boost recently with the announcement of a \$50,000 private donation from Mr. Sidney R. Sharman.

Without a doubt, Mr. Sharman, owner of the Sharman Mobile Home Park in the north end of the city, is one of Nanaimo most generous citizens. His impressive list of philanthropic gestures includes more than \$1 million to St. John's Ambulance, another million to the VIU Nursing Program, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Knowledge Network. But this time it was the Bastion's turn.

"The Bastion is an important part of our history and I definitely think it should be preserved," says Mr. Sharman, who gives full credit for the donation to the residents of his mobile home park who have indirectly contributed through the rent they pay. And while he is glad to do his part, he also believes that any business in Nanaimo using the Bastion name should also step up to the plate.

The actual costs of restoring the Bastion, which is suffering from extensive wood rot due to 157 years of exposure to the elements, have not yet been determined, but the final price tag is expected to exceed \$200,000. Along with Mr. Sharman's donation, the Hudson's Bay Company has also donated \$80,000 to the project.

"We are just thrilled with Mr. Sharman's very generous donation," says Debbie Trueman, General Manager of the Nanaimo Museum, which is coordinating the *Passion for the Bastion* campaign. "We have to thank the City of Nanaimo for taking responsibility for repairing the Bastion, but its donors such as the Hudson's Bay Company and Mr. Sharman that will help ease the financial burden."

Originally from the United Kingdom, Mr. Sharman arrived in Nanaimo with his wife Gladys in 1970. For the last 35 years they have owned and operated their 145 unit park.

For more information about donating to the *Passion for the Bastion* campaign, please contact Debbie Trueman at 250-753-1821.

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Mr. Sidney Sharman hands over a cheque for \$50,000 to Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan to help with the costs of restoring the ailing Nanaimo Bastion. The photo was taken at a test firing for the Cannon Art Affair scheduled for Sunday, May 23 at 8 pm at the Bastion.