



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

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### Media Release – Volunteering at the Nanaimo Museum – April 22, 2009

Museums are a great place to volunteer. Just ask Pamela Mar, a long-time volunteer at Nanaimo District Museum, who has logged an incredible 6,700 hours of service since 1974. To thank Mar, the museum's assistant curator, Richard Slingerland, was commissioned to paint an original watercolour of the exterior of the museum, which was presented to her at the organization's annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea on April 24. Officially, she was recognized for contributing 6,000 hours. That leaves her 700 hours in the bank. "I get such personal satisfaction from volunteering at the museum that I don't even think I should be thanked since I enjoy it so much," said Mar, who works primarily with textiles and costumes. While she doesn't have a formal background in the fashion industry, she has been working with costumes since she was a child.

After moving here from London, England in the early 1970s, Mar had some time on her hands thanks to her husband's career as a doctor. "Jacque was out and about a lot, so it gave me the freedom to give back to the community." As a volunteer who's been around for more than 30 years, Mar is quite modest about her contribution and believes there are people who work just as hard, or harder, than she. "The only reason I've done all these hours is because I've been here so long," she said. "Lots of people are working just as hard, but they simply haven't been here as long."

According to volunteer coordinator, Bobbi Williamson, this year the museum came up with a new system for acknowledging its volunteers. Instead of recognizing the number of years a volunteer has been with the museum, they now look at how many hours they put in.

Also recognized for commitment to the museum were Anne Royle, Joan Greenhorn, Barb Cowling, Joyce Command, and Dean Lambert, who have all logged at least 2,000 hours in total. Lambert, who is 25 years old this year, also received the Volunteer of the Year award for his 282.5 hours of work at the front desk of the museum this year alone. "Dean has a memory for voices on the telephone," said Williamson. "I've had several people make comments that they are amazed at his ability to recognize a voice after only hearing it a couple of times."

Debbie Trueman, general manager of the museum, is a big fan of all the volunteers, but holds a special place in her heart for Lambert, who's just as big of a Nanaimo Clippers fan as she is. "Dean does an amazing job, but he's also not alone," she said. "We simply couldn't do it without our volunteers."