

Media Release
Nov. 1, 2007

Nanaimo, BC - As far as fundraising goes, it just keeps getting better all the time for Nanaimo District Museum.

As the museum society closes the doors for good today at its Cameron Road location to make way for its new museum next summer, which happens to be almost exactly 40 years from the time those doors were first opened on November 26, 1967, it is also announcing a five figure contribution to the museum's new endowment fund.

Recently established by the museum board to benefit the new museum, the endowment fund received its first major contribution from the late Mrs. Hilda Johns of Nanaimo, who passed away last month. Her bequest to the museum amounts to approximately \$85,000.

"Hilda was a long time member of the museum," said John Manning, president of the museum board. "And while we mourn her passing, we are extremely grateful for her generous bequest and we look forward to honouring Hilda in the new museum."

Although \$85,000 is a lot of money, it could be double that amount pending an application the museum has sent in to the Vancouver Foundation's Renaissance Fund, which provides matching grants for endowment funds.

Also contributing to the endowment fund on a long term basis is local author Jan Peterson, who has written the book "A Place in Time: Nanaimo Chronicles" specifically for the benefit of the new museum.

"I wrote this book because I firmly believe in the museum and I totally believe in this project," said Peterson. "I'm really looking forward to the new facility."

"On behalf of the museum, we want to thank Jan for her very generous donation of time and talent for the benefit of our new facility," said Debbie Trueman, general manager of the museum.

For those who want to say goodbye to the old museum, the Closing Celebration take place today (Saturday) from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, please call 753-1821.

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