



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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

The Nanaimo Museum: A New Era Begins

By Mark Corbett

September 3, 2008

It took an effort of historic proportions, but the payoff has made it all worth while. The people of not only the city of Nanaimo, but residents of Vancouver Island, BC and indeed all of Canada are now enjoying a beautiful new cultural attraction in the heart of this historic West Coast community.

After years of chasing a dream, the Nanaimo District Museum Society officially opened the doors this summer to the new 16,000 sq ft. Nanaimo Museum in the newly constructed Port of Nanaimo Conference Centre in downtown Nanaimo.

It took a monumental, visionary effort on the part of our staff, board of directors, volunteers, members, sponsors, donors, and of course the City of Nanaimo, to make this state-of-the-art museum a reality, said Debbie Trueman, General Manager of Nanaimo Museum. Everyone definitely rose to the occasion to see it through.

Trueman adds that without the City of Nanaimo's decision to include the museum in the Port of Nanaimo Conference Centre, the new facility would not exist. During two special opening celebrations, one for the museum family on Thursday, July 24 and the other for the public at large on Saturday, July 26, more than 1,700 guests were on hand to witness history in the making.

Guests were given tours of the first three finished phases of the museum's exhibit galleries as well as the new program room, administration area, first class artifact storage and display preparation areas and the spacious new lobby and gift shop that give a great first impression. Adding to the opening celebrations was renowned local artist Fred Peters working on a new painting of the museum while author Jan Peterson launched her new book "A Place in Time: Nanaimo Chronicles".

"We couldn't be more pleased with the positive reception we got from our guests at the two openings," said Trueman. "I'm personally very proud of our staff who have done an outstanding job of bringing us this far. And of course this would never have fallen into place without the guidance and leadership of our great board of directors and the financial support from the City of Nanaimo."

Although it will take a couple of years to complete the museum, a new Sport Hall of Fame will be unveiled on September 20, followed by the opening of the Snuneymuxw First Nation Gallery, Coal Mining exhibit and tunnel as well as other exhibit components in the months to come.

"The way things are shaping up, we're hoping our museum will become one of those talked about, must-see destinations for anyone visiting Vancouver Island," said Trueman. "Being a great new tourist attraction is important, but we're also really excited about helping our own residents discover what a rich and fascinating history we have here."

Built to the highest standards in the province, the new Nanaimo Museum will now function as a first rate facility preserving not only existing artifacts but future collections as well. For more information about the Nanaimo Museum, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca, or call 250-753-1821.