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ANNUAL REPORT 86-87

86-87, with a budget expenditure of \$9.5 million, was quite literally, a banner year for the British Columbia Provincial Museum. Banners were everywhere as we celebrated our 100th year of service to the people of British Columbia and the increasing number of world-wide visitors who have put us on their travel agendas. Figures bear this out, in 85-86 we had 1.2 million visitors, 86-87 saw this increase to 1.48 million. On the Administrative front, the banner year event was the completion of re-organization and the subsequent relocation of staff. Simply put, the Museum was re-structured into three parts, each with an Assistant Director.

- Operations; which oversees the Administrative aspects of the Museum, the facilities, library, photographic section, Publications, and Visitor Services.
- Collections; which oversees the Anthropological, the Biological and the Historical Collections as well as the Conservation Section.
- Research and Interpretation; which oversees the Biology and Human History Curators, the Interpreters and the Programme Development and Exhibits Section.

Programmes/or Projects in the Museum are a result in some cases of the work of one section, in other cases of work shared among many sections. As the collaborative approach grows, through the implementation of project management, the Project heading rather than the division responsible, will become more consistent in the Annual Report. As we proceed through the interim period the two types of headings will coincide.

Centennial Project - October 25, 1986 was pivotal as the official birthday of the Museum. Over 10,000 people, mostly Victorians, delighted in the display of vintage vehicles, operating steam engines, roving clowns and entertainment featuring Connie Kaldor & Bim.

Centennial Project - Super-Series, a Centennial Programme in co-operation with the Friends of the Provincial Museum, Lottery Branch, the Newcombe Theatre and the Museum, brought world class speakers to the University Centre during the past spring and fall. Renowned individuals such as James Burke, and Jane Goodall spoke to sold out houses and enlivened and enriched the city with their presence. Total attendance was 5,932.

Open Ocean Project - In November, 1986, the new permanent exhibit, Open Ocean, the Museum's first fully automated gallery got off to an unsteady start. However, from January through March 1987, over 50,000 visitors have taken the "Expedition to the Abyss". The continued long-lineups attest to the galleries success with the public, and waiting constitutes the only "peril" that visitors face. Attendance to the Museum in the winter months rose 40% over last year.

Speakers Tour Project - The ongoing Speakers Tour annually distributes the fruits of curatorial research into communities around the Province. Museum staff armed with projectors and lecture notes speak at schools, museums and community halls on subjects ranging from the History of the B.C. Provincial Police, to Mushrooms, to Sternwheelers and Helicopters, to Steam and Steamships, to the Devil-hop. In the last fiscal year attendance exceeded 6000.

Travelling Exhibits - Museum Curators and designers collaborate to produce travelling exhibits that tour both provincially and nationally. Twelve travelling exhibits tour 34 venues in the Province and were seen by 69,822 people. One of our most popular exhibits, Wild Harvest was featured at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto where, from February to November 1986, it was viewed by over 900,000 visitors.

- Artifacts from the new Legacy Exhibit first shown at the Edinburgh Festival in 1980, travelled south in the Spring of 87 to the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles to mark that museums 80th anniversary. Attendance doubled and gift sales soared in the wake of this major exhibit of North West Coast traditional and contemporary native art.

- On the lower mainland, part of the museums re-organized transportation collection has been integrated into the new Historic Transportation Centre in Cloverdale and is now on public display.

Friends of the Provincial Museum - The Museum Gift Shop grossed \$1.1/3 million with \$485,000.00 turned over to the Friends of the Provincial Museum for project funding.

- The Friends of the Provincial Museum have funded up to 42 projects. Projects range from research scholarships, artifact purchase, Centennial events, the Newcombe Programme, integration of the Museum into the Canadian Heritage Inventory Network, scientific studies and illustrations, book, printing and specialist travel to conferences.

- The Development Office of the Friends of the Provincial Museum have raised \$21,000.00 towards the design, construction and installation of "In-sight", a portable demonstration display booth that will show to the public, museologists at work, and "Heritage Guide", a video terminal operated by visitors that will preview cultural, heritage and natural history sites on the lower island. Close connections have been developed between the Museum, the F.O.P.M.'s Development Office and the local business community at a series of receptions held for Victoria A.M., the 100 Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. A Business Advisory Group assists the development office in fundraising for projects.

- The Newcombe Theatre Programme, sponsored by the Friends of the Provincial Museum provided a fascinating and diverse selection of events. For example Toronto Mime Unlimited Touring Company presented excerpts for Canada's Labour History, the Victoria Conservatory played Music from a Victoria Parlour; the Assistant Director of Albertya's Tyrrell Museum lectured on Migrating dinosaurs, and dancers from the Island of Kauai gave an evening of Hawaiian Dances. Total attendance for these events which ran from October to May of this year was 16,242.

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Collections Program

As a result of re-organization, management and care of collections has been centralized, with a consequent increase in capacity to preserve, do research and make them available to the public in a wide range of contexts.

Computerization of Collections, within the Canadian Heritage Inventory Network systems resulted in the entry of approximately 13,000 records represented all birds and bird eggs specimens in the Museums Collection.

- Biological Collections processed loans and incoming specimens both for research and exhibit use, including lake fauna from the interior of B.C. and adding the George Douglas herbarium to the Botany holdings.
- Historical collections has acquired a fine collection of Canadian Pacific Silver and China, and a large collection of packaging, advertising, domestic and commercial goods from the early 1900's.
- Anthropological Collections received a significant donation of silver and argillite and through purchase, a basket by Isabella Edenshaw, three masks, a painted screen and a number of whistles.
- Conservation Services developed an integrated pest control program and a system of freezing to control infestations. Both are now accepted as international models.

Conservation work continued on Anthony Island focussing on removal of dangerous trees. Conference contributions concerned conservation of Ethnographic and Natural History specimens.

Publications

The Publications group participated in the writing, editing, co-ordinated and/or design of Ruth Kirk's "The Wisdom of the Elders", two contributions to Natural Science, one contribution to Human History; six centennial posters; four "Discovery" Newsletters, three advertising flyers; four invitations, five brochures; thirty Speaker Tour posters; one penny folder and numerous special event signage, balloons and banners.

Programme Development

A major initiative in programing resulted in Archaeology Day. On a day in April of this year some 2,500 people, mainly children took part in an Archaeology Expedition through Beacon Hill Park, where, at several sites, they were introduced to, and participated in, aspects of archaeology. A lab session was also held within the Museum. There events of this nature will continue to take place at intervals through the year.

- School Programmes, held within the Museum, taught Museum and curriculum oriented material to 25,000 children.

- This section collaborated with UVic on education courses; worked with the Legacy collection and presented conference papers.

Visitor Services

Visitor services answered public enquiries, organized approximately 250 volunteers, booked school programmes, and co-ordinated both the intern programme and Gallery Openings.

Library

The Vertebrate Zoology, Botany and main library were moved and volunteers were used to organize books, journals and library files.

Human History

The Archaeology, Ethnology, Linguistics and Modern History Division were integrated during re-organization and the resulting Human History Section is a first in the Canadian Museum Community. Work this year included

re-organization of the Transport Collection and relocation to the new Cloverdale Transportation Museum plus involvement in the new Legacy Exhibit at the Southwest museum in Los Angeles.

Biology

Botany and the Vertebrate and Invertebrate sections were united onto a Biology Section Research and acquisition plans were developed; an Earth Sciences group was established for the first time to curate the Museums. Paleontological collections. Numerous research projects were worked on as well as plans for the new natural history exhibits, two significant publications, reached their final production stages - "The Birds of the Okanagan Valley" and Vol. 1 - "Birds of British Columbia".

87/88

Promises for the future of the Museum are rich.

- Royal designation will be the capstone of our Centennial year.
- The major travelling exhibit "Birds of Prey" will travel across Canada.
- "Echoes of our Past", an exhibit of objects from the Museums Human History Collection will travel throughout British Columbia.
- Super Series II, will be launched in November with the appearance of a world renowned Archaeologist - Richard Leakey.
- The Fall Speakers tour will spread the word from the Museum around the Communities of British Columbia.
- A multi-disciplinary research project is planned for the North Coast area.

- A major temporary exhibit on B.C.'s Petroleum Industry is in the planning stages.
- Planning will continue on the Provinces Interior Biotic zones, another step in the development of a major permanent exhibit.
- The next year will also see work continue on an outdoor display pavillion and a series of showcases at the Victoria International Airport.
- Watch for the Fannin Foundation to be established to aid in support of the Museums Programmes.