

ROYAL  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUSEUM

THE FANNIN FOUNDATION

FRIENDS OF THE  
ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM

# Annual Report 1990

31 December 1990

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Province of British Columbia  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs,  
Recreation and Culture

*A Living Legacy . . .*



## INTRODUCTION

Minister, as required under Section 6 of the Museum Act, I respectfully submit the Annual Report for calendar year 1990.

The province's Museum operates through the efforts of approximately 8,000 dedicated and talented people, of which 116 are paid employees of the Museum. All of these people -- employees, volunteers and society members -- support the Museum out of interest and love for the tasks they perform. As a demonstration of this, in 1990 the Friends honoured two volunteers for twenty years of continuous service. Working with people who have such dedication is both a pleasure and a privilege.

It is difficult to choose a highlight from all the Museum's activities in 1990. In reviewing the Annual Report, I have concluded that what stands out is the involvement of the community in various aspects of the Museum's many programs and activities. The year began with an ending -- the dismantling of a very successful temporary exhibition, "Rocks, Rigs and Roughnecks", funded through the hard work of the Friends of the Museum and the Fannin Foundation. The exhibit received enthusiastic support from the corporate community, with 13 oil companies and the Canadian Petroleum Association providing \$500,000 in direct funding and many thousands of dollars in free services.

Many of the Museum's subsequent activities had equally high community involvement. International Earth Day was supported locally in the Museum's programs. A program in co-operation with the Ministry of Immigration and International Business and Canada Employment and Immigration was arranged to recognize and celebrate the contributions that immigrants have made to Canada. Some of the many other organizations that participated in and ran programs at the Museum were the National Research Council, the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, the Salvation Army, Santa's Anonymous, the Victoria Commonwealth Games Society and the Orchid Society of British Columbia.

Much of the activity of the Museum's Collections staff has been devoted to preparing for the impending move of the collections so that asbestos can be removed from the Fannin Building. Packing and inventory methods were developed and tested. The Museum's new computer systems have been of immeasurable assistance in the preparations for the move. The plan to computerize the Museum's operations is in the second of three years. Computerized registration of all incoming collections has prevented the accumulation of any backlog in processing collections. The systems have also provided the means to inventory Collections thereby ensuring that all ten million objects can be tracked during the collections move.

Final approval for the move was received in November. As a result of the preparations, two floors were packed and moved in December.



A controversial issue concerning the de-accessioning of a collection of human remains being held by the Museum was settled in 1990. The remains from the Vallican site were returned to the Okanagan Tribal Council for re-burial.

The publication of the *Birds of British Columbia* brought the first stage of this major project to completion in 1990. This remarkable publication was first conceived in 1974 by the author of the 1947 edition, Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. Over the intervening 16 years, hundreds of volunteers have helped collect data and prepare the information for publication. The book has involved many organizations as partners, principally the Canadian Wildlife Service (a branch of the federal Department of the Environment) and the Friends of the Museum. The sales of this book have been excellent, exceeding 6,000 copies by year's end. A subsequent, final volume is being planned.

The programs of the Museum reached out to the province with a broad-based lecture tour program taking Museum speakers into many communities over the year. In addition, Museum staff spoke throughout the province at the invitation of specific groups. The travelling exhibition program, in its eighteenth year of operation, provides service primarily to British Columbia community museums. A few of the exhibits travel outside of British Columbia. "Birds of Prey" completed a three-year tour of Canada and the eastern United States in 1990.

The third year of collecting admission fees was completed in 1990. Fee collection has been successful as a source of revenue for the Province. The revenue is significant and has shown growth. It is also a success in public relations. Complaints about the presence of an admission fee have nearly disappeared, and fee collection gives us an objective method of measuring the Museum's success.

The Museum began 1990 with an ending, and is ending 1990 with a beginning. A part of the expenditures planned for asbestos removal has been allocated to examining the current status and future uses of the two main Museum buildings. These buildings were first occupied by the Museum 23 years ago. Since then, the number of objects in the collections has doubled and more than 20 million visitors have entered the Exhibits Building. The planning study that started in December will provide a cost-effective planned approach for dealing with the safety, building-code and accommodation issues identified. The results of the planning study will be integrated into a Business Plan that will be submitted by the Ministry to Treasury Board and Cabinet for approval.

Minister, 1990 was a busy and eventful year for the province's Museum. I am confident that 1991 will be even more challenging and successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Barkley,  
Director, Royal British Columbia Museum

31 December 1990



## **COLLECTIONS**

The Collections Program is responsible for the management of the Royal British Columbia Museum's collections. The collections are managed as Anthropological Collections, Biological Collections, Historical Collections, Library Collections and Special Collections (which comprises large transportation artifacts managed through leasing arrangements with non-profit societies). Conservation Services provides advice and treatment for collection artifacts.

The major areas of emphasis of the Collection Program are (1) ensuring safety of the collection and staff, (2) guaranteeing the security of the collection, (3) providing precise documentation about the collection, (4) preserving the collection for future use and (5) providing access to the collection for users.

The primary objective for 1990 was to inventory the collection and prepare to move it from the Fannin Building to allow for the removal of asbestos fireproofing throughout the building. This was the first year of a two-year project. A Collection Move Planner was hired with funding from the Registration Assistance Program of the Department of Communications to develop procedures for moving the collection. In November, funding for the entire asbestos removal project was received and the project commenced. This project will also be the main priority of the Collections Program for 1991.

Another objective fulfilled was improving management of the collection by regulating incoming acquisitions at a level that enables complete cataloguing of the collection within a calendar year. This resulted in a more manageable and more accessible collections. Improvements in computerization have made information about the collection more accessible, for researchers and the general public.

The Collections Program provided hundreds of loans to other museums and researchers, provincially, nationally and internationally.

### **Anthropological Collections**

Repatriation of human skeletal remains was a priority in 1990. Remains taken from the Vallican archaeological site, along with associated artifacts, were transferred to the Okanagan Tribal Council who reburied them at the site. Also, Blue Jackets Creek prehistoric human skeletal material was inventoried, packed and returned to the Queen Charlotte Islands Museum.

Anthropological Collections acquired 70 objects, including:

- Haida dance headdress frontlet, made circa 1880, from Judge B.P.M. Byrne;
- Haida argillite platter signed by John Cross, donated by the late Bernard B. Colley "in memory of his father Hylton H.D. Colley";
- Chest of European form but of Northwest Coast manufacture, from Mary H. Whitcomb.
- Mask by the Nass River artist, Bryan Peel, purchased with the financial assistance of the Friends of the Royal Museum and the Cultural Property Export Review Board.

Anthropological Collections made a total of 30 loans of 596 artifacts to institutions and organizations throughout the world.

### **Biological Collections**

In 1990, Biological Collections acquired 17,645 specimens. The Section also made 156 loans of 19,856 specimens. The staff worked to reduce the backlog of specimens in all disciplines and to complete computer data bases for all collections. Preparation for the asbestos-related move reduced the amount of research and fieldwork in Biological Collections this year.

### **Historical Collections**

Historical Collections completed a major project on improving the off-site storage of the Museum's large artifacts. ARGUS, a state-of-the-art collections management software system, was installed and tested.

Historical Collections acquired about 300 objects, including: steamship china and silverware, menus and other illustrative brochures, and timetables from the 1920s and 1930s; an extensive collection of unusual material from Island Weavers; and loggers tools, scientific instruments and other items reflecting British Columbia's material history.

The section loaned several hundred artifacts to institutions across Canada, and transferred some artifacts to other B.C. museums and historic sites.

### **Library Collections**

Library Collections concentrated on computerization of the Library and on preparing for the asbestos-related move. The move to 333 Quebec Street was completed in December.

The Library has 80 partners in a world-wide exchange program. It receives more than 200 titles each year from these partners in exchange for books and papers published by



the Museum. The Library subscribes to more than 200 journals and in 1990 purchased almost 300 books. About 300 requests for interlibrary loans were processed.

### **Special Collections**

Special Collections engaged in extensive consultation and liaison with institutions holding large transportation artifacts on behalf of the Museum. These institutions included the British Columbia Transportation Museum (Cloverdale), the B.C. Forest Museum (Duncan), the Nelson Electric Tramway Society, the City of Port Alberni, Fort Steele Historic Park, O'Keefe Historic Ranch and Malaspina College. The Royal B.C. Museum's responsibilities continue to be in providing advice in the areas of museology, conservation and collections management.

### **Conservation Services**

Conservation Services worked on the project to improve off-site storage of large artifacts, and made recommendations for the stabilization of artifacts at the B.C. Forestry Museum in Duncan. Conservation staff also examined petroglyphs at Nanaimo, Sproat Lake and Gabriola Island, and made recommendations for their preservation. This year, the Museum produced a temporary exhibit for the JASON Project on the conservators' role in collecting artifacts.

The Section Chief, Mary Lou Florian, received a B.C. Museums Association Distinguished Services Award for her contribution to improving conservation in British Columbia's museums.



## **RESEARCH AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

This large Museum Program embraces all research and public programming activity. It comprises three sections: Natural History, Human History and Public Programs. The first two of these are responsible for directing collections growth and use, encouraging the use of collections in research, responding to public inquiries, and participating in all levels of public programs, from conceptualization to delivery. The Public Programs section designs, constructs and maintains exhibits, co-ordinates publications, schedules and monitors travelling exhibits and speakers tours, runs school programs, and develops and evaluates all public programs.

Research and Public Programs is dedicated to exciting and informative public programs in Victoria and throughout British Columbia, for museology and for relevant disciplines in natural and human history. Public programs should reflect knowledge and understanding gained through the broad study of museum collections, artifacts and specimens.

Major Program objectives for 1990 were:

- to start planning for several major public programs, including a permanent exhibit on British Columbia's marine coastal waters and the JASON Project 1991;
- to upgrade existing permanent galleries;
- to issue several major new publications;
- to increase physical and intellectual access by the public to the Museum collections, and to research being carried out on them;
- to initiate several large multi-agency projects in the areas of education and environment; and
- to increase and upgrade research on British Columbia's biological diversity and its material history.

### **Natural History**

The responsibilities of the Natural History section are to direct collections growth, to carry out research on collections, to plan and take part in public programs, to answer public inquiries, and to provide information to a broad array of government, private and public organizations. This section's disciplines are botany and zoology. Its major goal in 1990 was to initiate research and public programs that would increase our knowledge of British Columbia's threatened biological diversity.



Its major accomplishments were:

1. **Endangered Ecosystems:**  
This project will incorporate and co-ordinate research and collections activities associated with rare and threatened species, ecosystem inventory and conservation. In 1990, considerable discussion on common themes and interests took place with other government agencies and non-government groups. Specific outputs will be a Biodiversity Symposium planned for the Royal British Columbia Museum in March 1991 and the Endangered Spaces Project, a multi-agency effort to complete British Columbia's system of protected areas by the year 2000.
2. **The South Okanagan Critical Areas Program (SOCAP):**  
This program will identify and inventory threatened habitats in the South Okanagan. This region has habitats and species unique in Canada, but little undisturbed land remains. In conjunction with the Nature Trust of British Columbia, Ministry of Environment, Canadian Wildlife Service and universities, the Museum is working towards preserving the best remaining parcels of land. A strategic plan for the program has been produced and endorsed by the management of all the agencies involved.
3. **Field work led to the discovery of new plant and animal species on the Gulf Islands and southern Vancouver Island, and at Princeton and Cache Creek. The new species include a lizard, a flower, a fern and some aquatic invertebrates.**
4. **Important acquisitions, publications, exhibits and public programs (described elsewhere in this report).**

## **Human History**

The responsibilities of the Human History section are to direct collections growth, to carry out research on collections, to plan and take part in public programs, to answer public inquiries, and to provide information to a broad array of government, private and public organizations. This section's disciplines are ethnology, archaeology and modern history. Its objectives for 1990 were to complete some long-established projects and to plan several large multidisciplinary projects in research and public programs.

Major accomplishments for Human History were:

1. **The History of Education in British Columbia:**  
This collaborative project with the Ministry of Education was established in 1990. School districts throughout British Columbia will participate in the acquisition of materials and records concerned with education history. As well, an exhibit will be designed and constructed at the Museum in 1991.
2. **Research on technological change in the forest industry and on the history of mining; the latter has the support of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and**



Petroleum Resources. Results of these studies will appear in public programs in 1991.

3. The Museum signed a sister agreement with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York. The agreement covers our participation in an exhibit at the AMNH about Native artifacts collected by George Hunt for Franz Boas at the turn of the century. It also covers a joint exhibit to be produced in New York on the sacred Moachat Whaler's Shrine from the west coast of Vancouver Island; the exhibit will come to the RBCM later.
4. In conjunction with the Ministry of Highways, the Museum organized and supervised the refurbishing of totem poles along the Route of the Totems (on Vancouver Island and at mainland B.C. Ferries terminals).
5. Human History staff advised several regional museums on important exhibits and participated in designing and installing them. Two of these museums were the Native Heritage Centre (Duncan) and the U'Mista Cultural Centre (Alert Bay).

### **Public Program Development**

The Public Program Development section is responsible for the school programs, the special days and events that occur throughout the year, the speakers tour program and the precinct program.

School Programs offered at the Royal British Columbia Museum are for elementary school classes. In 1990, 13,000 students in almost 600 classes attended school programs given by 100 of the Museum's docents.

There were six special days at the Museum in 1990, with an average attendance of 18,000 each. The special days this year were the First Peoples Festival, Orca Day, Earth Day, Immigration Day, Orchid Day and the Spirit of Christmas. Some special days are held in conjunction with other organizations, such as the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (First Peoples Festival) and the Ministry of International Business and Immigration and Canada Employment and Immigration (Immigration Day).

In 1990, the Museum participated in the JASON Project for the second year. This international, scientific and educational project is headed by a group of scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. It uses a submersible robot named Jason to explore remote sites with video cameras and transmit images via satellite to participating institutions. In 1990, the JASON Project visited Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain and focussed on the war of 1812 by exploring the remains of sunken naval ships. The JASON Project ran from 30 April to 12 May 1990. Students in 273 classes from 54 different communities attended the live broadcasts. Almost 3,600 people attended the general public sessions in the Newcombe Theatre.



Space Project '90 was a joint venture of the Museum, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, the National Research Council, the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, and the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. The Project took place in the Newcombe Theatre from 27 August to 2 September. More than 10,000 people attended the live, hour-long broadcasts from NASA, with commentation by local experts. Highlights of the program were the Magellan Space Probe's current radar mapping of Venus, the Galileo Space Probe's future encounter with Jupiter in 1995, the Milky Way's structure and formation, and a status report on the Hubble Space Telescope. Following the shows, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada set up a telescope in Beacon Hill Park for the general public to view the rings of Saturn, the Hercules Globular Cluster and the Ring Nebula.

The Royal British Columbia Museum Speakers Tour Program provides communities throughout the province with illustrated lectures by Museum curators each spring and fall. The program's main goal is to share knowledge with the citizens of British Columbia by informing them of the Museum's collections and research. It is funded by the Museums Assistance Programme of Communications Canada. Speakers give public lectures in the evening and presentations to students at regional schools during the day. In 1990, 19 speakers gave 61 evening lectures to audiences totalling 2,717 people, and 169 presentations to 5,960 students in 95 communities.

Every year from June to September, free tours of the Native Plant Garden are offered to the public. These tours are led by Museum volunteers who have been trained by botany curators. In 1990, 728 people went on 80 tours through the Garden. These tours give visitors a detailed examination of the Museum's wonderful "living exhibit".

In June 1990, the Museum entered into an agreement with the Le-La-La Dancers, a Native Indian dance troupe. The Le-La-La Dancers put on a series of performances of traditional Kwakwaka'wakw dances in Mungo Martin House in Thunderbird Park. The quality of the dance program was excellent and it was popular addition to the public programs of the Museum.

## **Exhibits**

This Exhibits section maintains and operates all exhibits in the Museum. In 1990, it upgraded many gallery areas, such as the forest, the seashore, Barkerville and Beringia.

The travelling exhibit program, under federal funding, sent 12 exhibits to 100 venues in 1990. The acclaimed travelling exhibit, "Birds of Prey of Canada" returned to Victoria for refurbishing, after three years of travelling throughout Canada and the U.S.A. The schedule for all travelling exhibits (except "Birds of Prey") is below.

Temporary exhibits produced by the RBCM and exhibits on loan from other museums are displayed in the Fannin and Friends galleries. In January, 1990, "Rocks, Rigs and Roughnecks", a popular exhibit on the oil and gas industry in B.C., was dismantled after a two-year run. There were 19 other temporary exhibits displayed here in 1990, with



diverse topics such as orchid biology, B.C.'s agricultural history, biological conservation, weather and the history of women in Canada.

Exhibits staff developed an innovative technique to reduce labour costs in exhibits maintenance. The technique involves the introduction of positive pressure to the interior of display cases so that dust-laden air cannot penetrate the cases through imperfect seals. This technique reduces the rate of unsightly and destructive dust accumulation on the artifacts in the cases.

1990 Royal British Columbia Museum Travelling Exhibits Schedule

	Dec '89	Jan '90	Feb '90	Mar '90	April '90	May '90	June '90	July '90	Aug '90	Sept '90	Oct '90	Nov '90	Dec '90	Jan '91
<b>Wild Harvest</b>	8 (22)	11 (23)	6 (18)	8 (18)	3 (28)	12 (31)								
<b>Dragon Flies</b>	8 (15)	18 (30)	13 (25)	8 (20)	3 (10)	31 (31)								
<b>Seashore Plants</b>	5 ( )	16 ( )	13 ( )	27 ( )	8 ( )	3 ( )	16 (28)	12 ( )						
<b>Our Native Languages</b>	7 ( )	19 ( )	29 ( )	11 ( )	2 (17)	29 ( )	12 ( )	14 (26)	20 ( )					
<b>Language: The Great Game</b>			14 ( )	29 ( )	11 ( )	2 (17)	29 ( )	7 ( )	9 (17)	31 ( )				
<b>Lock It Up</b>	8 ( )				25 ( )	8 (27)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 ( )					
<b>Petroglyphs &amp; Pictographs</b>	3 ( )		16 ( )	20 ( )	11 ( )	22 (27)	16 (28)	12 ( )	23 ( )	15 ( )				
<b>Skulls 1</b>	8 ( )					15 ( )	3 ( )							
<b>Skulls 2</b>						11 ( )	2 (10)	28 ( )	5 ( )	12 ( )				
<b>David Douglas</b>						11 ( )	17 (29)	12 ( )						
<b>1 - Home Life</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (24)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>2 - Children's Toys</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>3 - Recreation</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>4 - Travel and Communication</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>5 - Working</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>6 - World Wars</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>7 - Protecting Our Communities</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>8 - Distinguished Citizens</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>9 - Hudson's Bay Company</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						
<b>10 - Royal Souvenirs</b>	15 (30)	11 (27)	13 (29)	15 (31)	16 ( )	2 ( )	12 (27)	6 ( )						

N.E.C. - National Exhibition Centre



## Publishing and Visual Services

Publishing and Visual Services comprises Design, Photographic Services and Publishing units. Its functions are to prepare graphical, illustrative and photographic services to the Museum, and to produce all Museum publications. The section also produces *Discovery*, a quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Royal Museum.

In 1990, the Design unit, in conjunction with Promotions, created a new integrated corporate image for the Museum, the Friends of the Museum and the Fannin Foundation. The top priority for Photographic Services continued to be processing images for the Ethnohistoric Photograph Collection in Anthropological Collections. The Museum published four important books in 1990:

1. *The Vertebrates of British Columbia: Scientific and English Names*, edited by Robert A. Cannings and Andrew P. Harcombe. Paperback, 116 pages.

This publication is an essential reference for all agencies and individuals engaged in environmental, ecological, wildlife, fisheries and general biological research in British Columbia. It provides standard common and scientific names for all species in the Province. It was produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.

2. *Thompson Ethnobotany: Knowledge and Usage of Plants by the Thompson Indians of British Columbia* by Nancy J. Turner et al. Paperback, 350 pages.

Native culture depends heavily on oral traditions, and on oral transmission of information. This important book is based on extensive interviews and field research with Thompson Indians, to synthesize their vast knowledge of native plants for medicine, food, etc.

3. *The Mammals of British Columbia: A Taxonomic Catalogue* by David Nagorsen. Paperback, 148 pages.

Management of conservation of British Columbia's mammals depends upon modern knowledge of their distribution and status, and upon a history of research about them. This monograph is essential for all agencies and individuals whose work or interest concerns B.C.'s mammals. This book was produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.

4. *The Birds of British Columbia: Nonpasserines - Loons through Woodpeckers* by R. Wayne Campbell et al. Two volumes, hardcover, 1176 pages.

This book is the culmination of many years of work by Museum curators and by scores of volunteers assembling and synthesizing information about British Columbia's rich bird fauna. Almost 5,000 copies were sold before publication and another 1600 were sold in the two months following its release. It is a joint publication of the Museum and the Canadian Wildlife Service (federal Ministry



of Environment), and was published through funding provided by the Friends of the Royal Museum. A third volume, on passerines, will be published in a few years.

### **Newcombe Program**

The Newcombe Program held 74 events in the Newcombe Theatre in 1990. Highlights were the "Biodiversity in British Columbia Lecture Series", featuring Museum curators, and the Zambezi River Expedition, a natural history presentation by Jumbo Williams.

In addition to its regular program, the Newcombe Program produces the Super Series, which is sponsored by the Friends and the Museum. Traditionally, Super Series lectures have been held in the University Centre Auditorium at the University of Victoria. In December, the series expanded to the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver.

Super Series speakers in 1990 were:

- Dr. David Suzuki, Geneticist and Broadcaster - Towards the 21st Century: The Challenge. 23 February.
- Ed L. Jones, Post Production Director - Industrial Light and Magic. 23 March.
- Dr. Donald Johanson, Paleoanthropologist - How We Became Human. 19 April.
- Dr. Sylvia Earl, Marine Biologist and Aquanaut - Exploring the Deep Frontier. 2 November.
- Dr. Walter Persegati, International Co-ordinator, Patrons and Friends of the Vatican Museums - Michelangelo Rediscovered: The Sistine Chapel Restoration. 5 December (Vancouver); 7 December (Victoria).

Another program produced by the Newcombe Program is a series of field trips guided by experts in a particular discipline. Ten field trips were organized in 1990. These excursions included Gray Whale watching at Long Beach, Queen Charlotte Islands natural history (12 days aboard the heritage sailing vessel, *Maple Leaf*) and a one-day tour of the Gorge waterway focussing on the human history of the area.

The Newcombe Program publishes a monthly Calendar of Events to publicize its programs. Almost 20,000 people attended Newcombe events in 1990.



of the program, and the program is being continued by the University of Wisconsin. A full report on the program will be published in the near future.

### Research Program

The Research Program has been in the Wisconsin Division of the University of Wisconsin since the beginning of the program. The program is being continued by the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Department of Health.

In addition to the regular program, the Research Program includes the following which is supported by the friends and the University of Wisconsin. The program has been held in the University Center at the University of Wisconsin. The program is being continued in the University Center at the University of Wisconsin.

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## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

In many ways, the Finance and Administration Program is the public face of the Museum. From the Gift Shop to Shipping, from the Information Desk to Visitor Services, from Promotions to Admissions, it smooths the way for efficient operation of the Museum and its programs and devises new ways to accomplish Museum goals. It serves both the public and staff. The Finance and Administration Program advertises Museum activities and events, schedules organized visits, manages the Museum's budget, facilitates communications with telephones, computers and mail, trains volunteers and staff, and manages the buildings, their heat, light and mechanical systems. These services are organized into seven sections: Financial Co-ordination, Facilities, Visitor Services, Promotions, Personnel, Systems, the Volunteer Program and the Royal Museum Shop.

A new Assistant Director of Finance and Administration was appointed in January.

### **Financial Co-ordination**

The Financial Co-ordination section deals with the revenue and expenditures of the Museum.

Admissions staff sold tickets to approximately 550,000 visitors in 1990. This is a 17% increase over last year's ticket sales, and it is nearly 70% of the total 1990 escalator count of 815,000. The escalator count includes non-paying visitors, such as school groups, staff, VIPs and re-entries by pass holders. The Admissions Unit collected almost \$2 million in 1990, a 10% increase over last year. Of the paying visitors, 85% purchased General two-day admissions, 13% purchased one-day passes and 2% bought Annual Passes. A new admission fee schedule was introduced in April 1990, supported by formal regulations approved by Cabinet.

This year, Financial Co-ordination developed a more efficient procedure for setting budgets within the Museum. This procedure will facilitate good documentation and tracking of budgets for future years. It also developed a tracking system for grants and recoveries, revamped the contract process for more efficiency and control, and modified the Expenditure Management System (EMS) to meet special needs of individual programs.



## Facilities

The Facilities Section is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all the Museum's buildings and the security of the collections, including liaison with the Tea Room and the Security Guards. It also includes shipping and receiving for the Museum.

In September the Fannin Building was closed for two days so that asbestos on the ceilings of mezzanine floors could be encapsulated. When the building re-opened, mezzanines remained sealed until work was completed on each. Facilities managed the encapsulation project and ensured the safety of Museum staff involved in the project and those whose offices were on the affected floors. Facilities assisted the film crew of the MacGyver television show and ensured that Museum exhibits and artifacts would not be damaged during filming. It also managed the clean up after the flooding caused by heavy rain in November.

Less dramatic tasks in 1990 included re-keying the Exhibits Building to begin implementation of the Museum's new security system, and removing the red tiles in the courtyard, which have been very slippery when wet, and replacing them with exposed aggregate.

## Visitor Services

As the friendly, front-line office, Visitor Services is involved in almost all Museum activities. Public requests for information on flora and fauna, native cultures, artifacts, upcoming special events, exhibits, etc. often come through Visitor Services. The delighted and the dissatisfied voice their opinions to Visitor Services staff.

This section also manages bookings for all special events and programs at the Museum. In 1990, about 13,000 children took part in School Programs and almost 46,000 children visited the Museum with their teachers. Over 19,000 adults have booked self-conducted tours of the galleries and 1,800 adults have booked guided tours. Visitor Services has arranged visits for 240 VIPs. All school bookings for the JASON Project (273 school groups, almost 11,000 children) were made through Visitor Services.

## Promotions

The Promotions section is responsible for promoting the Museum and publicizing special events and activities of the Museum. Generic Museum promotion is ongoing through brochures, posters, advertising and press releases.

In 1990, the following special events were promoted:

- Space Project '90: articles in *Times-Colonist* and other local newspapers - over 10,000 visitors attended this event.

- The JASON Project 1990: articles in *This Week*, *The Globe & Mail*, *Washington Post*, *Seattle Times* and others - over 14,500 visitors.
- First Peoples Festival: articles in *Times-Colonist*, *This Week* and others - over 30,000 visitors.
- Orca Day: articles in *Vancouver Province*, *Port Alberni Times* and others - over 6,000 visitors.

Other events promoted were Earth Day 1990, the Commonwealth Totem Pole Raising, The Spirit of Christmas and all the Speakers Tours. (See Public Programming Development for details on some of these events.)

### **Personnel Services**

The Personnel Services Section serves the Museum with a direct line of support from the Ministry Personnel Services Branch. Nineteen positions were filled in 1990, including three key management positions. Also, the Heritage Resources (HRO) Series was implemented, which positively affected 61 employees.

More than 50 training courses were co-ordinated through Personnel Services and subsidized by the Museum or Personnel Services Branch. Training also included seminars in Earthquake Preparedness, Back Care and Fire Prevention.

### **Systems**

The Systems Section was created in 1990 to bring computers to the RBCM. Budget and staff for this section are covered under special computerization project funding.

Systems main goal for 1990 was accomplishing by installing computers in all sections of the Museum and training staff to use them and the software for each. The section installed the following hardware with appropriate software: in the Exhibits Building, a Local Area Network (LAN) with 30 workstations, 4 shared printers and a communications link to outside systems for electronic mail; and in the Fannin Building, 33 stand-alone workstations with modems and 26 dedicated laser printers.

Systems staff developed specific applications for Museum use, including a move management application to track artifacts during the asbestos-related move. This application is owned by the RBCM and can be provided to other museums.



## **The Volunteer Program**

The Volunteer Program is jointly funded by the Museum and the Friends of the Museum. It co-ordinates all volunteers for the Museum, the Friends and the Fannin Foundation.

Volunteers teach school programs, give Native Plant Garden Tours and help with numerous special days and events, such as the JASON Project and Space '90. Volunteers also welcome and orient visitors at the Museum Information Desk and work in the Royal Museum Shop. Museum Affiliates (Research Associates, Museum Associates and Curators Emeritus) are also volunteers, as are the members of the Boards and Committees of the Friends and the Fannin Foundation.

In 1990, 350 volunteers contributed a total of 49,000 hours to the RBCM, the Friends and the Fannin Foundation. At this year's Volunteer Awards Luncheon, held in April, two volunteers received special honours for twenty years of service to the Museum.

## **The Royal Museum Shop**

It was an exciting year for the Royal Museum Shop. Gross sales exceeded \$1.5 million, partly due to the Shop's first ever clearance sale in which \$75,000 worth of dead and slow-moving stock was sold.

The emphasis in 1990 was on streamlining inventory and increasing turnover of stock; planning began on computerized inventory control and ordering. The Shop brought in more items that reflect Museum collections, public programs and environmental ethics. The book department expanded its mail order service for Museum publications and other books.

## **SOCIETIES**

The Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum and the Fannin Foundation are closely associated with the Museum's programs. Both are directed by volunteers from the community.

### **The Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum**

The revenue raised by the Friends through the Royal Museum Shop and other sources supports the programs of the Museum by sponsoring important projects. These projects range from the purchase of specialized equipment to funding a curator's field research. The Friends is a volunteer organization with some paid employees.

#### **Board of Directors of The Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum:**

President	Hamish Robertson	
First Vice-President	Ken Jones	
Second Vice-President	Elizabeth Kennedy	
Treasurer	Lewis Wylie	
Secretary	Mary Richmond	
Past President	George Stewart	
Personnel Matters	Rod Newman	
Members Services	Malcom Sutherland-Brown	
Directors at Large:	W. Freeman Anderson	Alon Johnson
	Bill Barkley (RBCM)	Harold Matthews
	Joyce Clearihue	Jim Nicholl
	James Currie	Meg Philpot
	Faith Furber	Edith Ross
	Ted Hutton	Sheila Taylor



## Staff

### Administration:

Accountant Brenda Potter  
Administrator (part time) Dianne Takacsy

### Royal Museum Shop:

Manager Dianne Woodman  
Asst. Manager - Floor Manager Patricia Moyles  
Asst. Manager - Book Buyer Helen Weiss  
Book Keeper Barbara Roemmele  
Shipper / Receiver Mitchel duPlessis  
(Additional floor staff are hired for busy season.)

### Newcombe Program:

Program Co-ordinator Diane Keighley  
Marketing Co-ordinator Arlene Yaworsky  
Administration Asst. Tracey Coyle

### Volunteer Program:

Volunteer Co-ordinator Carol Frank

All Friends staff report to the Museum's Assistant Director, Finance and Administration, except for those in the Newcombe Program, who report to the Assistant Director, Research and Public Programming.

Some important projects sponsored by the Friends in 1990 were:

1. Chilcotin Ethnobotany: To record, describe and analyse the role of plants in the traditional lives of the Chilcotin Indian people.
2. Pack Rat Middens: A study of the biology of pack rats and the middens they create. Examination of ancient and modern middens will aid in the understanding of B.C.'s prehistoric environments.
3. Radiocarbon: To process radiocarbon samples that will date existing archaeological collections from the Victoria area.
4. Yuquot Whaler's Shrine: To study the collections at the American Museum of Natural History and Columbia University for the production of a major interpretive manuscript.
5. Sternwheelers: Historical research and preparation of a publication on the sternwheeler, *S.S. Moyie*.

6. R.A.B. Plant Collection: To complete the backlog data for 5,900 botanical specimens.
8. Microfische/Microfilm Reader-Printer - Replacement for obsolete equipment in the Library.

This year, the Friends sponsored 40 projects for approximately \$140,000.

### **The Fannin Foundation**

On 22 February 1990, the Friends of the Royal BC Museum transferred \$250,000 to the Fannin Foundation as an endowment fund. The goal of the Fannin Foundation is to create and manage an endowment fund for use by the Museum for special projects and initiatives. It also raises money through donations from individuals and private industry for specific major projects. The Foundation presented framed portraits of John Fannin, the Museum's first curator, to the first group of major donors.

To assist in raising money for the endowment, the Foundation produced a short video in conjunction with the Friends and the RBCM. "Echoes of Discovery" encapsules the history, quality and sense of discovery that is the Royal British Columbia Museum. This video will be shown to potential donors as part of a fund-raising presentation.

The Fannin Foundation was involved in fund raising for two special projects in 1990. It raised money from private corporations for the JASON Project. It initiated the first special trustees team and the "Pioneer Fund" for a new permanent exhibit in the Museum, "Coastal Waters"; it also developed the overall campaign strategy for the project.

On 15 December, the Fannin Foundation sponsored its first Special Day at the Museum. This celebration of Christmas was intended to raise the profile of the Foundation within the local community. Visitors were greeted by an actor portraying John Fannin. Activities for the day included a Christmas decoration workshop, mural painting, toy demonstrations, toy making workshops, and performances of music and dance.

### **Board of Directors of The Fannin Foundation**

Chairman	Gary Lunden	Imperial Life Assurance Co.
Vice Chairman	Tino Di Bella	Randall & Co.
Treasurer	Bill Camden	Coopers & Lybrand
Secretary	Jan Ross	Butterfield & Butterfield
Directors at Large:	Frank Leonard	Victoria Tire Ltd.
	Brian North	Nu-Bit Enterprises
	Bruce Weston	Canadian Western Bank
	Joan Williams	
	Esther Wilson	



**Friends of the RBCM Representatives:**

Hamish Robertson    President, Friends  
Lewis Wylie            Treasurer, Friends  
Ken Jones              First Vice President, Friends

**Ex-Officio Member (non-voting):**

Bill Barkley            Director, RBCM

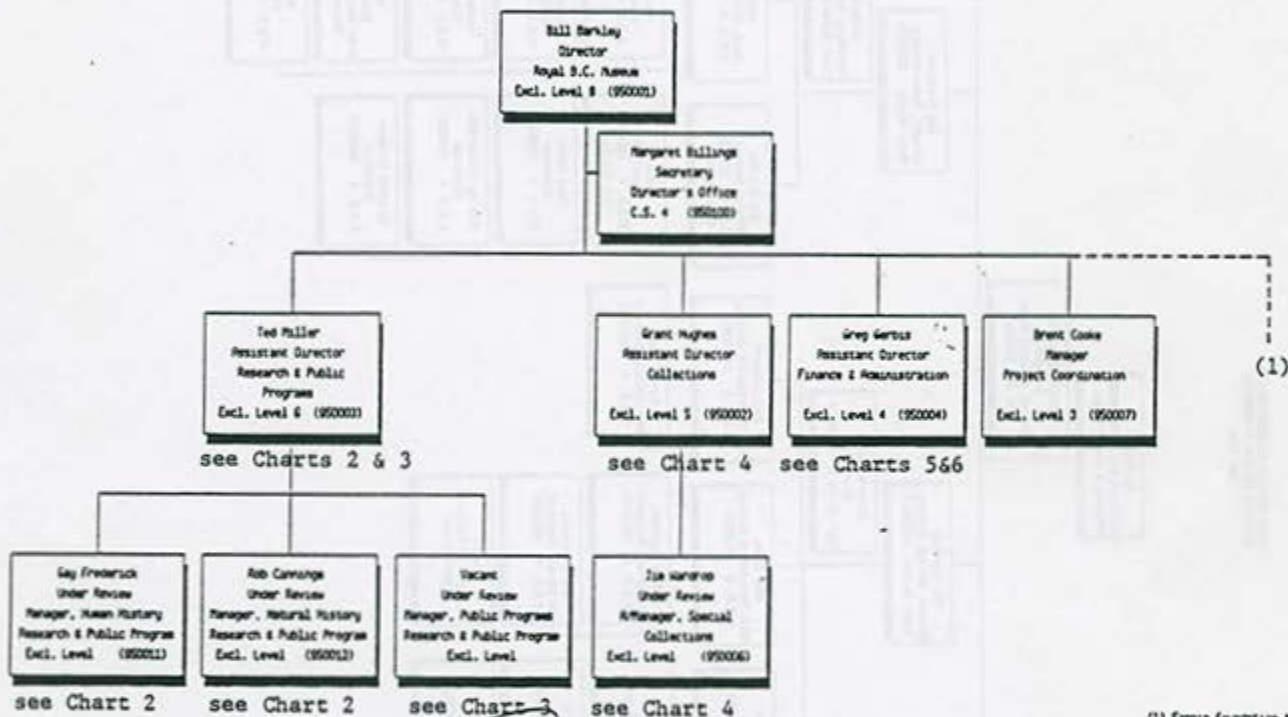
**Staff of The Fannin Foundation**

Greg Evans              President and Executive Director  
Kim Jones                Executive Assistant

# APPENDIX: ORGANIZATION CHART

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM  
ORGANIZATION CHART  
JUNE 1990

CHART 1 OF 6



Submitted for Approval by:

*[Signature]*

Recommended for Approval by:

*[Signature]*  
Bill Barkley

Approved by:

*[Signature]*  
Lothe Bulmer

*[Signature]*  
Barry Kelsey

(1) Farnham Foundation & Friends of the  
Royal B.C. Museum  
Greg Evans, Development Officer  
Updated June 22, 1990

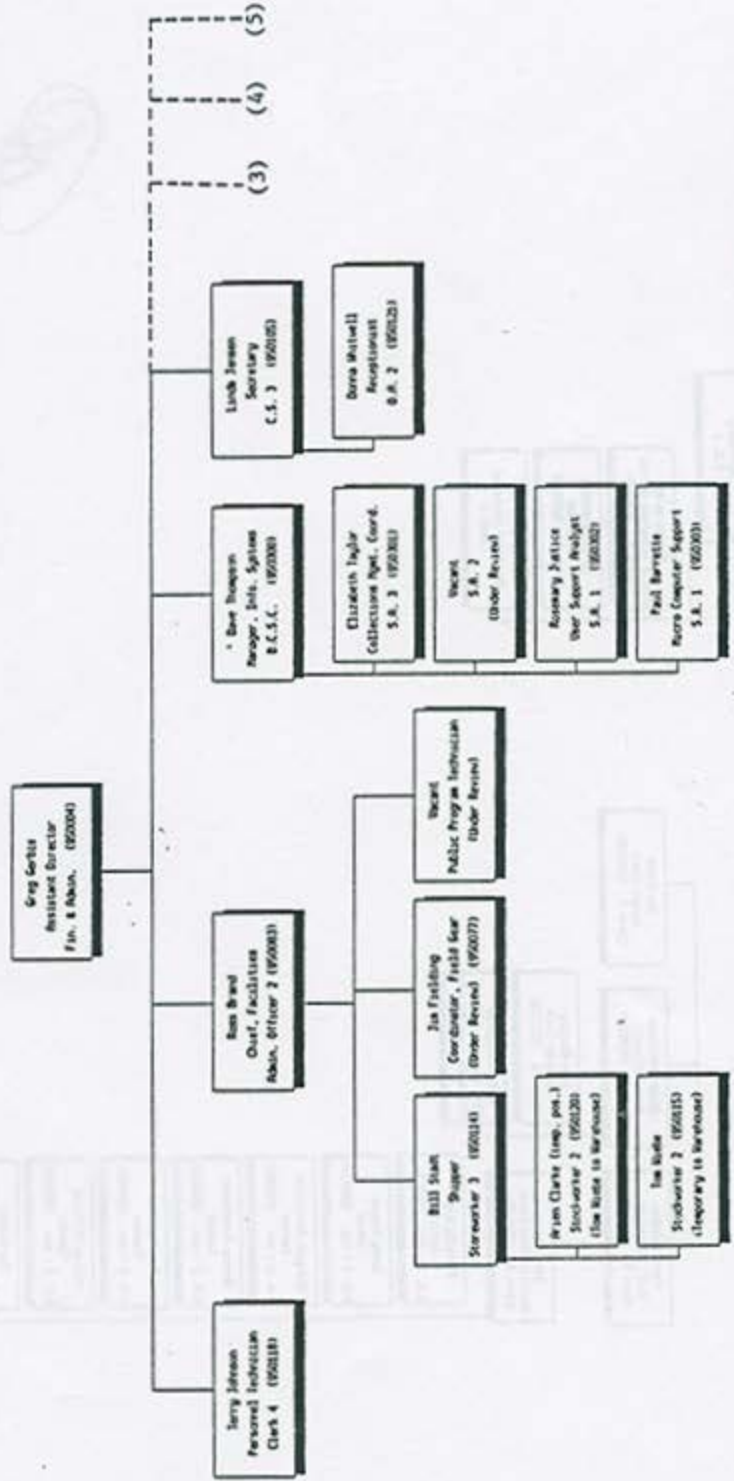












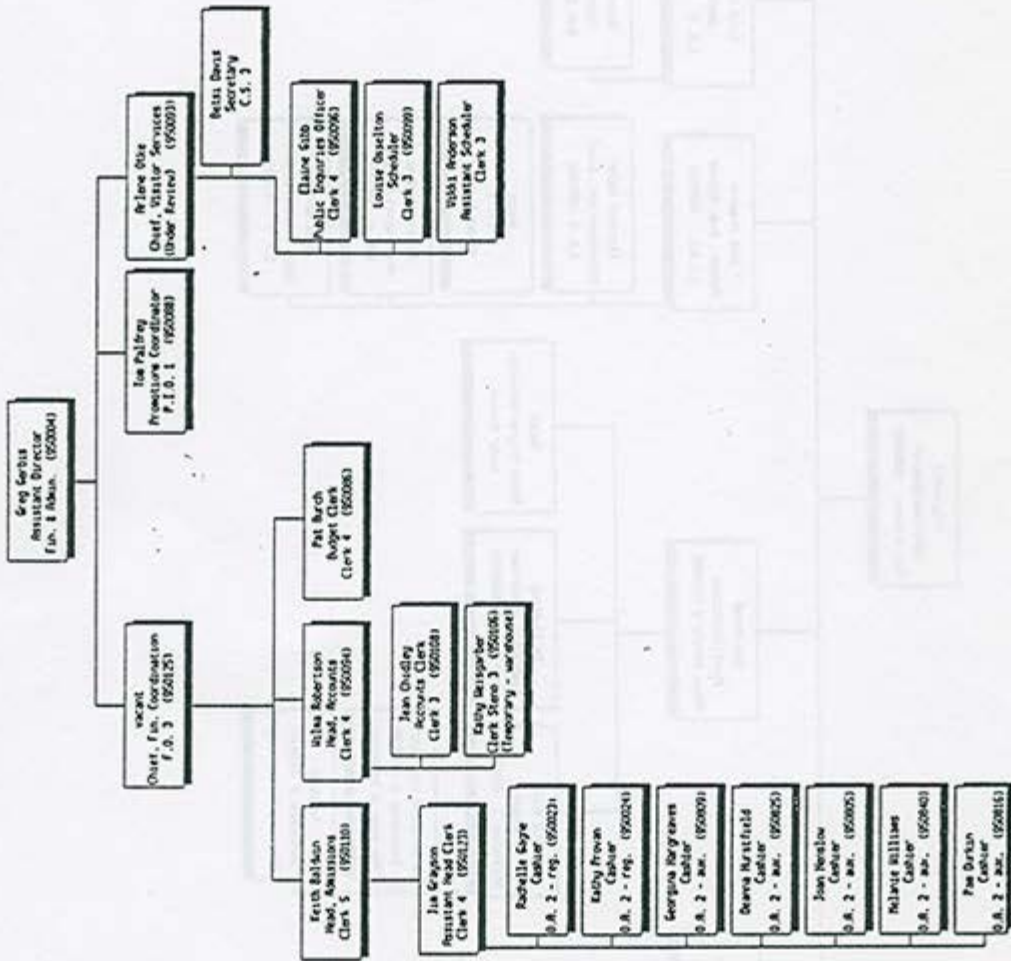
(3) Terom  
(4) Franch - Gift Shop  
(5) Franch - Volunteer Coordinator  
Updated June 22, 1990





ROYAL BRITISH CANADIAN MOUNT  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
MAC 1700

ORBIT 6 OF 6



Updated June 22,

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