

For Immediate Release
October 28, 2005

**MUSEUM MARKS “YEAR OF THE VETERAN”
WITH REMEMBRANCE EXHIBITS AND EVENTS**

Victoria, BC - The Royal BC Museum is proud to recognize the role Canadians have played in world conflicts and in peacekeeping work around the world through special exhibits and events being planned to commemorate Veterans’ Week, Nov. 5-11.

A Veterans parade and flag drill, organized by the Métis Veterans of British Columbia, will open this year’s Remembrance Weekend events at the museum, beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5 in the museum courtyard.

Many local veterans organizations and community groups will be on hand at the museum to host a variety of special displays and events throughout the weekend, in addition to exhibits from the Royal BC Museum’s collection including recruiting posters, uniforms and badges from the First World War.

“Remembrance Weekend will give people of all ages an opportunity to meet with veterans and reflect on the experiences and implications of war,” said Pauline Rafferty, CEO of the Royal BC Museum.

Coinciding with this community event is the exhibition of the replica of the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, which will remain on display at the museum until Nov. 11. For those unable to travel to Ottawa to see the original, which was unveiled earlier this year, this is a unique opportunity and the first time the replica will be on display in Victoria.

Veterans Affairs will show video interviews of personal recollections by ordinary Canadians who became heroes when confronted with extraordinary circumstances. The Heroes Remember and the Testaments of Honour projects present intimate, first-hand accounts of life during wartime from the brave Canadian men and women who experienced it.

Framed biographies, photographs and replicas of bravery medals of 20 women who served in Europe as spies and resistance operatives during the Second World War will be on display. This unique private collection was researched and created over the last 15 years by Saanich resident Colin McIntosh. These women from a variety of countries, including several from Canada, served in the Resistance Movement, the Russian army, the French Foreign Legion and the Special Operations Executive.

Military Historian Paul Ferguson will be on site all weekend, November 5 and 6, and also November 11, to help visitors discover details about family or friends who served in the wars. He’ll use searchable databases of military personnel listing honours, awards and casualties of the Allied Forces, First and Second World Wars. The public can also bring in memorabilia or

other materials related to allied services – such as medals, insignia, uniforms and photos – and Ferguson will help identify and provide background information on the items for owners. This service has proved to be very popular in past years.

Members of local veteran and military groups will also be on hand to talk to the public, including the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping, Korean Veterans' Association and the Association of Aboriginal Veterans. The Maritime Museum of BC, Merchant Mariners and the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum will also be participating.

The Victoria Scale Modellers will fill Clifford Carl Hall with dozens of scale models, ranging from military airplanes to several battle dioramas that represent some of Canada's past conflicts as well as its peacekeeping assignments.

Also on display will be an extraordinary collection of Trench Art – decorative objects made by soldiers out of metal shell casings and other war debris. The private collection was assembled by Victoria resident Stephen Lamb, who will be at the museum in person during Remembrance Weekend to discuss the pieces and the tradition of Trench Art.

Exhibits will remain on public display during Veterans' Week in the museum's Clifford Carl Hall and in a special exhibits area on the third floor. Participants will gather again at the museum for live Remembrance Day events from noon – 4 p.m. on Friday, November 11.

Entrance to Remembrance Weekend is free with museum admission. Current and retired military personnel, police, firefighters and their families will be eligible for a special 20 per cent discount for admission to both the Royal BC Museum and the IMAX Theatre during Veterans' Week, Nov. 5-11.

For more information call (250) 356-7226 or 1-888-447-7977, or visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

-30-

Contact:

Sue Stackhouse, Royal BC Museum Marketing and Media Relations

Phone: 250-387-2137

Email: sstackhouse@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca