Summary

This report on the activities of the Royal British Columbia Museum during 1992 is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Minister Responsible for Culture as required by the Museum Act.

Highlights from 1992:

- **Chiefly Feasts, The Enduring Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch**, a major travelling exhibit, produced in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, New York.
- **Canadian Underwater Safari**, the museum's first live television science program, produced with the co-operation of 17 agencies, both public and private, and transmitted nationally and internationally.
- The **Chinatown** exhibit, highlighting the Chinese urban experience, and produced in co-operation with the Victoria Chinatown Lions Club, opened as the newest addition to the Old Town permanent exhibit.
- Completion of the asbestos removal project in the Fannin Building.
- Transfer of aboriginal artifacts.
- Studies of endangered species including the Vancouver Island Marmot and British Columbian freshwater fish.

Of equal importance were the on-going collections management, historical and biological research, public programs and exhibits.

The Museum continues to be supported by the Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum, the Fannin Foundation, a strong volunteer program and numerous co-operating agencies.

The Futures Project, initiated by the Executive Director, will result in recommending a three-year plan to implement changes in the Museum's operation.
Introduction

The Royal British Columbia Museum is administered under the Museum Act by the Minister of Tourism and Minister Responsible for Culture.

The Museum was formed in 1886 in response to a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor by prominent British Columbians of the day. Their intention was to create a provincial museum to preserve objects of ethnology that were being collected by other museums and transported to other provinces, and states in eastern North America. In addition, the opening up of British Columbia by the transcontinental railway provided opportunities to develop mineral and other natural resources. It was felt necessary to record the natural history of the province for the advancement of science and for the practical benefit of those early mineral explorers.

Our continued relevance
The need to preserve the culture of British Columbia and to document the natural history of the province exists as much today as in the past. The history of peoples who came here over the past centuries must be preserved. Our natural history demands further research to better understand biological diversity and environmental issues.

Our goal
The goal of the Museum is to secure and preserve specimens and artifacts that illustrate the natural history and human history of the province, and, to increase and diffuse knowledge in these fields through research, exhibits, publications and other means. This report presents highlights of work performed during 1992.
Program Accomplishments

The Museum operations fall into four programs:

1. Collections
2. Research
3. Public Programs
4. Finance and Administration

1. Collections

The Collections Program manages the Museum collection. Responsibilities include ensuring security of the collection; acquiring, preserving and conserving artifacts; arranging artifact loans to museums and universities; and, in consultation with curators, ensuring visitor access to the collection.

Collections Management
- The move of the collection to allow for asbestos removal from the Fannin Building (curatorial building) was completed in this, the second year of the project. Staff returned to the Fannin Building from temporary quarters at 333 Quebec Street.
- A database of over 1,000,000 records was completed.

Acquisitions
- Donations totalled 101 artifacts (tax receipts totalled $60,450.00).
- Examples in human history included an Athapaskan cloth wall pocket with rare beaded crest figures, Nlaka'pamux embroidered children's moccasins, two Haida argillite poles, Kashmir and paisley shawls, artifacts from the Princess Marguerite, and a sideboard originally owned by Lt Col. R. Wolfenden.
- Biological acquisitions catalogued 15,984 specimens including Marbled Murrelet egg shells from old growth forests, remains of a Red-tailed Tropic bird and insect species from an endangered area in the south Okanagan Valley.
Program Accomplishments

Preservation and Conservation
• Storage was upgraded for protection of artifacts during asbestos removal operations. The opportunity provided for long-term improvements in artifact storage and earthquake protection.

Artifact Loans
• The Museum issued 229 new and renewed loans, comprising 46,762 artifacts and specimens valued at more than $892,000.

Artifact Transfers
• Replicas of two inside house-posts were transferred to Mowachaht Band.
• Human burial remains, mostly fragmentary, were transferred to the Songhees Band.
• Historical vehicles from the British Columbia Transportation Museum collection were prepared for transfer to other museums in the province. In early 1993, non-historical vehicles will be disposed of to reduce the operating costs of this facility to the province.

Collections Access
• Access to the collection was limited during 1992 due to the activities associated with packing and moving the collection for asbestos removal. Nevertheless, the following people used the collections:
  - students from the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria used the Museum for part of their courses;
  - aboriginal people and historians used the ethnological historic photographs;
  - those conducting the ceremonies for Chiefly Feasts accessed the Potlatch Collection; and
  - members of the Hesquiat Band utilized objects held for safe-keeping at the Museum.
Program Accomplishments

2. Research
The Research Program studies British Columbia's human and natural histories. New knowledge is incorporated into research papers, public programs and public enquiries based on the study of artifacts, specimens and associated information from the Museum's collection and from around the province. In addition, British Columbia's history is documented through interviews with citizens throughout the province.

Human History
• Historians conducted research on Chinatowns in B.C., in consultation with community members, for the Chinatown exhibit and the companion booklet.
• Research on gold mining and consultation for exhibit accuracy was completed with funding from Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.
• Education history was researched throughout the province with the help of volunteers from the Retired Teachers Association. Funding was provided through the Ministry of Education and the project brought together material documenting the evolution of British Columbia's educational curriculum.

Natural History
• A study of the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot turned up the richest find of bones to date. Material from a cave site outside the marmot's known range, provided new records of this endangered species. The bones are from animals possibly killed by natives thousands of years ago.
• Endangered fish species were studied in the south Okanagan Valley in cooperation with Fisheries Branch, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.
• The handbook on British Columbia bats was completed and will be published in co-operation with Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.
Program Accomplishments

3. Public Programs

Public Programs prepares and provides information about the history of British Columbia based on the work of Collections and Research, and translates and transmits this information to audiences throughout the province. This is done through exhibits, school programs, lectures, publications, television productions, travelling exhibits, speaker's tours and special events -- all with the help of the Volunteer program.

The Museum is supported by 338 volunteers and 13 research affiliates who contributed 38,410 hours during the past year. Volunteers are involved in collections management, research, public programs, visitor services, recycling and the Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum. During 1992, 86 new volunteers joined the Volunteer program.

Exhibits

• **Chiefly Feasts**, a travelling exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History, opened on 3 June and closed on 29 November. This exhibit presented the "enduring Kwakiutl potlatch" to an estimated 500,000 visitors. The budget was $160,000.

• **Chinatown**, a new exhibit in the permanent gallery opened in November. This was a co-operative project with the Victoria Chinatown Lions Club whose members provided research information and funding to produce this exhibit at a cost of $100,000.

• The Barkerville Gold Exhibit opened on 10 January. This exhibit was built in co-operation with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

• **Viewing Nature with Electrons**, a travelling exhibit on electron photography from the James Ford-Bell Museum of Natural History was exhibited to 10 January 1992.

• **Coming in From the Cold - Superconductivity**, from the National Museum of Science and Technology, was exhibited 23 January to 4 March 1992.

• **Fannin Files**, an exhibit in support of the Fannin Days project, was on public view from 17-23 March, 1992.
Program Accomplishments

School Programs
• School programs offered eleven topics. Four were new this year. During each week of the school year, 740 students were taught by 98 volunteer docents.
• The spring session welcomed 6,756 local students and 1,375 from other regions
• The fall session was attended by 4,873 local students and 325 from other regions.

Lectures
• Staff provided guided tours of exhibits, public lectures and lectures to special interest community groups. They also lectured at conferences related to the history of British Columbia and to the importance of sustaining biodiversity in the province.

Highlights:
- forty guided tours of the Chiefly Feasts exhibit;
- on-going tours of the Native Plant Gardens at the Museum;
- contributions to a symposium on endangered species of British Columbia;
- lectures to the Archaeology Society of British Columbia;
- a presentation to the Canadian Museums Association - Assembly of First Nations Task Force;
- participation in the Ministry of Forests’ Tatshenshini Field Camp;
- presentations to groups such as the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists and the Rock and Alpine Plant Society; and
- more than 200 lectures to the general public in communities throughout British Columbia.
Program Accomplishments

Publications

- The Museum published eight research papers and books in 1992:
  
  "Abundance and Vertical Distribution of Siphonophores (Cnidaria) from the Central Strait of Georgia, B.C., During Spring and Summer"

  *Acoustic Signals of Shorebirds*

  "The Amphipod Genus Rammelogammarus in Fresh Waters of North America: Systematics & Distribution"

  *Annotated Bibliography of Education History in British Columbia*

  "The History of Elk in British Columbia"

  "Lower & Middle Triassic Sulphur Mountain Formation, Wapiti Lake, B.C.: Summary of Geology and Fauna"

  *Open Ocean Models - Methods and Procedures*

  *Type Specimens of Animals and Plants in the RBCM Collections*

- Three more publications are at the printer and will be published in January:
  
  *Royal B.C. Museum Highlights* (an exhibit companion, co-published with Beach Holme Publishers)

  *Royal B.C. Museum Publications Catalogue, Fall 1992*

  *Some Common Mosses of British Columbia*

- The Museum also reprinted three important books in 1992:
  
  *The Amphibians of British Columbia*

  *The Indian History of B.C. -- Part I: Impact of the White Man*

  *Plants in B.C. Indian Technology*

- Four issues of *Discovery*, the newsletter of the Friends of the RBCM, were published by the Museum.

- A joint agreement was developed with an private publisher, Lone Pine Publishing, to co-publish and distribute our handbook series.
Program Accomplishments

Television Production
• Canadian Underwater Safari consisted of 24 live television shows giving students and the public an opportunity to see marine biologists at work and to question them about science. Programs were broadcast across Canada, the USA and 56 other countries. This was the first time any museum has broadcast a program live to any other cultural institution. Fiber-optic links allowed for two-way audio and visual communication in British Columbia. The viewing audience was estimated to be 500,000. More than 5,000 children participated in the Newcombe Theatre portion of the broadcast. The budget of $173,967 was raised outside the Museum. This co-operative project involved the Institute of Ocean Sciences, Victoria Real Estate Board, OrcaTron Manufacturing Ltd, Shaw Cable, Aqualung Canada, RSI Research, Rogers Cable, B.C. Tel, B.C. Systems Corporation, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry Responsible for Culture, Canada 125 Corporation, the Ontario Science Centre, Science Alberta Foundation, and the New England Science Centre.

Travelling Exhibits
• Sixteen travelling exhibits were taken to communities around the province. One exhibit travelled to communities in the Prairie Provinces. This is a federally funded program. A total of eighty two exhibit sites were visited by an estimated 120,000 visitors.

Speakers/Docent Tours
• Staff and docents delivered 130 presentations in 56 communities under this federally sponsored program. Attendance was estimated to be 5,000.
Program Accomplishments

Special Events

- "Amazing Stories from the Fannin Files" gave visitors the opportunity to conduct research on the local history of the Victoria area. Twenty eight exhibits and events took place at eleven sites around Victoria; volunteers worked more than 300 shifts. This program was conducted in co-operation with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the Maritime Museum, the Provincial Archives, Fort Rodd Hill Interpretive Centre, the British Columbia Aviation Museum, the Emily Carr Gallery, Reeson Park, Point Ellice House, Craigdarroch Castle, and the Heritage Properties Branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry Responsible for Culture. About 6,000 people attended.

- The First Peoples Festival was held in the Museum precinct 3 - 5 August in co-operation with the British Columbia Native Friendship Centre. About 25,000 people attended.

- Apple Fair, held 7 November, provided visitors with information and demonstrations about the orchard industry. This event was a co-operative project with the Kelowna Museum. Approximately 3,500 people participated. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food donated funds to cover the advertising costs.

Thunderbird Park

- The RBCM operated the "Artists at Work Program" in conjunction with the Indian Arts and Crafts Society of British Columbia. This program saw a number of aboriginal artists working on a volunteer basis in the Thunderbird Park Carving Studio, demonstrating their talents to the public. The program was completed on 29 May 1992.

- A subsequent program was developed with aboriginal artists as volunteers demonstrating aboriginal arts, including carving, singing, story-telling and jewellery-making. During the summer months over 600 people a day visited the program.
Program Accomplishments

Thunderbird Park (cont.)

- From 10 December 1992 to 7 January 1993, the Carving Studio is hosting the "Visual and Language Arts Project Art Show" sponsored by the British Columbia Council of Human Rights. This art exhibit includes almost 100 works created by B.C. school students, from kindergarten to Grade 12, on the theme of aboriginal rights. This is the first time that the Carving Studio has been the venue for an art exhibit.

- 1992 saw an enormous increase in the activities taking place in Wa'waditla, the Mungo Martin House in Thunderbird Park. The house is used more and more frequently by an ever-enlarging circle of groups interested in aboriginal programs. In all, the house was used about 50 times throughout the year. In addition, through a special arrangement, the Mungo Martin House has been the venue for weekly singing and dancing practices, sponsored by Rediscovery International and the Kwagiulth Urban Society. These practices are open to all aboriginal people. The following is a list of some of the groups who have used the Mungo Martin House: Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Kwagiulth Urban Society, Can-Pac Marketing, First Peoples Festival, Chiefly Feasts ceremonies group, Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council, Ministry of Education, Native Students Union, and Ministry of Forests. The RBCM has also used the House for a number of events, including a school program.

It is important also to acknowledge the support of chief Peter Knox of Fort Rupert, as the holder of the traditional rights for Wa'waditla, for permitting all of the uses of the house.
Program Accomplishments

4. Finance and Administration Program
This program is responsible for all administration and central services at the Museum. Primary functions include financial services, admissions, information systems, facilities management, marketing services and human resource management.

Financial Services
- The Museum's fiscal year ends on 31 March 1993 and a final expenditure report will be prepared at that time. In the interim, the Museum originally projected a deficit position which was addressed by reallocation of funds from other branches of the Culture and Historic Resources Department. Current projections are that the Museum will complete the fiscal year within this expenditure target.

Admissions
- Attendance in 1992 was 820,000. This is 3% above the average for the past five years. Revenue of $1.8 million was down 2% when compared to the same period last year.

Information Systems
- The systems section completed a collection tracking system for the asbestos removal project.
- As well, systems created a collections data entry system to send data to the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).
- Staff are participating in the Dogwood Project being implemented by the British Columbia Museums Association to provide an electronic communication link between all museums in B.C.
Program Accomplishments

Facilities Management

- B.C. Buildings Corporation (BCBC) staff reviewed emergency evacuation procedures in 1991. As a result, improved procedures were implemented. These are reviewed daily by security staff to ensure that the public is protected in case of emergency.

- Some building improvements required to meet existing building code are being addressed by BCBC and the Executive Director of the Museum.

- Major projects undertaken this year include exhibits building roof replacement, asbestos removal from the classroom, office area and washroom areas on the first floor of exhibits building, phase 3 of carpet/tile replacement, courtyard tile replacement for safety reasons, escalator repairs and the completion of the asbestos removal from the Fannin Building.

Marketing Services

- Marketing Services provided support to Museum projects and activities through promotion and scheduling of events.

- With new exhibits, and a variety of special events, the Museum entered into new co-operative partnerships with other ministries and private corporations. For example, with the Canadian Underwater Safari, the Museum received international exposure on CNN, ABC and Turner Broadcasting.

- Projects supported through promotion and scheduling, with attendance figures: School programs - 12,381; School Visits (self-guided) - 46,636; Pre-booked visits - 34,125; VIP guided tours - 674; Chiefly Feasts Opening - 600; Chinatown Opening - 300; and Nisga’a Video Disk Opening - 150.

- Projects promoted, with attendance figures: Amazing Stories from the Fannin Files - 6,000 (all sites); First Peoples Festival - 25,000; Canadian Underwater Safari - 8,000; Apple Fair - 4,000; B.C. Quarter Launch - 300; and the B.C. Council of Human Rights Artwork Project - 2,000.
**Program Accomplishments**

**Human Resource Management**

Several key positions were affected by staffing changes this year:

- The Executive Director began a secondment to the Futures Project, and arranged for the day-to-day operation of the Museum to be led by a Managing Director. The Assistant Director, Collections Program filled this position and was replaced by the Manager of Special Collections who retains responsibility for Special Collections.

- A Museum Records Co-ordinator was hired to manage the administrative and organizational records of the Museum in preparation for the implementation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

- Secondments of the Assistant Director, Finance and Administration, Curator of Ornithology, and Curator of Ethnology to other ministries were made for professional development. A candidate from the Management Bridging Program worked with staff of Finance and Administration.
Special Projects

Futures Project
The Futures Project has been developed and led by the Executive Director.

The mandate is to:

- Review, test and change, as necessary, the premises and assumptions on which the RBCM is based.

- Move as quickly as possible on the issues of facility safety and of the museum's relationship with the Victoria Accord.

- Develop a proposal for an arms length organizational model for the Museum.

- Develop proposals for increasing and diversifying proposals for funding for the Museum.

- Implement a public consultation process for providing input into the future vision for the Museum.

- Involve other museums, cultural institutions and museum associations in any changes in the operation of the Museum.

- Consolidation of a document that will provide a direction for the Museum for the next three years.

The RBCM is one of 15 museums reviewing the premises on which a museum is based. The Futures Project will consult widely with staff, stakeholders and the general public in developing its future directions. Where possible, pilot projects will be put in place to test future directions. The project will be concluded in the fall of 1993 at which time a final document will be produced to describe the vision of the future and the means of achieving it.
Co-operative Societies and Community Partnerships

Fannin Foundation

The Fannin Foundation is a non-profit public foundation with the purpose of soliciting, accepting and disbursing financial donations for the long-term growth and development of the Museum.

Highlights include fund raising and participation in Fannin Days, raising contributions for Canadian Underwater Safari, the Chinatown exhibit and the Coastal Waters project. Canadian Underwater Safari and Chinatown were produced this year. Fund raising for Coastal Waters was put on hold until a more appropriate time.

The Foundation board saw several changes this year: Brian North, Ian Robertson and George Stekl resigned -- replacements are being sought; Mary Richmond and Alon Johnson, representatives of the Friends of the RBCM, were replaced by Joyce Clearihue and Fred Carrothers.

The President and Executive Director, Greg Evans, resigned to seek other opportunities after a combined service to the Museum, Friends and Fannin Foundation of 14 years.

The board of the Fannin Foundation is composed of: Tino Di Bella (chair), Jan Ross (vice-chair), Gary Lunden (past chair), Bill Camden (treasurer and finance committee chair), Joan Williams, Jim Nicholl, Fred Carrothers and Dr Joyce Clearihue.
Co-operative Societies and Community Partnerships

Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum

The Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum was formed in 1968 to support the museum's programs and activities. The Friends operates the Royal Museum Shop, which provides the majority of the earned revenue. During 1992, the shop installed computerized cash registers and an electronic security system. In addition, the Newcombe Program, Super Series, Audio Tours and special Museum projects are supported by the Friends. The Super Series program of four speakers (Tim Severn, Jane Goodall, Jean-Michele Cousteau, and Mark and Delia Owens) attracted a total attendance of 3,921. Ten special events were attended by 5,033 visitors and sixteen field trips attracted 301 participants. The Friends' Distinguished Lecture Series of four presentations were attended by 1,080 people and two Provincial Outreach Lectures were attended by 654 people.

Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum Membership Report,
7 December 1992

A membership of 7,486 supports the Museum and receives information about Museum activities through the *Discovery* newsletter. Three per cent of members are from outside Canada, with members living as far away as New Zealand and Hong Kong.

The Society is pleased to report that a large number of its members have chosen to contribute additional financial support to the Museum by making contributions to the Fannin Foundation through the Second Century Club. Over the past 12 months Friend's members have contributed $12,000 to the Fannin Foundation. The Friends and Fannin Foundation are looking forward to working together more closely in the future in order to increase members' participation in Museum activities.
Co-operative Societies and Community Partnerships

Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum

1992 Projects Funded by the F.O.R.M. and Funds Allocated

Hospitality Fund $2,000.00
Fannin Foundation $64,000.00
Newcombe Program $139,872.00
Jason Project (from 1991) $111.33
Docent Speakers Tour $20,000.00
Hosting the SPHNC 1993 Annual General Meeting $5,767.00
Birds of British Columbia Vol. III $20,000.00
Donor Database Program - Planned Giving $2,613.00
Futures Project $15,000.00
Evaluation Project for Cranbrook Railway Museum $4,500.00

Purchases
Audio Tours $67,420.00
Shop Security System $14,436.45
Shop Point of Sale Network $50,657.09
Total $406,376.87

Net Revenues Expected for 1992:
Shop $300,000.00
Audio Tours $9,000.00

The Board of Directors of the Friends manages the operation of the Society. The Board members are: Dr Elizabeth Kennedy (president), Jim Nicholl (first vice-president), Dr John Oleson (second vice-president), Dr Joyce Clearihue (secretary), David Moore (treasurer), Dr Hamish Robertson (past president), Fred Carrothers, Katie Dawson, Shelagh Graham, Thor Henrich, Ted Hutton, Alon Johnson, Meg Philpot, Mary Richmond, Anne Sanderson, David Spalding and Robert Woostencroft.
Co-operative Societies and Community Partnerships

Partnerships with the Community
The Museum functions as a partner with many individuals and agencies. This ensures that programs are relevant to a broad audience, costs are reduced and new ideas are developed through co-operative efforts.

Some partners during 1992 were:

Provincial Government Agencies

- Ministry of Advanced Education
  - Training and Technology

- Ministry of Education and Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism and Human Rights

- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

- Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
  - Wildlife Branch
  - Fisheries Branch
  - Habitat Conservation Fund
  - Conservation Data Centre
  - Ecological Reserves

- Ministry of Forests

- Ministry of Tourism and Ministry Responsible for Culture
  - Heritage Properties Branch
  - Heritage Trust

- South Okanagan Critical Areas Project (SOCAP)
Museums and Universities

American Museum of Natural History
Bodega Bay Marine Lab, University of California
Canadian Museum of Nature
Cowan Vertebrate Museum, University of British Columbia
Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific
Los Angeles County Museum
Milwaukee Museum
Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia
New England Science Centre
Ontario Science Centre
Queen Charlotte Islands Museum
Science Alberta Foundation
Simon Fraser University, (various departments)
Spencer Entomological Museum, University of British Columbia
State University of New York (Geneva)
Texas A & M University
University of Alaska
University of Bergen (Norway)
University of British Columbia (various departments)
University of Calgary
University of California in Los Angeles
University of Guelph
University of Maryland
University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology
University of Victoria
Other Public Agencies and Organizations

British Columbia Ambulance Service
British Columbia Nature Trust
Canada 125 Corporation
Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt
Canadian Wildlife Service
Capital Regional District
Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)
Fire Commissioners Office

Other Public Agencies and Organizations

Fisheries and Oceans
Institute of Ocean Sciences
Parks Canada
School Districts #61, #62 and #63 (Victoria, Sooke and Saanich)
Various Fire Departments

Native Bands and Tribal Councils

Haida
Kwakwaka'wakw
Mowachaht Band
Companies and Individuals

Beach Holme Publishers
B.C. Systems Corporation
B.C. Tel
Impact Canada
Lone Pine Publishing
Orcatron Manufacturing Ltd
Rogers Cable
RSI Research
Shaw Cable
Victoria Real Estate Board
Mrs Helen Vieser