

## **Norma Harisch, President**

Thank you all for coming out to help us celebrate the opening of this spectacular new museum building, it is great to see so many of our donors and supporters here today.

First I want to thank the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee of the Salmon Arm Museum and Heritage Association for their vision and dedication. It was an enormous commitment for such a small group to take on a project of this magnitude and to launch the largest fund raising campaign ever undertaken in Salmon Arm. The Board and Advisory members have also personally made generous donations to the campaign.

A big thank you also goes to the members of the Fund Development Committee who worked so hard to get the word out to the community. Hundreds of hours were spent writing grant applications and making presentations. Doug Adams will give you some of the details in his remarks but I want to thank all of our donors large and small. This is an extremely generous community.

Thank you to the City of Salmon Arm for its support and for making the Montebello Museum the cornerstone project for Canada 150. Thank you also to the Federal Government of Canada and the Province of BC for the grants funds they provided.

The volunteer effort that has gone into getting the project to this point is astounding. Thousands of hours given by our volunteers have saved us tens of thousands of dollars. Thank you to all who came out to help even in minus fifteen degree cold or plus thirty heat.

My deepest thanks go to Manager Susan Mackie and Curator Deborah Chapman.

Along with continuing to manage the day to day operation of the Village, Susan kept the project moving along. She worked closely with the general contractor Exel Construction and the sub-contractors, the Fund Development Committee and our volunteers. Susan, I know you have been working very long hours and I can't thank you enough for everything that you have done. Your positive attitude and enthusiasm was the driving force of this project.

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Curator Deborah Chapman has lived and breathed this project for the last two years.

Several years ago the Advisory Committee started talking about building one big multi-purpose building and Deborah was asked to come up with a list of businesses she felt were important in the early development of our town. I did a concept drawing of the building and Deborah arranged for Heritage consultant Cuyler Page to produce detailed artists plans using photographs of local business from our archives for reference. These drawings were eventually refined by architect Bernd Hermanski. Deborah spent countless hours researching the history of the business she had chosen. She also worked with Cuyler on the design plans for the interiors of each diorama. Deborah chose paint, siding, wallpaper, flooring and lights. She mixed and tested stain and called on her many boyfriends to make brackets and bobbles and build cabinets and shelves. Every detail was important to Deborah and now we have this magnificent new museum to show for her tireless efforts. I am certain she has not taken a day off for at least two months.

Thank you Deborah, you have our heartfelt gratitude, now it is time for you to take a well-deserved break.

Thank you also goes to keeper of the park Ted McTaggart who acted as on site consultant throughout the process. His support and advice were invaluable to both Deborah and Susan. I also need to thank all of the contractors who worked on this project many of whom donated part of their fees back to the association. We are very grateful for the support, expertise and guidance of contractor and honorary project chairman Bill Laird and general contractor Rick Semenzin of Exel Construction.

Finally I thank the community of Salmon Arm for getting behind this important legacy project. Generations to come will benefit from what we have accomplished today.

Thank you everyone; enjoy the rest of the day. Susan and her staff and volunteers have lots of fun activities planned. Stick around for the food and fun, and remember there will be cake!