

## **Doug Adams, Past President**

What a legacy for Canada's 150th Birthday. I am so proud of the way the people of Salmon Arm have come through to support this legacy that we can proudly pass on to the next generation. The slogan our committee adopted for fund raising was "It takes a Community to Build a Village" and many of you here stepped up to make the dream a reality.

We are so fortunate in this Community that volunteers take on so many challenges. The Montebello is a tremendous example of when a group of thoughtful, energetic, and generous volunteers come together with a common goal. You can imagine the planning and the thousands of decisions made, and thousands of volunteer hours that were donated to build this impressive structure. Sometimes the challenge was a bit daunting considering our small Advisory Committee and Board made up of President Norma Harish, Treasurer Gary Cruikshank, Board Members Dwayne Burdeniuk, myself as Past President, Community members Bill Laird and Bryan Kassa and super staff members Curator Deborah Chapman and General Manager Susan Mackie as well as Ted McTaggart on construction. The Fund Development Committee also included Board Members Ian Tait and Garry Landers and community member Joe Johnson. I cannot say enough about the dedication of this group of Volunteers for leading the charge to add this incredible asset to the Community. Although every donation of dollars and volunteers was important these were some real highlights for me during this journey.

The first was that we knew we had a winning project when the Board of Directors of Askews Foods committed \$100,000 to the Montebello Museum. Another outstanding Community Asset is the SALMAR Community Association who committed \$100,000, and our own Shuswap Community Foundation committed \$51,000 over 3 years. We were on a roll. Another boost came from the City of Salmon Arm to designate this project as the cornerstone project for the City for Canada 150. But the other huge component came from local contractors and suppliers. Fred at Little Projects committed up to \$40,000 in site preparation work, Canoe Forest Products committed all of the plywood in the building. Salmon Arm Truss Systems gave a huge donation for Roof and Floor Trusses and the list goes on and on. As we built momentum there were generous donations

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from the Evening Rotary Club for \$25,000, and SASCU came through with \$15,000 initially and added to that amount just recently to bring their total to \$20,000. What an incredible local financial institution, after getting our amphitheatre up and running in the past, they again pitched in to help with this project.

We had people sending in substantial memorial donations, and folks who had no involvement with the museum giving between \$40 and \$15,000. My favourite was my grandson Liam Spencer donating \$8 of his own money as he heard me talking about the Montebello so often. Liam turned 7 today.

But to show how committed the Board of Directors of the Salmon Arm Museum was to the project, 10 members gave a combined \$93,000 personally. It was gratifying for me to see the support coupled with so many volunteer hours contributed to many areas of the Montebello construction.

So now for the numbers as we stand today. Drum roll please... I am so pleased that we have raised \$1,620,000. One, if not the largest fundraising initiatives in history of Salmon Arm. The City, Provincial and Federal Governments have combined to contribute \$395,000 which represents about 25% of the donations. But 75% has come from individuals, businesses, groups, and community funders. The total project is budgeted to cost \$1,750,000 without accounting for the amazing volunteer contribution of hours. Can you imagine the total cost if we factored in the volunteer time, staff time, and the many discounts we have received from suppliers? The total value would be well over \$2 million. Virtually every wooden board on the outside was painted by Norma Harisch and her crew in the cold winter months plus the inside was painted by Gary Owens and other volunteers. Again the tremendous support of volunteers goes on and on and too many to mention today for fear of missing some.

We do have one challenge remaining however, in that when we are asked how much we still have to raise of the \$2,000,000 asset and I respond about \$140,000 left to go. Everyone says oh you are there. Well no, we don't want any debt if we can help it, so please consider a further donation and if you haven't donated yet please see Susan or I or any member of the Fund Development Committee.

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In closing please join me to thank everyone involved for your ongoing support to create a legacy for Canada 150 for our wonderful country's birthday.

Thank you,  
Doug Adams