

## CELEBRATING VANCOUVER'S PAST FOR THE FUTURE



**Roedde House Museum**

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Roedde House Preservation Society

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### **President's Report 2007/8**

The past year has been energetic at Roedde House. Board membership has been stable with only two departures and two arrivals in the last two years. All Board members wear two hats. In addition to Board responsibilities, everyone has been involved in programming activities to a greater degree than last year.

Summer is always our busy season for tours of the House, and we could not handle the high level of visitors without assistance from the Federal Government's Canada Summer Jobs program. High season for visits lasts into October. School group tours have started to recover from the adverse impact of litigation concerning payment for school field trips.

With the assistance of Telus funding we are promoting the significantly improved curriculum "Windows to the Past". A modified version of the curriculum was developed for Community Centre summer vacation visits by youth. Regrettably, the civic strike intervened, but we will be marketing this next summer.

We are enjoying the newly painted exterior of the House funded by the City of Vancouver's Heritage Foundation's True Colours program.

We have been progressively reviewing our collection with a view to presenting it better, and making it more interactive. The collection is increasingly accessible and better presented.

In addition to our repeated and successful series of Christmas events, our parlour concert series has been re-launched on a sounder financial basis. Attendance is increasing to the extent that the most recent concert experienced virtually a full house. It will be continued, supplemented with other events which would benefit from the intimate nature of the House.

We have acquired Canadian and B.C. flags to fly on appropriate occasions. We initiated a free open house on B.C. Day, with the flag flying, and the House was packed.

We are custodians of the House and its collection for the City of Vancouver. The City is conducting a broad based review of its range of cultural policies, and I have attended a number of related consultative sessions. During 2008 our place in this cosmos will undergo a very timely review. This will be a great opportunity for reinforcement and stimulation of our mandate. I look forward to it.

We must be doing something right; the latest edition of the INSIGHT City Guide to Vancouver identifies Roedde House as one of six Best Buildings to see.

On the financial front we have been aided significantly by the renewal of our Provincial grant through lottery proceeds, and confirmation that it will be firm for three years. This stability aids financial planning enormously. Supplemented by revenue from operations, including rentals, and by donations, our position is healthy, though there is room for growth on all fronts, and increased fundraising will help us to reduce a wish list which has been partly satisfied, but has also grown.

I want to welcome our new Manager, Helene Perndl, and I want, too, to recognise the Board for its support and hard work. I must mention particularly our hard working executive, Vice President Janet Bingham, Secretary (and Human Resources Chair) Sue Erb, and Treasurer Chantel O'Neil, who have put in extensive extra hours in drawing the threads together.

Thank you all for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Norfolk