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### **President's Report for 2013**

From strength to strength in 2013, but farewell to Janet Bingham.

#### The House

The conservation plan for the House completed last year has now been supplemented by an Energy Efficiency Assessment and plan conducted free for us through Tourism Vancouver and BC Hydro. Planning for implementation has commenced. Some projects have been completed already funded by donations. Modern light switches have been replaced by reproduction press buttons now available. Modern light fixtures are being progressively replaced by those of more appropriate style. Traditional linoleum has been installed to protect floors in the kitchen and office. Woodwork is progressively, being refreshed, using traditional materials, by Paul O'Brien-Hill who will join us on the Board. While some projects will fall within the city of Vancouver area of responsibility under our operating agreement, larger projects will require fundraising coupled with volunteers to see them through.

#### Collections and Exhibitions

The chief feature of last year was the extensive exhibition organized in association with the Vancouver Maritime Museum and the Royal Vancouver Yacht club. Bill Roedde, son of Gustav and Matilda was the driving force behind the design and production of two classes of sail boats based at the Yacht Club. The exhibition, organized by our summer student Natalie Cammarasana, celebrated this impressively. A smaller version is now displayed and will be included among our rotating exhibits. Ivan Sayers again presented a successful fashion show assisted as usual by our former Board members Maureen Tymkiw and Evelyn Hortobagyi. Cam Cathcart again mounted our November Remembrance exhibit of World War I artifacts some loaned by the BC Regiment (D.C.O.) Museum Society. Erica Whalen and Francesca Szuszkiewicz have both contributed their time and expertise to putting up exhibitions, to improving collections records as well as serving on the Board. Both are moving on with our sincere thanks on both counts. They will be missed. There were no major additions to the collections recently.

#### Public Programs

2013 was a successful year for concerts at Roedde House, which became regular and often sold-out events. As a result of this success, full 2014 programs for both our second Sunday classical and second Thursday jazz concerts were developed. Thanks to our two "impresarios" Catherine Laub for the classical and Daniel Reynolds for the jazz series, we hope that what had been occasional will now be permanent offerings. In the time of the Roeddes Musical evenings were frequent, and we are fortunate to hold sheet music which Gustav bound in leather for his children. While general tourism is seasonal, other categories of visits: Sunday Tea and Tour, Special Events, Rentals, School and ESL Tours are well utilized throughout the year. As usual on some public holidays and when local institutions host their own events, we hold open house (free, though donations welcome) with related flag flying.

#### Schools

The addition to those elementary schools who visit us yearly, the program of visits by Inner City schools is established and running well. The Inner City schools visits are supplemented by a visit to Stanley Park or Queen Elizabeth Park with transportation provided as well. This is funded by the Vancouver Foundation (McGrane-Pierson Fund). French school tours have started, (though we could use more bilingual docents). ESL schools continue to visit. We are so fortunate in our team of docents, led by Jenny Yule and Philip Waddell.

### Marketing and Audience Development

Earlier initiatives, notably our website development, have paid off well. Visitors increasingly tell us that they are finding about us on the web rather than from guides. Our attendance records have continued to improve significantly, aided by our increased range of programs. During the current year we plan to focus our attention on groups likely to see Roedde House as a continued and repeat resource for their needs. Our social media presence is being managed with care and attention, and is being tracked. After three years of operation our website is being given a thorough refreshing and upgrade by Lloyd McGregor, who will join us on the Board.

### Human Resources

Janet Bingham was the driving force behind the establishment of Barclay Heritage Square generally, and Roedde House Museum particularly. Janet remained a Board member until her death in 2013 (see our fall 2013 newsletter, and "Lives Lived" in *The Globe and Mail*, 18 December 2013). Janet organized a park bench in her honour when Elizabeth O'Kieley, another of our five founding members, died. We have now received sufficient donations to fund a similar bench in Janet's honour. At the staff level, after three years as our part time manager, Bénédicte Schoepflin has moved on to a full time position elsewhere, with our thanks. Margaret Young, our program assistant has retired, but remains a volunteer, which we appreciate. For a short time we had the benefit of Greg Bricknell's professional experience in volunteer program management. In 2014, we have welcomed Sheila Giffen as our new Manager and Alyssa Sy de Jesus (previously a volunteer) as our Program Assistant, who will be working on a more systematic approach to management of our essential and much appreciated team of volunteers. At the Board level Cam Cathcart will be stepping down, though he will become a Board Advisor. Also regrettably departing will be Erica Whalen, and Francesca Szuszkiewicz, as well as Rani Kang though she will remain as a volunteer. Olga Kuznetsova, our Treasurer for the past year has found it necessary to resign after being a very effective occupant of the position. Fortunately, she will be staying on in the less demanding role as a Board Member only. We welcome Josh Phillipchalk CA as her successor. Along with Cam and Olga, my fellow members of the executive, Vice President Philip Waddell, and Secretary Sue Erb have put in significant extra hours of work additional to Board and other volunteer functions. We could not operate without their work. Fortunately Matthew Thiesen and Billie-Ann Woo will be remaining on the Board providing an important continuity, along with Philip and Sue who retain their Executive positions. We hope to continue to look to our stock of volunteers for new blood on the Board. As always, we thoroughly appreciate and depend on these volunteers. Beyond our Board members, there are all those who perform other functions without which we could not operate. We particularly appreciate those who come to give hours on certain days of the week as regularly as they are able, since this can minimize staff time spent on tour giving. In addition to school tour docents as mentioned elsewhere, we are always recruiting new volunteers at all levels, and succession planning is always on our minds for all functions at the Executive and at large Board levels.

### Finance and Fundraising

Our financial position remains sound, with increased programming supported by generous donors. All three levels of government have been supportive in recent years for which we are most grateful. Some projects have been funded by governments on a 50/50 basis. This requires accumulation of funds designated in our accounts as internally restricted for the purposes described. We continue to rely significantly on a Provincial Direct Access "gaming" grant to sustain our general public and school tours. The list of projects which we would like to pursue is long so continued fundraising will be necessary. Planned giving through legacies is one route, and the Roedde Family Holcomb Fund at the Vancouver Foundation has shown the way.

Respectfully submitted, Anthony Norfolk, President