

HOUSE NEWS

Chantel O'Neil has finished compiling the **room-by-room printed guide**. There is also a French version available, and we hope to have a German one soon.

The Parks Board has begun work on restoring the **garden gazebo** to its former glory; a new concrete floor has been installed, shingles replaced, and the roof, still to be done, will likely be copper.

The new **Roedde House website** should be finally up and running in April. The content has been completely rewritten, new graphics and photos added, and the revised curriculum in its entirety online. Be sure and check the site for upcoming events and current news. (www.roeddehouse.org)

Roedde House has been much **in the news** in recent weeks. To wit, an interview with Shirley Sexsmith in the *Epoch Times*, a clip on CTV of a school tour, Radio Canada broadcasting an afternoon show from Roedde House, a slot with Janet Bingham on CBC's *On The Coast*, broadcasting live from O'Doul's on Robson Street, another interview with Janet Bingham on Shaw TV, and a further interview in an edition of Agence France Press.

Many thanks to our Tea and Tour volunteers who keep the House humming every Sunday. They would love to add to their ranks – call the House and volunteer an hour or three each month! (Call 604-684-7040)

The House remains a popular venue for small **weddings** and other **celebrations**, especially as we approach the spring and summer season. Tell your friends about the House – our rental fees are reasonable and we're often available when most other reception facilities are booked.

Helene Perndl, Manager

 * *HATS! HATS! HAT!* *
 * *We celebrate spring with a display of fabulous hats* *
 * *Starts Sunday, March 22, 2009* *

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

As a member of the Roedde House Museum you have already demonstrated your support for this unique and special museum, and we thank you sincerely for your interest. However, there are **THREE** more ways in which you can show your appreciation!

- **Encourage a friend to join**
- **Volunteer a few hours** (*As a docent, a tour guide, a committee member*)

Make a cash donation (*We are a registered charity – receipts given*)

Small museums across Canada are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a variety of programming as cultural funding is diminishing and the private sector is tightening its purse. **Your contribution of time or money is welcomed!**

ROEDDE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

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NOTICE OF MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the
Roedde House Preservation Society**

**will take place on
TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2009 at 5:30 pm**

at Roedde House Museum

1415 Barclay Street
Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Spring 2009

A Docent's Delight

A ten year old boy charged down the back staircase of Roedde House to the kitchen below and announced, "This is the coolest house I've ever seen!" He had come from the Museum Room upstairs with its cases of fascinating artifacts from the Roeddes' time. A table with eggbeaters and other kitchen utensils of bygone days invites students to "Please Touch", or, in the case of long ladies' white kid gloves, please try on. The boy was one of a class of 30 Grade V students from Queen Elizabeth School, whose teacher had used "Window to the Past", the curriculum program designed to focus on Roedde House Museum as an eye-opening history lesson.

The Class had divided into three groups, each led by an experienced docent. Fifty minutes was allocated for the house itself, and drawings of the park and its nine heritage houses.

In fine weather, a brisk walk around Barclay Heritage Square might note details of architecture and horticulture en route, while on a rainy day, vintage games and toys are an attraction.

In the parlour there were some joyful moments when two eager pianists were invited to play the 1893 Steinway upright. Classmates sat listening on the Victorian settee and parlour chairs. The docent told the class that a mini-recital like this brought the house to life and echoed the Roedde family's piano-playing daughters more than a hundred years ago.

At the end of the school's visit a student looked intently at examples of toys from the turn of the century. "I am inspired to keep *all* my stuff", she remarked to the docent, who hoped the visit inspired a future curator's career!

EDUCATION UPDATE

School field trips and the companion curriculum "Window to the Past" represent the most important function of the Roedde House Museum – public education, starting with the very young! We are always working to improve the program. In the past couple of years a grant from TELUS, combined with our own resources, has funded not only a revitalized curriculum (now on the website), but also a marketing campaign (by consultant Kevin McKeown) to various major media. With filmmaker Daniella Sorrentino, we are generating DVDs of school visits and other events, for use in marketing the program to schools and the Museum to the general public and tourists.

We are in the process of further developing the curriculum to appeal to additional school grades, particularly at the secondary level, along with the many ESL schools which have started to notice us as a serious learning opportunity. In particular, Consultant Beverley McEwan has been contracted to work on a teachers' guide for Grade 6 to 12, addressing the relevance of Roedde House to an array of school subjects.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we approach our Annual General Meeting, Tuesday April 7th, I can happily report that we have reached a number of our goals, while other objectives are well on the way to fruition. The 2003 Janzen Report set a target for 2008 or 2,400 visitors. I am glad to report that the number actually achieved was 2,600. Initiatives now under development should result in a significant increase in that figure as our target audiences increase. Our financial base is sound. However, the demands on our resources will increase, particularly as we become more accessible through longer opening hours, and as the use of technology increases.



Cultural Diversity

Thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage we have started the process of reaching out to the Francophone and other culturally significant communities. Assisted by consultant Janet Leduc we have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with La Maison de la Francophonie whereby they will assist us in an ambitious initiative to become a bilingual provider of our services. This should increase our attraction not only to Francophone tourists but also the extensive and increasing local Francophone school system. This initiative was launched at a signing ceremony attended by elected representatives of all levels of government followed by a Radio Canada broadcast from the house. Room by room guides are now available in English and French, with other languages to follow, starting with German, the first language of Gustav and Matilda Roedde. We are in the process of ensuring the integration of this initiative with our schools program.

Our Manager, Helene Perndl, has been with the House for one year and is competently addressing the many and varied tasks which daily confront the single employee of a small museum. Last summer, through the Federal Summer Jobs Program, Helene was assisted by Angela Leung. Fortunately, when her studies permit, Angela has been able to continue with us on an as-required basis.

The Museum's collections, administered by us on behalf of the City of Vancouver, has required little modification this year though it is now better displayed. Some targeted acquisitions have been made, frequently assisted by much appreciated donations. We are intent on improving the quantity and quality of items on display. Our interactive "Please Touch" display in the Collections room has been well received, particularly by school age visitors.

Key to the success of the Roedde House Museum are the many volunteers - from working board members, to school program docents, to tea and tour house guides.

We can never have enough volunteers and our gratitude is boundless. Many thanks to everyone!
Anthony Norfolk, President

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

The musical tradition established by the Roedde family continues with our *Parlour Concerts and Entertainments*. The season began last November with "*The Bergamasca Recorder Ensemble*" presenting a Saturday afternoon mosaic of early European music. The group presented Renaissance and Baroque selections and their simple purity of sound was well suited to the intimacy of the parlour setting.

In December, "*A Charles Dickens Evening*" with Roedde House in its fully decorated glory was well attended. Cam Cathcart, Don Mowatt and Carolyn Finlay gave fire-side readings with piano accompaniment. The New Year started with a concert by "*The Erato Ensemble*", an art-song chamber collective with tenor and composer William George and soprano Catherine Laub.

Karen Lee-Morlang was the exemplary pianist for this recital.

Entertainment for Valentine's Day evening was billed as "a sad and beautiful love story" and consisted of "*Schumann Fragments*" by Don Mowatt, a collection of diary entries, letters and reflections from the lives of Robert Schumann and Clara Wieck Schumann. Cam Cathcart introduced the players, Don Mowatt and Carolyn Finlay, who with their readings and music brought the story alive.

This was their first performance of this wonderful presentation - they have agreed to do the same with other composers in future events at Roedde House. Watch for announcements of next year's season of great entertainment!

WISH LIST

- Security improvement
- Repaint pantry
- Bench for kitchen table
- Electric fireplace insert
- Recover sofa
- New hall and stair carpet
- Upstairs bathroom restoration
- Audio tours - equipment & development in English, French & more
- DVD loop for den
- Viewing equipment for DVD
- Digitize collection records
- Office workstations & filing cabinets complementary to style of house.
- New computer hard/software
- Collections room: more storage, display units



A great number of our wishes for 2008 were fulfilled through the generosity of many Friends. Thank you to **Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Breiddal** (gramophone, wringer and glass washboard), **Eric Cohen** (amberola), **Bill & Maureen Tymkiw** (new floor, Collections Room, recover Matilda's chair), **Mike Holmwood & George Stephenson** (period sofa in hall, miscellaneous books and records), **Bruno Wall** (new stove & fridge for pantry), **Anthony Norfolk** (wicker seated chair, sheet music),

Mary Christopher (sterling silver dresser set).

Very special thanks to **Phaedon & Maureen Arvanti-dis** who have been generous friends and supporters of Roedde House since its very beginning as a Museum. Just recently they donated some vintage fixtures for our upstairs bathroom restoration and a wonderful "arts and crafts style" light to replace the broken dining room fixture.