

Executive Director's Report to the AGM - 30 April 2009

I am looking forward to the opening of Flow by Brent Bukowski this year and I was thinking about water and flow. I thought of ancient times, long before people inhabited this valley when the first miner was water. I imagined water slowly tearing down the mountains and cutting through the rock to expose layers of mineral, which would someday be harvested for metal. I was thinking of this when this quote came in an email:

"The brook would lose its song if we removed the rocks." -- Wallace Stegner

I am a singer. I love song. But, sometimes I find myself wishing that work at the Langham would flow unimpeded, without rocks. I wish that our systems for bookkeeping, and communicating would be trouble free. I need to remind myself at this time that in the struggle there is a song.

We have been ambitious and we have many projects on the go.

We have for the first time in many years obtained operational funding from another source besides the British Columbia Arts Council. This is part of a focus on making the Langham less dependent on a single funding source. We hope to obtain funding for the Community Gallery from the Gaming Commission, which will again spread our dependence over several sources. This effort requires a great deal of work. The bookkeeper position has become very complex and we seriously need to consider hiring assistance with this task.

We have maintained a full house of tenants, which is another way in which we support the Langham. This too has required a great deal of work. Board members have provided invaluable help in upgrading some rooms and are at present working on the washroom.

One of our challenges will always be the age of this building. Even the restoration started in 1974 is a long time ago and many pieces of the building need care and attention, some need replacement, but this building is unique and beautiful.

This coming year will see the completion of the Japanese Canadian upgrades including new sound stations and lighting, and the third floor display dedicated to beyond internment, righting the wrong and "alumni"; the connection of the fire sprinkler system to the fire alarm system and the installation of an automatic dialer; the continuation of the Community Gallery program, the continued streamlining of our bookkeeping system and gallery exhibitions and theatre performances to be proud of. Every bit of support from our members, volunteers and friends is appreciated. Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, members and tenants. The Langham takes a lot of work but this unique space has been enjoyed by residents and visitors for thirty four years and will be for many more.