

## **Executive Director's Report to the AGM - 29 April 2010**

Once I attended a workshop which was lead by a Gik'san elder, Marie Wells. She told us that her native name for the forest was "I reach in and take hold of the handle of life". Our culture with its short forms would find this a mouthful and be impatient. But the beauty of "I reach in and take hold of the handle of life" is that it describes an active relationship between the world and the person.

My father died this January. He was an artist and he reached the age of 90. In his last year his ability to move pencil or paint on paper or canvas deteriorated but he never lost his relationship with his subject. I was with him as he was watching some birds. He saw motion, colour, detail, the blur of flight and much more that goes beyond words. He seemed able to live a few moments as a bird. He knew how to "reach in and take hold of the handle of life". Even if we can't move pencil or paint on paper or canvas we can all be artists in our lives.

Last year I reported that we had for the first time in many years obtained operational funding from another source besides the British Columbia Arts Council. That was short lived, as the Gaming Branch has ceased to fund cultural organizations. We are trying to make up for the \$5,900 deficit of operational funding to the Japanese Canadian Museum. We had hoped to increase this funding source to support our community gallery to the tune of about \$6,000. None of this funding exists anymore. This is very disappointing but we are carrying on with attempts at funding from other grants and cutting back on expenses.

We have again maintained a full house of tenants and understand the importance of this funding resource in these troubled financial times.

In the Annual Report you can observe the work of Michael Allaire as he has restructured the bookkeeping system with more logical accounts and sub-accounts. You will find 2 copies of our year end financials directly out of Quick Books after the review engagement. One is an expanded form and one is a collapsed form. Michael is poised and ready to begin adding classes that will allow us to track grant amounts as well as prepare a statement that excludes project grant income and expenses (leaving just our operational income and expenses), at any time throughout the year.

I had hoped to report that the Japanese Canadian Museum sound system is up and running and invite you to take a look and listen, but we are slightly short of reaching this goal. We have had the assistance of 2 wonderful Katimavik volunteers for the running of the speaker wire in the hallways, but we realized that we should paint (to avoid drips on the speakers) before the final assembly of the sound system and that has delayed us.

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 five years and will have a fabulous future.

We had far fewer members this year than last, but we still have 113 members and 42 lifetime members. Please buy a membership, it is a major fundraiser for the Langham. 200 members x \$12.00 single membership is \$2,400.