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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARIE FENWICK

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A SUCCESSFUL OLYMPIC EXPERIMENT

Olympic Reflections

It's hard to believe that two months has passed since the Winter Olympics' Closing Ceremonies. I am pleased to report that the February opening proved to be very successful. It was a wonderful feeling for our staff and volunteers to be able to welcome athletes, volunteers and other Olympic visitors from around the world. The feedback was very positive, and anything with a maple leaf on it flew off the shelves in the Cannery Store. It was great to be a part of the experience. This early opening experiment spurred on by the Olympics has proven to be more successful than we had anticipated. In the month of February alone 6,990

people visited the site. Many of the visitors were in Metro Vancouver for the Olympics, but many others were locals and school groups. The Steveston Revealed program brought thousands of visitors to the site from February 19 – 23 and generated \$1,900 in donations and \$4,000 in store sales. The logging show in Fisherman's Park and the Martin Mars Bomber at Garry Point Park both drew people to the area, and the Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market inside the Cannery proved to be very successful. With Steveston becoming a year-round destination for tourists, Society staff and board members will be looking closely at the costs and benefits of a longer operating season for the future.

2009 Annual Report and 2010 Business Plan

2009 brought another successful season to the Cannery. Over 26,000 people visited the site to participate in previously successful events and programs and to experience many new ones. Highlights from the season include the construction of a hand-made wooden skiff using the traditional techniques of Steveston's wooden boat builders, the installation of the *What's Afloat* temporary exhibit and publication of the book of the same name, an expansion of Music at the Cannery and the unveiling of the Steveston's Legacy statue. Copies of the Annual Report and Business Plan were presented at our recent AGM.

Farewell to a Board Member

Maria Lynch has stepped down from the Board as she and her husband Tim will be moving to Toronto later this spring. Maria most recently served on the Exhibits and Programs and Membership Committees and acted as the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society representative on the Richmond Museum Board. Maria created a lasting legacy at the Cannery with her passion for new uses of technology and improving the Society's presence on-line as well as her commitment to adopting more environmentally friendly practices at the site. Maria was also a regular Visitor Services volunteer and a great promoter of the Cannery. While she will be missed, we wish Maria and Tim the best as they embark on their next adventure!



MARIA LYNCH (L) AND RALPH TURNER