



B.C. MUSEUM OF MINING  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

# The Underground

007107

GOVERNED BY THE BRITANNIA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (1971)

SPRING 1995

EDITOR C. STONE



**HAPPY TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY TO US!!!**

P.O. BOX 188, BRITANNIA BEACH, B.C. V0N 1J0 VANCOUVER 688-8735 BRITANNIA (403) 896-2233



## MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Greetings from the Underground and Happy Birthday to us!! It has been a long time since we last published for which we apologize, but we have been busy with many exciting activities during the past year.

The B.C. Museum of Mining completed its 19th season of operation. Visitation was a little lower in 1994 than anticipated but the Gift Shop revenues almost doubled. Highway closures and negative press coverage about Britannia Beach added to the Museum's decrease in visitation, but we were extremely busy with school groups from all over the lower mainland.



The 1994 season was very busy for the Museum Staff. Our site was active with various crews working hard on the GeoChem Complex and Machine Shop/Welding Shop Complexes. The Museum also had some interesting visitors to our site who will be mentioned later on in the newsletter.

This issue of the Underground will bring you up to date on our Board of Directors, Staff changes, recent activities and inform you on some of the exciting events which will be taking place during our 1995 season.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON OUR OPENING DAY, MAY 20TH!!!**

Remember the Museum's unique and interesting Gift Shop when thinking of special Gifts. Gift Shop hours are 10:00 - 4:00 Monday through Friday.



*Crystal Stone*

**CRYSTAL STONE**  
Editor

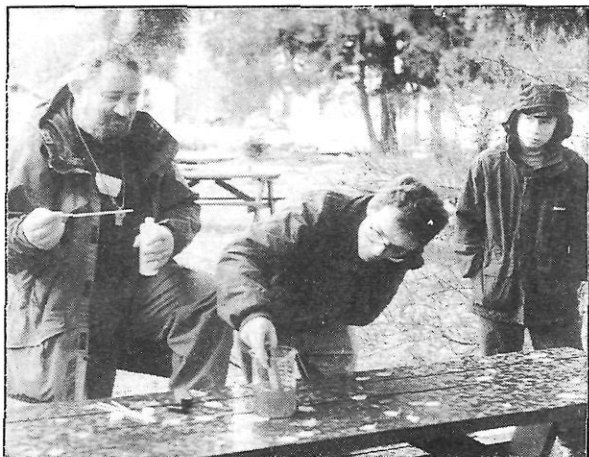
## EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

This year is a landmark for all of us as it marks the 20th year of Museum operations. We must all share some pride in knowing that the Society's mandate to preserve the history of mining in B.C. and to educate the public about mining is being carried out through the Museum operations.



### NEW COMMUNITY SIGN BY CORPORATE COLORS SIGN AND DESIGN

From the humble beginnings of operating a small Museum with an underground mine tour on leased land we have grown to become a National Historic Site and major property owner in one of the worlds most beautiful locations. Museum operations have expanded to include building restoration and land management programs. Recently, the educational programs have also been expanded to broaden mineral awareness through making rock and mineral kits and working in partnership with the Minerals Industry Educational Program.



### M.D.A. TEACHER AND INDUSTRY TOUR

In planning for the future the Society developed the "Britannia Opportunity" a strategy for the development of its property. This long term plan ran into difficulty following the 1991 flood at Britannia Beach due mainly to the ensuing financial instability of Copper Beach Estates, the major landowner of Britannia Beach and the company responsible for the provision of services to the Museum. The huge environmental liability tied to the Copper Beach Estates property has also tempered progress at Britannia Beach.



### ARLINGTON GROUP & MUSEUM PLANNING COMMITTEE



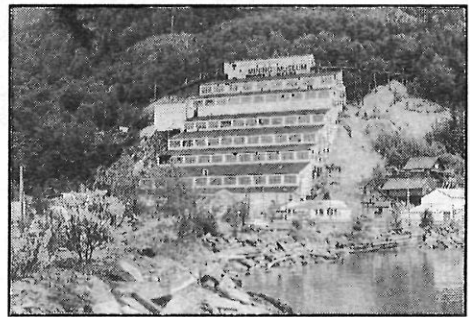
Hopes for a solution to this conundrum were raised when Minister Moe Sihota visited the property to announce the replacement of the outfall pipe carrying drainage from the old mine workings which had been removed following the flood. This pipe was replaced along with the sewage pipes which had been damaged in the 1991 flood.

This temporary action taken by the Provincial Government drew attention to the long term concern for Acid Rock Drainage remediation, public safety and other external pressures which affect development at Britannia Beach. The Board of Directors took an active approach by requesting the government to organize an Interministerial Task Force or committee to review the issues and provide a form of coordinating authority. Britannia Beach still functions essentially as a company town in an unincorporated village under the jurisdiction of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District.



**DON TARASOFF, MARILYN MULLAN,  
GIB McARTHUR AND JANE IVERSON**

Last April No.400091 British Columbia Ltd., which held a mortgage on CBE property was successful in obtaining a court order to have all assets seized and property sold until the debt of approximately 8 million dollars was satisfied. Property management ceased with provision only for the necessities of life. The mortgage holders were reluctant to force CBE into receivership due to its environmental liabilities, but in late August, a form of "walking" seizure was approved by the Court and Coopers and Lybrand were appointed to manage the property. This action has eased tensions within the community and it is reassuring for the Society to know that the services are now being maintained and Copper Beach Estates is being well managed.



To date there have been no successful bids on the property although there are offers from four shell companies before the courts. During the most recent action on October 17th the judge requested from the government a remediation plan for the property with cost estimates. Court action has stalled since that time.



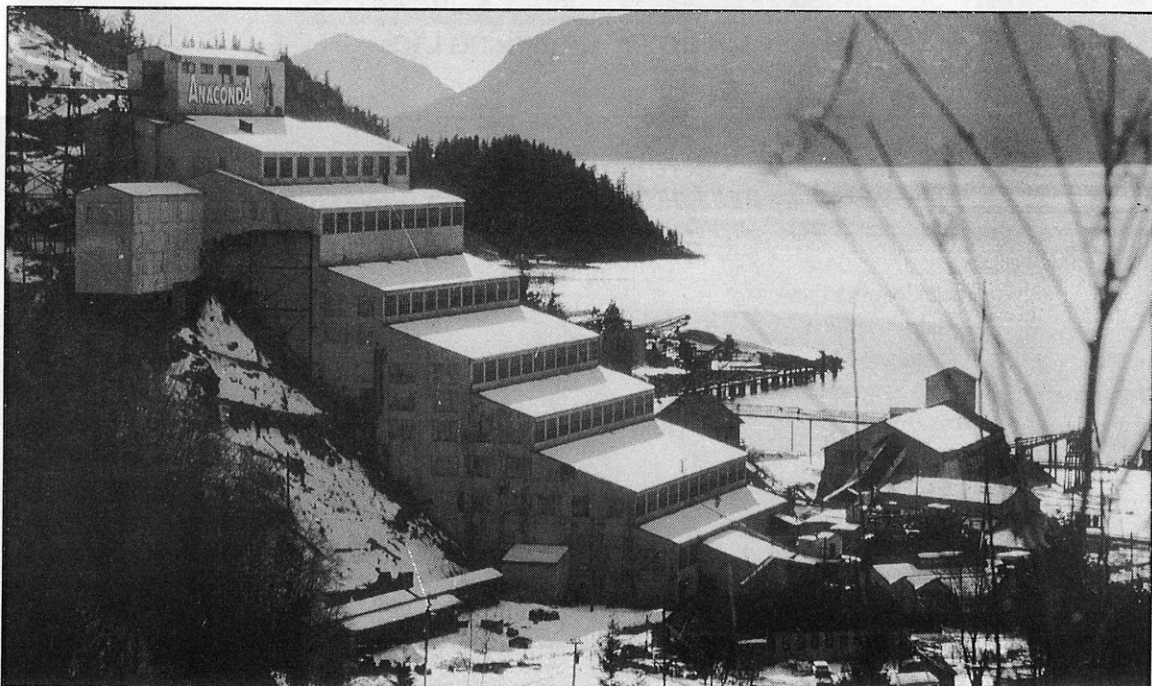
Prior to this, the Ministry of the Environment notified all those with a legal interest in CBE that it would proceed with site assessment and remediation without waiting for the decision of the Courts on a new property owner. Costs will be covered from the Orphan Site Funding Agreement but all efforts must be taken to ensure that there will be full cost recovery through a lien placed on the property.

The Britannia Conundrum also extends to Museum property and the Mill - our National Historic Site. Acting responsibly, the Society Board of Directors has notified the Ministry of E.M.P.H.R. that the Society does not have the resources to restore the building or demolish it.

The Mill is still included in the old mine related works which was classified as a "mine" - under the Mines Act. It therefore is within the scope of the Orphan Site designation and it exists as an important piece in the puzzle.

The unsightly appearance of the Mill has been an embarrassment to many of us and it is a public safety concern but it is also an icon. Effectively stabilized it could continue to function as a unique landmark and conceivably be adapted to house the future acid rock drainage facility.

In the meantime life goes on at Britannia Beach. The Museum is celebrating a 20th Birthday and gearing up for our opening on May 20th. Happy Birthday to us!!

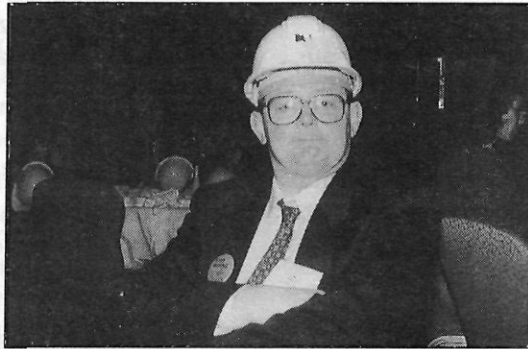


**A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

## FUNDRAISING STATEMENT:

The public sector has been generous in its support of the Museum but this is contingent on support from the private sector. Therefore, a solicitation of funds was launched by Art Soregaroli and Vin Coyne with a target of \$20,000 to the industry. This was met through the generosity of the following companies.

Memberships (individual, family or corporate) are also vital to the Society, especially during this period of uncertainty at Britannia Beach. A generous response to this request for assistance would be most appreciated and would serve as a tangible demonstration that the Mining Industry values its heritage.



**VIN COYNE OF FINNING LTD.**

***THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING  
COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION  
TOWARDS OUR RESTORATION PROJECT:***

**Teck Corporation  
Klohn Crippen  
Cominco Ltd.  
Kilborn Engineering  
Placer Dome Canada  
Granges  
American Bullion/Columbia Gold  
Hudson Bay  
Homestake  
Rio Algom  
Westmin Resources  
Advanced Drilling  
Chemex Labs**

**Pan American/Da Capo  
Royal Oak  
Imperial Metals  
Noranda  
Bethlehem  
Fluor Daniel Wright  
Northair Group  
Goldnev Resources  
Princeton Mining Corp.  
Lac Minerals  
Cheni Gold Mines  
Redfern Resources  
Finning Ltd.**



## MINING INDUSTRY PERSON OF THE YEAR

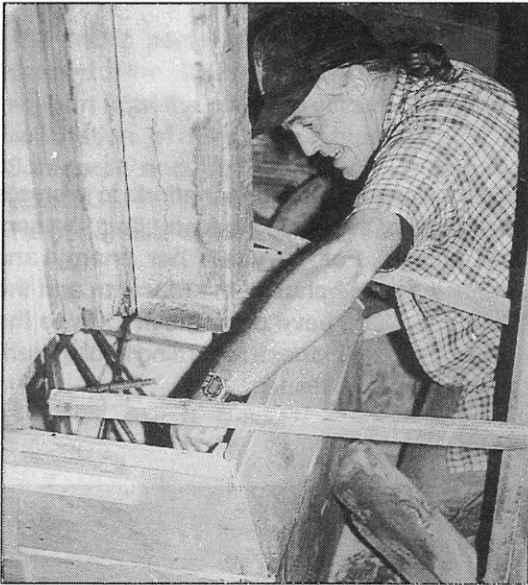
One of the highlights of the 6th Annual Mining Week in B.C. was the awards luncheon held on May 27th at the Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver. Sherry Elchuk, Curator/Manager of the B.C. Museum of Mining and Glenda Malcolm of Brenda Mines were chosen Mining Industry Persons of the Year.

Sherry was awarded for her efforts to promote the image of the mining industry past, present and future. For 10 years her energy and enthusiasm on behalf of the Museum and the Mining Industry have done much to raise the public's consciousness regarding mining heritage and related issues.



**HONOURABLE ANNE EDWARDS, SHERRY ELCHUK,  
GLENDA MALCOLM & TERRY MULLIGAN**

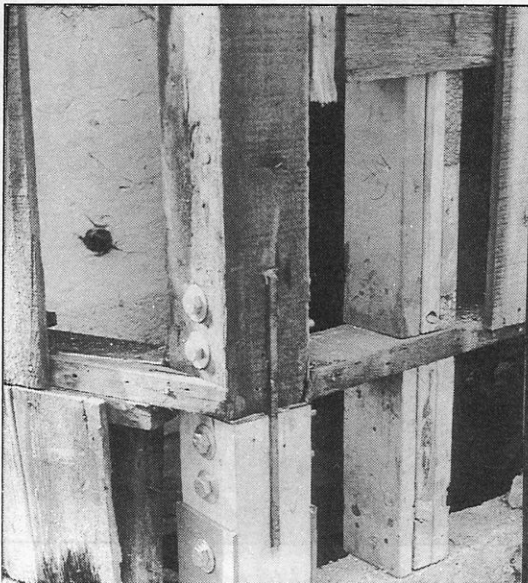
**MACHINE SHOP/ WELDING SHOP COMPLEXES  
STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS**



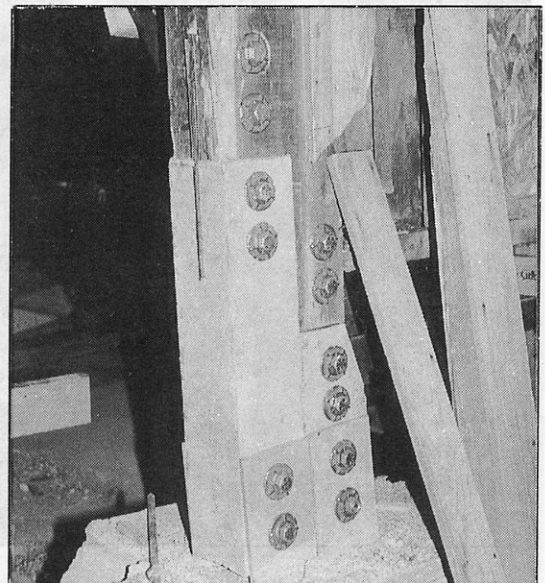
**FORMING NEW POST SPLICE  
PEDESTALS IN MACHINE SHOP IN  
PROCESS BY DENNIS WEATHERALL**



**EAVE TROUGH REPAIR ON THE  
GEO-CHEM BUILDING**



**CENTER KERF PLATE POST  
SPLICE IN MACHINE SHOP**



**BUILDING AND CRANE-WAY  
STRUCTURAL POST SPLICES IN THE  
MACHINE SHOP**

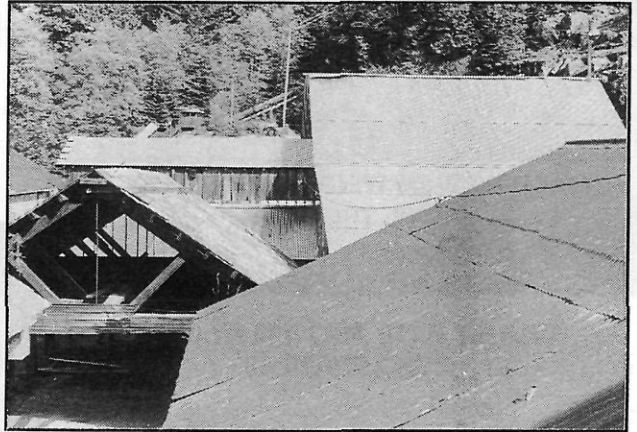


# MACHINE SHOP/ WELDING SHOP COMPLEXES STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS



**CLADDING AND SHEATHING  
REPAIR PRIOR TO PAINTING  
THE GEO-CHEM (COOKHOUSE)**

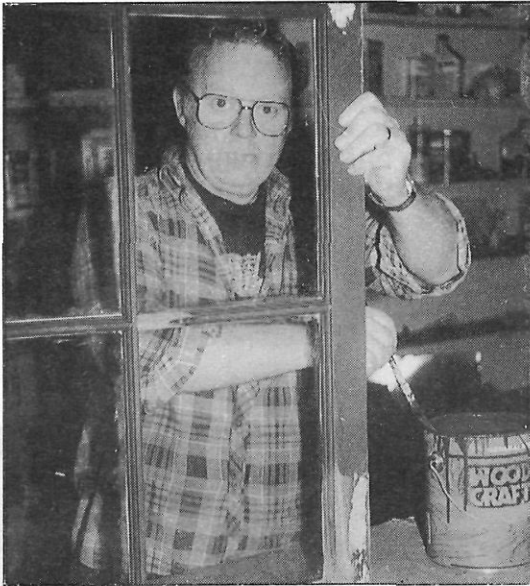
**NEW WELDING SHOP ROOF IN  
BACKGROUND WITH CORRODED  
MACHINE SHOP ROOF  
IN FOREGROUND**



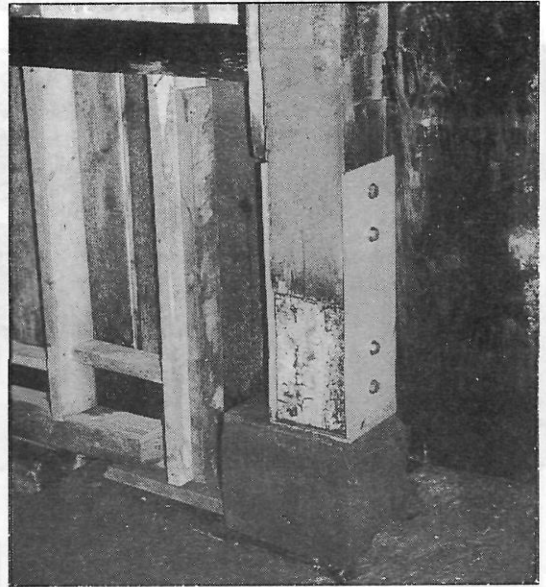
**GAZEBO STRUCTURAL AND  
ROOFING REPAIR AND PARK  
REHABILITATION IN PROCESS**



MACHINE SHOP WELDING SHOP COMPLEXES  
RESTORATION PROJECTS

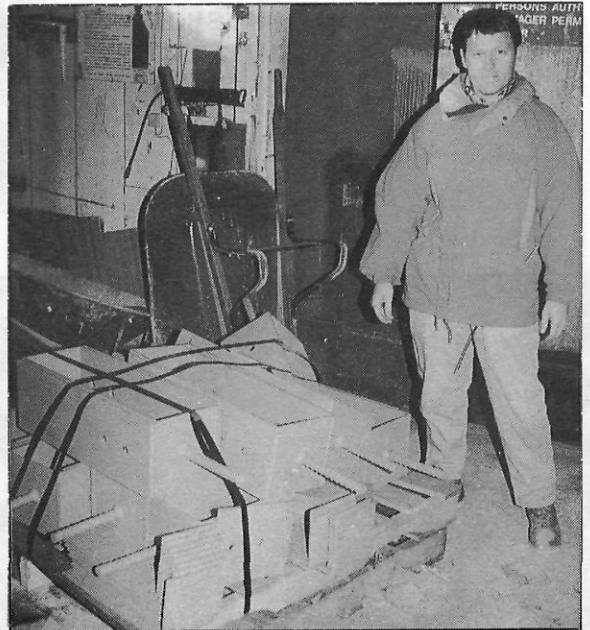


**MACHINE SHOP WINDOW REPAIR BY  
ERNIE TROTTER**



**RECENT POST SPLICE USING THE  
NEW THIESSEN EQUIPMENT  
FABRICATED STEEL SADDLES.**

**THE RECENT SHIPMENT OF FABRICATED  
STEEL HEAVY TIMBER CONNECTIONS,  
NECESSARY FOR THE STRUCTURAL  
STABILIZATION OF THE MACHINE AND  
WELDING SHOP COMPLEXES, ALSO  
INCLUDED WITH A \$1000.00 DONATION  
BY THIESSEN INDUSTRIES,  
TEAM MANUFACTURERS LTD.,  
THE STEEL FABRICATORS.**



CENTER KERF PLATE POST  
SADDLE IN MACHINE SHOP



## ARTIFACTS

The past year has been extremely eventful for Curator/Manager Sherry Elchuk. Last spring Sherry volunteered at the Mining Suppliers, Contractors and Consultants Association of B.C. fundraiser at the Coast Plaza Hotel, attended Mining Week activities at the Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver and also participated at the CIM Conference in October at the Hyatt.

Sherry is presently working closely with the Mining Association of B.C. producing four resource units on mining for teachers. This project is becoming more popular all the time and the Museum is being contracted to put the various units together. The resource units contain rock and minerals specimens in addition to resource materials for the teachers. In order to receive a unit the teacher must attend a four hours inservicing where the teachers that wrote the units share how the units are to be used. Each kit weighs around 30 pounds.

She is also being kept busy being a Director of the Britannia Beach Community Association and is sitting on the Minerals Industry Education Committee and the Mining Week Steering Committee. Recently Sherry spent a week at the 12th Annual Cordilleran Round Up at the Hotel Vancouver.

Last summer was quite eventful for the Museum as an important link to Britannia's past was made. We were fortunate to make contact with the Yip and Takahashi families.



**MARILYN MULLAN, STAN YIP AND  
SHERRY ELCHUK**



**TEACHERS FROM THE SQUAMISH  
DISTRICT ATTENDING AN INSERVICING  
OF THE GRADE 5 RESOURCE UNIT AT  
THE B.C. MUSEUM OF MINING**

The Museum is always interested in expanding its collection of historical photographs, artifacts and Britannia memorabilia.

If you have something you think would be of interest to us, please contact Sherry Elchuk at 688-8735 or 896-2233.

### **RECENT CURATORIAL DONATIONS:**

**Stan Yip** - Black and white photographs of his father Dr. Yip Bing and Baby Book

**Bruce Lowther** - Book

**Douglas Chorlton** - Photograph

### **WISH LIST:**

**Volunteers (Interpreters and Shop Assistants)**  
**Paper Shredder**  
**Miner's boots (sizes 5,6,7,8) for our tour guides**  
**Legal Size filing cabinets**  
**New Members and for our current members to renew for 1995**

### **IN MEMORY OF...**

The staff and Board of Directors of the B.C. Museum of Mining are sad to announce the death of Alice Graney.

Alice Graney age 81 passed away May 1st, 1994 after a courageous fight following complications from heart surgery on November 18th, 1993 in Vancouver General Hospital.

Alice was a long time resident of Mount Sheer (The Townsite) arriving there January 5th, 1943 as a new bride. Alice and her husband John Graney had 3 children: the first twins at Mount Sheer Bruce and Jeanette Graney and then a daughter, Linda Graney. Alice was active in the United Church and helped with school and community activities.

The family left in 1958 when the mine closed and lived in Wells, Hope and Cawston before moving back to Britannia in 1965.

Alice was very active in the formation of the B.C. Museum of Mining. In 1992 she was presented with a certificate of membership from the Britannia Beach Historical Society in appreciation and recognition of the vision and dedication of the Britannia Beach Centennial committee members and the founders of the Britannia Beach Historical Society whose dream became a reality through the establishment of the B.C. Museum of Mining. Alice started out as a member of the committee by selling ore samples to the tourists at a booth on the highway to raise funds for the formation of the Museum.

John Graney passed away in 1971 of cancer and Alice moved to Vancouver B.C. where she lived with her daughter Jeanette until her death. She will be ever remembered by her relatives and many friends for her warm smile, outgoing personality and dedication to her family.

***EDITOR'S NOTE: This was submitted to the Editor by Alice's daughter Jeanette Graney.***

The Museum would also like to acknowledge the deaths of 3 young men who were past employees of the B.C. Museum of Mining. Our condolences go out to the families and friends of Oliver Schulte, Greg Fedoruk and Sean Watson.

The Museum also wishes to recognize the deaths of former Britannia residents who passed away last year. They are Doug Williams, Margaret Berg, Dr. James Lindsay and Donald Stewart.



## THE B.C. MUSEUM OF MINING WOULD LIKE ACKNOWLEDGE:

The B.C. Museum of Mining would like to acknowledge the Greater Vancouver Mining Women's Association for their generous donation of \$500.00 which enabled Sherry to purchase a new battery/surge protector for her computer. We would also like to congratulate the Association on their 20th Anniversary.



**G.V.M.W.A. PRESIDENT MARY KEEN AND  
HER HUSBAND TONY**

Once again, the Museum would like to thank Vin Coyne and Finning Ltd for the donation of a fax machine and \$6,500 which is enabling the Museum to clean up its property. They also covered the repair costs to the backhoe.



**A FULL-SCALE CLEAN-UP OF REFUGE IN  
THE BONEYARD HAS BEEN INITIATED  
THROUGH THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE  
OF FINNING LTD. TO REHABILITATE OUR  
BACKHOE, WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE TO  
THE OPERATION.**

We wish to acknowledge the support of the Honourable Anne Edwards who through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has continued to provide an annual grant of \$5000 to help fund our educational programs.



**MARILYN MULLAN, HONOURABLE ANNE  
EDWARDS, CANDACE KENYON AND RON  
SMYTHE AT MUSEUM BOOTH DURING  
THE CORDILLERAN ROUND-UP.**



**LITTLE BUG COMPLIMENTS OF U.B.C. ENGINEERS**

The Museum would also like to thank Poul Hansen and Blair Craig of Highland Valley Copper for the donation of a specimen of their Highland Valley ore which will be used as a base for the plaque recently received by the Museum to acknowledge those that contributed to the donation of the "Super Truck". This spring the truck will be repainted and the plaque will be installed. Thanks again HVC.



**SPECIMEN OF HIGHLAND VALLEY  
COPPER ORE BEING DELIVERED TO THE  
MUSEUM**



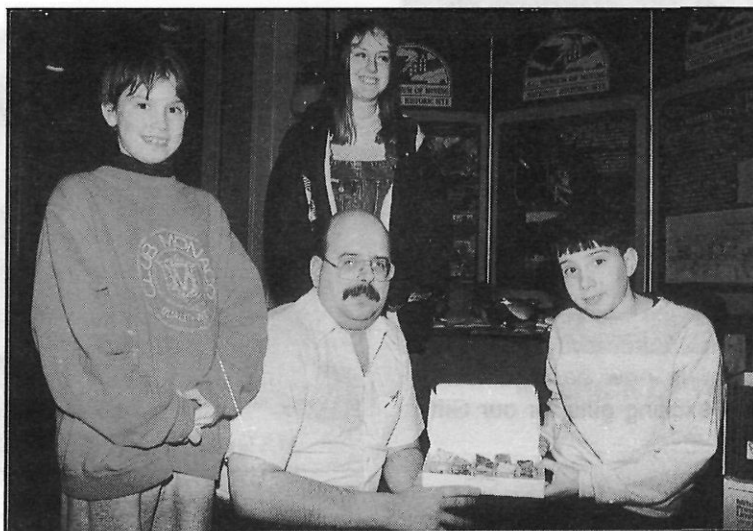
**ROCK AND MINERAL PRIORITY LIST:**

**PLAGIOCLASE FELDSPAR  
ORTHOCLASE  
CHLORITE  
CHLORITE SCHIST  
KYANITE  
BORNITE  
MUSCOVITE  
SIDERITE  
TALC  
TETRAHEDRITE  
TUFF (LAPILLI)  
MOLYBDENITE  
KAOLIN  
PYRITE  
CHALCOPYRITE  
MALACHITE  
AZURITE**

**Also looking for the following:**

**ANDESITE  
ASBESTOS  
CHALCOCITE  
GARNET  
GRANITE  
OBSIDIAN  
QUARTZ  
TRAVERTINE  
SHALE  
SLATE  
RHYOLITE  
GNEISS  
LIMESTONE**

If you are able to supply the Museum with any of the above, please contact Sherry Elchuk at 688-8735 or 896-2233. We require about 200 lbs of each!



**JOE SILVA PURCHASING ANNUAL ROCK KIT FOR HIS SON**

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE B.C.M.M.



## It's a Girl!

Gift Shop Manager and Administrative Assistant Lauri Arneson gave birth last June 15th, 1994 to a beautiful little girl which she named Alexi Abbey Arneson. After six months of maternity leave Lauri is now back at work purchasing new and exciting gifts for our Gift Shop.



## QUARTERLY MEETING OF MINING ASSOCIATION AND SUPPLIERS







**JEAN & RALPH UNDERHILL AND  
PROFESSOR DIANNE NEWELL,  
CO-AUTHORS OF SURVIVORS**



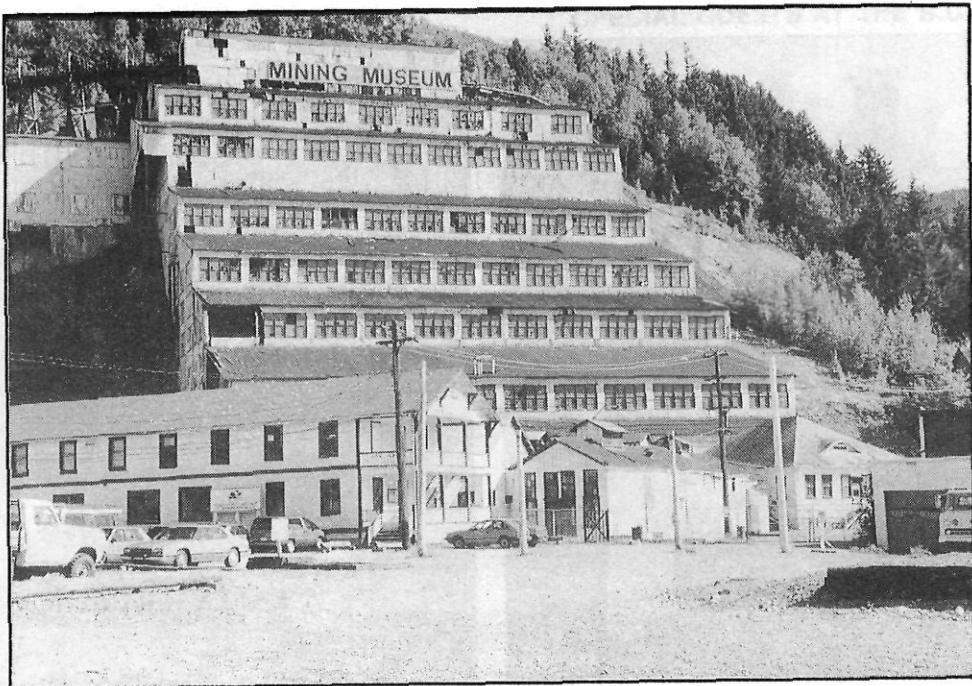
**PROUD NEW OWNER OF  
TWIN GABLES RESTAURANT,  
EILEEN KELLY**



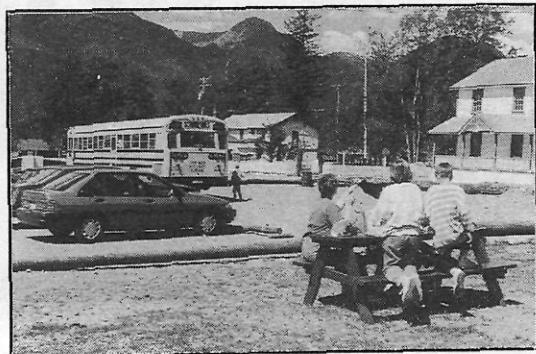
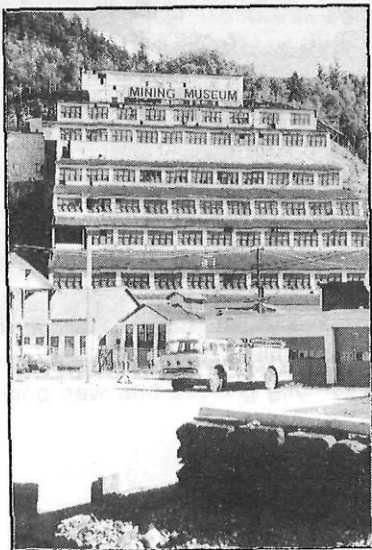
**BRUCE DOWNING CONDUCTING AN  
EXPERIMENT FOR TEACHERS  
ON M.D.A. SPONSORED TOUR**



**INTERIOR OF TWIN GABLES**



**COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 20th BIRTHDAY**







The Britannia Beach Historical Society, the governing body of the British Columbia Museum of Mining, a non-profit society established in 1971 to preserve the material and social history of mining in British Columbia and to educate the public about mining.

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

***PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP FOR 1995!***

**The Museum needs  
your support!**

**FIRST NEW MEMBER OF 1995!**



**MARILYN MULLAN, JOHN KERR AND  
BOARD PRESIDENT TOM WATERLAND**



**The Britannia Beach Historical Society would like to  
acknowledge with gratitude the support of the following,  
whose pledge of \$1000.00 or more has placed them on our  
most honoured list...OUR PATRONS:**

Mr. C.A. Aird  
Les Entreprises de Richard Atkinson Ltee.  
Canada Tungsten Mining Corporation Ltd.  
Esso Minerals  
Dr. Norman B. Keevil  
Laramide Resources Ltd.  
Mr. Jack McGuire (Honourary)  
Mrs. Mary O'Neil (Honourary)  
Mr. James Pike  
Placer Development Ltd.  
Mr. Bob Pollock  
Mrs. Donna Pringle  
Mrs. Iola Mary Ross  
Mr. Robert A. Spencer  
Mr. Roger P. Taylor  
Teck Corporation  
Mr. Terry Thiessen (Honourary)  
University of British Columbia - Dr. David  
Strangway  
Tom Waterland  
Mr. Harold Wright  
Mrs. Florence Laurence  
Greater Vancouver Mining Women's Assoc.  
John Barasko, Min-En Laboratories Ltd.  
W.L. Giachino, Continental Explosives Ltd.

N.C. Croome and Associates  
Princeton Mining Corporation  
Harnischfeger Corporation of Canada  
Bull, Housser and Tupper  
Columbia Chrome Industries  
Permasteel Industries Ltd.  
Lac Minerals  
Ash and Marilyn Mullan  
B.C. Institute of Technology  
Wajax Industries Ltd.  
Ronald Chorlton  
Douglas Chorlton  
Don McLeod, Northair Mines  
B.O. Brynelsen  
Fred Davidson  
Dr. Dianne Newell  
Finning Ltd. (Honourary)  
Highland Valley Copper (Honourary)  
Art Soregaroli  
Robert A. Dickinson, United Mineral Services  
Ltd.  
Dean Dricos, Q & T Plate Sales Ltd.  
Ray Peterson, Thiessen Equipment Ltd.  
Lawrence Thiessen, Thiessen Equipment Ltd.  
Ross J. Beaty, Da Capo Resources Ltd.