



WORKROOM AT WA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
CORNER OF EVERGREEN AND GRAND

FORT VANCOUVER TAPESTRY
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The next steps vital to the finished exhibit are gearing up now - the text and framing.

Each of the panels will require interpretation and explanation. **We need volunteers** to help gather historical information about the scenes depicted on each panel.. DeAnn Wilson, Tapestry Board Chair will coordinate the collection of research materials. Search your memories and attics for materials we might use.

Our number is 360-992-0975.

Suitable framing of the finished Tapestry is vital to its long-term preservation. It must support the weight of the linen and must also protect the stitching from all man-made and natural elements. The design must be flexible enough to fit the configurations required by multiple venues. It will be one of our biggest expenses.

We need your help!

Our number is 360-992-0975.

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Many thanks for future funding of
our newsletter in 2005!!!!

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A STITCH IN TIME

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FORT VANCOUVER TAPESTRY PROJECT

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www.fortvancouvertapestry.com

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well Friends, here we are at the end of another year.....as it comes to a close, I want to personally thank each and every one of you. Surely we could not have come this far without your help. Our community is rewarded and our lives are made richer due to your effort, commitment and generosity. Again, thank you all so very much.

A large scale multi-year community art project of this size, scope and artistic ambition requires countless hours before, during and beyond the 100,000 hours of stitchery. We have been buoyed by the adage that 'many hands make light loads' and take great pride in being part of a closely knit community eager to share our passion for fiber arts and preserving heritage crafts.

Presently we are looking for people with a variety of skills beyond stitchery to join us as we face the many challenges before us...composing a book detailing the panels, framing the Tapestry, exhibition and most importantly, members to serve on our Board of Directors. Please consider joining us throughout 2005 as we continue to make history - one stitch at a time.
Good hopes for the New Year



The staff of the Fort Vancouver Tapestry is committed to moving the project beyond the simple completion of stitching. Our best efforts will not be surrendered to a storage closet somewhere until such time - and by undefined means - that an appropriate site be chosen for installation. We are guided by and accountable to the many who sponsored panels to commemorate their loved ones and community, and the many who have given so generously of their time and energy in the creation of the Tapestry. Our debt to them, and you, requires steadfast dedication to see this project through to its true completion as defined in our by-laws - a properly framed, fully completed Tapestry on display for all to see and enjoy.

Secondly, it is imperative that a text is written and published to expand on and further define the 'moments in time' that have influenced the development and maturity of our community as illustrated in the seventy panels that are the Fort Vancouver Tapestry. As we all know, without such text the Tapestry will lose historical integrity and become a simple - but long - collection of pretty pictures.

Furthermore, traveling the Tapestry is an opportunity with great merit that will greatly aid in the long-term wellbeing and appreciation of our best efforts. It is fundamental to expanding awareness of the Tapestry and exposing it to an audience beyond our immediate locale.

These challenges are nearly as great as the Tapestry itself. The sheer breadth and size of the Tapestry is daunting, as is the search for accommodation and recognition of its scope and artistic merit. This should not deter us. Instead, we are reminded once again that "All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare". To best support our efforts the staff has identified and recommends as essential for 2005—Increase the membership of Board of Directors.

This long-standing issue needs determined effort. The staff looks to the Board to become fully engaged in expanding the scope and vision of its members. Our current Board is composed of members whose primary interest and expertise reside in stitching. Clearly a more diverse Board is necessary to represent the Tapestry, aid in fund raising and to engage the participation of governmental and civic leaders in supporting the installation of the Tapestry in a location and setting that is appropriate.

The traditional and commonly expected role of 501 (c)(3) Board members is to focus on funding and fund raising for the institution they have chosen to represent. This does not suppose that the staff expects the members to foot the bill. It does, however, require active and consistent attention to the primary responsibility inherent in accepting the mantle of member of the Board of Directors. Our expectation is that the Board can serve an aspect of its primary role by contacting people in their sphere of influence and initiating avenues of contact for the staff. This basic responsibility of the Board has yet to be realized and needs prompt attention.

Our mission to celebrate and honor the history of our region will not be accomplished in a closet. It will be accomplished by completing the intent and goal of the Fort Vancouver Tapestry project to present to the world an illustration of the challenges faced and the decisions made that created this 'single place through time'. The Fort Vancouver Tapestry was founded to honor and celebrate the will of community spirit and the fortitude to succeed in seemingly impossible odds. If we fail to follow the very examples we illustrate - -accepting the mantle of perseverance and determination -- we will compromise all that we purport to honor and celebrate. Our "legacy" will not bear mentioning at all.

