

For Immediate Release – March 15, 2010

E. J. (TED) HART RETIRES

Banff, Alberta – After 38 years as leader, mentor, archivist, historian, author, and tireless proponent of the wealth of Canadian Rocky Mountain art, artifacts, and history, E. J. (Ted) Hart retires from the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies at the end of this month.

Board President Tristan White Jones has written a fitting tribute to a man who has been so important to the cultural development of the Bow Valley, and to the essential need to preserve and protect the treasures of our western heritage.

An Enduring Legacy: After 38 Years, E. J. (Ted) Hart Retires

When Ted Hart came to Banff in 1972, a recent Masters graduate in Western Canadian History, I'm sure not even he thought the better part of his next four decades would be spent in service to his new community, the archival profession, a burgeoning foundation, and the interpretation of the cultural history of the Canadian Rockies. He has been a busy man. While authoring more than a dozen books featuring the larger than life characters and institutions that shaped our community, he has worked alongside many dedicated board and staff members to transform the Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation into a world-class archival resource, gallery, and heritage collection. This passion for his adopted community also led him to be part of the movement towards the establishment of local government in Banff, and to take that responsibility one step further by serving as Mayor from 1995 – 1998.

Ted was fortunate to come to Banff at a pivotal time in its development, and I think it is fair to say that the community and The Whyte Foundation's progress have been inextricably linked throughout his tenure. With Ted's hard work and dedication we can look back on many significant accomplishments including the \$3.5 million expansion completed in 1990, prudent management of our endowment properties including development of Peyto Place, acquisition of several historically significant heritage properties, growth in size and scope of our archival and heritage collections, strong standing in the Archival and Museum communities, and connections all over the world. Through his prolific writing, he has put our community's evolution into historical and cultural perspective portraying the likes of Jimmy Simpson, Bill Peyto and Carl Rungius, as well as larger institutions such as the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Brewster Transportation Company.

The Whyte/White family has had the privilege of working with Ted through three generations, always with the knowledge that his actions have been guided with integrity and his dedication to the values of our founders Peter and Catharine Whyte. As one of our community's preeminent historians, Ted's community and institutional memory will be missed, but through his strong mentorship of our new management team, he has left us in very capable hands.

As with many who dedicate their working life to a passion, Ted's enthusiasm, vitality, strength and purpose have been continually fortified by his life partner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Hart for her unwavering support – not only for her husband – but for the Whyte Museum itself. She has always been a wonderful ambassador and member of our team.

On behalf of Whyte/White family and the Board of Directors of the Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation, I wish the Harts a long, eventful, and happy retirement.

~ Tristan White Jones, President, Board of Directors

About the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies welcomes those who are drawn to the power and inspiration of these mountains. We are the gateway for experiencing and enjoying its art, culture and history in order to inspire and cultivate knowledge and the exchange of ideas. Visitors from near and far experience the Museum's galleries, programs, archives and library, heritage homes, museum shop, guided walks, tours and special events.

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