

## STUDENTS CELEBRATE CANADA'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE AT VANCOUVER'S FIRST REGIONAL HISTORICA FAIR – MAY 7 AND 8

April 16, 2004

Over 80 students from Vancouver schools will be coming together May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in a celebration of Canadian history and heritage. They will participate in Vancouver's first regional Historica Fair and by doing so will join nearly 200,000 other young people across Canada involved in Historica Fairs. The Fair is taking place at the Vancouver Museum and the Vancouver Maritime Museum and is open to the public.

Designed to increase awareness about Canadian history and heritage, Historica Fairs allow young people in grades 4 through 9, the opportunity to explore any aspect of Canadian history of interest to them. Using information and imagination to bring history to life, students share their stories and perspectives on Canadian history and find their place in history. Some students will be documenting the richness of family history while others will focus on community, regional and other aspects of our shared traditions and heritage.

"The really exciting news emerging as we prepare for our first regional fair is the overwhelming focus on local stories and local heroes," says regional Historica Fair coordinator, Shannon Steele. "Despite the fact that students could choose any topic they like to do with Canadian history, most have opted for a local story. Topics include Brockton Point: Squatter Village History; Determined Dreamer: The Life and Buildings of Arthur Erickson; John Shorthouse: The Voice of the Vancouver Canucks; The Second Narrows Bridge: The Legacy of the Iron Workers; The History of Woodward's Department Store; My Grandpa: The Runaway Soldier. Steele states, "In many cases, these local heroes are turning out to be mom, dad or grandpa. Many students are focusing stories on their family's journey to Canada and in the process, gain a new found respect and admiration for their parents and grandparents. It's been an extraordinary process to watch unfold." One participant from the regional fair will be invited to the National Historica Fair to be held in Montreal in July.

The Vancouver Museum, Vancouver Maritime Museum, Vancouver School Board and the Vancouver Historical Society have partnered to produce Vancouver's first Historica Regional Fair. Sponsored nationwide by the Historica Foundation for Canadian History, fairs take place in more than 800 communities throughout Canada. (Historica is the organization featuring *Heritage Minutes* most Canadians have seen on TV.)

The Charles R Bronfman Foundation Heritage Project was started in 1991 to increase awareness of Canadian heritage and to create an exciting learning environment for students of history. This CRB Heritage Project has introduced the heritage Fairs Program nationwide by instituting a series of Fairs in every province and territory. Historica now administers heritage fairs.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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