

The Awards Selection

Any individual or organization, resident in Alberta, may submit a nomination. Award winners are not required to be members of the Alberta Museums Association. All nominations are adjudicated by an Awards Jury, consisting of three individual members of the Alberta Museums Association.

It is with great pleasure that the Alberta Museums Association presents the successful Award recipients for 2007.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD



Photo courtesy of Lane's Studio, Calgary

Dr. Trudy Cowan Calgary, Alberta

Nominated by the Alberta Museums Association Board

Trudy Cowan, a leader, mentor, teacher and writer, has, since her arrival in Calgary in 1966, worked tirelessly for the museum community in Alberta

and Canada. Her list of activities and accomplishments in the heritage field is impressive to say the least.

Trudy was a trained Occupational Therapist who shifted to the heritage field when she was hired to head educational programming at the Glenbow Museum in 1969. Following that she became the Curator/Director at Fort Calgary during its transformation from a railway yard to a historic park with an Interpretive Centre. She later served as Executive Director of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, a foundation that provides funding for heritage, archaeological, and archival venues across the province (including the Alberta Museums Association). More recently, as Chair of the Lougheed House Conservation Society and then Executive Director of the historic site, Trudy guided the transformation of the Lougheed House from a forgotten sandstone structure huddled amongst a cluster of older apartment buildings into a fully restored, elegant reminder of the Lougheed family home and its subsequent use by the Canadian Women's Army Corps and the Red Cross. Trudy has also performed a one-woman stage production about two women she greatly admires: Nellie McClung and Emily Carr.

In addition, Trudy Cowan has served on the Calgary Heritage Advisory Board and the Chinook Country Historical Society. Trudy has worked with the Alberta Museums Association and the Historical Society of Alberta and she has served on the International Council of Museums and Canadian Museums Association. She served as Chair on the Heritage Canada Foundation and represented Alberta

"Trudy has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of this province's history. Her service to the Glenbow Museum, Fort Calgary, and Lougheed House Conservation Society make her a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award."

— JUDY SHAPIRO,
Community Relations Director,
Calgary Jewish Community Council

"Trudy Cowan is a remarkable woman whose legacy is already established in her involvement in civic, provincial and national projects of historic importance."

— SHELDON SMITHENS

on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC). As Chair of the HSMBC's Heritage Railway Stations Committee, she led its effort to implement the national Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act. Trudy helped found the Heritage Council of Alberta, as well as the Edmonton, Calgary and Central Alberta Heritage Networks.

As an author, Trudy has written several books on Calgary's history, including *Fort Calgary: To Tell the City's Story*. More recently, she has written a children's book, *Clarence's Engine*, based on the stories of the Lougheed family.

Currently, Trudy is a cultural consultant and she is working to establish opportunities for people who are interested in learning the traditional trade skills required to conserve heritage buildings. She is also Vice President and Project Advisor for the Little Synagogue on the Prairie Committee and is working to move an historic Synagogue to Heritage Park.

In acknowledgement of her dedication to the preservation and sharing of Alberta's heritage, Trudy has received the Canada 125 Medal, City of Calgary Heritage Award, Millennium Award for Outstanding Contribution to Alberta History from the Historical Society of Alberta, Heritage Canada Foundation National Award of Honour, and a Honorary Doctorate from the University of Calgary.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Fred Kofin
Jasper, Alberta

Nominated by Karen Byers

Fred Kofin's first experience volunteering occurred in Germany after the Second World War when he worked with the Polish Committee for the United Nations Refugee Organization. Over time, he became the administrator of twelve refugee camps. After he immigrated to Canada, as part of the International Refugee Organization, he worked at a beet farm in Manitoba before he was sent to work on the railway in

Yellowhead, British Columbia, west of Jasper. While passing through Jasper, he knew this was the place he would like to call home for the rest of his life. After settling in Jasper in 1948, it did not take long before Fred was an active member of the Jasper community.

Fred's commitment to the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society (JYHS) started in 1978. While acting as Treasurer, he made a motion to establish a Museum Construction Fund. In 1985, the partially constructed Elks Hall was purchased by the Society for this purpose and finished seven years later. The fact that the Society was able to have a mortgage-burning party in 1988 is a testament to Fred's fundraising abilities. Almost thirty years later, Fred is still the Society's best fundraiser. He continues to serve on the JYHS board as treasurer and throughout the years he has organized and run raffles, book sales, flea markets, Oktoberfests, concerts, bake sales, and has been personally responsible for the sale of more chocolate-coated almonds than he cares to remember. At the age of 93, Fred continues to run used book sales on long weekends during the summer. Held four times each summer, Fred's book sales are very labour intensive: boxes and boxes of used books must be carted from a storage trailer to the museum basement and sorted, restocked and ultimately hauled back to the trailer until the next sale. This fundraiser generates about \$6,000 each summer for the Museum Building Fund.

The boxes of chocolate-covered almonds for sale around Jasper are another one of Fred's many projects. Fred personally orders the chocolates, stocks the

"Fred brings a sparkling sense of humour to any task. I am glad that he continues to be very active at the museum. He is a valuable volunteer and deserves to be recognized for his long term and high level of commitment to the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives."

— CYNTHIA BALL, Vice-President, Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society