

To All Branch Members

Shortly before Christmas, an open letter was unfortunately written by and posted to the public website of the Museum Foundation as an End-Year Message. This letter was not approved and should not have been sent on behalf of myself and the Directors of the Foundation.

If you have read it, I apologise profusely. The letter has been removed from the website. The comments made in it do not reflect the beliefs of myself or the Board. I would like to assure you that this letter was written neither at my request nor was I aware of it until after it had become public. Regardless, as the President of the Foundation, I take responsibility for it and again, sincerely apologize to all of you, on behalf of myself and the Directors. In the future, all posted documentation will be pre-approved by the Board.

I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to all those Branch Members who contribute in any fashion towards the Foundation, and the Museum, through their donations of memorabilia, personal time, gifts, or advice. It is only through your continued generosity that the Museum continues to function, grow, and remain a focal point for the Branch's history and future.

For those who are unaware, I would like to take a moment to explain who we are and the function we provide. The Foundation was formed to shepherd the funds remaining from the initial Museum construction project in order to provide support to its operation in perpetuity. About twenty years ago, the Branch Fund, which had operated separately, was folded into the Foundation; ever since, the Foundation has provided funds annually to support Branch activities, including the operation of the Branch office, support to Branch unit activities, scholarship funds and other charitable functions such as the Emergency Fund. It is this dual nature of the Foundation – support to the Museum and the Branch - which I hope will inform your decision to support us in the future. I should not say “support us” but rather “support ourselves” since the Foundation supports the Branch and we are, all of us, the Branch.

In closing, I again sincerely apologize for the letter and assure all of you that the Foundation, *your* Foundation, recognizes and appreciates all your contributions to your Branch.

E. A. Scott McLean
President, C&E Museum Foundation