

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015** The MSA Museum Society is pleased to announce the publication of *Abbotsford, from Village to City: A Commitment to Excellence and Innovation*. Edited by local poet and historian Robert Martens and MSA Museum Society archivist Anneleen van Dijk, this new book highlights Abbotsford's remarkable growth and development in industry, health and community care, justice services, culture, and environmental consciousness. "It is inspirational to see so many people from such a wide range of backgrounds contributing to this project. This book represents Abbotsford's journey from a village to the City it is today" says van Dijk.

With written contributions by more than forty local authors, most of whom were personally involved in the stories they tell, the result is a collection of essays that sparkle with intimacy and passion. These are stories that need to be told. Topics explored include the origins and evolution of UFV, Community Services, and the Abbotsford Airshow, as well as the story of our city's populist resistance to the construction of the SE2 power plant in Sumas, WA.

On Monday, May 25th at the 7:00 pm City Council Meeting, the first copy of a limited edition printing of the book *Abbotsford, from Village to City: A Commitment to Excellence and Innovation*, will be presented by Mayor Henry Braun, Councillor Patricia Ross and Dorothy van der Ree, retired Executive Director of the MSA Museum Society, to former Mayor George F. Ferguson, to whom the book is dedicated.

"I am excited to share these amazing stories with Abbotsford residents. I know that many outside our city will find them fascinating as well," said Abbotsford City Councillor and MSA Book Committee member, Patricia Ross. "Our community has repeatedly demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence and innovation and these stories are evidence of that. Many initiatives have had success provincially, federally, even internationally."

"Abbotsford, From Village to City, provides a unique look into the many talented people and organizations in our community," said Abbotsford Mayor, Henry Braun. "When the Village of Abbotsford first formed in 1889, no one could have predicted where we would be today. This book reminds all of us that we live in a very unique and special City."

Years in development, the book was the brainchild of former librarian David Giesbrecht. Dorothy van der Ree, retired director of MSA Museum Society, guided the book through to its conclusion with the support of an extremely committed volunteer book committee.

The MSA Museum Society will hold a book launch on Thursday, May 28 from 6 to 9 pm at the Trethewey House Heritage site (2313 Ware Street). Writers will be present to sign purchased copies of *Abbotsford: from Village to City* and refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited to attend this exciting event.