



# Corporate *NO: R114*

# Report *COUNCIL DATE: May 14. 2001\_*

<b>REGULAR</b>			
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>May 9, 2001</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Manager, Heritage Services</b>	<b>FILE:</b>	<b>8096-001</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Weaving Web Site</b>		

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the presentation for information.

## INTENT

The Hooser Weaving Centre collection is the subject of a new and dynamic web site that is attracting international attention. A brief visual presentation will be provided to give Councillors an overview of the contents of the web site.

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The collections of Honey Hooser were donated to the City of Surrey in 1984. They were housed in the Surrey Museum until 1988 when they were relocated to two buildings in Elgin Heritage Park. The collection includes weaving and spinning equipment, textiles, library and archival resources.

From 1989 to the present, the Museum has had a cooperative agreement with the Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners Guild to offer public demonstrations and to make the facility accessible to the public on a limited volunteer basis. The Museum also coordinates an annual schedule of courses and workshops for the public of all ages.

While these services were being established, the Museum was undertaking an inventory and assessment of the varied collection. In late 1999, the Surrey Museum received a grant of \$11,600 from the Department of Canadian Heritage – Museums Assistance Program – to make the collections of the Hooser Weaving Centre accessible to the public. Starting in February of 2000, the staff began to catalogue the collection using new computer technology that included voice activation and digitization.

This is a unique collection and special to Surrey. Honey Hooser was a prolific weaver and the collection includes textiles made or collected by Honey, her library, examples of patterns, correspondence, and equipment. The Jacquard Loom is one of the unique highlights of the collection and has recently been restored to operation.

The purpose of the cataloguing project was to provide a foundation for a virtual museum exhibit and public access via the internet. At present, the location of the collection is very small and inaccessible to many researchers and craft specialists. The collection, once fully catalogued and digitized, was readily transferred to a web platform and has been operational since February 2001.

The visitation to the site has been exciting and positive. In February, there were 223 visits, in March 770 visits and in April, 745 visits. In total, there have been 83 hours spent by visitors viewing the web site. Sixty percent of the visits have come from North America with the United States accounting for 53% of the visits and Canada representing 7% of the visits. The remaining 40% of the visits have been from Europe (United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Norway, Italy), Asia (Korea, Thailand, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, Cyprus, Japan), and Oceania (New Zealand and Australia).

The web site is linked to the City of Surrey and the City's web site is linked to the weaving site. We are also linked to the web site of the Hand Weavers of North America. One reviewer left a message that they felt that this site was the best virtual museum site they had ever seen.

The web site address is [www.surreyweaving.com](http://www.surreyweaving.com) and contains information on the location of the collection, the biography of Honey Hooser, an exploration of the museum and archival collections, information about the history and technology of weaving and a listing of public programs, courses and events for the year.

The collection cataloguing process is ongoing and additional details are being added regularly. The web site is being updated, as new information is available. In August 2002, the site will host delegates attending a major weaving conference in Vancouver. Over 3,000 delegates are expected and many will visit this site to see Surrey's collection.

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Parks, Recreation and Culture

DH:dlg