

joint research project with East China Normal University — one of the most prominent post-secondary institutes in China. Highlights of the ambitious program include Canadian-designed foreign-language teaching projects used in over 600 post-secondary Chinese institutes, computer-aided learning, distance education, and studies on the role of fantasy and fable in children's language acquisition.

Likewise, the Faculty of Law has been equally active in strengthening international links. Dean Bill Neilson notes that the faculty is unique in its regional focus on Southeast Asia and the Pacific. It offers students a course in Southeast Asian Law and sponsors a Southeast Asian Program on Ocean Law to train Asian officials in the Law of the Sea Convention. Professors and government officials from the ASEAN nations attend a university-sponsored law and economic development workshop in Thailand. Some of the school's students have worked for law firms in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and Jakarta.

## Cultural Potpourri

A thriving cultural community enriches Victoria. There is theatre for all ages and tastes. The Bastion Theatre, for example, offers productions ranging from Shakespearean classics to contemporary Broadway. Celebrating its 25th anniversary next year, the Bastion stages its productions in the historic McPherson Playhouse — a refurbished 1912 vaudeville theatre.

For the young and young at heart there is the nationally famed children's theatre, Kaleidoscope, which tours extensively in North America. Last year it staged a successful three-month tour of Japan. Kaleidoscope's artistic director, Elizabeth Gorrie, has twice travelled to Israel to work with the National Theatre for Children and Youth in Tel Aviv.

What makes Kaleidoscope so successful? According to executive director Colin Gorrie, it's the theatre's unique style. "The style of our company deals with imagery. We rely less on adhering to a script and

more on the skills of movement, dance, mime, mask and puppetry."

"The finest collection of Japanese art in North America is in the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria," explains Michelle Poirier, manager of public relations and marketing. A recent acquisition of a 10-tonne, one-storey, copper-roofed Shinto shrine is the only complete shrine outside Japan. Victoria's temperate climate enables the large keyaki wood structure to be displayed outdoors in the natural setting of a Japanese garden.

Last summer, the gallery also mounted an exhibit of paintings and sketches by the late Chinese artist Xubihong — still considered China's foremost contemporary artist. Xubihong's work is noted for its unique combination of Asian discipline with European subjects. This was the first time many of the pieces had been shown outside China. Madame Xubihong attended the exhibit's opening and an interview with her was broadcast via satellite on the

national television service of the People's Republic of China.

One of Canada's best-known artists was Emily Carr (1871-1945) whose vigorous and colourful paintings are a visual record of both traditional native culture and west-coast landscape. Victoria's Emily Carr Gallery offers a moving perspective on the artist's work.

## Preserving an Ancient Art

The highly developed ancient civilization of the Pacific coast natives is hauntingly evoked in their cedar totem poles. The world's finest collection of totem poles is at Victoria's Thunderbird Park. As the century-old poles decay, they are copied to preserve the traditional designs and keep alive the ancient art that is an intrinsic part of Victoria's history and present-day character.

The Gate of Harmonious Interest, a gift from Victoria's twin city, Suzhou, China, marks the entrance to Chinatown.

