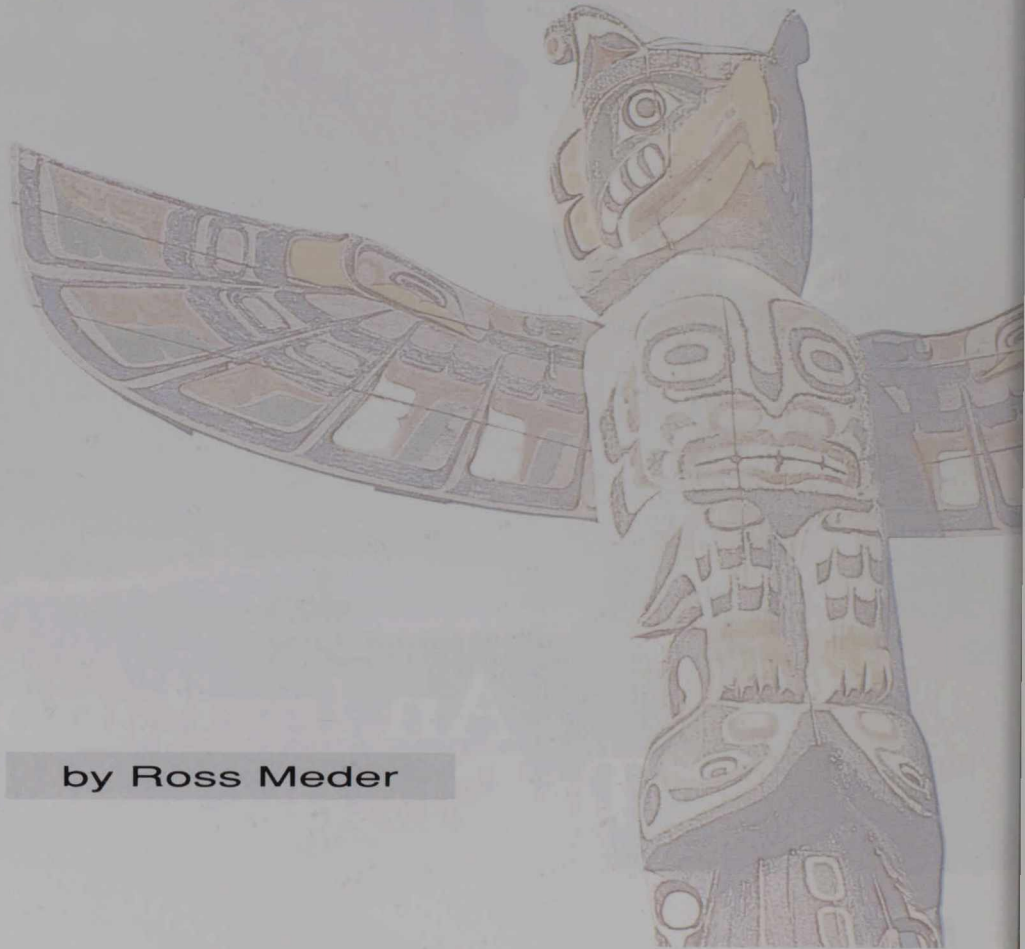


Totem Pole

STORY



by Ross Meder

Built on the theme “Canada and Hong Kong: Friends Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”, Festival Canada '91 is about the time-tested and increasingly close cultural and trade ties that bond the people of Canada and Hong Kong together.

Long after the many activities and events of Festival Canada '91 have ended, a symbol of enduring friendship and of Canada's commitment to Hong Kong and its future will stand tall in the busy, urban district of Tsim Sha Tsui.

A 31-foot cedar totem pole will be presented to the Governor Sir David Wilson by Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney on May 24 as a lasting gift to the people of Hong Kong. Later it will be dedicated with a traditional Tshimishan ceremony when it is installed in Kowloon Park on July 1, Canada Day and the final day of the Festival.

Ms Dale Campbell, the acclaimed Tshimishan artist who carved the totem with her assistant, will also carve a seven-foot totem during demonstration at a number of locations throughout the Festival.

Born in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Campbell is of Tahltan-Tlingit ancestry and is a member of the Wolf Clan. The Tahltan are from northwest British Columbia and the Tlingit originate from southeast Alaska.

Many of Campbell's relatives live in Telegraph Creek, a small village on the Stikine River where her father, Harry, and mother, Peggy, were born. Campbell says she tries to visit family members in Telegraph Creek at least once a year; the visit gives her an opportunity to hear the old Indian stories and stay in touch with the traditional lifestyle of her people.

Campbell says she finds much of her inspiration in the myths and legends of the Tahltan and Tlingit people. Through her