

## **The Mother Superior of the Nelson Museum**

**Sean Arthur Joyce**

When I was writing my *Heritage Beat* column for the *Nelson Daily News*, I became something of a basement rat at the Anderson Street Museum, an orphan locked away endless hours doing research. That cold, artifact-crammed cinderblock building was redeemed by one person—Shawn Lamb. Eminently capable, she kept the museum running on a thin thread and God knows how many grant applications. But what really impressed me was her kindness. I've never seen anyone so gently, generously in charge of anything.

She was Our Lady of Compassion, who could always be counted on for a little extra yard work to keep us young working men and women in groceries or cat food. With a mind for exactly the right historical clue, Shawn could be relied on to guide me through every research quandary. I was lucky enough to have her as editor for my first book of Kootenay history, *A Perfect Childhood*. She was the ideal collaborator—astute, precise, and with a heart as big as Elephant Mountain.

Shawn, if you'll pardon the religious metaphor, you were Mother Superior of Our Hearts, and remain so. Thank you for everything you brought to our lives.

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