



space at the new marine education and research centre in Homer, Alaska. The 30,000-square-foot centre is run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will include 5,000 square feet of exhibit space, an auditorium, an environmental education lab, research facilities and the headquarters of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. AldrichPears designs exhibitions for museums, zoos, science centres and botanical gardens.

**Detroit Creative** has been chosen to handle branding for **Smartire Systems**. Detroit was selected from a shortlist that included **Realm Communications** and **Karyo Communications**. Smartire develops and markets tire monitoring systems.



**HATS OFF**

**Ann Kaplan** has been chosen winner of the start-up award from the **Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year** program. Kaplan started **Medi-card Finance** in 1996 and has grown the company, which finances medical procedures not covered by the health-

care system, to the point where it now has more than 3,500 plastic, reconstructive and dental physicians offering the financing.

The **Pan Pacific Hotel** has been awarded the AAA five-diamond designation for the hotel and the **Five Sails Restaurant**. Of the 42,000 hotels and restaurants listed in the AAA *TourBook* guide, only 108 received the five-diamond rating and the Pan Pacific is the only location to receive the designation for both the hotel and the restaurant.

**BC Hydro** has donated \$10,000 to the B.C. branch of **Canadian Parents for French**. The money will support the **Concours d'Art Oratoire**, a French language public-speaking contest. The contest brings 2,000 grade six to 12 students together for the provincial finals.

The **Resort Municipality of Whistler** and the **Whistler/Blackcomb** development have won an award of excellence from the **Urban Land Institute**. The award, for recreational large-scale projects, was given for the master plan development of Whistler Village and the Blackcomb benchlands.

**Multiactive Software** has donated \$40,000-worth of e-commerce software to **BCIT**. The software, **ecBuilder** and **ecBuilder Pro**, will be used by students in the professional sales, mar-

keting, tourism and technology management programs.

The annual environmental design awards from the **Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C.** have been handed out. The concept and assessment award was given to the **City of Burnaby**, **CH2M Gore** and **Kerr Wood Leidal Associates** for the **Stoney Creek Stormwater Management Plan**. The plan brought together an integrated stormwater management program and is the basis for the new master drainage plan for the Lower Mainland. The design, construction and monitoring award went to **MA Turbo/Engine Design** for a continuous water injection system for diesel engines. When the system was tested on a **BC Ferries** ship, it reduced emissions and fuel consumption.

The Vancouver chapter of the **National Association of Asian American Professionals** has won two NAAAP national awards. The Vancouver chapter was singled out for the award in community involvement and shared the communications award with the Boston chapter. The NAAAP encourages and supports initiatives that further the betterment of the Asian community by increased communication, awareness, interaction and exchange of ideas among members. ♦