

## Eric Harvie

Hello class, today for Show & Tell I'm going to tell you about my trip to Downtown Calgary.

One day during winter break my Mom decided that we should go exploring Downtown. It was very cold but we were glad that we were going to be inside for the most part. While we were on the sea train, we decided that we should explore the Glenbow Museum and Devonian Gardens. I had been to the Glenbow Museum once but I couldn't remember it too much, so that's why I was very excited to visit it again. I also was interested in seeing the new exhibits.

I had been to Devonian Gardens many times but I didn't know much about its history. I wondered who thought of such a fantastic idea to create an indoor garden in the core of Downtown Calgary.

The Glenbow Museum was great. I got to learn about the First Nations people and how it was like to live back then. After we finished exploring the Museum, we were very hungry so we went to the food court to get some lunch. Since there were no seats in the food court, I went to look in Devonian Gardens to see if there were any seats empty that we could sit at. There were no empty seats but there was one bench that had some space. I asked the person who was sitting there if I could sit there. He said "sure". In addition, the person introduced himself to me. He said his name was Eric and I said "nice to meet you Eric".

While I was waiting for my Mom and my brother to bring lunch, I was talking to Eric. I shared with him that I wondered who would have thought of such a great idea to build an indoor garden right in the middle of Calgary. He said that all the money came from his hard work - working in the Oil and Gas Industry. I told him it was an extraordinary idea because then you could always enjoy a little bit of summer in the dead of winter. He said, "well I'm glad you like it". He also told me that it opened in 1977. Devonian Gardens was designed by J.H. Cook Architects and Engineers and donated to the City of Calgary by the Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations and Calford Properties. The cost was 9 million dollars!

The Gardens contained more than 20,000 plants representing 135 tropical and local species, decorated with waterfalls, bridges, koi ponds and sculptures by local artists, showcased as a permanent art exhibition.

"Wow sir, you sure know a lot", I said. He then said, my full name is Eric Lafferty Harvie and I'm the person who came up with the idea.

Now, I was curious... I just went along with Eric because he might be telling the truth. But he could not be telling the truth. Eric said that in Calgary we have these freezing, bone-chilling winters that always last so long that they go until spring and maybe summer. I wanted to create a little joy by making an indoor garden - it would be relaxing too.

Eric told me that his passion was giving back to the community so that's why he donated to many charities. Eric is a philanthropist. He told me that he also set aside money for the creation of the Glenbow Museum. He wanted the people of Calgary to learn, remember and be amazed, as well as have fun! I told him what I knew: The Glenbow museum's art collection comprises 33,000 works, mainly dating from the 19th century to the present, primarily historical, modern, and contemporary work from or pertaining to the northwest of North America. The museum's

collection includes artifacts from Western Canada, and various other cultures around the world. In addition, the museum houses a collection of gems and minerals. I enjoyed talking to Mr. Harvie. I was thinking all about him when I came home. I told my brother about it and he said “just Google it”. So I did! “No way!” I exclaimed. It's true! Everything that Eric told me was true. It was definitely a unique experience, considering Mr. Harvie died in 1975!

He is also such a great hero that there's even a provincial park dedicated to the Harvie family. I was so amazed at the things that he did. In the short time that we spoke, I noticed that he had the qualities of citizenship, leadership, excellence. The way he showed excellence was by working hard and being the best that he could be. The way that he showed citizenship was that he gave back to that community - both with his money and time. Lastly, the way he showed leadership was by taking the initiative and having a vision to do the right thing.

Everyone was intrigued with my story and then one of my classmates asked me “did Mr. Harvie give you anything from his time”? I said “great question, actually he did”. He actually gave me this coin from, it is from the year 1892. The year that Mr. Harvie was born. The whole class was amazed - that was a long time ago! I passed the coin around so everyone could have a closer look. They asked me so many questions about my adventure and the coin.

I was so proud to share my experience with Mr. Eric Harvie with my class. He has inspired me to work hard every day, and to give back to my community. In a few years, I want to volunteer at the Calgary Public Library. When I get older, I want to be an audiologist. Then, I would like to use some of my money to build a special hearing center for children who have hearing loss at the Alberta Children's Hospital. I would also like to donate money to help find a cure for many diseases, and viruses (like COVID-19). Mr. Eric Harvey is definitely an Alberta Champion, and I want to be just like him!