

“Raven was going along . . .”

at the raising - 18 August 2006

Raven raven sleek and clever
High atop this cedar tree -
Tell us how you got here
And how it came to be
You crossed great Canada's heartland
And then the Atlantic sea....

From Chemainus in Cowichan lands
I flew three thousand miles
Then I sailed across the ocean
To be carved in Prestonpans
And be painted by your children -
I'm the work of many hands

My epic tale waxed on here
When Lak Tun and Splash my axe-men
Suffered threats of deportation
And were damn near sent back home again
But thanks to carver Kenny Grieve
And the help of local young 'uns
I'm ready now to watch you feast
The “Prestoungrange Totem Pole”

But of course a pole can't talk -
A pole is like a poem
And it's here to tell the story
Of Prestoungrange - it's home

Prestonpans men!
Prestonpans women!
Prestonpans children!
Strong in your history!
Strong in your forefathers!
Strong in your community!

Open up to the world!
This is YOUR totem pole!

*John Lindsay
Poet Laureate*

