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## TIME CAPSULE IN CANADA'S NEW EMBASSY IN BERLIN HOLDS UNIQUE TREASURES

*In April 2005, Canada will officially open a new building designed to house Canada's Embassy in Berlin, Germany. Located in the heart of the city, the Embassy has been designed and built to reflect Germany's importance to Canada as a G8 partner and a central player in the European Union.*

A treasure chest containing gifts from different regions of Canada is prominently displayed in the main reception area of Canada's new Embassy in Berlin. The gifts, symbolic of the friendship between Canada and Germany, were contributed to the sealed chest by Canada's provincial premiers and territorial leaders at the groundbreaking ceremony in 2002. The time capsule is a red cedar bentwood box built by **Larry Rosso** and painted by First Nations artists **Mervyn Child** and **Calvin Hunt**. A bentwood box is a traditional storage chest of the Pacific Northwest coast First Nations.

Larry Rosso is considered one of the finest master carvers on the Northwest coast. Mervyn Child works with his uncle Calvin Hunt, and is well known for his work in masks, totem poles and canoes. The works of Calvin Hunt, who comes from a distinguished and artistic family, have been exhibited throughout Canada, the U.S., Japan and Europe.

Calvin Hunt's design for the Embassy's cedar box incorporates images of a whale and sea monster, both Hunt family crests. Using predominantly black form lines with a red secondary design, the front of the chest shows the whale and its head, and the back shows its body. The lid has the image of a mythical sea monster. The box ends are decorated with masks symbolic of guardians protecting great treasures.

The Embassy's bentwood box contains gifts unique to each Canadian province and territory, including a Peace Tower flag and letter from former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien; a carved loon, the official bird of Ontario, by woodcarver Stephan Robinson; letters from schoolchildren in Manitoba; and a mastodon ivory carving of a ptarmigan by Yukon artist James Kirby.

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