



## New Community Centre Celebrates Official Opening

Date: Monday, September 17, 2007

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — This afternoon, Mayor Alan Lowe was joined by City Councillors, senior government representatives, Paul Gerrard, President of the Burnside Gorge Community Association, and community donors to celebrate the official opening of the new Burnside Gorge Community Centre.

"The City of Victoria is very proud to be contributing almost \$2.5 million towards this important community project," said Mayor Lowe. "With this new building the Burnside Gorge Community Association will be able to further enhance the incredible array of services and programs they offer to our citizens - programs that for many represent a vital lifeline to housing, education, child-care, counseling, recreation, and friendship."

"Canada's New Government is proud to work in partnership with all orders of government to get things done for the people of Victoria," said MP James Lunney on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. "This \$2 million joint investment by Canada's New Government and the Province of British Columbia will enable the Burnside Gorge Community Centre to play an important role in building healthy and prosperous communities in Victoria."

"This Centre goes a long way in strengthening community ties, identity and pride, and in supporting local recreation and cultural activities," said Community Services Minister Ida Chong. "I'm pleased that through this partnership of governments we're able to help increase access to local facilities, providing something for people of all ages."

"Words cannot express the joy community members are feeling as they enter this truly unique and innovative centre. This beautiful new facility, targeting gold LEED® standards and green principles, will be a lasting legacy in the Burnside Gorge community," said Paul Gerrard, President of the Burnside Gorge Community Association.

The new 15,113 square foot facility replaces three older buildings and allows the Centre to deliver all of its services and recreational programs under one roof. The facility features a state-of-the-art youth drop-in centre, complete with an Internet breakfast bar, mini-movie style theatre, and a *Dance, Dance Revolution* system. There is also a large family centre where parents can socialize comfortably while their children play, an activity centre large enough to hold exercise classes and banquets, a child care centre with a fenced outdoor play area, and a community kitchen that will serve all of the facility's programs.

Project Architect Shiv Garyali came up with the idea to set the new facility on what had been considered an unusable slope in the Cecelia Creek ravine and to develop a building design that reflects the wavy shape and contours of the land and creek.

Green building initiatives were used extensively to reduce the amount of energy, water and materials required to construct and operate the building. The Centre's green roof is one of the largest publicly accessible green roofs in Western Canada and is considered a partial restoration of an endangered Garry Oak ecosystem. The roof is planted with native, drought-resistant plants that once established will require no irrigation. In addition, the green roof, combined with the parking lot's open-grid paving system and other stormwater treatment measures, will ensure that all stormwater for the building is treated and absorbed onsite, protecting the integrity of Cecelia Creek.

Energy efficient heating, ventilation and lighting systems, will save 55% more energy than the minimum national requirements for energy efficiency in new buildings. The City is committed to purchasing green power to run the building for the first two years.

Low flow faucets and toilets, motion controlled office lighting, low emission paints, sealants and carpeting, and a green cleaning pilot project, will all serve to reduce the building's impact on the environment, and provide substantial long term savings in operational costs.

Total capital costs of \$5.2 million made possible through the Canada-BC Infrastructure program include a City of Victoria contribution of almost \$2.5 million, and contributions of \$1 million from both the Federal and Provincial Governments. Over \$1.1 million was raised through extensive community fundraising efforts by the Burnside Gorge Community Association for building construction, equipment and furnishings.

A public open house will be held at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Centre is located at 471 Cecelia Road.

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