

For Immediate Release

INVESTING IN VICTORIA KIDS – COAST CAPITAL LOOKS TOWARDS FUTURE RETURNS IN TODAY'S YOUTH WITH A \$250,000 CONTRIBUTION

Victoria...March 20th, 2006 - Tomorrow's leaders and adventurers got a boost from Coast Capital Savings when they announced a \$250,000 investment in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation's Create a Ripple fundraising campaign for their Wilderness Camp. The funds will be designated to create endowments funds for both Youth Leadership and Adventure Based Learning programs (ABL) – thereby ensuring that the benefits are felt both today and in the future.

"We are very excited about being a part of this commitment to the children, youth and their families in Greater Victoria. The Camp will give kids a place to go where they can learn important skills, challenge themselves and push their limits in a safe and supportive environment." **Coast Capital Savings Quote**

Adventure Based Learning offers experiential education opportunities to a wide variety of user groups through challenge activities, developing outdoor skills and wilderness trips. ABL programming can be designed to meet the needs of a variety of user groups – from children with behavioral issues to school groups and can be an effective management tool for corporate groups. Ultimately ABL will provide operating revenue for camp – reducing reliance on government and ensuring sustainability. Boys & Girls Club Services is in the process of building a four sided climbing tower as part of the expansion of their ABL program that includes a challenge course, rock climbing and canoe trips, with program lengths from half day to multi-day.

In 2004 the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation purchased 98 acres of fields, forests, ponds and trails in the District of Metchosin for \$1.62 million for the use of Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria. In addition to the youth justice programs that they have operated there for over 20 years, this property also accommodates summer day camps, outdoor education and adventure-based learning programs.

The Create a Ripple campaign that was launched in the fall 2005 is focused on raising funds to secure the purchase of the camp property located in Metchosin and developing an infrastructure for expanded programming. Within this vision are plans for cabins, an outdoor education centre, and green elements included in building design and site use planning.

"The Camp is an important piece of the Boys & Girls Club commitment to supporting the potential in each and every child. Our programs are developed to bring out the best in kids – so that they believe in themselves and their own abilities. Giving kids the room to explore and a place to play is part of helping them discover who they can be," says Dave Curtis, Co-Chair of the Create a Ripple Campaign. "The importance of preventative programs cannot be stressed enough – research has clearly shown they reduce the costs of remedial programs down the line," he added.

Create a Ripple has successfully raised \$2 million of its \$4.2 million goal. Support has come from community businesses and individual donors including Coast Capital Savings, Thrifty Foods, RBC Financial, Butler Brothers, Colliers International, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada,

TD Bank, Canadian Tire, the Charlton Smith Foundation and from the Boys & Girls Clubs "family" – Cabinet members, Board members, Patrons, Members and Staff.

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Contact

Kate Mansell

Director of Development

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation

250.384.9133 or 250.478.3872

kmansell@bgcvc.org

www.bgcvic.org

www.createaripple.net