

For Immediate Release

HMCS VICTORIA SAILORS BATTLE A BARN FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Victoria....May 29th, 2006 –

The submarine HMCS Victoria, the first warship to be named for the capital city of British Columbia, has been in drydock since July 2005 to tackle the more than 30,000 maintenance operations. It is expected to stay there until early spring of 2007 when the Victoria-class submarine is given the green light to exit Esquimalt harbour for operations.

Under the Command of Lt.-Cmdr Tim Paterson, the boat has a complement of 53 sailors, some of whom took up residence in B.C. for the first time when they arrived last year. While the submarine is in drydock the sailors have been keeping busy with community projects, one of which was helping Habitat for Humanity with one of their building projects in Sidney.

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria will also be benefiting from the sailors' time away from the sea. This week they will be working on demolishing an old barn that is on the Club's camp property in Metchosin.

"The barn, long past its prime, is a safety hazard," said Dave Curtis, President of the Boys & Girls Clubs Board. "It's wonderful to have the help of the personnel from HMCS Victoria to take this down in time for our summer camp operations."

Petty Officer David Rossiter added "We have found a great home in Victoria and while our submarine is being readied for sea it is important to us to serve the community in other ways. This is a great project for us to undertake."

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.

A capital campaign, "Create a Ripple" was launched in the fall 2005 and is focused on raising funds to cover the purchase cost of the camp property 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.

Create a Ripple has successfully raised over \$2.2 million of its \$4.2 million goal. Support has come from community businesses, foundations and individual donors including Coast Capital Savings, Thrifty Foods, RBC Financial, Butler

Brothers, Colliers International, Dave Wheaton Pontiac Buick GMC, Island Farms, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Foundation, TD Bank, Canadian Tire, Western Canadian Bank, the Charlton Smith Foundation and from the Boys & Girls Clubs “family” – Cabinet members, Board members, Patrons, Members and Staff.

-30-

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