

CABIN OFFERS NEW ADVENTURES FOR BOYS & GIRLS

For Immediate Release
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Victoria, BC - Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria has received support from Canada's largest community foundation, Vancouver Foundation, for its Create a Ripple Campaign. A grant of \$50,000 will help fund a cabin as part of the plans for our Wilderness Camp.

"Currently Boys & Girls Club Services programs are limited to day programs because we don't have accommodation for overnight stays. We are delighted that Vancouver Foundation is helping make it possible to expand the range of programs we can offer children and youth," says Dave Curtis, Create a Ripple Co-Chair.

Boys & Girls Club Services is looking for an individual or organization to match this contribution. Cabin design incorporates wheel-chair accessibility, a covered deck and washroom and will house up to 8 children. Green elements are incorporated into the design and building materials. Total cost for the cabin construction is estimated to be \$100,000.

"For someone looking to support the campaign this is chance to see their contribution transform into something tangible – since we have already secured half the funds we would be able to realize our vision very quickly. Their contribution will have a huge impact on kids who may never have spent a night out of the city," says Kate Mansell, Director of Development.

The cabin is just one component of a \$4.2 million plan for the Wilderness Camp, located in Metchosin. The Create a Ripple Campaign is raising funds for an outdoor education centre, activity shelters, endowments and expanded programming. Launched in the fall of 2005 the campaign has raised over \$2.2 million.

Support for Create a Ripple has generously come from various community businesses, foundations, and individual donors. They include Coast Capital Savings, Thrifty Foods, RBC Financial, Butler Brothers, Colliers International, Island Farms, Dave Wheaton Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd., Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, TD Bank, Canadian Tire, Viking Air, The Charlton Smith Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, and from the Boys & Girls Clubs "family" – Cabinet members, Board members, Patrons, Members and staff.

For more information, please contact:

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Backgrounder

Create a Ripple Campaign

- In 2004 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria was offered first right of refusal to purchase 98 acres of green space which British Columbia Building Corporation had identified as "in excess of need"
- Since 1984 Boys & Girls Club Services has been using this Wilderness area in Metchosin as a place for youth to learn life skills such as team building, leadership, anger management, effective communication and healthy decision making
- The 98 acre property contains ponds, hiking trails, fields and 40 acres of forest
- In the fall of 2005 the Create a Ripple capital campaign was launched
- The goal is to raise \$4.2 million to retire the mortgage, expand current programming, establish endowment funds, develop an infrastructure which includes an outdoor education centre, cabins, outdoor activity shelters, a floating classroom and incorporates green design in construction and site planning and work towards sustainability by offering for profit programming to corporate groups.
- To date the campaign has raised over \$2.2 million
- April 28, 2006 marked the official opening of a 42 foot, four sided climbing tower
- The climbing tower is an important element of the adventure based learning program - total cost for the tower was \$77,099

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria

- The first club in Canada was founded in 1900 in Saint John, New Brunswick and Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria opened in 1960.
- The primary mission of Boys and Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria is to enhance the quality of life in our community by supporting children, youth and families in achieving their potential.
- Boys & Girls Club Services operating budget for 2005/2006 is \$4.5 million
- Funds raised are invested in this community and stay right here in Greater Victoria.
- Each Boys & Girls Club in Canada is autonomous. A local volunteer Board of Directors is responsible for governing operations. The Board consists of 6 officers and 12 directors. In addition, our Foundation Board consists of 4 officers and 4 directors.
- Currently Boys & Girls Clubs employs 61 full-time and 67 part-time staff members.
- Boys & Girls Club Services provides essential community programs and services including community clubs located in Esquimalt, Central Saanich, the Westshore and downtown as well as at the Camp in Metchosin. Boys & Girls Club Services also offers a wide variety of specialized services for specific sectors of "at risk" youth in the Greater Victoria area.

