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Comox Valley Economic Development
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Comox Valley – Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Cultural Capital Award Designation 'Significant' for Comox Valley

Only Community in BC to Receive 2007 Honours

From renowned events to a dynamic regional Art Galley, from unique Francophone activities to inspiring First Nation culture; the Comox Valley is known as a hub for rich artistic and cultural activities. Thanks to the designation as a 2007 Cultural Capitals of Canada, Comox Valley arts and culture is taking a major step forward in its development.

"This designation recognizes the Comox Valley's leadership on a National level as an incredible arts and culture region," said Mayor Starr Winchester, City of Courtenay, "The municipalities and K'omoks First Nation brought together some of the best initiatives in the area and the impact will be significant to our diverse arts and culture groups."

The Comox Valley Land of Plenty Cultural Capital application was given the nod for \$750,000 by Heritage Canada and then matched by the grant stakeholders, municipalities and First Nations to 1.5 million worth of activity. The Comox Valley was the only community in BC to be given the 2007 designation.

The award is assisting 21 diverse Comox Valley arts and cultural initiatives to add new components to existing events or create new cultural activity in the region. "The year is very much driven around

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creating legacy and building capacity for groups in the community,” explained Winchester.

The Comox Valley Cultural Capitals theme is ‘Land of Plenty; a celebration of creative abundance’. Taking its name from the First Nations word k’omoks, which means “land of plenty,” the area has developed an ambitious year-long program of cultural activities. From the creation of an original musical theatre production to the restoration of aboriginal cultural traditions, Land of Plenty 2007 is engaging both residents and culture and arts groups while driving visitation to the renowned cultural region.

Dynamic Group Form Comox Valley Cultural Capitals Stakeholders:

May 2007

19-21 Empire Days Celebration (Village of Cumberland)

June 2007

4-10 Seafest Shellfish Festival (K’omoks First Nation)

22-23 Miners’ Memorial Days (Cumberland Museum & Archives)

July 2007

July 1-August 5 Symphony By the Sea (Courtenay Youth Music Camp)

6-8 Vancouver Island MusicFest

July 24 – August 5 ‘Waiting for the Parade’ (Showcase Theatre Festival)

28 I-Hos Arts Festival (K’omoks First Nation)

August 2007

3-6 Filberg Festival (Filberg Park Association)

4 LobsterFest (CV Francophone Association)

4-6 Nautical Days (Comox Nautical Days)

11-12 Obon Tour (Village of Cumberland)

17-19 Big Time Out – Village of Talent (Village of Cumberland)

September 2007

7-9 Local Colours Festival (CV Arts Council)

15 Multicultural Celebration (K’omoks First Nation)

February 2008

16-24 Taiwanese Lantern Festival (Village of Cumberland)
Heritage Week (Cumberland Museum & Archives)
Lunar New Year Dinner (Village of Cumberland)

March 2008

Cabane a Sucre (CV Francophone Association)

Other Award Year Initiatives

Artist in Residence (CV Art Gallery)
Ginger Project (Showcase Theatre Festival)
Greenways to Galleries (CV Economic Development)
Cultural Development Coordinator (CV Economic Development)

- 30 -

For questions and comments:

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