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Comox Valley Economic Development
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For Immediate Release – July 10, 2007
Comox Valley Artists Proud Cultural Capital of Canada
Ambassadors in Ottawa

In recognition of the designation of 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada, a delegation from the Comox Valley attended Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa, on July 1, representing the rich cultural and arts heritage of the region.

K'omoks First Nations artists Andy Everson, Rick Everson and Randy Frank performed traditional dancing and greeted people from all over Canada. The three artists were invited to perform and host a booth where they invited visitors to sew on a button, creating a new button blanket in the design of a large Canadian flag for Canada Day.

"I sewed a string of buttons onto the maple leaf to give visitors an idea of how to do it', said Andy Everson. "Many people took part in sewing on buttons--kids and adults alike. In fact, the space beside the blanket was almost always occupied by a crowd wishing to take part."

The tent was situated in the Aboriginal Village portion of the Parliament grounds. The artists decorated the tent with cedar boughs, shipped via air from the Comox Valley, as well as large photos depicting the beauty of the Comox Valley and other significant regalia supplied by the K'omoks First Nation.

The artists spent the entire day greeting people enjoying the festivities on Parliament Hill and in the Aboriginal Village. "A lot of people wanted to know where we were from," observed Everson. "We ran into people from various points on the Island and they were quite pleased to see us." The delegation posed for photos, while

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wearing their K'omoks First Nation regalia, and were fantastic ambassadors for the Comox Valley.

At the final performance of the day, Rick Everson wore the newly completed Canadian flag stylized Button Blanket. The construction of the blanket was designed to be viewed as a symbol of Canadian unity between the K'omoks First Nations peoples and all other Canadians.

Also present, representing the Comox Valley as a Cultural Capital region on Parliament Hill, was the Nova Voce youth choir. The choir performed for the crowds during the massive celebration.

Cultural Capital of Canada initiatives will continue throughout 2007 and well into 2008. Upcoming CC events to watch for include the I-Hos Arts Festival on July 28th, and a host of events on the August 4th long weekend; Filberg Festival, LobsterFest, Symphony by the Sea and Nautical Days, followed by Showcase Festivals' Waiting for the Parade August 7 to 19.

Contact Julie at CV Economic Development at 334-2427 for more information.