



**May 3, 2008**

## **Community Celebration Marks Opening of Robson Valley Community Centre**

The doors to one of BC's most beautiful community centres officially opened today. Representatives from provincial, regional and municipal governments joined with community partners to celebrate the official opening of the Robson Valley Community Centre. Most of the labour and suppliers for the construction of the \$2.4 million dollar facility came directly from the Robson Valley area.

"This is a great day for McBride," says Prince George Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond. "I am very proud of the partnerships that have allowed the creation of this beautiful facility. Everyone involved worked so hard to ensure that the community centre would serve the Valley for many years to come. Great job everyone!"

The centre is a beautiful 7581 sq ft multi purpose facility that can house public events, gatherings and meetings. It is also home to the Regional Emergency Operations Centre which will provide a well equipped nerve center from which to manage local emergencies. The facility is situated in McBride and is a showcase of the beauty of incorporating wood into building design. The Community Centre will house local events and be available as an economic driver making it possible to bring significant conferences, and the like, to town. It will be promoted along with the Recreation Centre, the Curling Lobby and other local spaces as a complete package of opportunities.

The construction and operation of the Robson Valley Community Centre was made possible through a unique partnership between the Village of McBride and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. The Village of McBride took the lead role in the construction of the facility and partnered with the Province of BC, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, McBride Community Forest Corporation and the McBride Community Hall Society to share in the cost of building the community centre.

"We wanted this Community Centre to be reflective of the community and the people who live here. To achieve that, we knew it had to be built by local people using local suppliers, and we are incredibly proud of the results and invite the people of this community to share in that pride as they enjoy the Robson Valley Community Centre for years to come," says McBride Mayor Mike Frazier.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will take over the operation of the facility, and has already seen incredible interest in the building. "We are pleased to partner with the Village of McBride, and sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the building. We know once everyone sees how beautiful and accommodating the hall is, it will be well utilized. We have already received numerous booking requests," says Ken Starchuk, Regional District Director for Area H – Robson Valley-Canoe.

"The McBride Community Forest Corporation is proud to support the Robson Valley Community Centre. Our significant financial contribution is an example of how we are using our success to meet our objective of giving back to the McBride community and making it a better place to live," says Allan Frederick, chairman of the McBride Community Forest Corporation.

The McBride Community Hall Society raised a total of \$63,000. \$57,000 will go to cover the costs for the hardwood flooring in the hall. The remaining funds will be used to recognize donors on the donor wall and pay for some kitchen supplies. Chairman Len Downing says the money came from donations from corporate sponsors, local businesses and individuals. "We are grateful to everyone who contributed," says Downing.

Funding for the Robson Valley Community Centre was provided by the Province of BC – Towns for Tomorrow program and Olympic and Paralympic Live Sites Program, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, the Village of McBride, McBride Community Forest Corporation and the McBride Community Hall Society.

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