

February 3, 2009

Art for Willow Creek Pump Station

The City of Campbell River is combining information and art with new signs on the Willow Creek Pump Station. Three signs installed today are consistent with the City's sand-blasted cedar sign standard. One sports the City logo and facility name. The other two showcase a First Nations salmon and a First Nations eagle by Campbell River Indian Band artist Mark Henderson.

"These signs are emblems of cultural heritage all Campbell River residents can take pride in," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "The community spirit we showcase in the signs at this landmark compliment and celebrate our remarkable natural setting and our heritage."

The Mayor describes Mark Henderson as a *"perceptive and talented Northwest Coast artist, who works in traditional styles and sometimes strikingly innovative contemporary styles with a long history of making artistic contributions to Campbell River, particularly his restoration and repainting of the totem poles in the longhouse a couple years ago. Those totem poles were originally carved 35 years earlier by his father, the late Chief Sam Henderson."*

Henderson recently completed painting the house front of the Campbell River Big House for Ceremonies, undertaking a challenging 88 by 30 feet. He began painting traditional Kwakiutl designs at the age of eleven under his father's guidance and works mainly with acrylic paint on paper, often producing limited edition silkscreen and giclee prints from his original paintings. He has a unique style related to the old art of the Kwakwaka'wakw people, in the carvings of Mungo Martin, Henry Speck, Willie Seaweed, and in numerous carvings in and around Alert Bay.

"We extend our thanks to Mark for continuing to share his talent in our community, and we express our gratitude to his parents for encouraging his early artistic development and the celebration of his heritage," the Mayor adds.

Construction of the Willow Creek pump station was completed in the fall of 2006 at a total cost of \$1.16 million. The facility provides sewer service to the developed portions of Campbell River south of Willow Creek, and is designed for easy upgrades to accommodate future community growth and possible connection to Strathcona Regional District's Electoral Area D.

Facility design was by Dayton & Knight Ltd located in North Vancouver, and the general contractor was Campbell River-based Kinetic Construction.

"The facility includes a fully contained backup generator so sewer service can be maintained in the event of electrical disruptions. It also includes state of the art ultraviolet odour control technology for consistent public enjoyment of the waterfront," explained Councillor Roy Grant at the unveiling.

Located adjacent to the professionally engineered boat ramp, the building's architectural wood and art features were designed to be low maintenance and to blend into the waterfront and neighbouring park features. Public washrooms were integrated within the building design, and they appear to be well used and appreciated by the community, Councillor Grant added.

"With the recent completion of the parking lot, this area now provides an even better location for residents and visitors to enjoy the spectacular Campbell River waterfront," Councillor Grant summed up.

– 30 –

Contact: Ron Neufeld, General Manager Operations 250-286-5765
