



Official Opening of Poet Laureate Legacy Artwork

Date: Monday, February 2, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tomorrow morning, Mayor Dean Fortin will officially unveil an original artwork that commemorates the contributions of Carla Funk, Victoria's first Poet Laureate. He will be joined by Funk and Glenn Closson, a local artist, who's design was selected for the legacy piece.

The media is invited to attend the official opening of the Poet Laureate Legacy Artwork.

When: Tuesday, February 3, 2009, from 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Southeast corner of the intersection at Government and Broughton Streets

From 2006 – 2008, Carla Funk fulfilled the role of Poet Laureate with grace, working hard to raise awareness and appreciation of poetry in the community. During her term, she composed nine poems and read her poetry at Council meetings and numerous community events, including the Annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize Gala Awards. She organized an annual Valentine's *Love, Poetry and Chocolate* event, featuring love poems by local poets. In addition, Funk visited schools and daycare centres, and wrote a poem that is etched in granite at the children's Watering Can in Beacon Hill Park.

Artist Glenn Closson's design incorporates nature into an urban setting and consists of a stylized, 4.5 metre metal tree – its branches intertwined around a lamp post. Weaved among its leaves are metal ribbons, patinaed to look like pewter, with dark charcoal inset letters of Carla Funk's poem, *Hide & Seek*.

Hot dipped galvanized and hand painted, the branches and limbs are a dark copper colour and the leaves are a dark green, copper patina.

A certified welder and blacksmith, Closson opened Crescent Moon Forge & Ironworks in Victoria 12 years ago. His work can be seen in Government House, the Provincial Legislature and numerous private properties.

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For More Information:

Katie Josephson
Director of Communications
Office: 250.361.0210 Cellular: 250.217.8343

For more information about Carla Funk, visit: www.victoria.ca/residents/artscl_ptlrl_funk.shtml