New *Water Wall* Mural Celebration at Crystal Pool

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2011

VICTORIA, BC — The media and the public are invited to attend a gathering tomorrow to celebrate the completion of the *Water Wall*, a vibrant, new 28-panel mural at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. The artwork is a community art project developed in partnership between the City of Victoria and the Vancouver Island School of Art.

Acting Mayor Charlayne Thornton-Joe will be joined by Art School Executive Director Wendy Welch, and Celine Berry, one of 17 adult students who participated in the mural project, for the unveiling of a celebratory plaque. Guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the mural, meet the artists and watch a synchronized swimming performance by the visiting Edmonton Auroras, a high performance team that is holding its Spring Training Camp at Crystal Pool this week.

What: Crystal Pool Mural Celebration and Synchronized Swimming Gala
When: Thursday, March 31, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Where: Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, 2275 Quadra Street, Pool Deck

Approximately 2.5 metres wide and 30.5 metres long, the *Water Wall* features abstract and representational water patterns and designs that work together as a whole to complement Crystal Pool. Each panel has been carefully prepared to prevent water, moisture or chlorine from damaging the artwork.

Last fall, the City approached the Vancouver Island School of Art to see if their students could create a new mural for the pool. Wendy Welch invited her students to submit designs featuring blue “water” themes. The 115 designs submitted by 42 student artists were shortlisted to 28 murals by 17 artists, with some artists creating more than one panel.

The previous mural, painted by Victoria High School students, was close to 20 years old and showing its age. Decommissioned in February, pieces of the mural are being reused by the City’s *Art Street* program which teaches youth ages 11 to 14 the difference between street art and graffiti.

The Vancouver Island School of Art is an accredited, private post-secondary contemporary art school, established in 2004. The philosophy of the school is to offer art education to adults with and without art experience. For more information, visit: [www.vancouverislandschoolart.com](http://www.vancouverislandschoolart.com)

---

For More Information:

Kate Friars, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
250.361.0355

Wendy Welch, Executive Director
Vancouver Island School of Art
250.380.3500