



## **Coast Hotels & Resorts Selected to Manage New Chilliwack, B.C. Hotel**

*Property to Open this Summer Following \$5 Million Renovation*

**Vancouver, B.C. – March 3, 2009** – Coast Hotels & Resorts today announced that it has been selected to manage a new 110-room hotel in downtown Chilliwack, B.C., which was recently purchased by its parent company, Okabe North America Inc., for \$7.3 million.

The hotel, which was previously managed by Rhombus Hotels & Resorts, located at 45920 First Avenue in Chilliwack is undergoing an extensive \$5 million interior and exterior renovation and will open in June 2009 as the Coast Chilliwack Hotel.

“Chilliwack’s location as the gateway to the Fraser Valley, a short distance from three border crossings, makes it an ideal destination for leisure and business travelers,” said Graeme Barrit, President of Coast Hotels & Resorts. “At a time when meeting planners and travel agents are striving to provide value for every dollar spent, we’re confident the Coast Chilliwack Hotel will be recognized as a preferred destination for industry conferences and events.”

“We are proud to have a prestigious name like Coast Hotels & Resorts coming to our community,” said Mayor Sharon Gaetz of the City of Chilliwack. “This firm’s investment in Chilliwack represents a vote of confidence in our local economy and tourism potential.”

“Having Coast Hotels & Resorts in the community is a great asset for the City of Chilliwack,” said John Jansen, President of Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation (CEPCO). “We believe that the presence of a recognized hotel brand like Coast Hotels & Resorts will be a major draw for the city enabling it to attract an increasing share of conference and convention business.”

The Chilliwack hotel renovation will involve a complete redesign and upgrade to each of the 110 guestrooms. The exterior of the property is undergoing a substantial makeover including new siding and a new roof. Additionally, the lobby, restaurant, lounge, and meeting and banquet facilities are being upgraded to complement the revitalized look and feel of the guestrooms. New plumbing is being installed. The business centre expanded and the fitness facility updated and outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment along with a refurbishment of the pool area.

The hotel is ideally located in the heart of downtown Chilliwack, a short distance from Chilliwack Heritage Park, the 5,000-seat Prospera Centre, home of the Chilliwack Bruins WHL hockey team, and the new Chilliwack Cultural Centre Project, which will include an art gallery, a 500-seat performance theatre, music instruction rooms, arts and crafts studios and related amenities.

The Coast Chilliwack Hotel represents the fifth hotel property operated by Coast Hotels & Resorts in the Lower Mainland. Included in these properties is the \$65 million, 20-storey, 220-room Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in downtown Vancouver, which is presently under construction and scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

Over the past year, Coast Hotels & Resorts owners, including Okabe North America Inc., have committed more than \$110 million to capital projects and renovation programs at Coast hotel properties in western Canada. This includes a \$5 million upgrade of 179 guest rooms, public areas and meeting rooms at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, B.C., \$2.5 million for renovations at the Coast Fraser Inn in Williams Lake, B.C. and \$1.3 million for a new roof, expansion of the fitness facility and refurbishment of the lobby area at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta among other renovation projects at CH&R properties.

Coast Hotels & Resorts has also been aggressively expanding in western Canada. Over the last four years, Coast Hotel & Resorts has added 13 properties to the chain's portfolio. The company recently opened hotels in Sun Peaks and Williams Lake, B.C. and Edmonton, Alberta. With the opening this year of new hotels in Chilliwack, Lethbridge, Alberta and downtown Vancouver, Coast Hotels & Resorts will have 41 hotels with 5,517 rooms in Canada and the U.S.

#### **About Chilliwack, B.C.**

Located in the heart of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack is an hour's drive from Vancouver, on the doorstep of the Pacific Coastal Mountains and close to three border crossings. The thriving community and surrounding area offers a multitude of recreational experiences such as river rafting, horseback riding, hiking, waterskiing, wind surfing, kayaking, boating, mountain climbing, mountain biking, golfing and world-class fishing.

#### **About Coast Hotels & Resorts**

Coast Hotels & Resorts is a leading hotel chain in western North America. The company's philosophy of serving its guests through a superior standard of value, hospitality and service enables its continuing expansion. Coast Hotels & Resorts now owns, manages and franchises 41 hotel and resort properties located throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories, the Western United States, Alaska and Hawaii. Visit [www.coasthotels.com](http://www.coasthotels.com) or call 1-800-663-1144 for more information.

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