



VANCOUVER COAST & MOUNTAINS

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For immediate release

Award Winning Snow Sculpture Team comes to Whistler: Canadian National Snow Sculpture Team returns for 3rd year

WHISTLER, B.C. - Get ready for not only one, but two fantastic new snow sculpting creations coming to Whistler this February as part of WHISTLER CELEBRATION 2010™ presented by Whistler Arts Council and Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. The Whistler Arts Council is pleased to announce the return of the *Canadian National Snow Sculpture Team* for the third year in a row. Along with *The Snow Drifters: Team Alberta*, the masterpieces will be sculpted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily on February 27 to 29, 2008.

Last year the *Canadian National Snow Sculpture Team* took three days to sculpt their First Nations inspired piece. The sculpture incorporated the Olympic torch and the Four Host First Nations logo. The piece of artwork lasted well past the final day of sculpting, allowing a week for visitors to take in the beautiful sight before, during or after their day skiing.

Both teams will work on Whistler Mountain, near The Roundhouse, to take advantage of crisp temperatures and ideal conditions for sculpting in snow. *The Canadian Snow Sculpture Team* consists of team captain, Peter Vogelaar with artists David Ducharme and Carl Schlichting from Winlaw, British Columbia. “We have been sculpting snow since 1992 and all of us have many years of experience working with other media” said Vogelaar. “Our sculptures are intended to create a sense of wonder and surprise, both in the subject matter and use of the medium. With the sculptures being of such an ethereal nature, we strive to create images which will live long in the memory of the viewer.”

The team travels extensively to exhibitions and competitions in Japan, Korea, USA, Italy, France and Belgium among others and are recipients of several awards. They were awarded the *Jury Prize* and *People’s Choice Award* at the Torino competition coordinated by The International Association of Snow and Ice Sculpture during the 2006 Winter Games.

The *Snow Drifters* is led by team captain Delayne Corbett, along with Will Rice and Michael Rapati. Born in Nelson but currently living in Edmonton, Corbett predominantly sculpts with natural elements such as snow, ice, clay, stone, wood and bone. He attempts to highlight and accentuate the natural disposition and unique qualities of each medium. Corbett manipulates each medium to take on the aspects or feelings of other elements. The uniquely random result of sculpting in any medium frequently astonishes, and tends to trigger the viewers imagination and senses.

WHISTLER CELEBRATION 2010™

Experience Whistler's cultural core in celebration of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. A dynamic month of theatre, music, snow sculpting, film screenings and literary soirees, under the sun or under the stars. From The Village Square to the top of Whistler Mountain - continue the celebration.

The Whistler Arts Council is a registered charity established in 1982 with a mandate to integrate the arts into the fabric of Whistler. Annual events and programs include: WHISTLER CELEBRATION 2010™, Out of Bounds: Tales from the Backcountry, *ArtWalk*, Whistler Children's Art Festival, Summer Art Workshops on the Lake, ARTrageous, Bizarre Bazaar and an annual *Performance Series*. WAC also provides annual student art awards and bursaries, member group grants, resources, and information to artists, the community and outside organizations. WAC acts as a referral service, information network and co-programmer incorporating local arts and culture in numerous other events and programs in the community.

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