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### **2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show a Great Success Visitors and Children Choose Their Favorites**

**Sooke, BC – August 6** – Once again, the Sooke Fine Arts Show brought in droves of visitors to the Sooke Region to view the largest juried fine arts show on Vancouver Island. Over 6,500 unique visitors attended this year's show, many of them participating in the vote for the prestigious People's Choice and Children's Choice Awards.

The winner for People's Choice is Anne Swannell for her lovely acrylic on canvas, "Passing Tulips in the Rain." The Children's Choice this year was June Hunter's acrylic painting "White Horse," a beautiful rendition of every child's dream of the perfect birthday gift, a horse of their own with a flowing mane and tail.

"Show sales this year were excellent. We sold about one-third of the art works during the show and our gift store sales topped last year's, with an increase of 40 percent in dollar sales," said Evonne Black, show Chair. In addition, many artists generously donated pieces to the show for the raffle and sealed-bid auctions, all of which were great successes. "We are especially pleased that in such a tight economy so many people chose to spend their time and hard-earned dollars here in the Sooke Region," added Evonne Black.

Celebrating the Sooke Region was part of this year's show activities. The Taste of Sooke Event shared the spotlight on Thursday evening with the kickoff of the Sooke Regional Tourism Association's new Sooke, Wild by Nature, tagline, logo and website.

The 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show also honoured four individuals, Betty Tully, Marion DesRochers, Ron Burnett and Joan Taylor, plus the Municipality of Sooke, the Sooke News Mirror, a Black Press Paper, and the Times Colonist with Community Spirit Awards. "We simply cannot put on our show without the support of the entire community. Every year we try to honour some individuals and organizations that go over and above the call of duty and help so much to make the show possible," said Evonne Black.

The show ended its ten-day run on Monday evening, August 3. On Tuesday and Wednesday, in just two short days, volunteers see to it that the entire show is packed away for another year, that artists pick up their work and remaining gift shop items, and that purchaser's pick up their new art. Thursday morning the SEAPARC venue transforms back into a hockey arena as ice is laid down for the coming sport's season.

Next year's show is scheduled to open to the public on Saturday, July 24, 2010. For the next month or two, the Sooke Fine Arts Show's over 250 volunteers will be able to relax a bit and look forward to next year's activities.

Backgrounder

The Sooke Fine Arts Society presents the Sooke Fine Arts Show, the premier juried fine arts show on Vancouver Island, each summer. The Society, a volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 2006, promotes awareness of the visual arts and appreciation for local artists from Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands.

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