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## **OPEN HOUSE AT NEW SOOKE FINE ARTS SOCIETY OFFICES**

**Sooke, BC – April 16** – The Sooke Fine Arts Society, the non-profit organization that brings the annual Sooke Fine Arts Show to Sooke, has a new, permanent home in Sooke. The new office is at 1-6631 Sooke Road in the Seaview Business Centre adjacent to Odyssey Fitness.

“We are excited to finally have a permanent home for both the Society and for the Show. For the first two years of the show our spring/summer office space was donated, first by Jim Merrill and last year by Royal LePage,” says Evonne Black, President of the Sooke Fine Arts Society. “Now we can have a year-round physical presence in Sooke.”

In order to share the excitement with everyone, the Society is opening its’ doors to the community in a combined Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce mixer and Open House, on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5pm until 7pm. “We’ll be having soft drinks and wine plus a variety of *hors d’oeuvres* to share with the public,” say Bev Petow, SFAS board member and past president.

Volunteers will be on hand to talk about the SFAS and plans for the 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show. Volunteers are an essential component in putting on the show, and there are plenty of options for anyone in the community to join in. Anyone interested can chat about volunteer opportunities with other SFAS Committee members at the open house. Opportunities range from working for a few hours during the show, to set-up and painting, or to telephoning and security.

Submission forms will be available for any local Island artist who wants to submit up to three pieces of their work for consideration by the jurors. Deadline for submissions is a postmark date of May 29. Last year, 244 artists from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands showed work in the 2008 Fine Arts Show. Fifty-six of those artists were from the Sooke region.

Anyone unable to attend the Grand Opening can call for more information at 250-642-7526, email [web@sookefinearts.com](mailto:web@sookefinearts.com) or check the website at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com).

### 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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