

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Sooke Awards Grant to 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show

Sooke, BC – June 12 – Last Tuesday evening the District of Sooke Council approved a grant for the 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show in the amount of \$7000, making the municipality one of the major sponsors for the show again this year. “Sponsorship such as the Sooke Municipality has provided is critical to our ability to put on the show each summer,” said Evonne Black, Sooke Fine Arts Society President.

Last year, the 2008 Sooke Fine Arts Show attracted over 7500 unique visitors into the Sooke region during its ten-day summer run. “The Sooke Fine Arts Society is one of many worthy recipients to receive financial support from the District of Sooke,” said David Bennett, District of Sooke Councilor. “SFAS is an integral part of our thriving fine arts community, and this summer event is a major contributor to the South Island economy and to the Sooke area in particular.”

“Many of our sponsors provide in-kind services *in lieu* of cash,” Black explained, “allowing us to directly reduce our expenses.” Each year, Tom Lee Music not only provides a grand piano, but moves it, sets it up and tunes it as well. “Even more locally, Sooke Electric, Sooke Moving and Storage, Road’s End Contracting, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, and Mitchell & Co. are huge supporters,” adds Black.

Of course, support comes from farther afield as well. BC Direct Access and Canadian Heritage both provide province-wide grants. The Times Colonist, the regions daily paper, is another primary supporter of the show, as is The Ocean 98.5 radio station.

Of course there are numerous other show sponsors, drawn from many Sooke Region businesses and individuals. “Sponsorship is available at many levels. Anyone who wishes to be a show sponsor, or to simply donate to the Sooke Fine Arts Society, can contact the SFA Office at 250-642-7256 or email web@sookefinearts.com for information.

The 2009 Sooke Fine Arts will open to the public at 10 am on Saturday, July 25 and will be open every day for ten days, and all but the final evening, until at least 8 pm. The show includes a daily musical program and special events to interest every age range.

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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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