



For Immediate Release
November 26, 2010

**Artisan Corner at the Bow Valley Ranche:
Honouring the First Nations and Fish Creek Valley History**

Calgary, AB – This holiday season, the Bow Valley Ranche Historical Society invites the greater community of Calgary to take part in creating a historical space that will continue to give pride to their families for generations to come.

“This expansion will complete our vision to honour the first inhabitants, the Aboriginals or First Nations”, says Larry Wasyliw, President of The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society. “They were the first people to inhabit the area prior to the first settler, John Glen in 1890. It’s important to the Society to honour this connection.” The site is a known provincial historic resource and is visited by more than 1 million people each year.

The Artisan Corner is a project underway in the Native Gardens at the Bow Valley Ranche Historical Site located in Fish Creek Provincial Park. This project brings together celebrated Canadian artists and people interested in creating a lasting piece of art within a living piece of history. The \$450,000 Artisan Corner is a completion of the 2.5 acre native species garden. The Artisan Corner will be a multi-purpose facility reflecting the rich history of the area and will include a First Nations statue called “Children of Yesterday”. “Children of Yesterday” is a life-sized bronze statue by artist Vilhem Zach. This area will also include an artisan interpretation of a teepee structure by renowned artist Jeff deBoer and Artisan benches surrounding the structure.

The craftsman benches with arrow shaped ends each present placards with individual pieces of art. A limited number of 72 Placards are available for sponsorship of \$5,000 and comes with a charitable tax receipt. Placards have space for the family name and family member’s hand prints below the creative space. Each placard will showcase elements of nature and themes indigenous to the fish creek valley. As an alternative to the placard, Stepping Stones are available at \$1,000 and will feature a family’s name and hand/foot prints of their children. These children are the “ranch hands stepping into the future”.

The Artisan Corner will celebrate the lives and contributions of First Nations people, pioneers and settlers to the city of Calgary and the province of Alberta. Artisan bench placards will recognize sponsors in perpetuity for their gift. This project gets under way immediately and reservations are now being accepted for sponsorship. Completion of the Artisan Corner will be unveiled late June 2011.

About The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society:

The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society is a non-profit charitable society. Established by local residents, Larry and Mitzie Wasyliw and incorporated in Alberta in 1995 it is run completely by volunteers. The Ranche house at the Bow Valley Ranche in Fish Creek Provincial Park (located in S.E. Calgary) was designated as a provincial historic resource in 2001. The Society mission is to restore the Bow Valley Ranche to its original turn of the century grandeur and connect future generations with the past.

Website: <http://www.bowvalleyranche.com/society.html>

ADVISORY:

All media are welcome to come to The Ranche Restaurant in Fish Creek Provincial Park on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 10:45 am, for the official unveiling of the statue, followed by a light lunch to meet the artists, officials, sponsors and volunteers members of The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society.

-30-

For more information contact:
Mitzie Wasyliw
Fundraising Chair, The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society
Email: info@bowvalleyranche.com or phone (403) 278-2595