



For Immediate Release

Kelowna's Village of Kettle Valley wins International Gold Nugget Award

June 22, 2006: At a black-tie event in San Francisco, Kelowna's Village of Kettle Valley fought off fierce competition from developers across the Western United States and Pacific Rim to pick up an esteemed Gold Nugget Award of Merit. The community, located in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, was officially pronounced one of the top three Master Planned Communities of the Year.

The oldest and largest program of its kind in North America, the Gold Nugget awards honour creative achievements in architectural design and land use planning for residential, commercial and industrial projects. Gold Nugget entries come from the 14 western United States and countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean including Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Singapore and Thailand. Winners are announced at the Academy Awards-style Gold Nugget presentation. The highlight of the renowned PCBC (pacific coast builders' conference) tradeshow in California, the gala is typically sold out drawing over 1,200 industry leaders each year.

Today, Gold Nugget judges determined the Village of Kettle Valley as one of the "best in the west" in terms of community plan and development including overall vision, architectural design, environmental considerations, recreation, safety and other quality-of-life features.

"Kettle Valley is one of Canada's best examples of a neo-traditional village," explains Kettle Valley Development President, Carlos Bermudez. "We've achieved a self-contained community, based on a historical town model, offering a lifestyle rarely seen in today's residential developments."

Set on a hillside overlooking Okanagan valley vineyards, orchards and lake, the Village of Kettle Valley is designed as a collection of integrated, mixed-use neighbourhoods. Community homes radiate from an active town centre which incorporates commercial, office and residential space within a pedestrian-friendly environment. Through a network of connected streets, laneways, sidewalks, parks, greenways and squares, residents are encouraged to walk, socialize, enjoy the surrounding nature and engage in healthy outdoor living. The unique character of Kettle Valley is defined and maintained using strict architectural guidelines that work to capture the qualities and images of a historic town while maintaining the convenience of modern-day standards. The result is a visually striking yet functional community.

"Since its inception in 1996, the Village of Kettle Valley has been renowned for its distinctive heritage-style architecture, a blend of Traditional, Victorian, Craftsman and West Coast Shingle," adds Bermudez. "This Gold Nugget award is further evidence of the widespread appeal of this type of design plan."