



For Immediate Release

Village of Kettle Valley Donates to Kelowna's New Fire Museum & Education Centre

April 28, 2006 – Kelowna, BC: Today, the Village of Kettle Valley is proud to announce their sponsorship of the *Friends of the Kelowna Fire Museum Society* with a donation of \$1,000 toward the development of the new Kelowna Fire Museum & Education Centre.

"We have been looking for a unique way to give back to the firefighters who worked tirelessly to save our Village from the Okanagan Mountain Park fire in 2003," explains Kettle Valley Development President, Carlos Bermudez. "Their plan to establish a fire museum in Kelowna presents the perfect opportunity for us to get involved in a lasting tribute to their heroic efforts."

Once complete, the Kelowna Fire Museum & Education Centre will showcase firefighting in Kelowna over the last 100 years with a collection of artifacts including a fully-restored 1928 Graham Ladder Truck, a Gamewell Pull-box Alarm System, a 1961 American LaFrance pumper, a chemical wagon and hose wagon, as well as several archive photographs for display.

"Today, people can visit our website for more information," explains Kelowna Fire Department Administration Officer, Brian Moore. "The physical location and opening date of the museum will be announced in the next few months. In the meantime, we're extremely thankful for this generous donation. It will go a long way to see this project gets a healthy start."

The museum will also host the Garry Drachenberg Education Centre featuring the National Fire Protection Association's injury course for children from pre-school to grade 8. This "Risk Watch" program works to prevent unintentional injuries, the number one cause of death for children in BC.

"We're excited to be part of this unique venture," adds Bermudez. "With our parks and amenities, Kettle Valley plays an important role in the lives of local children and families. Our sponsorship of the new Fire Museum is a natural extension of our continued involvement in the community."



About the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire

During the devastating Okanagan Mountain Park fire, the Village of Kettle Valley was identified as ground zero, the focal point of firefighting efforts to keep the blaze from consuming major portions of the City of Kelowna. In the end, the fire consumed over 25,000 hectares of forest and park, forced the evacuation of over 27,000 residents and destroyed 239 homes on the southern edge of the city. Thanks to the valiant work of firefighters and emergency crews, only five homes were lost in the Village of Kettle Valley.

www.firemuseum.ca