

April 20, 2006

For immediate release

Hartley Bay receives Community Achievement Award

VANCOUVER, BC – Residents of Hartley Bay today received the first ever BC Award for Achievement by a Community, presented by Premier Gordon Campbell on behalf of the BC Achievement Foundation.

The award is a special initiative of the Foundation, created in response to the events of March 22, 2006, when a ferry ran aground and sank off the shores of Hartley Bay. Residents helped transport passengers and crew to safety after hearing the ferry's distress call, and provided food and shelter for those on board.

Accepted by Chief Councillor Patricia Stewart¹ on behalf of the residents of Hartley Bay, the award was presented by Premier Gordon Campbell, director of the BC Achievement Foundation.

"The community of Hartley Bay acted quickly and selflessly when it came to the aid of passengers and crew on board the Queen of the North," said Campbell. "They showed us what heroism is all about."

The Foundation's board of directors agreed that the actions of the community exemplified the spirit of the BC Community Achievement Awards, which honour British Columbians who make a difference in the lives of others.

"Special circumstances call for special recognition," continued Campbell. "This award recognizes the outstanding contribution this community made to help others in a very serious situation."

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established by an initial endowment of \$6 million from the Province to recognize and celebrate BC's spirit of excellence. The Community Achievement Awards, launched in 2003, were the first initiative of the foundation, followed by the launch in 2004 of the Creative Achievement Awards, recognizing outstanding work in the field of applied art and design, and the BC Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, recognizing literary excellence.

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For more information, please contact:
Nora Newlands
BC Achievement Foundation
604-261-9777
