

November 30, 2009

For Immediate Release

## Whistler Museum Opens New Exhibit *"Whistler's Olympic Journey"*

Whistler B.C. – The Whistler Museum and Archives Society is proud to announce the Grand Opening of the newly refurbished Museum and exhibit launch at our Public Open House on December 17, 2009. Visitors, residents, and all members of the Whistler community are encouraged to join us from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 4333 Main Street, next to the Whistler Public Library. The rich and varied history of Whistler comes alive in this new and dynamic interactive exhibit.

Whistler Museum & Archives Society is proud to present *Whistler's Olympic Journey*, a special exhibit to celebrate our community's journey to the 2010 Winter Games. The exhibit anchors the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in a rich and adventurous story. *Whistler's Olympic Journey* chronicles the story and artifacts of Whistler's passionate visionaries that dreamed big – and worked together as a community to make it all happen. From First Nations people, pioneers, fishing resort developers, artists, ski bums and visitors, everyone had a hand in creating Whistler. *Whistler's Olympic Journey* will launch to the public starting on December 17. This Exhibit was made possible by the collective support from the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), American Friends of Whistler, Whistler Blackcomb Foundation, Whistler Arts Council, Community Foundation of Whistler, Province of B.C. and the B.C. Gaming Funds, Heritage Canada.

The idea to preserve Whistler's history and artifacts began with the very first Whistler Valley pioneers. Through time, the museum has grown as a result the dedication of members of the Whistler community. Whistler Museum and Archives society was officially founded in 1986.

"As we celebrate in February and March 2010, it's important to recall all those individuals and groups who have played a role in bringing the Winter Games to Whistler," says Ken Melamed, Whistler Mayor. "This is an excellent exhibit and exciting opportunity for locals to get the whole story behind how the Games came to Whistler."

The mandate of the Whistler Museum is to collect, preserve, document, and interpret mountain life for the benefit and enrichment of the public. The natural and human history, community events, and 2010 Winter Games Legacy of the Whistler Valley region are the primary focus for all collecting, research, and programming activities. As a cultural centre and forum for learning, the Whistler Museum develops innovative exhibitions, educational programs, and multimedia projects to enhance Whistler's world-class reputation in the international mountain community.

The Whistler Museum offers collections, research services, custom programs, speakers series, photo reproductions, exhibit viewing, public programming and venue rental. Beginning December 17<sup>th</sup>, the museum is open for public viewing 7 days a week, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. at 4333 Main Street, Whistler B.C. Admission starting December 18th: Adult \$10, Student/Senior (65+) \$5, Youth (7-17) \$4, Child (6 and under) free, Family (4-6 people) \$20. You can reach the museum at 604-932-2019 or [www.whistlermuseum.org](http://www.whistlermuseum.org). Become a patron of heritage in your community, become a museum member.

### **Fast Facts:**

**What:** Museum Grand Opening and New Exhibit Launch, "Whistler's Olympic Journey."

**When:** Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Where:** Whistler Museum and Archives Society, 4333 Main Street, Whistler, BC

**Price:** **FREE!** Donations appreciated.

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