



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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McLean Mill National Historic Site
anita@mcleanmill.ca
cell: 250.735.8322
web: mcleanmill.ca

HERITAGE LIGHT UP AND BC FESTIVAL OF TREES EVENT RAISES OVER \$10,000

The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce, along with title Sponsor, Robbins and Company Chartered Professional Accountants, are pleased to announce the success of their holiday event, held at the McLean Mill National Historic Site that resulted in \$10,098.55 raised for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

The Festival of Trees, held over nine evenings (two of which were cancelled due to weather concerns and a power outage) included a heritage light display in the courtyard and historic site, complimentary hot chocolate courtesy of Tim Hortons, live music, visits with Santa, a crafting station, and more.

Fifteen generous tree sponsors took part in the fundraiser and many more community champions aided the cause through financial and in-kind support. Like past Festival of Trees Events, visitors were encouraged to vote for their favourite tree via donations, which were accepted on site as well as through the virtual Festival of Trees at mcleanmill.ca. The sponsor of the tree that generated the most fundraising dollars was awarded a \$300 Gift Card from BetterBuyPortAlberni.ca, courtesy of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce.

It was a tight race until the end, with Jericho Road Church taking first place. R Anderson and Associates' Grinch Tree was a community favourite, coming in second place and Raissa Espiritu and Alberni Valley Makerspace took third place with their interactive Star Wars tree.

Warm thanks are extended to Barb and Steve Kalugin, Co-Chair's of the Community for Kids Port Alberni Chapter. The couple worked with the Foundation and supplied all the trees for the festival. As well, the Kinette Club of Port Alberni generously donated the use of the nostalgic Santa House which was displayed on the courtyard deck at McLean Mill.

The funds donated from this event go to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation to help support meeting the most critical health care needs of kids in the community, such as research into childhood disease, rehabilitation therapies and equipment. BC Children's Hospital serves approximately two hundred



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children for Port Alberni, as well as hundreds more from the west coast, and central and northern Vancouver Island every year.

On average, twenty-two children from Vancouver Island are treated at BC Children's Hospital every day—that is almost one every hour, and many of them come from the Alberni Valley.

For more information on the impact of donations at BC Children's Hospital or to learn how you can start your own fundraiser, please contact Shaun Cerisano, Philanthropy Manager, Vancouver Island 250-380-1528 or scerisano@bcchf.ca

The McLean Mill National Historic Site is operated by the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce a membership organization steered by a local Board of Directors. The Chamber itself has been active in the Alberni Valley for more than 55 years and consistently maintains a membership of over 300 organizations. For more information on the Chamber please contact bill@albernichamber.ca and for specific information about the McLean Mill National Historic Site we invite you to reach out to anita@mcleanmill.ca



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