



CENTRE HASTINGS ARTS CENTRE

Canada's only sustainable public arts building Grand Opening

Madoc, Ontario, April 14, 2009 - The Centre Hastings Arts Centre (CHAC), the new home for a thriving arts community in the Village of Madoc and surrounding settlements in Hastings County, will host a grand opening celebration, June 26-28, 2009 at the Centre Hastings Family Park complex. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 1:00pm on Sunday, June 28.

The 2000 sq. ft. hexagon shaped, CHAC structure is considered one of the most sustainable public buildings in Canada. Built by the Fleming College Sustainable Design Program class of 2008, the building features the lowest impact and longest lasting materials that represent the best available choices for building materials in a northern climate: rubble trenches, round hemp bales, a living roof for the outdoor stage area, geothermal heating and cooling, solar ventilation system, photovoltaic cells to provide power, a rainwater collection system and galvanized metal roofing. Many of these aspects exceed platinum LEEDS certification for new buildings.

"This project is a step forward for us," explains Chris Magwood, coordinator of the Sustainable Building Design and construction certificate program at Fleming College. "for the first time we building a 'net zero' energy structure and I now do not see us changing from that. It seems backward to build a new building that will use fossil fuels."

The outdoor festival performance area will accommodate up to 400 concert goers and indoors, seating for 80+. Shows and concerts will feature various aspects of performing arts for adults and children such as musical presentations, choral groups, a variety of dance and theatre productions.

The grand opening weekend will feature a mix of local and area musicians and entertainers along with well-known Canadian performers. Music for all tastes, dance, puppetry and a few surprises will play out over the three days.

In addition to the unique CHAC building, the Centre Hastings Family Park features a world-class skate park, a "bunny" park, onsite bike, skateboard and inline skate rentals, a Mega Tower playground, a large recyclable-reusable water splash pad, hemp bale canteen, washroom and change room facilities and a log tourist information booth all located at the entrance to Madoc on Highway 62, 40 kilometers north of Belleville, Ontario.

"The entire, award winning park was created to reflect the communities' environmental values and to demonstrate sustainable construction techniques in public buildings," said Tom Deline, Reeve of the Municipality of Centre Hastings and added, "Our entire community is looking forward to welcoming visitors and guests from across North America for this three day celebration."

For more information regarding the June 28 grand opening and performance schedules, please contact Sarah Bowles: office: 613-473-4030 or <sbowles@centrehastings.com>. For more details about the CHAC: www.sustainablebuilding2008.ca; the Centre Hastings Family Park: www.centrehastingspark.com

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The official opening of the park is still on June 28 - with an afternoon performance from some of our headliners ending sometime around 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. On Friday June 26th we will have youth night and Saturday evening we will host local talent and headliners.