

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 8, 2004 (Vancouver, BC)

## Revelstoke named 2005 forest capital of B.C.

The City of Revelstoke is the 2005 Forest Capital of British Columbia. The announcement was made today by the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals (ABC FP).

Rick Sommer, a registered professional forester and the president of the ABCFP, was pleased by the amount of effort Revelstoke put into their bid proposal.

“We’re delighted to bestow this designation on Revelstoke,” says Sommer. “It’s clear this community is really into forestry and they have put together an excellent program of educational, sporting and cultural events that promise to involve the whole community in the celebration.”

The community’s bid proposal—prepared by a group including city staff, community leaders and several ABCFP members—was accompanied by more than 30 letters of support from community groups, local politicians, government agencies, recreation groups, local forestry companies and schools.

As the 2005 Forest Capital, Revelstoke will be helping to create a greater understanding of the history and importance of this province’s vast forests. The events kick off with an opening ceremony on January 10, 2005.

Forests play a part in every community in B.C., whether large or small. Communities awarded this title have used the opportunity to demonstrate the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions of forests to community life. This year, five communities around B.C. applied for the Forest Capital title.

“While Revelstoke’s proposal was clearly the leader, all of the other communities are deserving of this title,” adds Sommer. “Our forests are such an important part of every community in B.C. We should celebrate them at every opportunity.”

Revelstoke edged out Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Midway and 100 Mile House to take over as the new Forest Capital of B.C. on January 1st. They follow Williams Lake, whose term as the 2004 Forest Capital of B.C. ends on December 31st.

The Forest Capital of B.C. program was originally hosted by the B.C. Forestry Association. In 2003, the ABCFP took on the program and is responsible for reviewing applications and selecting a forest capital that best represents all forest-dependent communities in the province.

*The **Association of B.C. Forest Professionals** (est. 1947) ensures that British Columbia’s forests are in good hands. It registers and regulates professional foresters and forest technologists under authority of the Foresters Act. The Association has nearly 4,300 members, including registered professional foresters, registered forest technologists and those working towards registration in B.C.*

- 30 -

Contact:

Dwight Yochim, RPF or Sandra Sauer

Tel: 604.687.8027