

# Media Release

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July 19, 2006

For Immediate Release

## Former Burnside School to remain a Community Asset

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The Burnside School Site will take on a new role this September, remaining open to community use, both as an educational facility and as a community facility.

The building will house a Community Children's Library, space for Community Education linked to Tillicum Community School, and an expanded School District 61 Home Learners Program. It will also be used by community groups such as the Victoria Judo Club and Centennial Daycare, who will be providing new childcare space.

"This is a great example of the School District and community working together", said Michael McEvoy, Chairman of the Greater Victoria School Board. "I am pleased that many community programs will be offered at the former Burnside School and especially pleased that the school library will now be turned into a community children's library."

The School District and community partners have donated books and furniture to the new library. The City of Victoria has provided a one-time grant to assist in the running the community children's library.

"The City and the School District are committed to making Victoria a learning city and this partnership will help enhance this initiative", said Pam Madoff, City of Victoria Councillor.

"Though we are disappointed to see the school closed, we are pleased that we will have a continued community presence in the neighbourhood", stated Lisa Fife, former President of the Burnside School Parents' Advisory Council.

To facilitate the continued community use, the Greater Victoria School District has entered into a lease agreement with the Burnside Gorge Community Association. The Association will play a community caretaker role, maintaining the facility, keeping it animated and a vital contributor to the community.

The majority of students from Burnside School will be attending Tillicum Community School in September.

- 30 -

For further information contact:  
Michael McEvoy, Board Chairman  
Greater Victoria School District 61  
(250) 744-6520

Dean Fortin, Executive Director  
Burnside Gorge Community Association  
(250) 217-9273