



2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, British Columbia, Canada V9Z 1J2

Phone: (250) 642-1634
email: info@sooke.ca

Fax: (250) 642-0541
website: www.sooke.ca

News Release

Sooke Council to Consider Partnering with Prestige Hotel

Sooke, BC - September 3rd, 2009

Construction of a new 400 delegate conference centre could begin this fall in Sooke if District of Sooke Council approves a new partnering agreement between the municipality and Prestige Sooke Holdings Ltd. at its September 14, 2009 Council meeting. The partnering agreement would allow for the construction of the conference centre in the proposed "Sooke Prestige Hotel" development on the Sooke Harbour.

"This is a very exciting partnership which will allow the District to pre-purchase conference centre facilities that will accommodate up to 400 delegates which we can make available at no charge to non-profit groups and government agencies," Chief Administrative Officer Evan Parliament said. "Attracting conference delegates to our community will bring significant economic benefits for local businesses and tourism providers."

The economic benefits fit directly with Council's 2009-2013 Strategic Plan goal of attracting, keeping and nurturing business and industry appropriate to our community through proactive economic and tourism development.

"As an economic tourism driver, we know that this conference centre will help and support the tourism sector of the community," Mayor Janet Evans said.

In keeping with the spirit of a partnership, Prestige Sooke Holdings Ltd. has also agreed to provide \$200,000 towards the development of a public boat launch on District-owned property adjacent to the site.

"We are excited that Prestige has chosen Sooke as a location for its new signature hotel and conference centre and we look forward to being partners in the promotion of the tourism potential of the Sooke region," Mayor Evans said.

The partnering agreement is a result of negotiations between the Prestige Sooke Holdings Ltd. and the District for the provision of *Sooke Conference Centre Complex* to be located in the proposed hotel. Sooke will be able to host conferences, sports tournaments, etc. offering a different venue than the larger urban areas.

For more information, contact:
Evan Parliament,
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Sooke
tel: (250) 642-1634
fax: (250) 642-0541
email: eparliament@sooke.ca