

The Shuswap Watershed Project
MEDIA RELEASE
March 8, 2010

Local musicians excited about Shuswap's First Song Writing Contest

Upon the release of the first ever map and poster of our region, the Shuswap Watershed Project announced the first ever song writing contest dedicated solely to the Shuswap.

Student and adult musicians are now beginning to work on their songs to compete for substantial prizes in the 'Song for the Shuswap' contest that were donated by local businesses and individuals. Their goal will be compose lyrics and music for a song that has the words Shuswap and water in it and that conveys what it means to live in and appreciate the Shuswap region.

The contest is open to both amateur and professional songwriters and musicians. Songs will need to be totally original works and be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. School District #83 Music Supervisor Gordon Waters, one of the contest judges remarked, "The Shuswap is fortunate to have so many talented musicians living here and this contest will give many of them a challenge to focus their creative energies to write songs that celebrate our amazing region."

In the adult category, songwriters have a chance for a \$400 cash prize, plus a glass sculpture award by Chuck St. John, a Roots & Blues pass, and a live radio interview on EZ Rock; while the second prize winner will receive a \$200 cash prize. As well, the winning song will become the soundtrack for a Fred Bird tourism video. Young musicians have the opportunity to win a \$200 cash prize, plus a glass sculpture award, a Roots & Blues 2010 Festival pass, and a live interview; and the second place winner will get a \$100 cash prize.

Already, well known local musicians Jesse Clarke and Mike Shaver from Old Man's Beard, Sasha Lewis and Dave Allan are writing songs for the contest. If more than twenty songs are entered by the April 9th deadline, the judges will choose the best twenty songs to be performed live before an audience at the Salmar Classic Theatre on April 22nd, where the final judging will take place. The contest production coordinator, Ted Crouch, is excited about the event and hopes to produce a CD that will feature the best nine songs.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to help organize the events during Celebrate the Shuswap Week, especially the Song for the Shuswap Contest which will bring together the many musicians and music lovers in our region to share music about our beautiful watershed," said Monica Gail Kriese, event coordinator.

The Shuswap Watershed Project, in just over a week, raised nearly \$2,000 in prize money and thus extends its utmost appreciation to these generous contest sponsors: Barley Station Brew Pub, Takezushi Sushi Restaurant, Acorn Music, Scotch Creek Super Valu, John & Sonja Woods, Doug & Joanne Leatherdale, Jan & Don Sawyer (NESA), EZ Rock, Shuswap Singers, Chuck St. John, Hideaway Pub, Salmar Community Association, Roots and Blues Festival, Roxy FX Music, and Shuswap Water Action Team.

Registration forms for both the song contest and the student essay and art-poster contests are available online at www.shuswapwatershed.ca and at Acorn Music, EZ Rock, Buckingham Palace and the Salmon Arm Observer office.

For more information, contact: Monica Gail Kriese, “Celebrate the Shuswap” Event Coordinator, 833-6100