



TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

CHILDREN of TAKaya – Wolf Clan

BURRARD INDIAN BAND



July 7, 2010

For Immediate Release

TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION REVIVES SACRED TRADITIONAL SPORT OF CANOE RACING AT CATES PARK/Whey-Ah-Wichen

**Traditional canoes from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Fraser
Valley will compete in championship canoe races.**

On the July 10th weekend, First Nation paddling teams will compete in traditional canoe races on Burrard Inlet along the foreshore of Cates Park / Whey-Ah-Wichen. The Whey-Ah-Wichen Canoe Festival (In memory of Cookie Thomas) is hosted by the Tsleil-Waututh community and is open to the public. Festivities will begin at 11:00am and continue until 5:00pm on both July 10th and 11th.

Canoe racing is a Coast Salish custom. Paddling teams and their supporters travel during the summer months to compete in various communities throughout the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and Northern Washington.

“The last time Tsleil-Waututh hosted canoe races at Whey-Ah-Wichen was in the mid-1990’s” said Chief Justin George “Our community is looking forward to hosting this very special event. Racing is a celebration of our connection with the rivers and the ocean in our territory. It also honours the trade and diplomatic relations we have with our First Nation neighbours. The canoe embodies discipline, respect, teamwork and unity.”

This free event will also include many other family-friendly activities, including; kids' foot races, a cutest baby contest, a tug-o-war challenge, and a history display of Coast Salish canoe culture. In addition, Aboriginal arts and crafts vendors will be at the site and a cash food concession including BBQ salmon dinners, Indian tacos, bannock and homemade chili will be available.

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