



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gibsons Public Market Celebrates Grand Opening

GIBSONS, BC (April 29, 2017) – Today volunteers and supporters of the Gibsons Public Market celebrate the official ribbon cutting of the new community gathering place.

The first step in realizing the public market was made in December 2013 when three families contributed and help raise funds to secure \$1 million to purchase the abandoned Gibsons Yacht Club, located by the marina in Lower Gibsons.

“By that point,” says Gerry Zipursky, a member of the founding families, “we had talked with a lot of people on the Coast and we were committed to realizing the vision of a place where Sunshine Coast residents and visitors could gather and enjoy buying and eating good food.”

Over time and with continued discussions with interested supporters, the concept of the community “hub” evolved to include a marine education centre, named after the late Nicholas Sonntag who was also a member of the founding families, a community kitchen, and a commercial kitchen.

“Today is a special day because we are celebrating the success of all these partners, volunteers and supporters in building a community place that we want to have on the Coast,” says Zipursky.

The project has raised over \$4 million through private and corporate donations, and government grants, activated hundreds of volunteers, created a space that will contribute to the local economy. The unique project also attracted significant project partners that will continue to be very involved in the operations of the public market: The Town of Gibsons, Community Futures of the Sunshine Coast, the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation and the Gibsons Community Building Society.

For Pam Robertson, volunteer president of the Society and long-time Sunshine Coast resident, the public market is an important asset for the Coast. “We have the right blend of community amenity, commercial activity and education destinations to make this a long-term success that will enrich the lives of people on the Coast for generations to come.”

April 29th is the official opening of the facility, with the blessing of the building by the Squamish Nation and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Gibsons Community Building Society

The Gibsons Community Building Society (GCBS) is building and will operate the vibrant year-round Gibsons Public Market. The facility features a community kitchen, community gathering amenities and meeting rooms, a rentable commercial kitchen for new incubator businesses, a bistro and a 6-days-a-week public market. More than 70% of the 13,500 square foot building will be dedicated to community amenities and community and educational services. The phased opening of the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre, located in the heart of the public market, will begin in Summer 2017.

The GCBS has mobilized hundreds of volunteers and a Board of Directors and Governors that continues to attract financial, material and in-kind contributions to make the project a reality. Project partners are Town of Gibsons, Community Futures, Sunshine Coast Community Foundation.

Find us on the web: gibsonspublicmarket.com

-30-

Contact:

Nancy Grenier, Gibsons Community Building Society, 604-741-3421, ngrenier@telus.net

Public market print-quality professional photos are available upon request.

GIBSONS COMMUNITY BUILDING SOCIETY (operator of the Gibsons Public Market)

604-886-8814 | www.gibsonspublicmarket.com
PO Box 191, 473 Gower Point Road, Gibsons BC V0N 1V0