



**For immediate release**

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## **Ahoy! Macdonald & Lawrence Selected to Build New Maritime Centre for Cowichan Bay**

COWICHAN BAY, August 24, 2010 –Local business leaders and elected officials applauded as Lew Penney, President of the Cowichan Wooden Boat Society (CWBS), announced the successful bid to build the new Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre. “We are thrilled to confirm internationally recognized, local firm, Macdonald & Lawrence as designers and builders for our new home. Our goal is to preserve the region’s maritime history for future generations and to share our unique Cowichan Bay experience with a growing number of visitors. This centre reflects the future of our vibrant community!”

Partners Gord Macdonald and Steve Lawrence are enthusiastic about the opportunity to design a building for their friends, neighbours and families to enjoy, “We knew we really wanted to work on this museum design,” said Lawrence, “we create an exciting interpretation of what a shipwright might build to house maritime traditions, best of all – we get to work in our own backyard!”

Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre building campaign, **Ahoy!**, focuses on fundraising for two phases:

- Phase One - building the new centre with expanded display and workshop areas, a fully operational maritime library and a community room.
- Phase Two - replacing pier pilings and repairing the pod roofs.

Visit <http://www.classicboats.org/Ahoy> to learn how to become a sponsor, which AHOY! categories works for you as a donor, how to get involved as a volunteer, and progress of our new centre.

The Cowichan Wooden Boat Society preserves and presents the heritage of British Columbia's Maritime past through community events, wooden boat building classes and historic displays at the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre. Formerly an oil facility, the Maritime Centre was built in 1988 with the Tim Richardson

designed pods and pier extending approximately 82 meters into Cowichan Bay. Over 10,000 visitors tour the Centre annually.

Macdonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. (M&L) is a specialist carpentry company based on Vancouver Island, BC. Gordon Macdonald and Steve Lawrence have worked on a wide range of exciting projects from the construction of new timber homes and barns, to major castle and cathedral restorations on four continents (so far) The business consists of approximately 30 full-time staff of various nationalities, operating out of a fully-equipped 12,000 sqft carpentry workshop at Cobble Hill, in the Cowichan Valley. The M&L team works both locally and internationally to design, build and erect new timber frames, and to conserve historic wooden buildings. The team is currently leading the rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle for the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the rehabilitation of the Nanaimo Bastion for the City of Nanaimo, and the ongoing restoration of Captain RF Scott's and Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition huts in the Ross Sea, Antarctica. Later this summer M&L will be restoring Bill Reid's Mortuary building for the Museum of Anthropology at UBC. M&L projects have been featured on local, national and international television, newspapers and magazines.