



FONDATION CHELSEA FONDATION

“FUN-RAISING” FOR THE MEREDITH CENTRE

Under clear blue sunny skies and perfect weather, the Chelsea Community came together last Saturday at the site of the future Meredith Centre.

This community gathering was a “fun-raising” event to signal the start of the final chapter of over ten years of remarkable community volunteer effort which has led to the Meredith Centre Build Campaign.

It was a great experience to see the Chelsea Community en masse enjoying an afternoon in the sun, warmed by a blazing fire and hot apple cider, and seeing so many families and laughing children enjoying the sleigh rides around the Meredith Centre’s extensive grounds.

The concept of this community “fun-raising” event was proposed only a few weeks ago by John Huff, and the event itself was beautifully planned and implemented in seemingly impossibly short time by Johanna Lacasse.

As I stood there – in the sun amongst all these families and the many volunteers who have made this all happen (over a 100 of whom donated \$1000 each to act as the original “New Pioneers” of the Meredith Centre) – it struck me that this was indeed the real Chelsea Community that my wife and I came to in 1992 (from the UK) to make our home and bring up our then-young family.

This was the same spirit of community and fun that so impressed us right from the start and would last throughout the memorable years that followed as our children grew through their child and teenage years. This was the community that is now joined together to build a lasting legacy for all the children, families – young and old alike – for future generations.



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And this event clearly shows that the real heart and soul of the Chelsea Community is still very much as it had been on our arrival here – reassuringly in sharp contrast to the worrisome, overheated words displayed recently at some public meetings and in the press by a vocal minority. Of course public debate and discussion is always welcome -but with the important provision that the tone of such debate needs to be constructive, respectful and in the true spirit of our community.

However I came away from this fun-raising event greatly heartened that the warm and generous spirit of the Chelsea Community is still very much alive and well, and that a wonderful new community cultural centre and leisure facility is about to become a reality. It will be a lasting legacy to this generous spirit and the inspiration of the many volunteers and community supporters who last Saturday gathered together to celebrate as we move forward together.

DAVID NEWING

Chelsea