



*Honouring the Past – Building for the Future*



## NOSA News Release

September 1, 2000

For Immediate Release

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### SANSCHA HALL'S OLDEST TENANT ISSUES FUND-RAISING CHALLENGE

#### **North Saanich Dog Obedience Training Club donates \$5,000 to building fund**

(September 1, 2000) **SIDNEY, BC** – Sanscha Hall's oldest tenant has donated \$5,000 toward the redevelopment of the Peninsula's community facility.

The North Saanich Dog Obedience Training Club – or NOSA, for short – is giving the money to the Sanscha Community Cultural Centre Foundation for the *Honouring the Past - Building for the Future Campaign* - the \$4.6 million fund-raising campaign underway to replace Sanscha Hall with a new community and cultural centre on this site. NOSA's contribution is part of the 'Community Phase' of its campaign drive. The dog-obedience club will be recognized in the campaign's donor category of "Friend" (\$5,000 - \$9,999).

"Our community club and Sanscha Hall go back a long way together," said NOSA President Marilyn Clayton. "We were among the hall's first tenants when the building opened in 1958 — and we're still here 42 years later. Imagine what that works out to in 'dog years,'" she joked.

"This gift and generous action by the members of NOSA is what community is all about. We hope that other groups in our community will accept NOSA's campaign challenge. It is one way for groups in the community to get involved and become a part of this local historic project," says Richard Holmes, Chair of the Sanscha Community Cultural Foundation.

The North Saanich Dog Obedience Training Club's gift was made in recognition of the generosity and co-operation shown NOSA by the Sidney and North Saanich Memorial Park Society (Sanscha Hall's operating arm) over the years, said Clayton.

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“I’m not sure we’d still be going strong in the year 2000 without the benefit of our partnership with the generous and considerate people who run Sanscha Hall,” she said. “We encourage other service clubs and non-profit societies to do whatever they can to help contribute to this remarkable community resource.”

In addition to its history as a long-serving community organization on the Peninsula, NOSA is also one of the Capital Regional District’s oldest dog-obedience training clubs. NOSA offered its first lessons to the public in 1954.

Long-time NOSA club member and current Training Committee Chairperson Irene Copus estimates over the years NOSA has shown over 4,000 owners how to train their dogs at the Beginner levels alone.

“We’re primarily a pet-dog training club, but many of our members and their canine companions have also distinguished themselves in the competitive obedience ring, achieving national rankings on numerous occasions,” said Clayton. NOSA is one of only four dog clubs in the Capital Regional District sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club to stage licensed dog obedience trials.

NOSA members train Thursday evenings at Sanscha Hall. During construction, the club will temporarily relocate its training programs to the RCMP barn on the Saanich fairgrounds beginning in January.

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