

## media release

media contact:  
Jocelyn Calderhead  
604.927.6566

For immediate release: February 12, 2009

### **Maillardville 100 ans et plus / Maillardville 100 and beyond Exhibition celebrates Maillardville's anniversary with portraits of 100 people**

COQUITLAM – The Evergreen Cultural Centre is proud to be part of the Maillardville celebrations. In partnership with Festival du Bois and Cultural Capitals of Canada, the exhibition, **Maillardville 100 ans et plus/Maillardville 100 and beyond** officially opens with a “vernissage” Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7pm.

The scope of this art project is far-reaching. What began as a creative spark from Société francophone de Maillardville's Executive Director Johanne Dumas, who conceptualized the exhibition several years ago, has quickly evolved into the participation of a large part of the Maillardville community.

French artist Florence Debeugny has put together an art project that captures the essence of this dynamic community through 200 black and white portraits of 100 people who have (or had) a personal connection to Maillardville including a connection to a place, specific site or landmark.

**Maillardville** is the oldest francophone community in British Columbia, located in a very unique corner of Coquitlam both in its history and francophone culture. The boundaries of the neighbourhood are comprised of a relatively small footprint that found its beginnings around Fraser Mills just after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The village until the thirties saw Brunette, Schoolhouse, Thomas and Leblue as the functional borders with the centre at Laval Square and Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The boundaries have expanded along with population growth and suburban sprawl, while the community bonds have strengthened. Today, Maillardville is a vibrant place, rich in heritage and culture and filled with people whose hearts reside there.

In the photographs on display, viewers will immediately recognize the old family names — Bruneau, Leroux, Lebrun, Girard...many have lived in the area for generations.

Florence Debeugny immediately recognized the full scope of this exhibition as well as the wealth of stories her subject provided during the photo shoots. It became clear to Debeugny that two portraits per person (instead of the originally planned one), was essential plus the addition of the personal rapport they shared transcribed into a 100 page journal to accompany the exhibition.

A multi media component was conceived to establish a parallel dialogue between portraits on the wall and written text. The soundtrack on the video is a montage of voices speaking regional French composed of various accents and colloquialisms, or as Debeugny describes, “a musicality of language”.

**Maillardville 100 and beyond** offers a rare glimpse of this francophone community for everyone to view, experience and enjoy. The show runs Feb. 20 to March 21 in the Art Gallery. Hours are Mon – Sat, noon to 5pm. Admission is free. Visit [www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca](http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca) for more info.

*Evergreen acknowledges our presenting partners: Festival du Bois, the city of Coquitlam and Cultural Capital of Canada 2009 with the participation of the Government of Canada.*