

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wade into the Bow at Glenbow Museum!

Calgary, AB (January 13, 2005) – Glenbow Museum proudly kicks off its 2005 Centennial initiatives with the first-ever exhibition on the Bow River. Beginning on February 19, 2005, museum visitors will have the unique opportunity to journey down Alberta's lifeline in *Our River: Journey of the Bow* and examine the Bow River from geological, cultural, historical, and artistic perspectives. *Our River* will explore the importance of water as a critical topic of the 21st century, one that is embedded in issues of responsibility and sustainability.

In celebration of Alberta's Centennial, we are pleased to share the story of how this precious resource has helped shape and define our region. It is a story about the Bow River as a source of spiritual inspiration for many artists and cultures; and as one of the most heavily engineered rivers in Canada, supporting one third of Alberta's total population base. *Our River: Journey of the Bow* is a key reflection of the importance of water, not only at a local and national level, but also on a global scale. With less than 1% of the world's freshwater resources accessible for human resources, it is important that the issue of water be looked at as a precious and disappearing resource.

Guided by Glenbow Museum's own collections, the exhibition will recount stories of the Bow, illuminating its history over the past century and a half. Visitors will learn about the world famous "Blue Ribbon Bow", home to about 2,000 fish per mile, the most fish per mile in Canada and find out why dedicated anglers make the pilgrimage to catch and release the trophy-sized trout found in our river. School programs and the general public will be able to dive into reproduction water quality testing labs to learn about the natural and environmental factors that influence the river. And in our *Discovery Room*, we invite visitors to examine water under a microscope then design an abstract artwork inspired by what they see.

Beginning its legacy at the foot of Bow Glacier in the Rocky Mountains, the Bow River provides nourishment to Calgary and its surrounding regions. *Our River* will follow the flow of the Bow River itself, guiding visitors through its elaborate path from west to east. The exhibition will be divided into five themes, *Origins* (examining the geological origins of the Bow River in Banff National Park; the natural environment and conservation; tourism and recreation); *Gateway* (discussion of the industries which impacted and continue to impact the river such as coal mining, logging, and hydroelectricity focused on the areas around Canmore and Kananaskis); *Footbills* (an examination of ranching and petroleum); *Calgary* (addressing First Nations river crossings in Calgary; the North-West Mounted Police as well as industries such as brewing, municipal water use and recreation); and *Downstream* (which will look at irrigation and agribusiness, which is the largest user of water in Alberta, as well as dryland ranching, fishing, settlement, and significant river crossings).

Exhibition highlights will include the Bow River's impact on the mountains and national park landscape, its role in and around Calgary, and the heavily engineered eastern part of the river downstream of Calgary.

Glenbow Museum has produced a book, *The Bow: Living with a River*, to accompany the exhibition, written by Glenbow's senior curator of ethnology, Gerald Conaty, PhD, with essays by senior art curator Catharine Mastin and project manager Daryl Betenia. *The Bow: Living with a River*, published by Key Porter Press, is available in the Glenbow Museum Shop.

Our River: Journey of the Bow is presented by Enbridge Inc. and supported by Devon Canada Corporation, Alberta Environment, Anadarko Corporation, Calgary Region Arts Foundation, Alberta Lottery Fund, the Calgary Herald, and CBC Calgary, Pattison Outdoors, and the Hyatt Regency on Stephen Avenue Walk.

Special exhibitions at Glenbow Museum in 2004/05 include *Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession, Sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation* (October 30, 2004 to January 30, 2005), *Our River: Journey of the Bow* (February 19 to June 5, 2005), *Voices of Southeast Asia* (July 1, 2005 to September 25, 2005), and *Petra: Lost City of Stone* (October 29, 2005 to February 20, 2006).

Learn more about Glenbow Museum by calling (403) 268-4100 or visit www.glenbow.org for details on hours, admission prices, and further programming details.

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**Backgrounder on
Favoured Places
Part of *Our River: Journey of the Bow* Exhibition**

Many artists have been inspired by the beauty and vital importance of the Bow River as a lifeline to this region. *Favoured Places* is an art exhibit of over sixty works that chart many physical and artistic journeys, and explores places that artists have found especially compelling. The artworks in this exhibit will present the artists' unique perspectives from some of their favourite places along the Bow River. Featured artists include H.G. Glyde, E.J. Hughes, A.C. Leighton, James Nicoll, Marion Nicoll, W.J. Phillips, Carl Rungius, Margaret Shelton, and A.Y. Jackson.

By far the most important of these areas is where the Bow River winds through Banff National Park. As a national park under government protection from much industrialization, this area of the Bow River continues today to be one of the most visually stunning landscapes. By the mid-1930s, the foundations were being established for Banff becoming a colony for artists, a legacy that continues today in the present day Banff Centre. These opportune beginnings were indeed a key reason why so many artists have included the Bow River in their work.

Within Banff, Vermilion Lakes, Tunnel Mountain and Mount Rundle have been of considerable interest, notably Rundle for its unique profile and accessibility. So too has the now popular tourist destination of Bow Falls been a frequent subject for artists. Just east of Banff, Canmore was also of interest during the 1940s and 1950s because of its close proximity to Banff and abundant sketching subjects, and for its mining history.

Within Calgary there were two main areas of interest, the Bowness neighborhood on the west side of the city, and city centre. Jim and Marion Nicoll are the focus of the Bowness section as they made this neighbourhood their home for four decades, and the area has been home to many other artists. City centre has been of interest to the earliest painters who first visited this city. Notable in the representations of the Bow within Calgary's city centre are the many interpretations of the civic bridges which link the city's north and south sides.

These selected areas of the Bow River provide an opportunity for viewers to glean more about the ways artists have approached the river, how compelling they found it to be, what they identified as important, and what they found "paintable."

Favoured Places is part of the *Our River: Journey of the Bow* exhibition on display at Glenbow Museum from February 19, 2005 to June 5, 2005.

**Backgrounder on
Rhythm and Change: The Bow in Contemporary Art
Part of *Our River: Journey of the Bow* Exhibition**

Since the early 1980s there has been a resurgence of interest by several contemporary artists in the Bow River and its valley. A multitude of locations, subjects, and ideas continue to attract them to the Bow River. These range from how people use the river on a regular basis, to the transformational effects of seasonal change, to varied climatic effects, to questioning the very problem of representing water in traditional visual arts media. For some artists, the subject of water has played a pivotal role in their larger artistic practices and the Bow River has become a part of that investigation.

Rhythm and Change will explore the works of nine contemporary artists inspired by the Bow River and its surroundings. These artists examine the Bow from many perspectives – high above the river valley, or low and close to the river’s shoreline, or actually being immersed within it. Each vantage point yields unique and personal visions of the many potential relationships that can be formed with the Bow River.

The artists featured in *Rhythm and Change* have been selected for the uniqueness of their thoughtful observations and approaches to the subject, and for the particular passions that each has for the Bow River. Over the years, for the most part, artists have chosen to represent water in traditional media like painting, drawing, and printmaking. In more recent years, artists have considered merging media. Artists such as Laura Millard merge both painting and photography in her work that concentrates on small ice-frozen areas of the Bow. For Mario Reis, there is no medium more preferable than the river itself. He immerses his canvases within the river, allowing the sediment to make its own abstract patterns on the canvas, giving new meaning to the traditional art term, “watercolour”.

Rhythm and Change: The Bow in Contemporary Art is a multi-media exhibit featuring works by Jeff Bosworth (Calgary), Ted Godwin (Calgary), Dorothy Knowles (Saskatoon), Allan Harding MacKay (Kitchener), Laura Millard (London), David Pugh (formerly Canmore), Mario Reis (Germany), Craig Richards (Banff), and Bill Vazan (Montreal). They each demonstrate that the Bow River continues to be a rich possibility for artistic exploration, and that the landscape as a subject continues to be a valid pursuit despite its complex history as a genre in art.

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Special Programming for Our River: Journey of the Bow Exhibition

GSI: Bow River

(Part of *Our River: Journey of the Bow* exhibition)

Glenbow's Science Investigation program (GSI) brings to you five fascinating reproduction water quality testing stations in the *Our River: Journey of the Bow* exhibition. Take on the role of a rainbow trout, blackfly larva, duck, or muskrat and then with hands-on analysis, collect data to create an ecological profile. With this profile, you can determine which part of the river is friendliest to you, demonstrating how some organisms flourish in certain environments and others avoid the same environment.

GSI: Bow River is a *Live Interpretation* program supported by Petro-Canada.

The Discovery Room

Included with museum admission

Open during regular museum hours

Reveal your artistic side! Drop by our art-based open studio to create, explore and discover with your family any day of the week. From February through June, activities focus on *Our River: Journey of the Bow*. Create a watercolor artwork with unique materials that reflect how water moves and changes. Try our *Art under a Microscope* activity to examine water close up and then design an abstract artwork inspired by what you see. Build a collage by layering colors and textures inspired by the incredible artists who have portrayed the beautiful Bow River. The *Discovery Room* has activities for all ages and interests. For group bookings or more information, call 268-4110.

Alberta Water Summit 2005: Sustaining Our Future Together

On May 16 & 17, Enbridge Inc. will present the *Alberta Water Summit 2005: Sustaining Our Future Together*. Founded by the Glenbow Museum and the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment & Economy, this two-day summit will bring together over 100 delegates to discuss the sustainability of Alberta's water resources. Renowned water experts from across Canada and the United States will facilitate dialogue and help participants develop declarations for the future. The event will end with a public lunch featuring keynote speaker, William Nordhouse, High Profile Nobel level Resource Economist. To learn more, visit www.enbridge.com.

Glenbow Museum is open seven days a week. Exhibition galleries are open Monday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Learn more about Glenbow Museum by calling (403) 268-4100 or visit www.glenbow.org for details on admission prices, and further programming details.

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Know Your Bow!

- The Bow River is 623 km long, running from the mountains to southeastern Alberta where it joins the Oldman and becomes the South Saskatchewan River.
- 4 000 000 000 cubic metres of water flow down the Bow River every year. That would fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool 16 million times.
- The Brown Trout was introduced to the Bow River by accident. In 1910 a truck full of live trout broke down and dumped its load into the water.
- The water you see flowing through Calgary eventually drains into the Hudson Bay.

General Water Trivia

- Comprising less than 1% of the global population, Canadians possess 20% of the world's freshwater resources.
- Sixty percent of the freshwater in Canada drains north; however, 90% of the population lives within a few hundred kilometres of the southern border.
- The average Canadian uses a total of 4,400 litres water per day.
- Canadians use at least twice as much water per person as citizens in many other industrialized countries.
- 250,000 litres of water are used in the production of a single car.
- 33,000 litres of water are required to make the average computer.
- Each day Calgarians use enough water to fill the Saddle Dome.
- Purified water is pumped through 4,000 km of pipes to homes and businesses within the city.

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