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WORLD-CLASS WATER EXHIBIT MAKES SPLASH AT OKANAGAN SCIENCE CENTRE

Vernon, B.C. – He’s traveled from Ontario, to Houston, Tex. to Santa Ana, Calif., and now Walter the Adventurous Water Molecule is making his debut in the Okanagan. Okanagan Science Centre and Vernon Moving and Storage are bubbling with excitement, partnering with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and Okanagan WaterWise to bring the *WaterWorks: Soak up the Science* exhibit to our valley.

The *WaterWorks* display – a 464 square metre (5,000 sq. ft) exhibit – has its grand opening on Saturday, June 23 at the Okanagan Science Centre (OSC) in Vernon. The display encourages water education in a fun and imaginative setting while promoting conservation and protection of this valuable resource. Children and adults alike are invited to play with water, harness its power and grasp its importance in our everyday lives – without wasting a drop!

“We’re thrilled to be able to bring this amazing, world-class exhibit to the Okanagan,” noted Sandi Dixon, Executive Director of the OSC. The display was originally created by Science North Centre in Sudbury, Ont. and has been touring the U.S. for the last three years, explained Dixon. In making its way back to Canada, the display will be part of the Science Centre’s feature exhibit until January 2013. And, thanks to a grant from the OBWB, one of the pieces from the exhibit will be on permanent display at the Science Centre, she added.

“We’re very happy to be partners in this venture,” added Corinne Jackson, OBWB’s Communications Director and manager of its outreach initiative Okanagan WaterWise. “The Okanagan is nationally recognized as a region that faces serious water challenges. We have less fresh water available per person in this valley, but we use two times more than the average Canadian. We can all become more WaterWise. This is a fun and educational way to learn more about the critical role water plays in our lives, and what we can do to protect it,” added Jackson.

WaterWorks has three main goals: 1) help visitors understand the physical properties of water, 2) increase visitors’ understanding of their own personal water use, and 3) raise awareness of water sustainability issues. The exhibit includes 11 interactive stations plus a Water Theatre featuring a fast-paced animated video that follows Walter, the adventurous water molecule, on his journeys through the water cycle.

“It’s really a fun exhibit – one that will bring smiles, laughs and a sense of wonder to all ages,” added Dixon.

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