

**For Immediate Release  
September 27, 2005**



**LOCAL SKATEBOARDERS PRESENT CHEQUE IN SUPPORT OF THE  
ESPLANADE  
Sept. 27, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Medicine Hat** – On Aug. 24, 2005, over 30 skateboarders who ranged in age from 12 to 30 years, conducted a bottle drive for approximately three hours to raise money for the Esplanade.

Skateboarders in Medicine Hat wanted to work on improving their image in Medicine Hat by doing something positive for the City. The Skateboarding Association saw the bottle drive as a great opportunity to take part in fundraising, to help our environment by recycling and to express that:

- skateboarders are concerned about their community;
- skateboarding is a sport that helps to promote physical activity in young people;
- there is a club that wants to promote skateboarding in the city.

The skateboarders focused on the South Ridge area. Typically, the reaction from the people on the doorsteps was positive. One older gentleman put his arm around one of the skateboarders and said, “You’re doing a good job, son. Keep making a difference.”

When asked why the Esplanade, Chris Nickel, President of the Medicine Hat Skateboarding Association, said, “The Esplanade is a project that skateboarders wouldn’t normally be associated with. But, we wanted to support a project that benefited the whole city”.

Bottle drive funds raised by the skateboarders was \$823. In addition, there were a number of local businesses and individuals that, upon learning about the bottle drive through local media, decided to match what the skateboarders raised. Medican Construction, Tim Hortons and Dan and Cathy Smith have contributed to the Esplanade through the Medicine Hat Skateboarding Association. To date, funds raised totaled **\$3169**.

Nickel said, “The Medicine Hat Skateboarding Association would like to thank not only all of the skateboarders who came out to take part in the bottle drive, but the businesses who contributed and all of the people who donated bottles to help make the drive a success”.

**There will be a cheque presentation to Mayor Vallely on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Esplanade (401 First Street SE).**

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For further information, please contact:

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