

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Artist Sarah Hall Creates First Photovoltaic Art Glass Installation
in North America, at Regent College, UBC, in Vancouver**

Toronto and Vancouver, April 18, 2006 – Sarah Hall, one of North America's most celebrated stained glass artists, is currently constructing the first stained glass installation in North America to utilize photovoltaic cells. The installation is the central element of a Wind Tower which is being built as part of the mechanical system of the new (underground) library at Regent College on the campus of UBC in Vancouver by architect Clive Groat, who is internationally recognized for his sophisticated and distinctive integrations of buildings and art. The budget for the project is \$14.5 million. The \$10 million Library is the centerpiece in Regent's 'Writing the Next Chapter' campaign and will feature a 40 foot wind tower with a total of 144 square feet of art glass. The tower will be installed in the fall of 2006 while the entire project will be completed and dedicated early in 2007.

Photovoltaic cells are a nearly perfect energy source, as they generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases. The photovoltaic array, embedded between two panes of glass, is composed of thin silicon and metal cells that convert sunlight into electricity.

The installation also utilizes laminated dichroic glass, which is used extensively in the space industry for windshields on spacecraft. The glass, although coated with thin layers of metal oxides, is completely transparent and totally reflective. Because it presents two rainbows – one on transmission and one in reflection – dichroic glass constantly changes as it reflects the trees, sky, sun, clouds, and even shadows and moonlight.

The energy collected by the photovoltaic cells powers the LED tower lighting. The slowly changing coloured lights are synchronized to the music of Vancouver composer and violinist Oliver Schroer. The installation also incorporates the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic. Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus and it is still spoken in various parts of the world, including Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Iran.

"The Wind Tower and the stained glass installation are a perfect expression of values held at Regent College," says President Rod Wilson. "Our trans-denominational school is committed to the integration of faith into all spheres of life, including the arts and the environment. With its dependence on the ever-changing beauty of wind, light and colour, the Wind Tower is a majestic addition to the campus."

Artist Sarah Hall has constructed large-scale art glass installations throughout North America and Europe. "Stained glass has a 1,000-year history," she says. "Using photovoltaic and dichroic glass is one way of bringing new technology to this art form that most people consider traditional and unchanging. The integration of a wind tower with solar energy gives a strong message concerning our stewardship of earth and our need for sustainable energy."

"By forging art with a source of energy, we create a powerful image about how we can live in this world – it enables us to dream about who we can be in this world and how we articulate our stories," she says.

Media Contacts: Dal Schindell
dal@regent-college.edu

Peter O'Brien
obrien@carboncomm.com

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