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For Immediate Release:

### **Plans to Construct new Arts Centre will move forward**

**Yarmouth, Nova Scotia** - The New YARC Planning Committee, on behalf of the Yarmouth Arts Regional Council, formally announced today that the planned new Arts Centre will be constructed on its current Parade Street location. With this decision the Planning Committee will dedicate all efforts to the implementation of Phase I of the project.

The announcement comes at the conclusion of an additional process initiated by the Town of Yarmouth to have a series of alternate locations evaluated for suitability for the new Centre. In addition, meetings took place with members of the Tri-County Regional School Board to evaluate the potential of adjoining a new arts centre to the new Forest Street High School project. After an exhaustive review of alternate sites, it was concluded that the project should move forward on the Parade Street location.

“There was an urgency to resolve the location issues raised by town council that was driven by the window of opportunity for available funding”, explains Planning Committee co-Chair Keith Condon. “A key factor in allowing the Committee to move toward the next step will be to secure the funding for the initial phase of the project, allowing the project to remain within the deadlines for funding for the construction phase of the Centre.”

“In order to meet the deadlines for stimulus funding available from Cultural Spaces Canada, we need to have the first phase completed this year”, says Mitch Bonnar, co-Chair of the Planning Committee. “All stakeholders have been consistent with the strategy to move forward immediately and our final analysis confirming the location has allowed us to do just that.”

YARC President Jonathan Kini shares the Planning Committee’s view on moving forward immediately in order to allow the entire community to take advantage of a new, state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary Arts Centre. “The Arts Council, its membership and community as a whole have been waiting for this and everyone is excited to see this project moving forward”, said Kini.

The new facility will be much more than just an enlarged theatre. The planned spaces include a dedicated gallery, a second small studio theatre, a multi-purpose space with sprung floor for dance use, a print shop and much more.

“At this point, we are very excited to now continue on with the project”, added Kini. “As per our project timelines, we plan to break ground in the fall.”

Phase I of the project consists of design and engineering, consultations with theatre design experts and tendering of the construction. Harry Jost of Jost Architects Ltd. has been hired as the primary architectural consultant for the project. Completion of the facility is targeted for March 2011.

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