

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Atlantic Veterinary College's Award-Winning Vet Camp Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (July 4, 2008): The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) Vet Camp will celebrate ten successful years as Canada's only veterinary camp for young people this summer. Beginning Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> campers from throughout North America will begin arriving on Prince Edward Island to take part in the award-winning camp.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camp is marked by two significant events. In early June, AVC Vet Camp was awarded the Canadian Council on the Advancement of Education's Gold Award for Best Community Outreach Program in Canada. And last week, AVC Vet Camp was re-named The Dr. Tim Ogilvie AVC Vet Camp in honour of Dr. Tim Ogilvie, Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College and founder of the camp.

"Our goal is to deliver a world class, accessible science camp that provides students with a hands-on, authentic experience in veterinary medicine," says Dr. Ogilvie. "Our veterinary camp prides itself on being practical and realistic. Campers take part in everything from gowning and suturing like a surgeon to attending rounds in AVC's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, observing surgeries and taking part in pathology labs. Campers learn what is needed to apply to veterinary school and the many career choices available to doctors of veterinary medicine."

More than 150 grades seven, eight and nine students will participate in the camp this summer. Approximately 1,400 students – some from as far away as Australia and Saudi Arabia – have taken part in AVC Vet Camp over the past decade.

"Campers and parents gave our program a satisfaction rating of 97% in 2007," says Megan Stuckless, a third year doctor of veterinary medicine student and this year's coordinator of the camp. "We use detailed feedback and evaluations to continually improve the quality and educational experience offered by the camp. One of the camp parents wrote to us telling us that 'AVC Vet Camp is worth traveling the continent for!' – we get pretty excited by comments like that."

The veterinary camp was developed 10 years ago by AVC Dean, Dr. Tim Ogilvie. It was Dr. Ogilvie's dream to provide students with an interest in veterinary medicine, animals and science with an applied, authentic experience in veterinary medicine. He believes that by providing students with the opportunity to become veterinarians for a week, that it would assist immensely in their decisions around future educational and career options.

"I was very humbled to learn of the decision to name AVC Vet Camp in my honour," says Dr. Ogilvie. "To have my name tied to such a stellar educational experience is certainly rewarding. To have the camp recognized for its excellence on a national level has also been cause for much celebration."

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