

## Local 'ice painter' invited to 2006 Winter Games

By **Damian Inwood**  
Staff Reporter

Roberts Creek artist **Gordon Halloran** is going to the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics to create a cool painting project.

Halloran, 57, has developed a unique way of making vast, abstract ice paintings that will decorate the floors and walls of a series of ancient forts in the Piedmont region of northern Italy.

"There's tremendous excitement about the idea of taking Canadian art to the birthplace of the Renaissance," said a delighted Halloran, after receiving an official invitation from **Piero Addis**, head of arts and culture for the Torino organizing committee.

Halloran will use a portable, artificial ice system of long plastic sheets with flexible pipes in them.

"I'll be able to take over whole rooms and create ice paintings on floors and walls," he said.

His work will be featured at La Fortezza di Fenestrelle and will cover 3,500 square feet of floors, walls and stone steps.

Halloran said he freezes centime-

tre-thick slabs of paint, which are then broken and dropped into other paint colours, forming crystal patterns. The pieces are placed on an ice surface, flooded and then etched by a Zamboni blade.

Halloran's work has been used at the Olympic Plaza in Calgary and at the World Figure Skating Championships in Edmonton, as well as Vancouver's West End Community Centre and Richmond's Minoru Centre.

Now he's setting out to raise \$125,000, to pay for materials and the three-member team to go to Italy for a month in early 2006.

Halloran has launched an event called the "ice-painting challenge" in which teams compete by making paintings in ice arenas.

The challenge also includes an artistic performance on the ice.

Halloran ran an ice-painting challenge in Sechelt last New Year's Eve and is working with several Lower Mainland municipalities to repeat it in the spring of 2005.

He also hopes to use his idea at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.



Gordon Halloran holds up colour slab used in ice painting.