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STARGATE FANS RALLY TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Vancouver August 16, 2002 – Fans of the Vancouver-based sci-fi show *Stargate SG-1*, are gearing up for their annual gathering known as *Gatecon*, which is to run September 12-15 at the Best Western in Richmond, BC. The pre-convention event named for its founder, *Sekh's Party*, (aka Patricia Smith) takes place this year at Maverick's on the Waterfront on September 11th. Initially planned as a small fete for convention attendees, the evening has become an important charity fundraiser for the *Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation*.

Stargate fans across the globe became involved in the CCFF through their admiration for Vancouver actor JR Bourne (Martouf on *Stargate SG-1*, *Big Sound*, *13 Ghosts*), whose young niece was born with the disease. JR has been a special guest at the party for the past couple of years and this year will be joined by fellow *Stargate* actor Colin Cunningham (Major Davis on *Stargate SG-1*, *Big Sound*, *Beggars and Choosers*, *The 6th Day*, *Zacharia*, *Cold Squad*, *DaVinci's Inquest*). One of the highlights of the evening each year is the celebrity charity auction. Last year's event, *Sekh's Party – The Second Coming*, held at Vancouver's Planet Hollywood, was the second largest single event fundraiser (organized independently of the Foundation) for CCFF BC in 2001, with \$6,565.00 (CDN) in total donations and an additional \$12,000 (CDN) donated by fans via JR's official website. Several hundred dollars were also donated to the 9/11 charity. This year's event, *Sekh's Party – Close Encounters for the Third Time*, holds extra special meaning as it is being held on the anniversary of the world trade center disaster. A donation of 25% of party proceeds will go to the Twin Towers Orphans Fund.

According to Max Pinsky, President of BC CCFF, the Foundation sponsors several fundraisers throughout the year, with the next big event – the *65 Roses Gala* being held in November. Proceeds from fundraising efforts are allocated to fund grant-proposed research and specialized CF clinics across the country. BC has two Cystic Fibrosis clinics – Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at BC Children's Hospital and the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at St. Paul's. With the average lifespan of CF patients at 35.6 years, a higher proportion of those with the disease are now living into adulthood and proving that they are indeed winning the fight for survival. The Foundation always welcomes those who would like to lend a hand or make a donation.

In addition to the Cystic Fibrosis and 9/11 charities, Stargate fans are also involved in the *Stuffy Guard Project*, which collects stuffed animals for needy children. One of the newest squads was formed in honor of Colin Cunningham and his *Stargate SG-1* character, Major Paul Davis, dubbing itself the *Davis Dragons*.

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