



The Coast Sustainability Trust

Eric van Soeren, Trustee
6705 London Drive
Delta, B.C. V4K 4W7

Phone: 604-940-0850
Cell: 604-318-6259
Fax: 604-940-0858
Email: eric@vansoeren.net
www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com

April 2005 News Release

\$2 MILLION IN NEW ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY FUNDS

Communities and First Nations in the Comox Strathcona region can tap into an additional \$2,000,000 just approved by the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST). These new Community Matching Funds will be made available to support sustainable economic development projects.

The Province of British Columbia established the Coast Sustainability Trust in 2002 to mitigate any adverse impacts arising from land use decisions associated with the Land and Resource Management Plan process in the Central Coast, North Coast, and Queen Charlotte Islands.

Since then, Trustee Eric van Soeren reported that almost \$1,000,000.00 has been committed to 10 projects in the Comox Strathcona region.

In October 2004 the CST approved \$100,000 toward a \$225,000 project for the Campbell River Indian Band in partnership with the District of Campbell River, to construct an all weather/all season boat ramp. The ramp will expand direct employment opportunities for First Nations and create opportunities for economic development not only for First Nations, but for all area water users.

In September 2003 the CST approved \$99,943 toward a \$199,887 project for Tourism North Central Island and the Vancouver Island North Visitor's Association to jointly represent the region's tourism product in a direct in-market sales program. The program consists of direct sales at consumer and travel trade shows.

Also in September 2003, the CST approved \$100,000 toward a \$379,150 project for the Vancouver Island Economic Developers Association to attract new investment and create new jobs in the shellfish industry in Vancouver Island Coastal communities. Through database research and trade show contacts, a short list of 43 potential investors has been created. Of these contacts, 16 companies were actually visited at sites in Eastern Canada and Western United States.

QUOTE FROM MAYOR OR SOMEONE ELSE IN AREA

Communities, First Nations and community based non-profit organizations are invited to submit funding proposals to the CST. General information about the Trust and guidelines for submission are available on the CST website at www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com.