



## **The Coast Sustainability Trust**

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### **December News Release**

#### **The Coast Sustainability Trust Invests in the Islands**

Three initiatives in the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii will receive a total of \$269,291 in funding from the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST).

“The Haida Gwaii Climate Forest Pilot Project will receive \$100,000 to help in the development of a project that will reforest with cedars large areas that were clear-cut and have grown back as alder bush. The cedars will sequester carbon, and the proposal will test whether a business can then be made selling carbon credits to large businesses so they can meet green house gas reduction targets.

The Village of Queen Charlotte will receive \$100,000 towards a \$3.2 million upgrade of the potable water system for Queen Charlotte. This water system upgrade is a necessary step before further residential and industrial land can be developed.

The Sandspit Harbour Society will receive \$69,291 to help build a break wall that is designed to stop the boat-launching ramp from continually silting up.

“These are the most recent of what we hope will be many worthwhile projects that the CST will be able to support. To date, over \$850,000 has been committed to projects on the Islands,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren.

Funding for the three projects was approved at the November 2006 meeting of the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii Regional Steering Committee of the CST.

“Regional Steering Committee members Duane Gould, Carol Kulesha, Amanda Reid-Stevens and Ken Rea work hard to sift through worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide long-term sustainable economic development in the communities of the Islands.”

Communities, First Nations and community-based non-profit organizations are invited to submit funding proposals. Application guidelines and general information is available on the CST website at [www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com](http://www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com). Interested parties can follow the links to the Community Matching Fund Guidelines and Stage One Application.