



Fraser Basin Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment



Fraser Basin Council

Annual Report and Financial Statements

April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005



Fraser Basin Council

Fraser Basin Council Annual Report 2004 – 2005

The Fraser Basin Council's eighth Annual Report provides an overview of the mandate and structure of the Council, highlights from the Council's first eight years, a summary of the Council's activities over the past year, and audited financial statements for the 2004/2005 fiscal year, April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	Page 2
Message from the President	Page 3
Fraser River Basin	Page 4
Fraser Basin Council	Page 5
Organizational Structure	Page 6
Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors	Page 6
Fraser Basin Council Staff	Page 7
Fraser Basin Council Achievements 1997 — 2005	Page 8
Basin Wide Highlights 2004-2005	Page 9
Regional Highlights 2004-2005	Page 14
Upper Fraser	Page 14
Cariboo-Chilcotin	Page 16
Thompson	Page 18
Fraser Valley	Page 20
Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky	Page 22
Fraser Basin Council Society Financial Statements	Page 25
Auditors' Report to the Members	Page 26
Statement of Financial Position	Page 27
Statement of Operations	Page 28
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	Page 29
Statement of Cash Flows	Page 30
Notes to Financial Statements	Page 31

COVER PHOTO: "Little Hell's Gate" falls just south of the community of Blue River on the North Thompson River.

Message from the Chair



Patrick Reid has been Chair of the Fraser Basin Council since May 2003. Mr. Reid is well known as the Commissioner-General of Expo 86. He is also chairman of the Rick Hansen Man In Motion Foundation and was former chair of GLOBE 90 and 92, founder and chair of AirShow Canada, former chair of the Vancouver Port Corporation, and first independent chairman of the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

Mr. Reid has had a distinguished career as a senior Canadian diplomat, serving as Commissioner General for a number of major world expositions, President of International Bureau of Expositions in Paris and Consul General of Canada in San Francisco. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has received many other awards.

Patrick Reid, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council

THERE IS A FASCINATING, and fruitful, dynamic at play within the Fraser Basin Council. It is based on a relationship, uncommon elsewhere, whereby a small number of staff work in tandem with a board of directors numerically twice as large; and wherein ongoing trust is nurtured on a day-to-day basis within each of the five regions of the Basin.

This foundation permits headquarters staff, and all directors, to be aware of, and sensitive to, local issues that may have a bearing on Basin-wide considerations. And the same sort of dynamic extends to the various committees that deal with the broader opportunities and concerns of the Basin. It also means that, at the three formal general meetings annually, Board members are able to focus exclusively on priorities, priorities that are measured against the principles enshrined in the Council's *Charter for Sustainability*.

This dynamic has helped the Council achieve significant maturity in recent years. The Council has established a remarkable track record of success by acting as an "honest broker", bringing together all the players needed to find practical solutions to complex issues. Evidence of this has been exemplified, on the one hand, by extraordinary recognition abroad – from the World Bank to the Government of The Philippines – and, on the other, by an expanded demand for our expertise and intervention at home.

Nowhere was this more apparent than at the great biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conference in November 2004 where, among a stellar array of speakers and a packed congregation, a solid phalanx of young, committed participants showed that they know precisely what the message of sustainability is all about, and were capable of delivering it. They also showed an appreciation of how difficult it can be to attain results that endure. The conference demonstrated to a wider constituency, not only the Council's relevance and support, but also its increasing success in forging solutions to complex issues.

Such maturity presents both opportunities and obligations; and in turn considerable pressure on a dedicated staff. There is, for example, a growing impetus to engage in activities which, while related to the franchise we happily exercise within the confines of the Fraser Basin, have important relevance further afield.

For instance, the Council is managing province wide programs on climate change, surely one of the most crucial issues we face today. One of the programs, Fleet Challenge BC, focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fleets of trucks, taxis, school buses, delivery vans and a host of other vehicles. The goal is to "green" BC's commercial fleets by 2010.

Our Fraser River flood hazard management program has logically been expanded to encompass other flood prone river systems throughout the province. The strategy we engineered to deal with invasive plants is clearly not confined geographically to the Basin alone. A new initiative to help develop a practical plan to sustain the salmon in the Fraser and its tributaries – undertaken at the behest of the Living Rivers Trust of British Columbia – will hopefully have beneficial consequences not only for the salmon, but for the well-being of British Columbians at large.

Engaging in such far-reaching programs often has its problems and pitfalls. At times, it is close to impossible for all the stakeholders to reach consensus. In other instances, deciding upon a course of action is relatively easy, but finding the ongoing financial resources to support those actions proves elusive.

Everyone agrees, for example, that the debris trap on the Fraser just below Hope is absolutely essential, ensuring that a great deal of detritus is held harmless from damaging the lower reaches of the river and beyond, resulting in significant consequences to those that live, work and play in this part of the Fraser. But finding the formula for who should pay for its year-to-year operation has been a time consuming source of frustration for the Council.

There is also the ongoing conundrum on how much influence

the Council can exert, and in what manner, in ensuring that the important solutions that are reached by consultation and consensus will in fact be carried out by those governments, organizations and individuals who have direct responsibility for doing so.

What is clear from many of the programs undertaken by the Council is that patience is an absolute necessity. Finding practical solutions to major sustainability issues does not happen overnight. Sometimes years of effort are required before tangible results are seen.

In 1998, for example, the Council began working with local residents, former mine owners and government representatives to clean up the pollution from acid rock drainage at the former Britannia Mines. But it wasn't until the spring of 2005 that ground was finally broken for a new water treatment plant at the site.

That the Council has helped protect watersheds in developing countries and that the Council is now sought out for leadership

in the initiation of sustainability endeavours outside the boundaries of the Fraser Basin is gratifying. However, it will be for the fine board of directors of the Council to measure, in the not too distant future, how far the Council can extend itself – both in resources and geographic reach. Perhaps there will be found to be a need for some sort of Council of a like sort for the whole of the province.

Sincerely,



Patrick Reid, OOC
Chair

Roy Mussell — President of the Fraser Basin Council Society



Roy Mussell was appointed President of the Fraser Basin Council Society in May 2003. Mr. Mussell, who was a founding Director, also serves as Vice Chair of the Council. He is Chief of the Skwah First Nation in Chilliwack, Co-Chair of BC First Nations' Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements Management Committee, President of the Aboriginal Policy Institute, Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs' Committee on Human Resources Development Agreements and a Director on the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada.

Roy Mussell, President of the Fraser Basin Council Society
and Vice-Chair of the Fraser Basin Council.

THIS PAST YEAR was, indeed, a gratifying year for the Fraser Basin Council. It was particularly special for me to see a number of issues affecting the Basin's sustainability finally being resolved. As well, it was wonderful to see the Council receiving broader recognition outside the Fraser Basin. Throughout the year we hosted numerous delegations wanting to learn more about the Council's unique collaborative governance structure and how it could be applied to their specific challenges and opportunities.

A special highlight for me was to attend, with the Council's Executive Director David Marshall, an international workshop on integrated river basin management hosted by the World Bank in Warsaw Poland. Following a presentation to 100 delegates representing over 30 countries, Bill Blomsquist from the World Bank offered the following statement:

"The Fraser Basin Council presentation was an agenda-

changing experience for this workshop. Our visit to the Fraser had a similar impact on our study – nothing looked quite the same to us once we had seen what you're doing. Much is said in workshops like this about giving people tools to take back to their own communities and use. That's important, but there may be something even more important, and that is giving them hope. FBC gives us all hope that a better way is really possible."

Sincerely,



Roy Mussell
President

Fraser River Basin



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S Fraser River Basin – it's one of the most beautiful, prosperous and healthy places on earth. If you are reading this, you are probably one of the 2.7 million people who live, work and play in the Basin – but you may not know it.

The Fraser Basin – the area drained by the Fraser River and its many tributaries – is almost as large as the State of California. Stretching 1377 kilometres from the Rockies to Richmond, the Basin covers more than 25% of BC. For two out of every three British Columbians, it's the place we call home.

Prince George, Vanderhoof, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Kamloops, Lillooet, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Surrey, Delta, Coquitlam, Vancouver, Whistler and many other cities and towns are all located in the Fraser Basin.

For thousands of years, the Basin has been home to Aboriginal peoples including the Halquameelem, Hun Qui Min Um, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepmec, Stl'atl'imx, Tsilhqot'in, Carrier and Okanagan speaking First Nations. The sustainability of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in the Fraser Basin is critical to the long-term health of the Basin as a whole.

Economic activities in the Basin account for 80% of British Columbia's gross domestic product. Its forests cover nearly three times the area of New Brunswick, and its farms, ranches and orchards comprise half of all BC's agricultural lands. There are eight major producing mines, as well as some of the province's – and the world's – most spectacular natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

The Basin also boasts one of the world's most productive salmon river systems, supporting five salmon species and 65 other species of fish, including steelhead and sturgeon. The Fraser River and its tributaries comprise BC's most productive waterfowl breeding and overwintering area, and the mouth of the River in particular is recognized as a globally significant estuary. Hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, not to mention trees, plants and insects, form the basis of the Basin's diverse ecosystems.

The Fraser River Basin – a very special place and worth taking care of!

Fraser Basin Council

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL (FBC) was established in the Spring of 1997 with a mandate to ensure that the decisions we make now about how we live, work and play in the Fraser River Basin will protect and advance its social, economic, and environmental sustainability into the future. Individuals, organizations and four orders of government have signed a *Charter for Sustainability* that sets a path for achieving sustainability of the Basin. The FBC now oversees the implementation of the *Charter*.

The *Charter* embodies two sets of values that have been critical to the FBC's effectiveness. One set incorporates the fundamental principles and integrated elements of sustainability, namely strong communities, a healthy environment and a robust economy. The second set asserts the FBC's culture and how it will work together toward sustainability. These values include understanding and respecting the opinions of others, accepting all members as peers, valuing balance over extreme positions, taking action based on consensus and building strong trust among members. These shared values have enabled members to learn how to make decisions that will enable sustainability.

These shared values have also enabled the FBC to become an unprecedented mechanism in which the four orders of Canadian government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), the private sector and civil society work together to enhance sustainability in a practical way. The FBC has helped change the approach to managing the Fraser River and its watershed to address the social, economic and environmental considerations of the entire system. This collaborative governance model is the first of its kind in Canada and addresses the limitations of the traditional hierarchy of multiple jurisdictions operating independently in a common system.

The encounter that crystallized concern over the health of the Fraser River and the Basin it drains took place more than fourteen years ago. Gordon Campbell, then Mayor of Vancouver, and John Backhouse, then Mayor of Prince George, challenged each other to "clean up their parts of the (Fraser) River." The joint challenge was itself recognition that making progress towards sustainability for the whole Fraser River Basin would require a collaborative effort all along the River and across all jurisdictions.

The FBC is a unique non-governmental, not-for-profit

organization founded on the belief that a more effective, potent and sustainable kind of leadership emerges when diverse interests coalesce around core values, and when consensus and joint action are chosen over confrontation and inaction. In all of its work, the FBC remains impartial, transpartisan, independent and non-political in its primary role as an advocate for a sustainable Basin.

To achieve its goals, the FBC acts as an impartial, trusted facilitator operating under a unique model of collaborative governance. Under this model, the four orders of Canadian government, the private sector and civil society work together as equals to overcome conflict, find common ground, make informed and responsible decisions, generate long-term solutions to complex issues and take advantage of opportunities to enhance sustainability "on the ground."

The FBC's 36 member Board of Directors represent all regions of the vast and diverse Fraser River Basin. Decisions, which are reached by consensus, require a commitment among Directors and project team members to not only learn the facts of any one issue, but also to learn and understand how different experiences, beliefs and values can influence the interpretation of a given set of "facts."

The FBC has helped change the approach to managing the entire Basin by focusing on new ways of doing business that address the need to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability into all decision-making. In addition, the FBC considers the needs of the entire Basin rather than those of any single jurisdiction, interest, organization or individual.

The FBC fulfills its mandate by working with the vision, principles and goals articulated in its *Charter for Sustainability*. The *Charter* is not a legally binding document, but rather a good faith agreement among all those with interests in the Basin to work collaboratively toward a more sustainable future. To ensure that the FBC has a local presence and is addressing issues of real concern from all parts of the Basin, it has established Regional Committees and offices in each of the Basin's five sub-regions – Upper Fraser, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Thompson, Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky.

To learn more about Fraser Basin Council programs and accomplishments, visit our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.



Fraser Basin Council

Organizational Structure

Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL'S Board of Directors is comprised of 36 individuals who reflect the broad diversity of people living in the Fraser Basin. Twenty-two Directors are appointed by the four orders of government: three by the federal government, three by the provincial government, one by each of the eight regional districts in the Basin, and one by each of the Basin's eight First Nations language groups. The remaining 14 Directors are non-governmental representatives appointed by the FBC – citizens from all walks of life. These 14 include two representatives from each of the Basin's five geographic regions, one Basin-wide representative for each

of the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental), and an impartial Chair.

The FBC's Board of Directors undertakes all of its business through both standing and task committees, and makes all of its decisions by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the FBC's bylaws outline a process for facilitating decision-making.

The following is a list of the Directors who served on the FBC during the 2004/2005 fiscal year. (Please note that the list includes more than 36 Directors because it includes all those Directors whose terms ended or began part way through the year.)

Patrick Reid	Chair, Fraser Basin Council, Vancouver
Roy Mussell	Vice Chair, Fraser Basin Council; Chief of the Skwah First Nation, Chilliwack
Deborah Abbott	Executive Director, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton
Betty Abbs	Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Prince George
Sharolise Baker	Fisheries Program Manager, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George
David Barratt	Former Regional Director, Harbours & Ports, Transport Canada, Mission
Nolan Charles	Councillor, Musqueam Indian Band, Vancouver
Ervin Charleyboy	Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, Williams Lake
Linda Coady	Vice President, Sustainability, VANOC - 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games, Vancouver
Tom Coombes	Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Anglemont
Randal Cripps	Regional Director, Corporate Branch - Pacific/Yukon Region, Environment Canada, Vancouver
Caroline Grover	Economic Development Officer, Salmon Arm Economic Development Corporation, Salmon Arm
Judy Guichon	Rancher, Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited, Quilchena
Ronald Hawkins	Retired Forest District Manager, McBride
Dave Hendrixson	Director, Cariboo Regional District, Wells
Cheeying Ho	Executive Director, Smart Growth BC, Vancouver
Duncan Jeffries	Director, Career & Business Development, University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford
Eddy Jules	Chief, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Kamloops
Colin Kinsley	Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Prince George
Bob Smillie	Retired Physician, Kamloops
Michael O'Brien	Vice President, Vancouver International Airport Authority, Vancouver
Hugh O'Reilly	Director, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Whistler
Jon O'Riordan	Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Victoria
Alan Osborne	Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Victoria
Robert Patterson	Mine Superintendent, Gibraltar Mines Ltd, 150 Mile House
Ardath Paxton-Mann	Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver
Bob Peart	Executive Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Vancouver
Jerry Petersen	Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Vanderhoof

Joe Post	Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Merritt
Sylvia Pranger	Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Kent
Perry Redan	Chief, Sekw'el'as Band, Cayoose Creek Stl'at'l'imx, Lillooet
George Saddleman	Former Chief, Upper Nicola Indian Band, Merritt
Bruce Sampson	Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Sustainability, BC Hydro, Vancouver
Barbara Sharp	Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, North Vancouver
Coro Strandberg	Principal, Strandberg Consulting, Burnaby
Tracy Summerville	Assistant Professor, Political Science Program, University of Northern BC, Price George
Chris Trumpy	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Victoria
David Van Seters	President, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, Vancouver
Jim Wild	Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta
Bill Young	Consultant, Bill Young Forest Management Inc., 150 Mile House

Fraser Basin Council Staff

David Marshall	Executive Director
Elizabeth Balkwill	Administrative Assistant, Operations
Jessica Bratty	Program Manager
Laura Brend	Administrative Assistant, Council Operations and Information Technology
Joan Chess	Regional Manager, Upper Fraser
Diana Dilworth	Manager, Council Operations
Marni Gillis	Program Coordinator
Deana Grinnell	Assistant Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky
Phil Hallinan	Regional Manager, Thompson
Cheri Hamilton	Administrative Assistant, Financial Administration
Steve Litke	Program Manager
Raymond McAllister	Communications Consultant
Terence Ng	Finance Coordinator
Dave Pehl	Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson
Bob Purdy	Director of Corporate Development and Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky
Terry Robert	Program Coordinator
Marion Robinson	Regional Manager, Fraser Valley
Jodi Vander Hoek	Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson
Jim Vanderwal	Program Manager
Gail Wallin	Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Fraser Basin Council Achievements 1997 — 2005

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council has played a pivotal role in finding enduring, workable solutions to many difficult sustainability challenges and in some cases, resolving entrenched conflicts that began as long as fifty years ago. It has also worked to increase public awareness about sustainability issues throughout the Basin and motivate people to take action to make their part of the Basin more sustainable.

Fraser Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards – FBC convenes biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conferences that bring together community and business leaders, government representatives, environmentalists and other non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness about sustainability and report on the Basin's progress in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges. Each conference ends with the presentation of the FBC Sustainability Awards that recognize those who have made significant contributions toward a more sustainable future.

Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations – FBC developed this action plan to provide a roadmap for how FBC will recognize Aboriginal rights and title, and develop greater opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in all Council activities.

Britannia Mine Remediation – FBC brought together government agencies, property owners and the community of Britannia Beach to develop a solution to North America's largest single point source metal pollution problem at the site of the former Britannia Mine. Work has now begun on a new water treatment plant to clean up the pollution.

Climate Change Programs – FBC promotes learning about climate change and works with communities to identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gases and produce clean energy from local waste resources. FBC produced the Greenhouse Gas Action Guide website and has hosted a number of clean air and transportation workshops.

Debris Management on the Lower Fraser – For the past seven years, FBC has helped prevent severe property damage and may have even saved lives by ensuring that the Fraser River debris trap continued to operate, while developing a comprehensive business plan for sustained operation of this critical facility near Agassiz.

Drinking Water Review – FBC's Executive Director David Marshall chaired the independent Drinking Water Review Panel, appointed by the provincial government to evaluate and make recommendations on ways to strengthen the new Drinking Water Protection Act.

Fleet Challenge BC – Managed by FBC, Fleet Challenge BC has spearheaded a number of programs to reduce harmful emissions from fleet vehicles, improve air quality and promote clean energy fuels and technologies.

Fraser River Integrated Flood Hazard Management – FBC raised awareness, promoted inter-jurisdictional cooperation and developed a collaborative course of action to help prepare for and minimize the threat of flooding on the Fraser and other rivers throughout the province.

One of the Council's principal strengths has been its ability to bring people together to solve complex problems and longstanding conflicts, as well as taking advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability. Over the past eight years, the Council has worked with all orders of government including First Nations, community and environmental groups, business and industry on a wide range of important issues, programs and projects. Some of these include:

Fraser River Gravel Management Plan – Gravel build-up in the Lower Fraser reduces the ability of local communities to protect themselves from floods. Removal of gravel, however, has implications for fish habitat as well as in-river infrastructure. To address this complex issue, FBC brought together all interested parties to develop and implement a five-year gravel removal plan.

International River Management – Increasingly, FBC has become a model for integrated river basin management projects around the world. FBC has worked with the World Bank and groups in the Philippines, China and Brazil.

Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia – FBC worked with community groups, business sectors and government agencies to develop an *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*. As recommended in the strategy, the new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia has been established.

Nechako River Watershed – FBC continues to help develop solutions to resolve 50 years of conflict over water management in the Nechako River Watershed. Planning is underway for a new Cold Water Release Facility (CWRF) to restore water flow on the Nechako.

Nutrient Management – FBC facilitated the development of a plan to protect water quality and the viability of agriculture through enhanced nutrient management of manure and fertilizer in the Fraser Valley.

Shuswap Lake Reports – FBC worked with citizens and local government to address deteriorating water quality in Shuswap and Mara Lakes, and produced a number of reports to assist the Columbia Shuswap Regional District to better plan development on the lakes.

Strengthening Communities – FBC and its partners are working together to develop an action plan to address rural concerns, improve the delivery of services to rural communities and strengthen community capacity. Six projects are underway – one in each region of the Basin.

Sustainable Fish and Fisheries Strategy – FBC is working with a wide variety of groups to restore and sustain the Fraser River Basin's valuable fish and fisheries resources, and to meet the needs of people and ecosystems into the future.

Sustainability Indicator Reports – FBC has released two *State of the Fraser Basin: Snapshot on Sustainability* reports. The reports' sustainability indicators help to identify where progress is being made towards sustainability and where more change is required.

Basin Wide Highlights 2004 — 2005

Chair

Patrick Reid

Directors

Randal Cripps
Michael O'Brien
Jon O'Riordan
Alan Osborne
Ardath Paxton-Mann
Bob Peart
Bruce Sampson
Coro Strandberg
Chris Trumpy
Jim Wild

Staff

David Marshall,
Executive Director

Elizabeth Balkwill
Jessica Bratty
Laura Brend
Diana Dilworth
Marni Gillis
Cheri Hamilton
Steve Litke
Raymond McAllister
Terence Ng
Bob Purdy
Terry Robert
Jim Vanderwal
Gail Wallin

Highlights

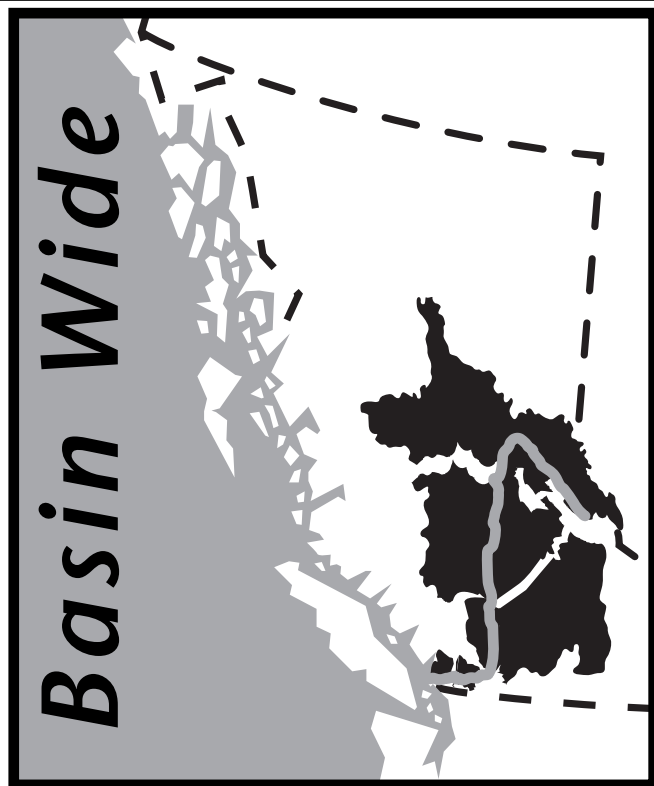
2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference

It was standing room only and front-page news as almost 400 delegates packed the 4th biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conference in Vancouver in November 2004. The conference attracted a record number of sponsors including *The Vancouver Sun* that provided extensive coverage of the event.

Beginning with the "State of the Basin Address" by FBC Chair Patrick Reid, the conference brought together an unprecedented lineup of diverse and knowledgeable speakers and delegates committed to advancing sustainability throughout British Columbia. Speakers included farmers and ranchers, CEOs of major corporations, mayors and councillors from throughout the Fraser Basin, First Nations leaders, small business owners, senior federal and provincial ministers and officials, members of the media, students and the heads of major environmental, multicultural and smart growth organizations.

Together, these speakers and delegates discussed, described and debated how we can best manage the Fraser River Basin's growth in ways that will enhance the economic, social and environmental health of the Basin and the entire province. Speakers tackled hot sustainability issues including agriculture and food production, business and sustainability, climate change, fish and fisheries, flood and drought, sustainable communities, and ways to improve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations.

The special session on Saturday morning – *A 2020 Vision for 2010: Going for Sustainability Gold!* – provided an emotional, inspirational and challenging close to the conference.



Great conference guys. Hats off to all of you at the FBC.

—Bob Elton, President and CEO, BC Hydro

2004 Conference Youth Program

Sustainability is all about creating a better future for our kids. And since young people will be tomorrow's leaders, they must play an instrumental role in creating that future.

To ensure that youth actively participated in the 2004 conference, every post-secondary educational institution in the Basin was invited to send one or more students to attend the conference as a freelance reporter. Over 50 students attended the conference and then reported back to their communities and fellow students on what they learned about sustainability.

For many, the conference was a once in a lifetime experience that provided the students with the opportunity to not only hear from leading sustainability champions in BC, but also to share their experience and ideas with students from small and large communities throughout the Basin.

Thanks for the amazing opportunity you have given us. This conference stood out from others for the simple fact that the speakers defined a course of action for others to follow.

—Comment from a student "reporter"

2004 Sustainability Awards

Eight outstanding individuals and organizations were recognized for their commitment to sustainability at FBC's 2004 Sustainability Awards. The awards honour those whose work contributes to the Fraser River Basin becoming a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. BC Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo joined over 300 guests at the ceremony that closed the conference. The Doreen Wright Award for lifetime achievement in sustainability went to Grand Chief Rose Charlie from the Chehalis Band of the Sto:lo First Nation.

For a complete list of finalists and winners in each category, go to our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

2004 Sustainability Indicator Report

A major highlight of the conference was the release of the *2004 State of the Fraser Basin Report: Sustainability Snapshot 2*. The purpose of the second indicator report is to help increase public awareness and understanding about sustainability issues and trends, identify critical issues and appropriate responses to improve progress towards sustainability, and inform and influence decisions and actions to advance sustainability.

The report includes a number of new features:

- Regional profiles to summarize key sustainability issues and initiatives within each region.
- New indicator topics on climate change, water use, energy and community sustainability.
- New approaches, updated data and alternate sources of information to measure and report on sustainability. Some examples include a 2004 FBC survey on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations; new data on volunteerism and charitable giving, attainment of BC water quality objectives, salmon stocks, and flood hazard management; and the BC Economic Diversity and Forest Vulnerability Indices.

2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games

The 2010 Winter Olympics will be a major undertaking within the Fraser Basin, particularly within the Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky region, that will have a variety of immediate and long lasting social, economic and environmental impacts in the region.

A commitment to the achievement of sustainability goals was one of the unique aspects of the bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. Accordingly, FBC is in discussion with representatives of the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) and also with various government interests to help advance progress towards these goals. Work completed to date includes a study to determine the applicability of the FBC sustainability indicators framework to the 2010 Winter Games, and to develop recommendations to adapt, apply and enhance the FBC framework.

Contact Bob Purdy, GVSS Regional Manager, for more information at (604) 488-5355 or bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations

One of the unique features of the FBC is that First Nations are original signatories to the *Charter for Sustainability* and have participated fully on the FBC Board and in its activities since the Council was established in 1997. Eight Aboriginal Directors, representing the eight First Nations language groups in the Basin, sit as equal partners with local, provincial and federal government representatives and non-government Board members from the private sector and civil society.

FBC is working to identify ways that it can more effectively apply the *Charter's* 11th Principle that states: "We recognize that Aboriginal nations within the Fraser Basin assert Aboriginal rights and title. These rights and title now being defined must be acknowledged and reconciled in a just and fair manner."

FBC Board and staff are implementing an "Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Relations in the Fraser Basin" that was approved by Directors in early 2004. This plan recognizes that a just and fair acknowledgement and reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title go hand-in-hand with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities working together to develop joint solutions to shared sustainability problems. The plan provides a roadmap for how FBC will advance the linkage between sustainability and Aboriginal rights and title through its activities, and outlines greater opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in all Council initiatives.

FBC is working with partners and is seeking financial support to accomplish specific outcomes, including:

- Publishing communications materials that present the history of First Nations in the Basin, showcase examples of how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are working together to achieve sustainability in the Basin, and summarize key Aboriginal issues as well as traditional and contemporary practices of sustainability.
- Developing an indicator on Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations by tracking the number and substance of protocols, agreements, and other formal and informal mechanisms in the Basin.
- Sharing lessons on how to establish effective Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations.

Contact Jessica Bratty, Program Manager, for more information at (604) 488-5361 or email jbratty@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Climate Change and the BC Climate Exchange

FBC hosts the BC Climate Exchange, an initiative of the federal One Tonne Challenge program and the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. The purpose of the initiative is to promote learning about climate change and support the work of business, government and community organizations engaged in public education and outreach on this important sustainability issue.

Over the past year FBC staff:

- Produced the Greenhouse Gas Action Guide, a web-based guide which outlines simple actions that local governments and First Nations councils can take to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) using existing resources or with support from federal and provincial programs.

- Promoted the One Tonne Challenge, a program for individuals and families to reduce GHGs.
- Developed the “Cool Communities” program to assist communities to become stronger through energy efficiency.
- Provided information and resources to BC public libraries, including climate change videos and bookmarks.
- Hosted the BC Clean Air Forum.
- Produced the *BC Climate Exchange Newsletter*, website and listserv.

Contact Terry Robert, Program Coordinator, for more information at (604) 488-5360 or trobert@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The BC Climate Exchange provides a wealth of information that allows governments, business and the public to not only learn about climate change but also about ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

—Bill Barisoff, BC Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection

Communications and Public Awareness

Over the past year, FBC has focused on improving communications to target audiences that include individuals, community groups, government and corporate supporters of the Council, as well as to residents throughout the Fraser Basin. Enhanced communications activities have been developed to support a key mandate of the Council, which is “to be a strong advocate for sustainability of the Fraser Basin by enhancing the understanding of what sustainability means, why it is important and the key role the Council plays in advancing sustainability.”

Communications activities have included securing extensive media coverage of the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards, and increasing public awareness of FBC programs: Strengthening Communities, the *Invasive Plant Strategy for BC*, flood hazard management, debris management and gravel extraction in the Fraser Valley, drought management, Climate Change and Fleet Challenge BC activities.

Contact Raymond McAllister, Communications Consultant, for more information at (604) 488-5356 or rmcallister@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Fleet Challenge BC

Corporate and government fleets – including long haul trucks, taxis, transit and school buses, emergency vehicles, municipal garbage trucks, utility bucket trucks and retail delivery vans – together account for more than 10% of Canada’s total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Fleet emissions have been growing by almost 5% per year. To reverse this trend, Fleet Challenge Canada was established to work with fleet operators on practical actions that reduce greenhouse gases.

Hosted and managed by FBC, Fleet Challenge BC has spearheaded a number of programs to reduce harmful emissions from fleet vehicles and save fuel, while developing clean industries to help diversify BC’s economy. Initiatives include:

- BC Biofleet Biodiesel Market Development Project – Six Lower Mainland municipalities will participate in Canada’s largest biodiesel program, using up to 80 million litres of biodiesel over the next five years. The initiative was launched with a major workshop, and followed up with additional workshops around the province and other educational resources. Additional private sector and public sector fleets have joined the BC Biofleet program, receiving recognition for their use of biodiesel.
- Hybrid Vehicles – The Hybrid Experience Report website promotes the use of hybrid cars and provides information on the real-world experience of vehicle users to date.
- Green Fleet Accreditation System – Helping to create a market development tool that provides benchmarking, branding and financial savings to green fleets.

Contact Jim Vanderwal, Program Manager, for more information at (604) 488-5359 or jvanderwal@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

WED supported the (BC Biofleet) demonstration project as part of a larger innovation strategy, to increase awareness of biodiesel’s environmental benefits and stimulate its use and production.

—Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification Canada

Fraser River Integrated Flood Hazard Management

Two devastating floods inundated the Fraser Valley in 1894 and 1948. Scientists predict that there is a one-in-three chance that a flood of similar magnitude will occur again within the next 60 years.

A catastrophic flood would result in severe social, economic and environmental impacts. These include the risk of injury and loss of life, billions of dollars in damage to private and public property, temporary loss of infrastructure and community services, disruption of business and trade, and numerous impacts on water quality as well as on fish and wildlife habitat.

The FBC provides the lead role in chairing and facilitating the Joint Program Committee (JPC) comprised of 36 federal, provincial and local government agencies working towards Integrated Flood Hazard Management. FBC has raised awareness of flood hazard issues, promoted inter-jurisdictional cooperation and developed a collaborative course of action to help prepare for and minimize the threat of a major Fraser River flood.

Over the past year FBC has worked with the provincial and local governments to develop a range of essential flood hazard management tools to assist local government and other agencies to better understand, plan for and mitigate potential flood hazards. These include: flood hazard maps, a database and maps of existing dikes in BC, floodplain maps for the lower Fraser River, and floodplain mapping guidelines and specifications.

Contact Steve Litke, Program Manager, for more information at (604) 488-5358 or slitke@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Residents and communities throughout the province that are vulnerable to significant flood threats certainly welcome this initiative. The products that the Council and its partners (have produced) will strengthen our capacity to better understand, plan for, prevent and mitigate the damages from the next great flood of the Fraser River and other rivers in BC.

—Sylvia Pranger, Mayor of the District of Kent

Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

Invasive plant species – often called “noxious weeds” – are taking over large tracts of land throughout the province. These plants are truly a sustainability issue that directly impacts our economic viability, community life and environmental health. Annual economic losses from invasive plants in BC are in the tens of millions – or perhaps even hundreds of millions – of dollars each year. Without natural enemies to control their populations, these alien plant species adversely affect crop yields, reduce range productivity (as many weeds are non-palatable or injurious to domestic livestock), reduce wildlife forage, impact conifer regeneration efforts by the forest industry, and even impact personal health.

Since 2001, FBC has been working to develop a coordinated approach to minimizing the impacts of invasive plants on BC. FBC worked with community groups, business sectors, and local, provincial, federal and First Nations government representatives to develop a comprehensive plan to address this crucial issue.

In March 2004, FBC released the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* that called for the establishment of the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia. The new Council was registered as a non-profit society in late 2004, and an interim Board of Directors was appointed to prepare for the official launch of the Council in 2005. Working under the direction of five committees, the Council will undertake activities that address a number of top priorities: improve compliance with current and new legislation, establish research priorities, coordinate public awareness programs, ensure long-term stable funding, and share technical and inventory knowledge.

Contact Gail Wallin, Cariboo Regional Manager, for more information at 250-392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

British Columbia is being attacked by foreign invaders! They are destroying our environment, impacting our economy and we are losing the battle. The Fraser Basin Council has played a pivotal role in bringing this little known but important issue to public attention, and has spearheaded the development of a comprehensive strategy to fight back and defeat invasive plants.

—Dave Chutter, MLA, Yale-Lillooet

International River Management

Increasingly, the FBC has become a model for integrated river basin management projects around the world. FBC has worked with groups in the Philippines, China and Brazil, and has provided input into the UN World Urban Forum to be held in Vancouver in 2006. FBC and the Fraser River Basin were also featured as one of eight river basin management case studies undertaken by the World Bank.

The FBC presentation was an agenda-changing experience for this (international World Bank) workshop (in Poland). Our visit to the Fraser had a similar impact on our study – nothing looked quite the same to us once we had seen what you're doing. Much is said in workshops like this about giving people tools to take back to their own communities and use. That's important, but there may be something even more important, and that is giving them hope. FBC gives us all hope that a better way is really possible.

—Bill Blomquist, World Bank

Sharing Lessons Learned

FBC and its partners such as the Canadian Rural Partnership are working together to develop an action plan to address rural concerns, improve the delivery of services to rural communities and strengthen community capacity. In 2004, FBC completed the third part of a program called “Sharing Lessons Learned” focused on strengthening smaller and rural communities.

Phase One included the completion of an inventory of BC projects that focus on building economically vibrant, sustainable communities. Phase Two documented 40 case studies that reflect the lessons learned from projects across BC where sustainability issues have been addressed in local communities. Phase Three was an extension of information out to interested communities.

At the Phase Three province-wide forum, participants expressed strong support for continuing the exchange of information across rural communities. One of their key recommendations was to establish a BC Rural Network to help link and share knowledge and resources across small rural communities.

Since the forum, FBC has worked in partnership with Community Futures Association of BC, BC CEDNet, Pacific Community Network Association and BC Rural Team to facilitate the establishment of a BC Rural Network. This network will serve to link existing organizations and resources to interested rural communities.

The *Lessons Learned* documents are available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Contact Gail Wallin, Program Manager, for more information at (250) 392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Strengthening Communities

Strong and economically diversified communities are essential for the sustainability of the Fraser Basin. In BC, many rural communities face challenging economic transitions as traditional forestry, mining and fishing industries undergo profound restructuring. To help address these challenges, FBC established the “Strengthening Communities” program to work with local communities to help them become stronger and more economically viable.

Originally, FBC staff and Directors met with local “movers and shakers” across the Basin to gain their interest and input to the Strengthening Communities program. Three of the original projects have now entered their second year of FBC support, including:

- Fraser Valley Region – Kent Small Lot Agriculture: the goal is to identify current and future needs to enhance small lot agriculture and to promote and market locally grown farm produce.
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Region – The project in the South Cariboo works with representatives of many small rural and First Nations communities to identify and strengthen current resources to retain and attract community residents.
- Upper Fraser – The project in the McBride area aims to build networks across the community and attract more visitors to the local area.

The Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky Region has completed a collaborative plan to help the Squamish community move forward on an innovative and exciting vision for the downtown waterfront. The creative approach for the development of this project has been documented for sharing with other communities.

In 2004, a new Strengthening Communities project was approved for Barkerville and Wells to help make this unique historic resource a viable asset for Cariboo communities and beyond. FBC will provide support to help ensure that successful partnerships are a key component in the long-term vision of the newly formed Barkerville Heritage Trust.

For each of the current and past Strengthening Communities projects, specific indicators have been identified as benchmarks. These indicators will be measured over time to reflect progress towards the specific projects objectives.

Contact Gail Wallin, Program Manager, for more information at (250) 392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Sustainable Fish and Fisheries Initiative

The Sustainable Fish and Fisheries program seeks to find a way for key interests, communities and governments to work together to restore and sustain the Fraser Basin’s valuable fish and fisheries resources, and to meet the needs of people and ecosystems into the future.

Since 2003, FBC has worked on a variety of fronts to bring groups together to find solutions to fisheries issues in the Basin. Activities have focused on supporting dialogue between First Nations in the Fraser River and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; providing strategic planning and process design support to BC stewardship groups, and; working with partners to develop a plan to conserve and sustain Fraser River White Sturgeon.

The overarching goal of the Sustainable Fish and Fisheries initiative is to collaborate with others to develop a shared vision and strategy for the future of fish and fisheries in the Basin. FBC has developed a concept paper entitled “Starting the Dialogue: the Future of Fish and Fisheries in the Fraser” designed to kick start a strategic discussion about this future. FBC continues to meet with key government and non-government leaders to enhance support for the framework and approach outlined in this paper.

Contact Jessica Bratty, Program Manager, for more information at (604) 488-5361 or email jbratty@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The Fraser Basin Council has created a sea change of empowerment in Squamish and achieved the fullest expression of mission: strengthened communities.

—Brent Leigh, President, Whistler Chamber of Commerce

Regional Highlights 2004-2005

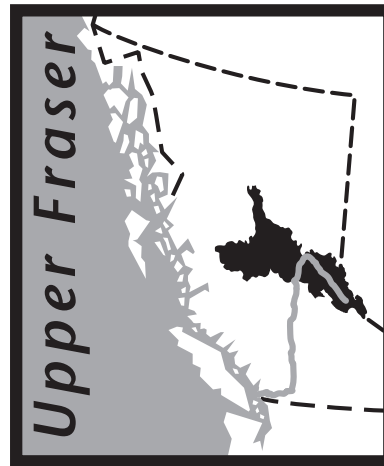
Upper Fraser Region

Directors

Sharolise Baker
Ron Hawkins
Colin Kinsley, succeeded by Betty Abs
Jerry Petersen
Tracey Summerville

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
Joan Chess – Regional Manager
Telephone: (250) 612-0252
Email: jchess@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Feature Programs

Nechako Watershed Council (NWC)

FBC continues to help develop solutions to resolve conflict over water management in the Nechako River Watershed and to facilitate broad agreement on how to improve the health of the watershed.

For the past 50 years, concerns about the development of the Nechako River to generate hydroelectricity for Alcan's smelter in Kitimat have generated tremendous controversy over the management of the Nechako, a major tributary of the Fraser. The situation resulted in decades of entrenched positions and strained relationships amongst those involved. However, in recent years, a different approach and changed attitudes have led to a collaborative effort to resolve outstanding issues.

In June 1998, the FBC helped establish the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC), a multi-interest group with First Nations, business, community and government representation. Since then, the NWC has accomplished much towards its goal of developing new water management strategies that incorporate solutions to the longstanding conflicts in the watershed.

The FBC was instrumental in establishing the Nechako Watershed Council (and) since then, has continued to provide valuable support to the NWC in its efforts in finding long-term solutions to issues identified in the Nechako Watershed.

—Henry Klassen, Chair, Nechako Watershed Council

During 2004/05, FBC provided staff support on projects, consultants' studies and at meetings, particularly for the NWC's work related to new flow regimes that would be possible to

implement after the proposed Cold Water Release Facility has been constructed. Staff from the BC Water Management Branch and Alcan have provided data, analyses and computer modeling to link reservoir levels, releases to Kemano and releases to the Nechako River. The ultimate goal is to develop a range of flow regimes that accommodate a variety of ecological, social and economic needs.

The (Nechako/CWRF) Project has (potential for) incredible environmental enhancement, but also can provide some long-term economic stability in the valley and upstream in the Cheslatta area.

—Mike Robertson, Senior Policy Advisor, Cheslatta Indian Band

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

For most of their existence, white sturgeon have been the opposite of endangered. They've been survivors. White sturgeon evolved alongside the dinosaurs 175 million years ago and have survived mass extinctions, multiple ice ages and the reconfiguration of the continents virtually unchanged. They are the largest freshwater fish species in North America, have a shark-like, torpedo-shaped body, can grow to six metres long and weight over than 600 kilograms. They can live to be well over 100 years.

White sturgeon in the Nechako River are genetically distinct from other white sturgeon populations in the Fraser Basin and are severely endangered. From an historic population of about 5,000, there are only 571 of them left. Worse yet, hardly any Nechako white sturgeon are younger than 35.

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative is a collaborative effort to develop a recovery plan and re-establish a naturally reproducing population. The technical team consists of fisheries biologists and other specialists from all four orders of government, industry and academia. The Action Planning Group

consists of representatives from community groups, industry and four orders of government. FBC is a member, represented by the Upper Fraser Regional Manager. The group's role is to raise public awareness and develop support for recovery activities.

In 2004/05, the Recovery Technical Team concluded that an aquaculture facility would be needed to conserve the genetic pool of Nechako Sturgeon as a stopgap measure to prevent species extinction. It will be many years before a naturally reproducing population can be established. Currently it appears that the best location for such a facility would be near Vanderhoof, as that stretch of the Nechako appears to provide some of the best sturgeon spawning habitat. During the summer of 2004, team members recorded a sturgeon spawning event, the first such evidence ever observed during the past eight years of field research.

The Initiative's Action Planning Group launched its public awareness program with the release of a newsletter and website, information signs to be installed at boat launches in the Vanderhoof and Prince George areas, and the sale of "Stewart the Sturgeon" pottery caricatures.

Other Highlights

BC Rivers Day

The 4th annual Prince George BC Rivers Day Music Festival in late September 2004 was another great success. The event is becoming one of the largest of its kind in the province. Approximately 3,000 residents enjoyed the entertainment, from First Nation's Rainbow Dancers to the Millburn Mountain Boys, Juno nominee Marcel Gagnon and folk legend Roy Forbes. The Upper Fraser Regional Manager served as Chair of the organizing committee for this year's event. Planning is now underway for the 2005 festival that will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the City of Prince George.

Naver Creek, Hixon

Naver Creek runs through the small community of Hixon, located about 60 kms south of Prince George. In January 2005 ice jams and flooding occurred there due to heavy rain and mild temperatures after three weeks of extreme cold (-30C to -40C). FBC was asked by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to help address a number of issues including erosion, debris accumulation, and threats of future flooding.

An initial assessment found that the ice heavily scoured the streambed, undercut banks and left debris in yards. Addressing the flood hazard must also take into account the connected issues of fish habitat, and riparian and watershed management. A forest company holds a Tree Farm License farther upstream that encompasses most of the Naver watershed. As well, there are public and private corporations that operate in the area, particularly the major utilities: railway, hydro-electricity transmission lines, natural gas pipeline, oil pipeline and Highway 97. These utility corridors are provincially significant.

FBC is working with the residents of Hixon and provincial, federal and regional district staff, as well as with the corporations and utilities, to develop a coordinated approach to the flooding, riparian and fish management issues.

Strengthening Communities

The Strengthening Communities program in the Upper Fraser region is focused on coordinating and promoting community events and supporting tourism in the McBride-Dunster area in the Robson Valley.

With a community vision and four priority projects identified, the community implemented its first hands-on project for 2004/05. "Network Night" attracted 35 people who represented 75 organizations – an amazing level of volunteerism for a town of 700 people! The participants filled out calendars with the events scheduled throughout the year that would be of interest to both local residents and tourists. Each month, the calendar of events is posted on the community bulletin board. Network Night will be held each spring and fall.

Regional and Community Support

FBC supports a number of other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. In the 2004/05 fiscal year, the Upper Fraser Regional Manager:

- Liaised with the Northern Region Interagency Management Committee and attended IAMC's monthly meetings.
- Participated at meetings hosted by the McGregor Model Forest Association to advance sustainable forest management in BC as part of the National Forest Strategy.
- Was a member of the Action Planning Group of the Nechako River White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative that promotes public awareness about the Nechako Sturgeon.
- Assisted with a research paper on Drinking Water legislation.
- Guest lectured at UNBC on the FBC model and its application.
- Assisted at FBC's Clean Air Forum.

Regional Highlights 2004-2005

Cariboo-Chilcotin

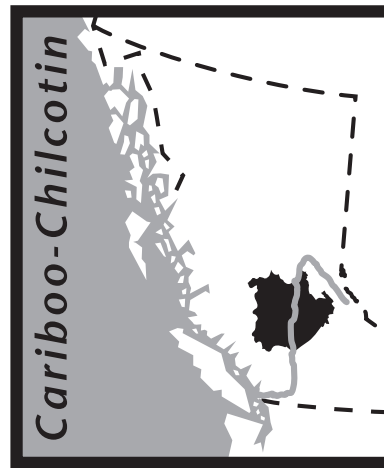
Directors

Ervin Charleyboy
Dave Hendrixson
Robert Patterson
Bill Young

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
Gail Wallin – Regional Manager
Telephone: (250) 392-1400
Cell: (250) 305-9161
Email: gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Gail Lucier



development of local transportation networks to assist seniors and others to access health services and community events.

Feature Programs

Strengthening Communities

Over the past year, representatives from 100 Mile House, Clinton, Canim Lake Band and Forest Grove continued to work together to build stronger and more stable communities, focusing on critical issues and priorities for the South Cariboo. Participants represented a wide range of interests including the Chambers of Commerce, watershed groups, First Nations, small entrepreneurs, local governments and other interested individuals.

The first priority identified in 2003 was to compile existing research and information on demographics, economic plans and community plans. The group's objective was to establish a baseline for the area and then, by identifying why people stay in or leave the South Cariboo, take action to retain and attract residents.

The *South Cariboo Community Profile* (July 2004) provides comprehensive information on the demographics, employment, support agencies, environment and other specific information for all the communities in the South Cariboo. This profile has been well received and is being used by community groups and the Chambers of Commerce as a resource for many of their local initiatives. The report is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Work is now underway on the group's next objective of supporting and expanding networks between small businesses and the community. As in many small rural areas, healthy small businesses are vital for community growth, diversity of cultural and tourism products, and maintaining a diversity of ages in the South Cariboo.

The first action identified by the planning group is to develop a South Cariboo directory of local services and small businesses. This directory will play a key role in supporting the ongoing sustainability of local initiatives – including arts and culture events, small business and tourism opportunities. This report (projected for completion in summer 2005) will form the foundation for local initiatives such as networking and community events, and the

Williams Lake and Area Interface Fire Management Committee

After seeing the devastation from forest fires in the Thompson and Okanagan regions in 2003, Williams Lake and area residents decided to be proactive in reducing the potential risk and impact of a similar interface fire in their local area. An interface area includes a mix of residents and housing (usually low density) in and near forested areas that creates unique challenges for both reducing the potential of fire and managing forest fires effectively and safely.

In 2004, two multi-party community forums called for the development of a comprehensive local plan for Williams Lake and the surrounding area. An Interface Fire Committee for Williams Lake and Area was formed with representatives from provincial, local and First Nation's governments, community groups, the forest industry, BC Hydro, Duke Energy and others. FBC was invited to lead the process by both facilitating meetings and writing the plan for the diverse and knowledgeable committee.

Extensive research was undertaken to compile and review other community plans from across the Pacific Northwest. This helped identify key components and issues to address in the local plan. After review, the committee delineated an interface area for the plan that was practical for both planning and implementation of future recommendations. The members then divided the area into unique geographic areas called Interface Planning Units (IPUs), and diligently worked across the entire area to identify current strengths, resources and areas for improvement.

The Williams Lake and Area Interface Fire Plan identifies 22 proactive recommendations for reducing fuel, improving safety and effective communication across the area. In addition, it identifies specific actions for the 13 IPUs, each of which has unique issues and concerns.

With the completion of the plan, each organization and community will be invited to initiate actions based on this plan to help reduce the potential risk to their neighbourhoods. To accompany the plan, an extensive database was created that maps all related information, including boundaries, infrastructure,

water bodies and access. Technical and mapping expertise from governments and private industry was fundamental to building this comprehensive plan.

Since the inception of this plan, FBC has provided advice to numerous other communities in BC and Alberta on how to build a successful collaborative community plan. This model is being now used in other communities and when complete (summer 2005), FBC aims to initiate a similar project in the Quesnel area.

Other Highlights

Invasive Plant Strategy and Council

The Cariboo Regional Manager has been the lead FBC staff member in the process to develop a comprehensive Invasive Plant Strategy and form the Invasive Plant Council of BC to tackle this important issue. See: Basin-Wide Highlights for more information.

Regional Visioning

At the request of the Cariboo Tribal Council, the Federal Treaty Office and the Regional Treaty Negotiating Team, FBC planned and facilitated two regional visioning sessions. At each session, participants identified what actions they could jointly take to help make the local area a better place for all. The first session looked at lands and resources, and the second focused on wildlife. Over 70 people came together for each session to identify what local actions could create practical outcomes over the next three years. The actions generally focused on building partnerships between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. The next session will focus on fisheries; other sessions will follow-up on actions related to land and resources.

Rural Networking in BC

Based on the past three years of work with rural communities in BC, there has been a clearly defined request to improve linkages and networks among rural communities and organizations.

To help initiate this work, FBC has compiled and updated the BC Rural Networks Directory listing those organization that have a prime focus on rural BC. This directory provides easier access to numerous organizations that are attempting to address rural needs, and demonstrates the need to build communication across groups. This directory is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Based on this directory and the “Sharing Lessons Learned” conference, FBC worked as a catalyst to initiate more formal networking among BC rural organizations. In partnership with the BC Rural Team, Community Futures Development Association, BC Community Economic Development Network and Pacific Community Network Association, funding was raised to launch the BC Rural Network.

Representatives from each of these organizations worked together to organize the initial provincial forum for a Rural Network. FBC managed the start-up funding to compile databases, develop a website, build communication and host an inaugural forum. Held in March 2005, this forum provided

the template for the BC Rural Network’s mandate and action plan. Groups from across BC representing a wide range of rural interests provided direction to this plan.

Activities for 2005/06 include hosting regional forums, developing newsletters, advancing community capacity building and developing a BC Rural Network Business Plan. FBC has provided input to three other provinces on the approach used in BC.

BC Urban/Rural Forum – FBC organized and facilitated a one-day session for community capacity leaders from across the province. While specific approaches may vary between rural settings and urban centres, it was recognized that local initiatives share many common issues and opportunities. Participants at this successful session called for increased dialogue between agencies to create efficient outcomes for local communities.

BC Seniors Dialogue – FBC worked with the BC Rural Team to organize and facilitate the BC Rural Senior’s Summit. This summit brought together representatives from senior’s groups from across BC. The participants shared knowledge of current concerns, and provided recommendations on how to better share information and resources among groups and with governments. The participants identified specific actions to continue this dialogue.

Williams Lake Indian Band and Alkali Indian Band

The Williams Lake Indian Band and the Alkali Lake Indian Band (Esket) are based on opposite shores of the Fraser River but share many common issues and opportunities. To increase collaboration, FBC was invited to facilitate a strategic planning session between the two band Councils. The two bands examined ways to work together on economic development ideas to benefit both communities. Participants developed a Memorandum of Understanding on the shared role and objectives of both bands. This approach may be used for other topics to build increased communication between the two groups.

Regional and Community Support

FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

Regional staff participated in the following:

- Cariboo Chilcotin Community Learning Network that assists small and rural communities to receive and improve Internet access.
- BC Rural Team – a federal/provincial partnership focused on improving services to rural communities.
- Inter-Agency Management Committee meetings to discuss and identify upcoming natural resource issues in the region.
- Community fairs, trade shows and river walks to increase local profile of the Council.
- Horsefly Salmon Festival organizing committee that will host a series of events in September 2005 along with the annual return of salmon to the Horsefly River.

Regional Highlights 2004-2005

Thompson

Directors

Deborah Abbott
Tom Coombes
Judy Guichon
Eddy Jules
Joe Post
Perry Redan
Caroline Grover
George Saddleman

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
Phil Hallinan – Regional Manager
Telephone: (250) 314-9660
Email: phallinan@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Dave Pehl
Jodi Vander Hoek

Feature Program

Strengthening Communities:

Raise The Spirit of BC Opportunities Forum

In 2004 FBC, in partnership with the Stl'at'imc Chief's Council, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the residents of Lillooet, organized the Mid-Fraser Economic Development Conference. The conference attracted a wide range of participants focused on reviving and diversifying their local economy.

One of the goals of the conference was to demonstrate to the community that they could host a successful conference, do it well and do it again.

In February 2005, Lillooet took up the challenge and organized the highly successful "Raise the Spirit of BC Opportunities Forum" that featured speakers and practical suggestions on how the mid-Fraser communities could take advantage of the opportunities available from the 2010 Winter Olympics. The event was organized by a community-based coalition and co-hosted by the town of Lillooet and the T'it'q'et Band Council. Representatives from FBC, municipal government, private sector businesses and interested citizens from the surrounding communities explored ideas on working together to ensure that maximum economic benefits flowed to their communities.

At the conference, the *Lillooet-Lytton Tourism Diversification Project Report* was released on the potential for expanded tourism in the area. The report is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.



Other Highlights

Broadband

After years of negotiation by residents of the Fraser Canyon, FBC and the Interior Science and Innovation Council, Telus has agreed to supply high speed internet to Lytton, Boston Bar and Spences Bridge. This is part of the Province's commitment to bring this type of access to 151 communities throughout BC.

A key part of this agreement is Telus's commitment to supply this service at the same cost as that in the larger municipalities. Commitments were also made to develop maximum volumes of users to enable costs to be kept competitive. Telus has agreed to supply the "pipe" to a central facility such as a hospital, school or library and make available to the community about 60% of the carrying capacity. On Call Internet Services out of Kamloops has agreed to take that capacity and work with communities to develop ISPs and wireless networks. It is expected that much of the Canyon will be serviced by 2006.

C.O.W.S.

FBC has been a member of the Committee On Watershed Stewardship (C.O.W.S.) since its inception in 1998. It was originally formed to oversee the educational portion of the BC Cattleman's AGM, but has now evolved into an advisory group that deals with watershed issues across the region in a non-confrontational manner. Membership includes the provincial "dirt" ministries, conservation NGOs such as Ducks Unlimited, local government, stewardship groups and federal government agencies.

Lillooet and Lytton – LRMP and Economic Diversification

Government and the Stl'at'imc Chiefs Council continue to flesh out the protocol signed between them as a result of the LRMP. MSRM is leading the government's team and attempting to blend the Lillooet LRMP with the Stl'at'imc vision for their traditional territory.

In the meantime, some economic development is taking place in both Lytton and Lillooet. Experimental plots of grapes have been planted to determine if the area can become a wine

grape producer. Airport expansions are occurring in both Lytton and Lillooet in an attempt to service the communities and, in the case of Lytton, offer river rafting to Whistler residents and visitors.

With support from FBC, Lytton held its annual River Festival, a celebration of both the Fraser and Thompson Rivers, on Labour Day weekend.

Nicola Valley Drought Programs

Water shortages in the Thompson Region, and particularly in the Nicola River watershed, have become acute. FBC staff and board members have been involved in a number of initiatives to address this issue.

FBC formed a partnership with the Agricultural Council, Water, Land and Air Protection, the City of Kamloops, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to monitor the drought conditions on area streams and work with the agricultural community to conserve water. Two advisories were issued to residents asking their cooperation in reducing water demands.

FBC staff were involved in monitoring stream flows in the Nicola watershed and have gathered basic information needed to plan conservative water extraction. FBC staff will also be developing drought and low flow data gathering techniques and monitoring criteria to ensure that data on the resource can be properly measured and issues will be addressed.

Nicola Valley Moisture Monitoring Stations

The volume of water in the Nicola depends on the level of snow packs, the amount of rain received and the amount of water in storage, all of which have been below normal in recent years. An offshoot of the lack of rainfall is an increase in sunlight hours; as a result, evaporation increases as the water warms and becomes shallower.

The Nicola River is home to four salmon species, as well as steelhead and resident non-anadromous fish. The riparian areas host numerous species of wildlife, each with their own unique dependence on water. With a finite volume of water available and ever increasing demands from urban development, agriculture, forestry and industry, the need to conserve water and use it wisely becomes increasingly important.

Irrigation in the valley has largely been based on historic practice. Storage of freshet water has enabled crops to be irrigated most of the year, and farmers have developed routines to ensure their watering is convenient and practical. Unfortunately this can result in over watering in some seasons and under watering in others. Increased use of water for irrigation can deplete water from streams that fish depend on.

To address these issues, the Nicola Watershed Roundtable brought interested parties together to develop solutions that ensure that everyone's interest was honoured. The meeting resulted in the formation of the Nicola Watershed Use Management Plan (NWUMP). The process is now developing solutions that will be implemented over the coming years.

One of the outcomes of this initiative has been a program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) to make

tensiometers – devices to measure their actual soil moisture conditions – available to surrounding farmers. It is hoped that the use of both weather stations and tensiometers will result in more efficient use of the water so that enough water remains in both storage and in the streams, and farmers can continue to produce enough forage for their animals.

Partnerships with MSRM

FBC partners with MSRM on various projects throughout the region. FBC has assisted in the development of an information process for the St'at'leu'mx Nation to understand the Lillooet LRMP. It has also assisted in the planning for helicopter skiing and timber harvesting in the Blue River area, and in the development of monitoring reports for the various LRMP's in the region.

Stewards Workshop

Scattered throughout the Upper Fraser, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thompson Regions are various stewardship groups that work daily to improve the waterways of each region. Oftentimes their work goes unrecognized and they constantly face the challenge of securing funds to support their work.

To recognize the work of these groups, FBC formed a partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and sponsored a one-day session to which all of the stewards and government officials that could be identified as having common interests were invited. Eighty people attended and learned about funding opportunities, water management and organizational skills they could apply to increase their presence in their watersheds.

The event was held at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Kamloops, and proved to be such a success that another session is being organized for 2006.

Regional and Community Support

FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. The Thompson Regional Manager and staff:

- Supported the village of Lillooet with its infrastructure application for a sewer upgrade.
- Supported Fisheries and Oceans Canada in developing and measuring transects and low flow monitoring on nine streams within the region.
- Attended LRMP, LRUP and LWMP processes to suggest sustainably-focused actions to be incorporated into their planning processes.
- Continued dialogue with members of the IAMC as well as their supporting staff.
- Supported the City of Kamloops in its development of a Thompson Watershed Strategy.
- Oversaw the Habitat Stewardship program until it was cancelled.

Regional Highlights 2004-2005

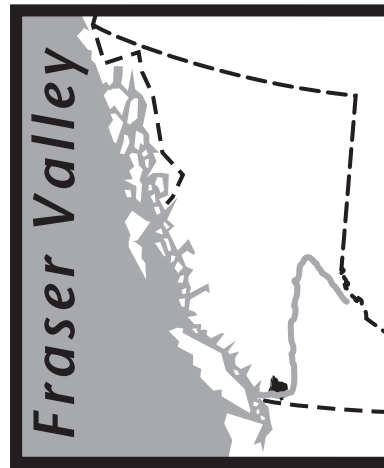
Fraser Valley

Directors

Dave Barratt
Duncan Jeffries
Roy Mussell
Sylvia Pranger

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
Marion Robinson – Regional Manager
Telephone: (604) 826-1661
Email: mrobinson@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Feature Programs

Fraser River Gravel Management Plan

Significant amounts of gravel are deposited each year in the “gravel reach” of the lower Fraser River during the spring runoff. In recent years there has been growing conflict over the management and use of in-river gravel in this region. Gravel movement and build-up in some areas of the river reduces the ability of local communities like Agassiz and Chilliwack to protect themselves from floods; it also affects commercial navigation in the river. The removal or movement of in-river gravel, however, has implications for fish habitat as well as in-river infrastructure such as bridges, pipelines and bank protection.

To address this complex issue, FBC brought together all interested parties to facilitate the development of a plan that would address key issues including flood and erosion protection, gravel resources, fish and aquatic habitat, and navigation, as well as concerns of First Nations.

In 2003/04, FBC worked with Land and Water BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to facilitate discussions with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities along the river to share traditional knowledge about the river, identify concerns regarding flood, erosion and navigation, and provide input on preferred sites of gravel removals. FBC also compiled a large number of technical studies on the river, summarizing the key findings in common, non-technical language.

In September 2004, an agreement was signed on a new, five-year “Lower Fraser River Gravel Removal Plan”. The agreement provides a systematic, collaborative process to assess annual gravel removal plans, based on annual levels of gravel accumulation, scientific analysis and site-specific flood or navigational concerns. The agreement also specifies monitoring requirements in order to protect fish and aquatic habitat.

This agreement... addresses the long-standing concerns of Fraser Valley communities to ensure that we are able to act in a timely and environmentally responsible manner to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion, and maintain navigation safety along the Fraser River. DFO will continue to ensure that gravel removal protects fish habitat and traditional First Nations fishing sites.

—Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Strengthening Communities – Small Lot Agriculture

For Fraser Valley farmers in Kent and Agassiz, strengthening communities is synonymous with strengthening agriculture. Small lot agriculture is a sector with the most potential for economic, social and environmental improvements that benefit the larger community.

The FBC Strengthening Communities program is working with the District of Kent, Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Seabird Island First Nation to strengthen the local market opportunities and stimulate small lot agriculture, economic activity and community development. FBC seed funding was used as a catalyst to attract additional funding from the BC Small Lot Agriculture Industry Development Initiative. It was identified that baseline measurements needed to be collected to establish what crops and products were already in production and what new products could be economically viable in the area.

FBC released a report on the state of *Small Lot Agriculture in the District of Kent*. The report is the most comprehensive study to date on this important economic sector of BC's economy. The report was developed by FBC with support from the Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC/Small Lot Agriculture Initiative and the District of Kent/Agassiz. It is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

FBC also hosted a number of workshops focused on agriculture as a vehicle for community development, including new product development. Topics included: Small Lot Agriculture, Agri-Tourism and a Garlic Workshop.

In 2004/05, FBC helped to refine market approaches for product-ready farmers, develop new markets for Kent farmers and promote local producers in the media. FBC supported the Kilby Heritage Site with agricultural program mentoring and marketing, and also arranged meetings with provincial cabinet ministers to secure bridge funding towards a sustainable future.

Other Highlights

Business Environmental Pledge Programme (BEPP)

The primary goal of Abbotsford's BEPP is to improve the health of the internationally significant Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer. Abbotsford businesses, together with the City of Abbotsford and the Chamber of Commerce, have formed the BEPP Committee to develop and implement the Program. Together with Community Futures of the South Fraser, FBC facilitated the implementation of BEPP and provided administrative support.

The concept is for businesses to "pledge" to undertake actions that benefit the ecosystem. The goal is to help create changes in business management practices that benefit the ecosystem while also demonstrating economic viability, and to develop a model of cooperation on sustainability-related activities in the Fraser Valley that can be exported to other communities in the Basin.

To reassess and be of greater service to the business sector, BEPP completed a survey and research into the environmental actions that businesses are undertaking and what actions they require help with.

The report is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Celebration of Community

The 4th annual Mission Celebration of Community in September 2004 was a great hit, attracting over 2,000 people and 80 community groups. The theme – "Stewardship in All Its Dimensions" – focused on watershed stewardship and the promotion of people's abilities. Man In Motion Rick Hansen, who has been involved in saving Fraser River sturgeon for many years, inspired the crowd to engage in stewardship activities. The event was organized by FBC, Mission Parks and Recreation, the Mission Association for Community Living and the Fraser River Heritage Park Society, with support from a number of major corporate and community sponsors.

Mission Community Justice Council

FBC activities have stimulated new understandings of "social sustainability" in the Mission area. Since the completion of "Crime Prevention: A Social Approach" in 2001, many actions are underway with both government and community groups.

FBC chairs, facilitates and convenes the city-appointed Mission Community Justice Council, which in turn stimulates and works with all major service providers and community groups.

The recent focus of the Council has been on:

- developing restorative justice programming;
- establishing sub-committees on youth, a downtown coalition, neighbourhood support and targeted help for marginalized citizens;
- joint funding strategies; and
- better agency networks.

The Restorative Justice subcommittee has engaged a coordinator, Michelle Royle, who is developing conflict resolution programming in the community.

The new Mission Responsibility, Accountability and Peacemaking Program (Mission RAPP) is emerging as a cost effective and longer lasting approach to conflict resolution. The program is building capacity in the community to deal with conflict in healing and restorative ways rather than traditional punitive models. Partners include the District of Mission, RCMP, the Mission School District, Fraser House, Simon Fraser University, the BC Ministry of Children and Families, and others with links to Sto:lo Nation's Qwi:qwelst'əm.

Vermi-Composting Project

Banana peels do not have to go in with the plastic. They along with most other kitchen "wastes" can be made into rich, composted soil. Over the past year, 1,500 children were engaged in making soil and understanding bio-cycles of worms and their habitat. Information on soils has not been a direct part of school curriculum for a generation, but select teachers are providing this integrated science program focused on sustainability in the classrooms. This small effort will have a long-term sustainability impact.

With support from FBC, VanCity, Mission Abbotsford Recycling, Transform Compost Systems and Ag In The Classroom, the Vermi-Composting Project has been a runaway success. Over 50 schools participated in Abbotsford and Mission, and the program is being expanded to Chilliwack and Agassiz.

Regional and Community Support

FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. Over the past year, the Fraser Valley Regional Manager:

- Presented to municipal agriculture advisors and the GVRD Chair on small lot agriculture.
- Presented at the Abbotsford Sumas International Task Force regarding the Abbotsford Aquifer protection.
- Worked on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal fisheries issues.
- Honoured Rose Charlie at the Women Today Ambassador Dinner.
- Chaired the Sto:lo Agriculture Conference.
- Hosted the China Council Integrated River Basin Management Task Force re: watershed management and water allocation.
- Organized a river tour for Vancouver Sun reporters doing a feature story of Islands in the Fraser River.

Regional Highlights 2004-2005

Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky

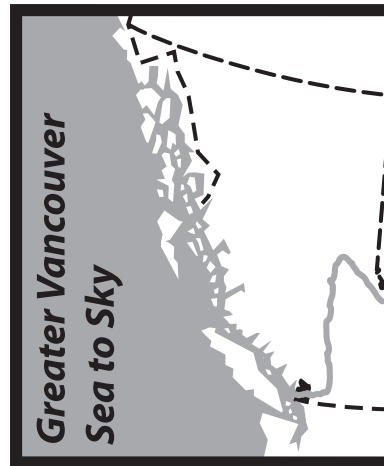
Directors

Linda Coady
Cheeying Ho
Hugh O'Reilly
Barbara Sharp
David Van Seters
Nolan Charles

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
Bob Purdy – Regional Manager
Telephone: 604-488-5355
Email: bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Deana Grinnell – Assistant Regional Manager
Telephone: 604-488-5353
Email: dgrinnell@fraserbasin.bc.ca



New Name for Region

The former Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton Region has been renamed the Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky (GVSS) Region to better reflect the geographic scope of the region. The GVSS Region includes the Greater Vancouver Regional District and part of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, including several municipalities, electoral areas and First Nations territories.

Feature Programs

Greater Vancouver Sustainable Region Initiative

The Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI) is a comprehensive approach to realigning current projects and practices and longer-term plans and strategies to ensure a sustainable future for the Greater Vancouver region and its citizens. Although initiated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), a broad range of interests, including other orders of government, non-government organizations, business, academia and individual citizens, are playing roles in the design and implementation of the SRI.

The SRI embraces the inclusive governance model embodied by FBC – a model that recognizes that unprecedented collaboration across organizations and individuals reflecting environmental, economic, social and institutional perspectives is essential in order for sustainability to be achieved “on the ground”. FBC continues to support the SRI through its participation on the SRI Partners Group, which assists with SRI design and implementation.

Under the auspices of the SRI, and with the support of the GVRD and Western Economic Diversification Canada, FBC and the Business Council of BC are leading an effort to develop a rationale and process design for a “sustainability-enriched regional economic development strategy” (SERES). Recognizing that a sustainability-enriched regional economy capitalizes on the fact that the livability of Greater Vancouver attracts both investment and talent, the SRI Economy partners believe that enduring prosperity will result if economic development, protection of natural assets and making best use of social capital go hand-in-hand. Accordingly, the partners are undertaking this initiative

to generate support and capitalize on potential synergies through the fostering of dialogue, shared learning and action planning among business, community and government leaders.

Independent Power Projects (IPP) Dialogue

Independent Power Projects (IPPs) are considered in the 2002 Provincial Energy Plan to be a key emerging source of new electricity in British Columbia. IPP “green” technology options include small-scale “run-of-river” hydroelectric projects, biomass energy systems and windmills. Since the release of the Energy Plan, a number of IPPs have been considered and some developed, with a concentration of projects in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Based on experiences to date, a broad range of interests has suggested that enhanced information exchange and collaboration among governments, project proponents and civil society interests with respect to the IPP decision-making process would be helpful.

To foster such information exchange and collaboration, in early 2005 FBC, with the support of the provincial government, convened two “First Steps to Final Decisions” workshops. Looking specifically at run-of-river IPPs, the first workshop provided a venue for provincial, federal, First Nations, provincial and local governments to share experiences and confirm roles and responsibilities with respect to moving IPP project applications through the decision processes. Participants at this workshop were also asked to report on actions taken since a June 2003 workshop convened by FBC, and also generate a “new ideas bank” listing suggestions to enhance IPP decision-making.

A second workshop brought together governments, IPP proponents and civil society interests to raise awareness of the current IPP decision-making processes, reflect on the experiences from multiple perspectives and to consider and add to the “new ideas bank”.

As a result of the two workshops, multi-interest collaboration has been enhanced and new ideas for enhancing IPP decision-making are under consideration by relevant parties.

A full report from the workshops is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Marpole Vancouver Gateway Initiative

Where do you find a setting that includes an historic riverside waterfront, an Aboriginal village site stretching back thousands of years, currently redeveloping land, a patchwork of jurisdictions, and community members motivated to help plan the future?

You find it along the banks of the Fraser in south Vancouver, commonly called the “Marpole Gateway”. At the request of several organizations interested in the future of the area, FBC convened and facilitated two workshops to help share information, perspectives and ideas, build relationships, and advance progress towards common goals.

The Marpole Gateway Community Ideas Exchange provided an opportunity for 60 community participants, using principles from the FBC *Charter for Sustainability* as a guide, to develop their own sustainability principles, goals and objectives for the future of the Marpole Gateway area.

A second workshop provided an unprecedented opportunity for key agencies, governments and the public to outline their interests in the future of the Marpole Gateway. Speakers representing Vancouver and Richmond, the Musqueam Indian Band, various landowners, Vancouver International Airport Authority, TransLink, the North Fraser Port Authority, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and the Fraser River Estuary Management Program provided overviews of their current jurisdiction, responsibilities, official plans and considerations around future planning and processes in the area.

It is intended that these workshops serve as a foundation for continued communication and collaboration among the many interests in the Marpole Gateway.

A full report from the workshops is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The organizing of the two Ideas Sessions is very important [given] the focus that so many people and groups have placed on the Marpole Gateway. Both events were excellent opportunities to discuss what the community thought. The two-day efforts were a credit to the Fraser Basin Council.

—Wendy Turner, Chair, Eburne Lands Coordinating Group

Other Highlights

Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant

The Britannia Mine, which operated from 1902 to 1974, has been described by Environment Canada as “the largest single point source metal contamination problem in North America.” Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) effluent from the mine severely impacts marine life in Howe Sound, including some 4.5 million salmon that migrate up the eastern side of Howe Sound each year. ARD, combined with contaminated soil and sediments at

the site of the former mine, has for many years posed a significant obstacle to the long-term economic and social development of the Britannia area.

In 1998, FBC brought together federal, provincial and local government representatives, the former mine owners, non-government organizations and residents to catalyze progress towards a lasting solution to the ARD problem. Since then, FBC assisted Britannia Beach residents to build capacity to pursue a long-term tenure arrangement. FBC also participated in long-range planning for the area, including the Britannia Project – a multi-interest effort to transform a mining legacy site into one of Canada’s pre-eminent sustainability-focused research, education and entertainment destinations.

In March 2005, the provincial government and EPCOR Water Services Inc. began construction on a new water treatment plant that will eliminate contaminated run-off water that has polluted the marine ecosystem in the area for decades. Construction of the plant is a critical step on the community’s journey towards sustainability.

In the early days, the Fraser Basin Council put the former mine owners, community representatives and all levels of government together and helped us all to see beyond our own self-interest. With the construction of this water treatment plant, we have created a win for the community and a win for the environment.

—George Abbott, Minister BC Minister of Sustainable Resource Management

Fraser River Debris Trap

Imagine a pile of wood debris as big as a football field and as high as a 13 story office tower. Now imagine the damage that amount of wood – 100,000 cubic metres – would cause if it were allowed to flow unfettered downstream from Hope to the Strait of Georgia. The Fraser River Debris Trap, a unique facility near Hope, captures up to this amount of debris each year as uprooted and fallen trees careen down the Fraser River from as far away as Mount Robson in the Rocky Mountains.

Without the debris trap, this mountain of wood debris would threaten public safety, interfere with commercial and recreational navigation, damage infrastructure such as docks, dikes, bridges and submarine cables, clog sensitive habitat and hinder foreshore access.

FBC plays a leadership role in addressing funding uncertainty and debris disposal issues associated with the debris trap. For seven years, FBC has worked with government and private sector partners to ensure that funds are in place to operate the debris trap. This year, a significant funding challenge emerged as a result of difficulties faced by the coastal forest industry partner in meeting its historical commitment of \$180,000 per year. Operational contingency planning by the FBC combined with the leadership of government partners enabled the trap to operate this year despite this shortfall.

Strengthening Communities Update: Reinventing Squamish

Using sustainability and “smart growth” principles to stimulate creative ideas, FBC, in partnership with the District of Squamish and with the assistance of the UBC Sustainable Communities Program, worked with the community to develop an innovative and distinctive “working waterfront” Concept Plan for the downtown Squamish waterfront. The plan, which engaged a broad cross-section of government (including First Nations), business and civil society interests, includes marinas, ocean walkways, seaside residences, parks, a public market, restaurants, and a distinctive arts and cultural centre, in addition to traditional industrial uses and a deep sea port.

In April 2004, FBC Directors presented the concept plan to Squamish Mayor Ian Sutherland. Since then, the Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation (SODC) was created by the District of Squamish to “champion the revitalization of the oceanfront by providing leadership and energy in fostering economic diversity, environmental stewardship, SmartGrowth principles and community involvement” (from the SODC website: www.squamishoceanfront.com). SODC is building on and extending the concept plan in a manner consistent with sustainability principles.

The Fraser Basin Council has created a sea change of empowerment in Squamish and achieved the fullest expression of mission: strengthened communities

—Brent Leigh, President, Whistler Chamber of Commerce

Tilbury Eco-Industrial Networking Initiative

Eco-Industrial Networking (EIN) creates collaborative networks among businesses, governments, and communities to more efficiently and ecologically use materials, energy and other resources. This demands a level of integration of both infrastructure and decision-making not usually found among neighbouring businesses and local government. The Tilbury EIN was initiated by several interested parties in the municipality of Delta, including the Corporation of Delta, the GVRD, the Delta Chamber of Commerce and the Tilbury Industrial Park businesses. During 2004/05, FBC has been providing facilitation and process design support to the initiative.

World Urban Forum 3: Habitat Plus 30

Vancouver hit the world stage in 1976 when it hosted Habitat 76: the UN Conference on Human Settlement. Current FBC Chair Patrick Reid headed the Host Secretariat for the conference. Vancouver will mark the 30th anniversary of that important milestone when it hosts the UN World Urban Forum (WUF) in 2006.

The FBC is participating on a Vancouver WUF 2006 Steering Committee convened to develop “satellite” initiatives associated with the UN event. The WUF is viewed by the committee as an excellent opportunity for awareness-raising and promotion of national, provincial and local expertise in sustainability, including the work of the FBC.

Regional and Community Support

FBC provides facilitation, process design and sustainability awareness-raising support to a wide range of initiatives and organizations in the GVSS Region. For example, during 2004/05, GVSS regional staff:

- Provided the keynote address at the annual training meeting of the BC Parks and Recreation Association.
- Facilitated a session in Squamish involving parties interested in re-watering the Mamquam River for social, environmental and economic benefits.
- Facilitated a session in Whistler to assist business representatives to help shape the economic component of the Resort Municipality of Whistler’s Comprehensive Sustainability Plan.
- Assisted the Village of Pemberton and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to plan for a public meeting on boundary restructuring.
- Provided a presentation on collaborative leadership to the Pemberton Chamber of Commerce.
- Gave a presentation on collaborative leadership and sustainability to representatives of the BC Hydro Bridge River Coastal Restoration Program.
- Provided facilitation support and a presentation on sustainability-inspired regional economic development at the Super Sustainable BC Conference.
- Gave a presentation on collaborative leadership and dialogue at the 2004 UBCM Environment Conference.



Fraser Basin Council

Financial Statements of Fraser Basin Council Society

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the statement of financial position of Fraser Basin Council Society as at March 31, 2005 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding fiscal year.



Chartered Accountants
Vancouver, Canada

June 10, 2005

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Financial Position

March 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 258,441	\$ 177,659
Restricted cash (note 3)	1,723,588	1,864,988
Project and other receivables (note 4)	1,112,683	792,252
Prepaid expenses	15,843	12,552
	<u>3,110,555</u>	<u>2,847,451</u>
Computer and office equipment (note 5)	39,770	28,187
	<u>\$ 3,150,325</u>	<u>\$ 2,875,638</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 486,368	\$ 271,205
Deferred revenue (note 6)	119,175	124,936
Current portion of obligation under capital leases (note 7)	8,994	15,720
Funds held in trust (note 8)	1,343,255	1,539,386
	<u>1,957,792</u>	<u>1,951,247</u>
Obligation under capital leases (note 7)	-	8,994
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	30,776	3,473
Internally restricted:		
Sustainability Fund (note 2(c))	380,333	325,602
INAC Fund (note 2(d))	150,000	200,000
Unrestricted (note 2(e))	631,424	386,322
	<u>1,192,533</u>	<u>915,397</u>
	<u>\$ 3,150,325</u>	<u>\$ 2,875,638</u>

Commitments (note 9)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

 Director

 Director

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Operations

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
Revenue:		
Government contributions:		
Federal	\$ 300,000	\$ 550,000
Provincial	350,000	350,000
Municipalities and regional districts	436,601	356,310
Project revenue	1,403,712	873,764
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	219,125	-
Investment income (note 10)	57,979	70,671
Donations	65,043	14,034
	<u>2,832,460</u>	<u>2,214,779</u>
Expenses:		
Projects:		
Basinwide	1,184,601	741,317
Regional	505,418	405,494
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	147,164	-
Communications	124,686	137,695
Board operations	110,077	91,711
Administration	407,248	378,228
Amortization of computer and office equipment	18,761	12,998
Goods and Services Tax	57,369	38,653
	<u>2,555,324</u>	<u>1,806,096</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 277,136	\$ 408,683

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

	Invested in capital assets	Sustainability Fund	INAC Fund	Unrestricted	Total	
					2004	2003
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 3,473	\$ 325,602	\$ 200,000	\$ 386,322	\$ 915,397	\$ 506,714
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(18,761)	-	-	295,897	277,136	408,683
Acquisition of capital assets	30,344	-	-	(30,344)	-	-
Repayment of capital lease obligation	15,720	-	-	(15,720)	-	-
Transfers	-	54,731	(50,000)	(4,731)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 30,776	\$ 380,333	\$ 150,000	\$ 631,424	\$ 1,192,533	\$ 915,397

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Cash Flows

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 277,136	\$ 408,683
Amortization of computer and office equipment	18,761	12,998
Decrease (increase) in non-cash working capital:		
Project and other receivables	(320,431)	(533,269)
Prepaid expenses	(3,291)	(2,781)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	215,163	(191,016)
Deferred revenue	(5,761)	(42,955)
Funds held in trust	(196,131)	600,576
	(14,554)	634,268
Investments and financing:		
Purchase of computer and office equipment	(30,344)	-
Repayment of capital lease obligation	(15,720)	(12,072)
Restricted cash	141,400	(665,214)
	95,336	(677,286)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	80,782	(43,018)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	177,659	220,677
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 258,441	\$ 177,659

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and short-term investments with maturities less than ninety days from inception, excluding restricted cash.

Supplementary information:

During the year ended March 31, 2004, the Council acquired capital assets in the amount of \$36,581 under a capital lease.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

1. Operations:

The Fraser Basin Council Society (the "Society") is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia. Its mandate is to advance sustainability of the Fraser Basin and monitor implementation of the *Charter for Sustainability*. The *Charter for Sustainability* is designed to maintain and enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Society is the successor to the Fraser Basin Management Program, which operated pursuant to a five-year government agreement between the years 1992 to 1997. The Society qualifies as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and, accordingly, is exempt from federal and provincial income and capital taxes.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations as prescribed by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

(b) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income is not restricted and is recognized as revenue when earned.

(c) Sustainability Fund:

Transfers to the Sustainability Fund from unrestricted net assets are restricted through Board approval. Interest earned on the fund balance is transferred as it is earned. The Society intends to create an endowment fund to generate income for future operations. The funds restricted by the Board are currently available for use under certain circumstances as determined by the Board.

(d) INAC Fund:

The INAC Fund includes amounts contributed without restriction by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that have been restricted through Board approval. The funds restricted by the Board are available for use on any society project, to be utilized at a rate of \$50,000 per year until the fund is exhausted in fiscal 2008. The restriction on the use of funds is based on an understanding by the Society that the contribution by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada relates to the agreed upon Federal Government contributions through fiscal 2008.

(e) Unrestricted net assets:

Unrestricted net assets are the accumulation of excess revenue over expenses, which have not been internally designated for use on a specific project.

(f) Computer and office equipment:

Computer and office equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is computed over the assets' estimated useful lives on the following bases and at the following annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Computer equipment	Straight-line	3 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	5 years

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

3. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash represents the internally restricted sustainability fund and funds held in trust.

4. Project and other receivables:

	2005	2004
Federal agencies:		
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	\$ 10,397	\$ -
Canada Revenue Agency	17,947	16,933
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	175,865	134,860
Environment Canada	137,500	54,520
Health Canada	50,000	50,000
Heritage Canada	-	10,000
Industry Canada	5,000	100
Natural Resources Canada	25,000	40,000
Public Works and Government Services	20,000	-
Western Diversification Office	279,000	205,000
Provincial agencies:		
Province of Manitoba	-	500
Province of British Columbia	-	25,985
BC Conservation Foundation	-	13,333
Land and Water BC Inc.	-	2,249
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	1,000	-
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection	5,105	6,000
Ministry of Agriculture Food & Fish	38,131	-
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services	16,000	-
Municipalities and Regional Districts	120,185	165,200
Other	211,553	67,572
	\$ 1,112,683	\$ 792,252

5. Computer and office equipment:

	2005		2004	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer and office equipment	\$ 120,241	\$ 80,471	\$ 39,770	\$ 28,187

Included in computer and office equipment are assets under capital lease with a net book value of \$13,209 (2004 - 28,045).

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

6. Deferred revenue:

The changes in deferred revenue related to expenses of future periods are as follows:

	2005	2004
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 124,936	\$ 167,891
Amounts received during the year related to future periods	105,175	101,000
Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(110,936)	(143,955)
Balance, end of year	\$ 119,175	\$ 124,936

Deferred revenue is to be used for operations and specified programs that are expected to be completed in fiscal 2006. Specified programs include research and co-ordination initiatives related to Climate Change, Rural Development Database, Integrated Flood Management, and the Clean Air Forum Conference.

7. Obligation under capital leases:

In the previous year, the Society entered into a capital lease for computer hardware and peripherals. The lease is for a period of 30 months expiring in fiscal 2006 at an implicit interest rate of 15.0% and will result in the Society purchasing the equipment for a nominal cost at the end of the lease term. Capital lease repayments are due as follows:

Year ending March 31:	\$	
2006	9,206	
Amount representing interest		(212)
	\$	8,994

8. Funds held in trust:

Funds held in trust represent the excess of funding received from the government and private sources over disbursements made in respect of specific projects. The Society acts as an agent only to collect funds and make disbursements with respect to these projects, and accordingly, related revenue and expenditures have not been included in the financial statements of the Society. During the year, the Society's trust funds had the following activity:

	2004	Funds received	Disbursements	2005
Hydraulic Model Trust	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Cariboo LRMP Trust	40,500	-	17,490	23,010
Community Learning Network Conference	11,254	19,120	16,512	13,862
Cheslatta Watershed Study	738	-	-	738
Flood Hazard Management Program	605,746	27,895	266,717	366,924
Lessons Learned Forum	8,305	1,070	850	8,525
Lillooet LRMP Trust	-	165,000	83,837	81,163
Log Debris Management	458,238	425,000	600,697	282,541
Merritt - SRM Planning Process	-	125,000	12,500	112,500
Noxious Weeds Trust	(11,062)	33,358	17,296	5,000
Sea to Sky LRMP Trust	205,701	50,000	2,505	253,196
St'at'imc / BC Protocol Implementation	-	350,000	247,286	102,714
Thompson LRMP Trust	219,966	16,023	235,989	-
Thompson - OGMA Processes	-	60,000	6,000	54,000
BC Rural Network Trust (a)	-	-	10,918	(10,918)
	\$ 1,539,386	\$ 1,322,466	\$ 1,518,597	\$ 1,343,255

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

8. Funds held in trust (continued):

- (a) The Society anticipates that funding for the BC Rural Network Trust will be received during fiscal 2006, which will fund the initial project expenditures and the fiscal 2006 operations.

9. Commitments:

The Society is obligated to make monthly rental payments of \$5,500 for office space under a fiveyear lease expiring June 30, 2006. The landlord has carried out improvements to the premises costing \$200,000 to accommodate the needs of the Society and it is a condition of the lease that the Society is liable to repay this \$200,000 should they vacate these premises prior to expiry of the lease term.

10. Investment income:

Investment income recorded in the statements of operations is calculated as follows:

	2005	2004
Income earned on unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 53,248	\$ 67,797
Income earned on internally restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,731	2,874
	\$ 57,979	\$ 70,671

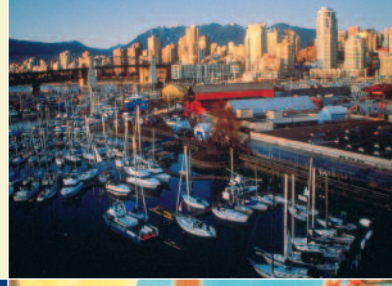
11. Financial instruments:

The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, project and other receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, obligation under capital lease and funds held in trust approximate their fair values due to their relative short-term nature.

11. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.

The Fraser River Basin



Fraser Basin Council

1st Floor, 470 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5

Telephone: (604) 488-5350 • Fax: (604) 488-5351 • Email: info@fraserbasin.bc.ca

www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

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