



FRASER Basin News

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

THE INSIDE STORY



FBC Board Meets in the Cariboo

The FBC Board of Directors recently met in the Cariboo region and visited the small community of Wells and the historic town of Barkerville — western North America's largest heritage site. While in Wells, Mayor and FBC Director Dave Hendrixson outlined the economic and social challenges facing small and rural communities. ■

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Lillooet Economic Conference

HOSTED BY the Fraser Basin Council as part of its Strengthening Communities program, the "Mid-Fraser Economic Development Conference" in Lillooet attracted over 140 business men and women, First Nations leaders, young entrepreneurs, local and provincial politicians, media and residents from the mid-Fraser region. ■

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For more information, go to:
www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2004 STATE OF THE FRASER BASIN CONFERENCE

DATES: NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2004 • THEME: "SUSTAINABILITY WORKS!"

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE THEME — "Sustainability Works!" — is sure to provoke much thought and discussion. Undoubtedly, many will point out that our society is not living sustainably... that we continue to pollute and consume too much... that urban sprawl in some regions and the decline of many small and rural communities in others demonstrates clearly we have not yet achieved sustainability.

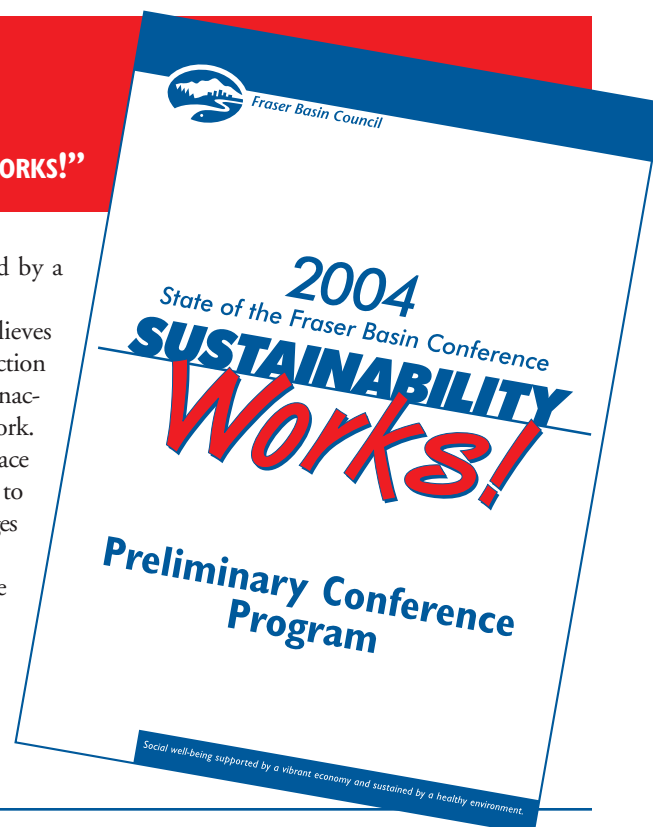
Still, through its work, the Fraser Basin Council sees that progress towards a sustainable future *is* being made. Sustainability principles are being embraced, people are overcoming obstacles to cooperating with each other, and pragmatic actions are being taken to realize a future where social well-being is supported by

a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

The Fraser Basin Council believes that when collaboration and joint action are chosen over confrontation and inaction, sustainability does, indeed, work. The 2004 Conference will be a place where such successes can be shared to stimulate joint action on the challenges that remain.

See Preliminary Conference Program supplement inside. ■

Conference Registration begins September 13th
www.fraserbasin.bc.ca



Reinventing Squamish: FBC presents new plan to revitalize the downtown waterfront

ON APRIL 7, with the magnificent views of Squamish providing a stunning backdrop, Fraser Basin Council Director and Whistler Mayor Hugh O'Reilly presented Squamish Mayor Ian Sutherland with an imaginative, sustainability-centred concept plan for the Squamish downtown waterfront. The FBC played a pivotal role in bringing many diverse interests together to develop the exciting new plan.

In recent years, Squamish — a community of 15,000 along the Sea-to-Sky Corridor

— has undergone rapid change as traditional industries suffered economic downturns, while the 2010 Winter Olympics have provided new opportunities to diversify the local economy.

Squamish is now reinventing itself with a distinctive "working water-



Squamish Mayor Ian Sutherland (left) receives the concept plan for the Squamish waterfront from Whistler Mayor Hugh O'Reilly and North Vancouver Mayor Barbara Sharp, both of whom are Directors of the Fraser Basin Council.



A new passenger ferry terminal is part of the new plan to revitalize Squamish's downtown waterfront.

front" plan that 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. ■

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Invasive Plants: BC's "subtle disaster"

"THE CREEP OF INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS across the BC landscape represents a disaster approaching the level of the pine beetles and last year's forest fires," according to Cariboo regional district director Duncan Barnett. "The problem is, they're a whole lot more subtle."

Without natural enemies to control their populations, alien plant species such as knapweed, Scotch broom and purple loosestrife threaten fragile ecosystems, reduce biodiver-

sity and cost our economy untold millions of dollars each year.

The FBC recently released the Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia — a groundbreaking document that targets the rapid spread of these invasive, non-native plants. A new, non-profit Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia has been established to take on the issue of alien, invasive plant species. ■

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

FBC Programs

Lillooet conference an important first step to economic recovery



Speakers at the Lillooet Economic Development Conference included (l-r) FBC Executive Director David Marshall, Yale-Lillooet MLA Dave Chutter, Lillooet Mayor Greg Kamenka, conference Chair and FBC Thompson Regional Manager Phil Hallinan, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott, St'at'imc Elder Albert Joseph, Minister of State for Mines Pat Bell and Corky Evans.

"WORKING TOGETHER to share ideas and make them a reality" was the theme of an ambitious conference held in Lillooet in March.

Hosted by the Fraser Basin Council as part of its Strengthening Communities program, the "Mid-Fraser Economic Development Conference" in Lillooet attracted over 140 business men and women, First Nations leaders, young entrepreneurs, local and provincial politicians, media and residents from the mid-Fraser region.



Jackie Tegart from Sun Country Community Futures Development Corporation booth at the trade show.

"The conference was a small step on the road to helping Lillooet and the region recover economically, but it was an important first step," said Phil Hallinan, conference chair and FBC Thompson Regional Manager.

"This type of event is critical to the success of our communities, especially in these trying economic times," said Greg Kamenka, Mayor of Lillooet.

Over the past decade, this region — including the communities of Spences Bridge, Boston Bar, Lytton and Lillooet — have been hard hit by everything from reduced traffic and tourism on the Trans Canada Highway to the softwood lumber dispute, cutbacks in government services and the closing of BC Rail passenger service from North Vancouver to Lillooet.

Vancouver Sun columnist Don Cayo perhaps summed up the situation best when he wrote, "If Greater Vancouver suddenly lost 25,000 jobs, would those of us still working feel a touch of panic? Would the brisk housing market drop like a stone? Would we expect more boarded-up storefronts? And would we squawk? Damn right we would!"

"In the past four years, Lillooet...lost maybe 65 jobs," Cayo said. "That's a far cry

from 25,000, but it's equivalent when you work out the per-capita impact. The community simply does not have a big enough or diverse enough economic base to absorb the impact of losing so many jobs in such a short time."

The Lillooet conference looked to the future rather than the past. It focused on practical ideas and tools to improve and diversify the local economy and make business dreams a reality. Sessions included: business planning and marketing; securing financing; regional 2010 Olympic opportunities; regional agriculture, tourism and mining initiatives; tips for youth and women entrepreneurs; and building effective First Nations partnerships and joint-ventures.

Local leaders were enthusiastic.

"Our small communities have to work together to fashion economic development solutions which are complementary to our resources and manpower," said Mayor of Lytton Chris O'Connor. "This conference (was) one of the ways to facilitate critical community partnerships."

Chief Bradley Jack, Chairperson of the Lillooet Tribal Council, stated, "This is a great opportunity for our people to be involved, learn about partnerships, and to see what is possible for economic development within our communities." ■



Speakers at the business financing session included: (r-l) Debbie Arnott of the CFDC, Lee Davis from VanCity Capital Corp and Paul Donald All Nations Trust. Jessica Bratty of the FBC facilitated the session.



Entertainment at the community evening event was provided by a group from the Siska First Nation.



Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott addresses the conference.

PARTNERS

Fraser Basin Council, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd., BC Hydro, and Community Futures Development Assn. (Central Interior First Nations and Sun Country CFDA)

Britannia Beach celebrates 100th anniversary



FBC CONGRATULATES the community of Britannia Beach on its 100th anniversary. Located just south of Squamish, the community is the site of Britannia Mine that operated from 1902 to 1974. It has been described as "the largest single point source metal contamination problem in North America." The FBC is very proud to have played a pivotal role in helping the community, government and the private sector work together to clean up the pollution problem at the former mine site, and to create a sustainable future the Britannia. ■

"The Fraser Basin Council has had unprecedented success at involving the regulatory agencies on this project and in facilitating a public review process that has brought us closer than ever before to solving this environmental nightmare."

— Susan Gimse, Chair, Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)

Kamloops: BC/Yukon Community Learning Network Forum

COMMUNITY LEARNING NETWORKS exist in many BC communities as a means to increase understanding of learning resources, especially those related to the Internet. Both provincial and federal governments have been important players in helping rural communities gain online access and increasing local residents' understanding and awareness of their potential use.

Held in Kamloops in March, the BC/Yukon Community Learning Network Forum was a major success, attracting almost 100 people from across the province to share

ideas and information about effective community learning. The keynote speakers focused on social economy trends from a First Nations perspective. One special session focused on Aboriginal communities and the related issues and challenges for community learning. The other looked at youth issues and their needs and interests across BC communities. ■

PARTNERS

FBC and the CFDA

North Vancouver: "Sharing Visions, Sharing Futures" Waterfront Forum

IN MARCH, the FBC worked with the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce on a forum that examined future visions for North Vancouver's waterfront. FBC Chair Patrick Reid provided the keynote address, and FBC and District of Squamish staff presented the Squamish Downtown Waterfront Concept

Plan as an example of successful collaboration. Tsliel-Waututh and Squamish Nation speakers shared their respective visions for the future of the waterfront and key ingredients of productive aboriginal/ non-aboriginal partnerships. ■

Strengthening Communities

Helping communities build sustainable futures is what we do best.

Revitalizing Squamish's waterfront and economy

WATERFRONT WALKWAYS, marinas, parks, a public market, an arts and cultural centre, residences and a cruise ship terminal are all part of the new concept plan for Squamish's historic downtown waterfront.

"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

Using sustainability and "smart growth" principles to stimulate creative ideas for the waterfront, the Fraser Basin Council, in part-

nership with the District of Squamish and with the assistance of the UBC Sustainable Communities Program, has been helping the community build a bright future for this town in transition.

Headed by the FBC's Bob Purdy, development of the concept plan included an innovative community consultation and design "charrette" process. Over 600 individuals representing a wide range of community, business, First Nations, arts, industry and government interests participated.

Presenting the plan to Squamish Mayor Ian Sutherland, Hugh O'Reilly stated that the FBC is excited to have worked with the community on this waterfront initiative. "I am delighted that the Fraser Basin Council was able to contribute to the long-term sustainability of Squamish through our Strengthening Communities initiative. The goodwill and prac-

tical outcomes resulting from this project show how win-win solutions can arise from shared learning, respectful dialogue and collaboration around common interests."

"The 2010 Olympics are already acting as a catalyst for rapid growth in our community, and we are going to pursue high quality development in order to do this right," said Mayor Sutherland. "We have listened carefully to the advice of other communities around the world who have done waterfront development, have learned

from their experiences, and now have the opportunity to adapt them to Squamish. The consensus-building approach employed in developing a waterfront plan of this magnitude will ensure it gets implemented in a way that is consistent with the vision of residents, and will benefit the entire community." ■

Contact: Bob Purdy, FBC Regional Manager, at (604) 488-5355 or by email: bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca

PARTNERS

FBC, BC Hydro, District of Squamish, Western Economic Diversification, Community Futures Development Corporation of Howe Sound and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services



Squamish's Mamquam Blind Channel BEFORE



Mamquam Blind Channel AFTER



Pedestrian walkway across Mamquam Blind Channel

Fish, wasabi and crayfish: innovative small lot agriculture in Kent

FOR FRASER VALLEY farmers in Kent and Agassiz, strengthening agriculture is synonymous with strengthening communities.

Just ask Bruce Swift who runs an innovative, land-based, environmentally friendly fish and wasabi farm in Agassiz. He is one of the key supporters in FBC's Strengthening Communities project in the District of Kent. Bruce demonstrates sustainability through his research and development in home-based aquaculture, with assistance from Agriculture Canada and Fisheries & Oceans Canada.

Bruce farms indigenous species like coho. He then grows Japanese wasabi root in the nutrients produced from the fish. He is also doing research on raising freshwater crayfish that would feed on the wasabi leaves. Bruce's academic background and practical "know-how" is another example of how British Columbia

— with more than 280 commercial agricultural products — is a world leader in diversity of agriculture and high quality food production.

"Small lot agriculture has great potential in Kent. Good entrepreneurship, good soil, a warm climate and community spirit all contribute to our success," Swift says. "FBC has played a valuable role in bringing growers together and facilitating this process of strengthening small lot agriculture.

"People go to the Okanagan for wine tours. Now, they can come to Kent for food tours." ■

For more information contact: Marion Robinson, Fraser Valley Regional Manager
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Bruce Swift at the "Focus On Farming" event in Agassiz in May.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED BY the FBC Board as a priority program in 2002, the Strengthening Communities Program focuses on strengthening and diversifying the economies of smaller and rural communities throughout the Fraser Basin.

Five pilot projects have been approved, one in each region in the Basin: Upper Fraser (McBride and Dunster Joint Vision), Cariboo-Chilcotin (South Cariboo Action Plan), Thompson (Lillooet Conference and High Speed Internet), Fraser Valley (Small Lot Agriculture in Kent) and Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton (Squamish Downtown Waterfront Concept Plan). ■

PARTNERS

YVR (Vancouver Airport Authority), BC Hydro and the Ministry of Communities, Aboriginal and Women Services



Pictured here is YVR Vice-President and FBC Director Michael O'Brien summarizing plans for Strengthening Communities projects in each region.



The Strengthening Communities program in McBride is focused on coordinating and promoting community events and boosting tourism in McBride and Dunster. In March, the first "Network Night" attracted 75 organizations — an amazing turnout for a town of 800 people! Stores, offices and tourist sites have been outfitted with computer "Bulletin Boards" that continuously update what events are taking place in the community. Pictured here in front of McBride's historic train station are (l-r) Barb Jackson from Beanery 2, Village of McBride CEO Laird Irvine CEO, FBC Director Ron Hawkins, Notary Public Linda Fry, McBride Councillor Rick Thomson, Kathy Molendyk from McBride Secondary School and Line Gillespie from the Robson Valley Times.

FBC Programs

Invasive Plant Council tackles alien invaders!



Scotch Broom



Hound's Tongue



Spotted Knapweed

"BRITISH COLUMBIA is being attacked by foreign invaders," says Yale-Lillooet MLA Dave Chutter. "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."

FBC board members were first made aware of this issue during a field trip to the Cariboo in June 2001. Since then, the FBC has worked with business sectors, government agencies, First Nations, conservation organizations and community groups to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with the spread of invasive plants.

"Before joining the FBC in 2003, I never fully realized the staggering and destructive impacts these alien plant species have on ecosystems, animal and human health, and the economy," said Patrick Reid, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council. "We must address this issue. The costs of doing nothing are just too great."

The FBC recently released the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* that was developed by a writing group headed by Cariboo Regional Manager Gail Wallin.



Marsh Thistle

"Annual economic losses from invasive plants cost ranchers, farmers, utilities, forest companies, government and the general public tens of millions – and perhaps even hundreds of millions – of dollars each year in lost productivity"

—Duncan Barnett, Cariboo Regional District director and member of the BC Cattleman's Association

The strategy outlines a wide range of economic, environmental, health, safety and other negative impacts from invasive plants, and identifies key challenges to invasive plant management.

As recommended in the strategy, a non-profit Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia has been established to take on the issue of alien, invasive plant species. The new Council will coordinate invasive plant management province-wide, improve compliance with current and new legislation, establish research priorities, and coordinate public awareness programs.

Involvement of all key players on the Invasive Plant Council is critical to its success. The new Council is seeking support from a wide range of industrial sectors, professional organizations, government agencies and individuals who are concerned about this issue. A "Memorandum of Support" has been prepared for potential signatories to the strategy. ■

To obtain a copy of the Strategy, go to: <http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/news/index.html>



Field Scabious



Caribou in field of Yellow Hawkweed.

PARTNERS

FBC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fish, First Nations Agricultural Association, UBCM and Regional Districts

INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL OF BC INAUGURAL MEETING

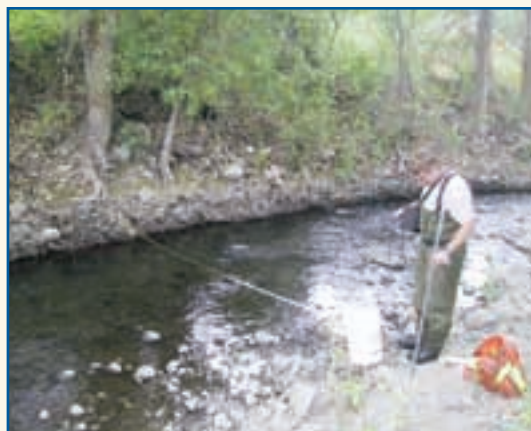
The FBC recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the Invasive Plant Council in Richmond. The busy day long session included:

- A keynote address by Michele Hebert from the University of Alaska who outlined Alaska's actions to launch and implement a collective invasive plant management Council.
- Official launch of the Invasive Plant Council of BC.
- Establishment of the Board of Directors.
- Identification of key joint actions for Year One of the Invasive Plant Strategy.

For more information contact Gail Wallin, FBC Cariboo Regional Manager
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Drought in the Thompson

A key measure of the effect of drought on Interior waterways is reduced water flow. Here FBC Assistant Manager Dave Pehl measures the amount of water in Guichon Creek, a tributary of the Nicola River.



Focus on Farming in Agassiz

Dairyman Corne Klop (left) with Marion Robinson and Kent Councillor Mel Jorgensen at the "Focus On Farming" event in Agassiz in May.



New tools for flood hazard management

DEVELOPING a coordinated and integrated approach to flood hazard management has been a priority for the FBC since its inception in 1997. Over the past year, the FBC has worked with the provincial and local governments to develop a range of essential flood hazard management information tools.

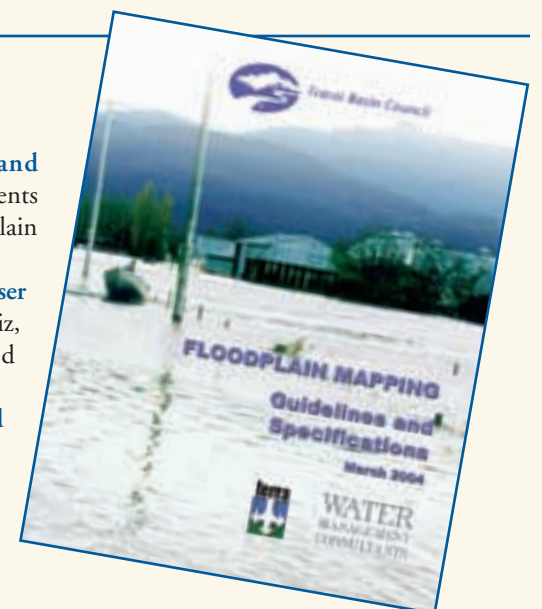
"Residents and communities throughout the province that are vulnerable to significant flood threats certainly welcome this initiative," said Kent Mayor and FBC Director Sylvia Pranger. "The products that the Council and its partners (have produced) will strengthen our capacity to better understand, plan for, prevent and mitigate the damages from the

next great flood of the Fraser River and other rivers in BC."

FBC has produced or is currently working on a range of flood management tools.

- **Flood Hazard Maps** are being prepared for about 180 municipalities and regional districts in BC. These maps include information about known flood hazards and related development practices. Completion date: June 2004.
- **GPS Survey of Flood Protection Works** of approximately 300 flood protection dikes throughout BC, including flood boxes, bank protection and other related works. Completion date: July 2004.

- **Floodplain Mapping Guidelines and Specifications** to assist local governments and other agencies in preparing floodplain maps. Now available.
- **Floodplain Mapping of the Lower Fraser River** focusing initially in Kent-Agassiz, Harrison Hot Springs, Mission and Abbotsford.
- **Lower Fraser River Flood Hazard Evaluation** that will update the lower Fraser River design flood profile, assess the adequacy of existing diking systems, and forecast water levels before and during freshet periods. ■



FBC Programs

One Tonne Challenge: | Simple Challenge. | Tonne of Results



THE BC CLIMATE EXCHANGE (BCCE), a province wide initiative hosted by the FBC, is working on several initiatives focused on

reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs), including the One Tonne Challenge.

On average, each Canadian generates just over 5 tonnes of GHGs per year driving vehicles, heating and cooling homes, washing and drying clothes, and using other appliances.

The challenge for each of us is to reduce our annual GHG emissions by 1 tonne. If it sounds like a lot, think of this: more than 50% of our total personal GHGs come from driving. Driving smarter or using other forms of transportation will

significantly reduce fuel consumption and emissions and save you money.

The latest edition of the *BC Climate Exchange Newsletter* showcases simple ways to get onboard with smart transportation and help you meet the One Tonne Challenge. ■

Sign up for the One Tonne Challenge:
www.BCClimateExchange.ca
and follow the link.



Cool Communities. Cool School.

THROUGH ITS "Cool Communities!" program, the FBC with support from Western Economic Diversification is working on several initiatives that assist communities to become stronger through energy efficiency.

Only a few minutes away from the historic gold rush town of Barkerville, Wells is one of BC's smallest communities, with a population of 175. Last year, the Wells-Barkerville Elementary School was scheduled to close, with children being bussed 80

km to schools in Quesnel. To ensure its continued operation, the District of Wells took the unprecedented step of taking ownership of the school.

Built in the 1930s, the school's monthly heating and electricity bills were significant. Mayor Dave Hendrixson and his council wanted to increase the energy efficiency of the school to reduce operating costs and maintain this important community asset. This would free up funds for other com-

munity activities while reducing GHGs.

Working with the FBC, the Wells Council explored energy options at the school, including upgrading the school to a geothermal energy system. This proved to be a high cost item with a payback period of more than ten years. However, there turned out to be many short-term actions that would provide a greater "bang for the buck".

Actions included: installing programmable thermostats to control temperatures, upgrading insulation, installing more efficient lighting (with assistance from BC Hydro's Product Incentive Program), controlling heat migration between floors, and sealing cracks around external doors and windows. ■



Mayor Dave Hendrixson at the reopening of the Wells-Barkerville Elementary School.

Greenhouse Gas Action Guide

THE FBC AND BCCE are working with a number of partners to expand the web-based Greenhouse Gas Action Guide developed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The guide outlines simple actions that local

governments and First Nations councils can take to reduce GHGs using existing resources or with support from federal / provincial programs. This guide will be hosted on the BC Climate Exchange website. ■

Wood waste composting system in the Shuswap

THE LITTLE SHUSWAP LAKE BAND worked with the University College of the Cariboo and the FBC to develop a composting system for woodwaste to generate heat. The first phase of the project determined how much heat

could be generated from the composting system under different conditions. The project, with additional support from the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), will be completed in September 2004. ■

PARTNERS

FBC, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Environment Canada, GVRD, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Union of BC Municipalities, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Community Energy Association (CEA)

FBC launches Youth Program

SUSTAINABILITY is all about creating a great future for the next generation – a future where communities are strong, the environment is clean and healthy, and the economy is vibrant. Making a sustainable future a reality must, of course, involve young people – for it is they who will inherit our legacy and have to live with the decisions we make today.

The FBC recently launched a program to involve youth more closely in its activities throughout the Basin. Marni Gillis, who joined FBC after five years as Environmental Coordinator with the City of Kamloops, is heading the youth program, in addition to her work with FBC's BC Climate Exchange.

"Youth are gifted with hope, passion, energy and an infectious enthusiasm. They are exciting to work with and their perspectives on sustainability are essential as we plan for the future," Marni said. "FBC plans to build connections between youth and the exciting

initiatives underway in the basin, and act as a catalyst to strengthen the capacity for youth involvement in decision making."

Planned FBC youth engagement activities:

- Ensure effective involvement in the State of the Fraser Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards.
- Work with the BC Rural Team and Canadian Rural Partnership to develop a Fraser Basin Youth Action Forum.
- Add a youth information page on the FBC website to showcase youth sustainability projects.
- Develop an inventory of youth related sustainability projects.
- Involve youth in BC Climate Exchange activities. ■

For more information, contact
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The FBC Board and staff recently met in the Cariboo. Pictured here in Barkerville are (l-r) Jim Vanderwal, Program Manager for the BC Climate Exchange, Marni Gillis who heads FBC's new Youth Program and Bob Purdy, Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton Regional Manager.

FBC approves Action Plan to improve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Relations

THE FBC BOARD recently approved an "Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Relations in the Fraser Basin". The plan provides a roadmap for how the FBC will recognize Aboriginal rights and title, and outlines greater opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in all

Council activities. It commits to goals and objectives to be achieved by June 2005.

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

- Publishing a book on First Nations in the Basin, summarizing key Aboriginal issues,

traditional and contemporary practices of sustainability, and prospects for the future of sustainability in the Basin.

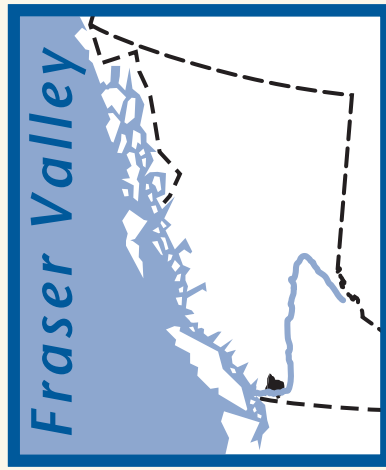
- Developing an indicator of Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations by tracking the number and substance of protocols and agreements in the Basin.

- Sharing lessons on how to establish effective Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations. ■

For more information, contact
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Snapshot of the Fraser Valley Region

THE FRASER VALLEY, located just east of Vancouver, is a broad, fertile floodplain on the lower Fraser River that drains westward from Hope to the sea. FBC's Fraser Valley Region follows the boundaries of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and has a population of approximately 240,000 people, or 9% of the total population of the Fraser Basin.



The FBC Region begins at Boston Bar and includes the lower Fraser Canyon and the central Fraser Valley from Hope to the eastern boundaries of the GVRD. It extends from the US border on the south to the Chilliwack and Harrison River watersheds on the north. Communities include Abbotsford, Agassiz, Boston Bar, Chilliwack, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Kent, Mission and Yale. ■

History of the Region

THE FRASER VALLEY is the traditional territory of the mainland Halq'emeyem speaking people who have lived beside the river for thousands of years.

The first known Europeans to travel through the valley were Simon Fraser and his companions in 1808. In 1827, fur traders made their first permanent establishment at Fort Langley owned by the Hudson's Bay Company. Very quickly the traders shifted to the age old First Nations economy based on fishing and agriculture.

During the gold rush, paddlewheelers went into operation, and steamboats plied the valley from 1858 until the last one was retired in 1925. Farm settlement followed the gold rush era as the fertile soils and moderate climate in the Fraser Valley were ideal for food production. A number of communities including Chilliwack, Mission and Kent/Kilby developed as major agricultural and commercial centres.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed along the north side of the river in 1885, it provided a more efficient means of transporting goods and people. Rail access also stimulated logging, which became a major industry during the 1880s. The CPR was followed by the Canadian Northern Railway that was completed just before World War I.



Fort Langley

A local railway, the electric Interurban line, was opened in 1910 and ran between New Westminster and Chilliwack. For 40 years until its closure in 1950, this line carried passengers, mail, milk, fresh produce, fish and other freight to and from Valley communities. In the end, it was superseded by the extension of a network of roads, culminating in the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1960; this inaugurated a new era of suburban expansion.

The Fraser Valley experienced two catastrophic floods, the first in 1894. The 1948 flood inundated Chilliwack, Matsqui and



CPR Tunnel in the Fraser Canyon

Fraser Valley Region Directors



FBC Directors and staff from the Fraser Valley Region: (l-r) Mayor of Kent Sylvia Pranger, Regional Manager Marion Robinson, Dave Barratt, Council Vice-Chair and Chief of the Skwah First Nation of Chilliwack Roy Mussell and Duncan Jeffries, Industry Liaison Director from the University College of the Fraser Valley.

Hatzic, causing millions of dollars in damage to property, agriculture and infrastructure. Since then, major dikes have been constructed throughout the region. From Chilliwack to the mouth of the river there are now over 600 km of flood control dikes on the lower Fraser.

The Fraser Valley has changed dramatically since the 1960s. Most of its residents have arrived since that time to live in suburban communities. Recognizing the inevitable pressures that urban development would place on farmlands, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was created in the 1970s to protect land for agricultural production. The ALR has protected much of the Valley from



1894 Fraser River Flood

urban development, but some agricultural lands and wetland habitat have been eliminated to make way for highways and housing.

The region remained primarily rural until the 1980s. However, by 2000 the Valley faced serious challenges associated with rapid population growth. These include suburban sprawl, the need to protect agricultural land in the ALR, increasing municipal and industrial pollution, the quality of drinking water, dangerous levels of smog, protecting waterways that are important habitats for salmon and other species, and increasing environmental degradation.

Economic Activities



Chilliwack Farm

AGRICULTURE is the dominant economic activity in the Fraser Valley, which contains some of the most productive agricultural land in Canada. Agricultural production in BC exceeds \$1.4 billion in gross farm receipts, over one-half of which is generated in the Valley from fruit and berry crops, eggs, poultry, vegetables, nursery stock, turf, mushrooms and dairy products.



Harrison Lake

In the Hope, Kent-Harrison and Mission areas, forestry is a significant industry. Commercial fishing is an important industry throughout the lower Fraser. The Valley also provides a transportation and utility corridor for road, rail, river, natural gas

and power for the major urban centres. Other major economic sectors include tourism, service industries, agricultural processing and manufacturing.

Major Sustainability Issues

AS ONE OF the prime food growing regions in Canada, the Fraser Valley is challenged with managing growth associated with its rapid increase in population. Prime agricultural land accounts for just 1% of BC's land base and therefore, protecting agricultural land is crucial.

Other major sustainability issues facing the region include flood hazard management, erosion, rapid population growth and urban sprawl, transportation congestion, air pollution, water quality, improving aboriginal/non-aboriginal relations, maintaining healthy fisheries and fish habitat, crime prevention and other social risk factors, and conflicts over land use, particularly at the urban/rural interface.

Fraser Valley Regional FBC Programs

- Business Environmental Pledge Programme (BEPP)
- Celebration of Community
- Fraser River Management Plan (FRMP): Hope to Mission
- Mission of Streams Resource Centre
- Nutrient Management
- Social Sustainability
- Strengthening Communities
- Sustainability and Agriculture
- Providing Regional and Community Support ■



Pictured here at the Celebration of Community are (l-r) Grand Chief Rose Charlie, BC Lt.-Gov. and former FBC Chair Iona Campagnolo and FBC Regional Manager Marion Robinson.

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FBC Board of Directors

FBC Board meets in the Cariboo

AS PART OF FBC'S COMMITMENT to work first-hand with communities throughout the Basin, Directors held their June Board meeting in the Cariboo region and visited the small community of Wells/Barkerville. While in Wells, Mayor and FBC Director Dave



Former FBC Directors (l-r) Marie Mervyn and Horst Sander join current Board members David Van Seters and Wells Mayor Dave Hendrixson in Barkerville.

Hendrixson outlined the economic and social challenges facing small and rural communities.

Barkerville began in 1862 when Billy Barker discovered gold on Williams Creek. The Gold Rush that followed attracted fortune hunters from around the world and for a short time, Barkerville was purported to be the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. Today the historic town is western North America's largest heritage site.

Located near Barkerville, Wells was developed as a company town for the Cariboo Gold Quartz Mine in the 1930s. Nearly 4,500 people once lived in the community that today has a winter population of just 170, swelling to 500 during the tourist season. Like many small communities throughout the Fraser Basin, Wells — with no major resource sector employer, a reduction in many government services and a declining population — is struggling to survive by diversifying its economy. Tourism is its major industry — the town boasts the largest number of art galleries per capita in all of BC — but the town is also exploring options in forestry and renewed mining activities. ■



Photo: Louis A. Blanc, Photographic Gallery Barkerville

The Fraser Basin Council Directors and staff on the main street in Barkerville.

FBC welcomes new Directors

Tom Coombes – Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Perry Redan – Chief, Cayoose Creek St'atlimx (Sekw'el'as Band)

Randal Cripps – Director of Corporate Services for Environment Canada

Jim Wild – Area Manager, Lower Fraser Valley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Harry Pierre – Chief, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council (Nak'azdli Band)

Bob Patterson (Cariboo-Chilcotin) and **Bob Peart** (Basin Wide, Environment) have recently been reappointed for another term.



The "Bald Guys in Barkerville": Former Quesnel Mayor and FBC Director Steve Wallace (left) with YVR Vice-President Michael O'Brien, Wells Mayor Dave Hendrixson and FBC Executive Director David Marshall.



FBC Directors (l-r) Tom Coombes, Jim Wild, Chair Patrick Reid and Randal Cripps.

...and says farewell to

Jon O'Riordan, – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and Founding Director of the Fraser Basin Council who is retiring from government service, was honoured at the Board meeting in Wells for his commitment and support for the FBC.



Nolan Charles, – Councilor, Musqueam Indian Band, who is stepping down as Director representing the Musqueam/Isawwassen/T'seil Watuth communities is pictured here with his mother Mary Charles. ■



FBC Directors and staff in front of the historic Wells City Hall.

FBC and CFDA: Building community futures



FBC Chair Patrick Reid gave the keynote address at the Community Futures Development Association AGM in Vancouver in March. The FBC has worked with Community Futures on economic development projects throughout the Basin, most recently at the Lillooet Economic Development Conference. Pictured here with Patrick Reid (right) is George Knight, immediate past Chair of the CFDA and Chair of the CFDC of Peace Liard.

Canadian Water Resources Association



FBC Executive Director David Marshall gave the keynote address at the 2004 Canadian Water Resources Association's Integrated Watershed Planning and Management Forum in Winnipeg. Pictured here (l-r) with David Marshall are Sharon Gurney (CWRA), Barbara Veale (Grand River Conservation Authority) and Lori Thompson (Manitoba Water Stewardship).

FBC International Activities

Fraser Basin Council — a river basin management model for the world

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL is unique. Its focus is on sustainability and its vision is to create a Fraser River Basin “where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment”. Its governance model is the first of its kind in Canada, and has served as an example for other organizations in the Basin, throughout the province, nationally and internationally.

The FBC has played a leadership role in more than 50 major

projects, and it has established an impressive track record of resolving conflicts, tackling complex issues and getting results “on the ground”.

Increasingly, the FBC has become a model for integrated river basin management projects around the world. While our mandate and primary focus will always be on the Fraser River Basin itself, the Council welcomes the opportunity to share our experience with many international and national organizations. ■

World Bank — Integrated River Basin Management



The World Bank is currently conducting a research project entitled “Integrated River Basin Management and the Principle of Managing Water at the Lowest Appropriate Level – When and Why Does it (Not) Work in Practice?” The FBC was asked to prepare a report on the Fraser River Basin as one of eight case studies from around the world. World Bank officials recently joined the June Board meeting in the Cariboo to learn firsthand how FBC operates and is effective in both its governance model and its myriad economic, environmental and social sustainability projects. Pictured are (l-r) Ariel Dinar, David Marshall, Bill Blomquist and report writer Ken Calbick-Shaw.

China Council Task Force on Integrated River Basin Management



In April, the FBC hosted a task force from the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). The objective of the task force is to improve public welfare in China through the better governance of water resources, ecosystem management, and biodiversity conservation facilitated by information sharing, demonstration projects and public participation. Pictured here are members of the task force with local FBC staff and municipal officials waiting to board “jet boats” for a tour of the lower Fraser River.

International Centre for Sustainable Cities and “+30 Network”

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

Vancouver is also home to the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), a non-government organization that promotes sustainability in cities around the world through practical demonstration projects using Canadian expertise and technology.

In March 2004, FBC Regional Manager Bob Purdy played a key role as emcee and lead facilitator at an international “+30 Network” conference in Vancouver hosted by the ICSC in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Liu Institute for Global Issues and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

Building on the success of CitiesPLUS — Canada’s grand prize-winning submission at an international competition sponsored by the International Gas Union — the +30 Network enables cities and communities to learn from one another, share their experiences and work together to advance long-term planning for sustainability. The +30 Network will witness better models and techniques for long-term planning, resulting in more resilient cities able to cope with expected economic, ecological, and social shocks and stresses.

The March conference was a great success, with delegates representing cities throughout the world — from Dar es Salaam to Calgary — expressing their enthusiasm and support for the +30 Network. One goal of the network is to bring 30 or more cities and communities together to share their learning at the celebration of “Habitat Plus 30” in conjunction with the World Urban Forum in 2006. ■



Pictured here are delegates who attended the “+30 Network” conference in March 2004.

Philippines Project (PCEEM)



Over the past year, the FBC has played an active role in The Philippines Canada Environmental and Economic Management (PCEEM) Project, working with SNC-Lavalin and two foundations focused on sustainable river management in The Philippines. In Canada on a technical mission, the group recently joined the FBC Board meeting in Barkerville and Wells. Pictured here in front of the Wells Centennial Hall are (Back Row l-r) David Marshall, Dr. Marcel Gono (Project Director) and FBC Chair Patrick Reid/(Front Row l-r) Dr. Ruth Gamboa (President, Davao PCEEM Foundation Inc.) and Jose Bigornia, (President, Cebu PCEEM Foundation Inc.).

Mark Your Calendars!

2004
State of the Fraser Basin Conference
SUSTAINABILITY Works!

Date: November 26 & 27, 2004

Location: Renaissance Hotel
Downtown Vancouver

Program: See Centrespread



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