



# Coyote Whispers

THOMPSON REGION NEWSLETTER • FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

*Vol. 1: Issue 1  
March 2001*

## *Coyote's Tail*

According to British Columbia's numerous Interior First Nations Peoples; the Old One sent Coyote to travel the world and make it a more habitable place. His many works included introducing the people to the vibrant rivers filled with fish, and along their shores he showed them rich fishing spots.

Coyote told the people of the land that it was theirs to enjoy and share, not to destroy or exploit. Coyote is known as a transformer, providing for the people and teaching them how to use their gifts wisely.

As Coyote helped to teach the people, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) works to guide the people to live sustainably within the Fraser Basin.

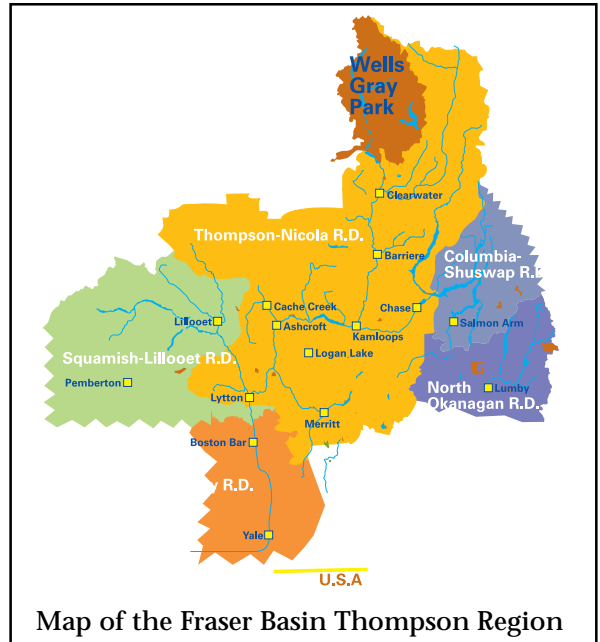
Through the Charter for Sustainability and its Four Directions: Understanding Sustainability; Caring for Ecosystems; Strengthening Communities; and Improving Decision Making, the council is working to encourage social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

## *Who Are We?*

Welcome to the inaugural addition of the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) - Thompson Region monthly newsletter! We are a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization, assisting your community to achieve its goals of sustainability.

We hope that through the upcoming editions you get to know us better and become more informed about how FBC and sustainability works.

Our aim is to bring balance on social, economic and environmental initiatives within the Thompson Region of the Fraser Basin, acting as a source of information and encouraging an exchange of ideas. To achieve this we focus on facilitating multi-interest involvement in consensus guided processes. Participating groups include, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry, federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations governments



Map of the Fraser Basin Thompson Region

all working together towards cooperative decision making. The Charter for Sustainability and its Four Directions guide the Fraser Basin Council in all its initiatives.

We hope that the upcoming editions of Coyote Whispers will reflect our cooperative initiatives encouraging the communities within the Thompson Region towards sustainability. Moreover, we invite you to become an active member in your community and the Fraser Basin Council. We welcome you to contact us or come into our office for information and/or feedback.





# Charter for Sustainability

***Vision: The Fraser Basin is a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.***

## ***Our Principals are:***

◆ ***Mutual Dependence*** Land, water, air and all living organisms including humans are integral parts of the ecosystem. Biodiversity must be conserved.

◆ ***Accountability*** Each of us is responsible for the social, economic and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.

◆ ***Equity*** All communities and regions must have equal opportunities to provide for the social, economic and environmental needs of residents.

◆ ***Integration*** Consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision making.

◆ ***Adaptive Approaches*** Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values.

◆ ***Coordinated and Cooperative Efforts*** Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.

◆ ***Open and Informed Decision Making*** Open decision making depends on the best available information.

◆ ***Exercising Caution*** Caution must be exercised when shaping decisions to avoid making irreversible mistakes.

◆ ***Managing Uncertainty*** A lack of certainty should not prevent decisive actions for sustainability.

◆ ***Recognition*** There must be recognition of existing rights, agreements and obligations in all decision making.

◆ ***Aboriginal Rights and Title*** 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.

◆ ***Transition Takes Time*** Sustainability is a journey that requires constant feedback, learning and adjustment. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance.

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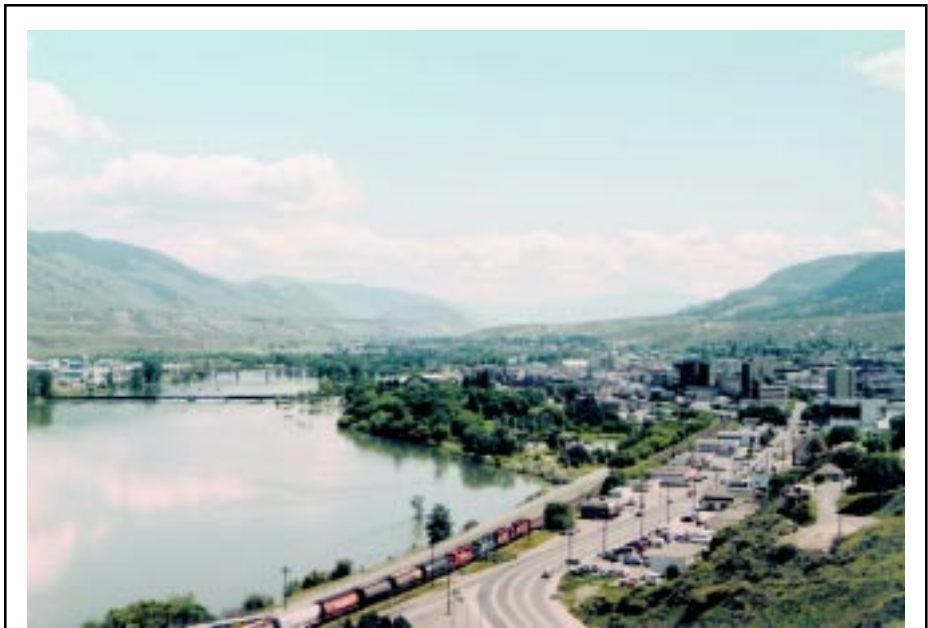
*Quality of Life  
in the South  
Thompson*



*Understanding  
Sustainability*

In order to ensure the continued high quality of life within the South Thompson Region, the TNRD is entering into a long-term program to direct and manage growth while preserving the natural amenities of B.C's Interior. The need for a regional growth strategy is apparent in the fact that an expanding population and growing inappropriate development have had adverse impacts on the area. Declining water quality, air pollution and urban sprawl are beginning to become an issue.

The South Thompson was chosen as the site for the pilot project because it has experienced, and will likely continue to experience, development pressures over the next decades. Moreover, the South Thompson is a major salmon river and a source of drinking water for many in the area. This growth strategy pilot project is occurring with active participation and input from public groups, experts and a senior government steer-



Viewscape of Overlander Bridge and Thompson River in Kamloops

ing committee to ensure that the multi-stakeholder issues are addressed. Regional District directors are also participating to ensure that recommendations developed during the consultation process can be properly implemented.

Among items being considered in the long-term plan are: Stream Side Protection; cluster development of settlements; green spaces; and transportation corridors. The program will likely take a few years before we are able to see results and experience benefits.



# Okanagan Shuswap Land Use Plan Gets Approval



# Improving Decision Making

The Provincial government has approved the Okanagan/Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP). The plan is the result of 5 years of effort by local citizens on behalf of area residents.

The OSLRMP balances environmental protection and economic development, and reflects the desires of local resi-

dents to manage their land base free from outside influences. This plan is unique as it assigns general resource management standards to the entire Crown land base outside protected areas. These standards will guide resource extraction as well as recreational activities on this area of the Province.

One of the areas set aside for protection is Pennask Creek. This area is the source for many of the rainbow trout that Kamloops and the Cariboo regions are famous for. The OSLRMP ensures that these spawning area remain pristine for the future.

The plan also recognizes the responsibility of area residents to protect the grasslands ecosystem by setting aside approximately 10,000 hectares for protection and applying management standards to the remainder to ensure this key ecosystem and the species that depend on it are here forever.

The Committee congratulates everyone that gave up their time and talent to ensure the plan was truly a reflection of the communities. You all can be proud of your accomplishments.



Map of the LRMP's in the Thompson Region

*Kamloops-  
A Steward of  
Water*



*Caring for  
Ecosystems*

The City of Kamloops is creating a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP), which will identify sewage issues, evaluate options, and prepare a management plan for implementation. The creation of this LWMP is a transparent, partnership process with City staff, government agencies, and members of the public and technical experts.

Kamloops is being pro-active in developing this plan. One of the issues to be addressed concerns the amount of phosphorus that can be discharged into the river.

To address this concern, the City hosted a “first of its kind” Thompson River Environmental Impact Workshop on November 30- December 1. This workshop involved a panel of experts rep-

resenting interests and a broad perspective including specialists from universities, federal and provincial agencies and private consultants. The panel was tasked with developing the criteria upon which the Environment Ministry would issue the discharge permit. Among many outcomes, the workshop identified the need to re-evaluate Kamloops Lake’s role in the river ecosystem, through more intensive monitoring programs. The last impact study on the Lakes is 26 years out of date.

As stewards of the water the City of Kamloops is working to ensure the water quality in the Thompson River to maintain and support the growing Thompson Basin.



Live Release of  
Rainbow Trout  
in Thompson  
Region



## *Sustainability and the Health of Aboriginal Peoples.*



# **S**trengthening Communities

Through the Fraser Basin Council's work developing indicators of sustainability, we have identified a very important indicator: the health and survival of the human species.

Within BC there is a peoples group whose health status is approaching Third World standards.

The current life expectancy of BC's Aboriginal people is 12 years less than that of a non-Aboriginal.

BC's First Nations infant mortality is three times the Canadian rate, and Aboriginal communities experience suicide rates that are six times the Canadian average. Infant mortality rates will generally reflect underlying disparities in socio-economic conditions and the delivery of health care services.

Statistics from 1995 indicated that out of 608 Aboriginal reserves in Canada, 25% had water systems that posed serious health threats and 23% of reserve houses had neither piped or well water. Quality of potable water, sewage treatment and disposal and housing conditions all contribute to the incidence and associated frequency of



First Nations Food Baskets

life threatening and chronic diseases. First Nations on and off the reserve are faced with the epidemiological challenges of future epidemics of TB, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Syphilis. The role of improving employment, self-esteem, personal empowerment and entitlement are imposing tasks. We at the Fraser Basin Council seek to facilitate recognition of this challenge as it is a true and significant reflection on sustainability. As a result, the Thompson Regional Committee of the Fraser Basin Council is seeking cooperation on a five-year action plan to bring First Nations communities and health care deliverers together to try and begin the task.





*(cont'd from Directors Bend back page)*

the prime importance of the trilogy in that environment. For these people, the multi-generation families, or those whose livings depend on responsible resource management the Council's concept of sustainability is utterly obvious. Common sense. One skewed, however by many other realities. They don't need to be described. Probably it's sufficient to say that from these realities come inequities and a commensurate need for rules, standards, debate, formalization, organization, and change. A challenge for people everywhere.

I love challenge. Thus, beyond the farm I've applied my skills to local initiatives; the Salmon River Watershed Roundtable, the Falkland and District Community Learning Centre, the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP, local government, and now this.

Towards sustainability, I'm pleased to report the CSRD is taking proactive steps, in partnership with the Council, to address future planning needs in relation

to the new Streamside Protection Regulations. To that end, using Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans funding, two recently hired Council employees are being tasked with gathering information on Shuswap and Mara Lakes concerning fish and aquatic habitat, water quality and streamside and protection areas as defined in the Regulations.

As well, as of last October, the North Shuswap area has begun a Liquid Waste Management planning process and, in part, has joined the small esteemed group of communities in the CSRD willing to endure Building Inspection.

The South Shuswap area is beginning phase three of its own Liquid Waste Management planning process.

In my time in local government and as a member of the Fraser Basin Council, I'm looking forward to the challenges, and working with all of you.

Best regards,  
Dennis Lapierre



### ***Water Woes:***

During the summer months the average citizen uses 2000 litres of water each day. These numbers are based on the pumping records of the various municipalities in the area. If we are to reduce that consumption and ensure water is available for all of us to enjoy we need to begin to conserve our usage. That conservation is not as difficult as you may think. Here are a few solutions.

Check faucets and pipes for leaks and keep them drip free.

- ◆ 20% of our water supply is wasted through leaky faucets.
- ◆ Tighten them if necessary and if a leak persists call a plumber

Use a Broom , not a hose to clean a driveway or sidewalk

- ◆ Using a hose wastes 20 litres of water for each minute
- ◆ Can also contribute to water pollution as oil, antifreeze etc. runs off into storm drains



# Directors at the Bend



FBC Director Dennis Lapierre at his sheep farm near Falkland

I am honoured to contribute to the inaugural edition of the Coyote Whispers newsletter. No less, I am pleased to become a Director with the Fraser Basin Council on behalf of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

The Fraser Basin Council is an organization with extraordinary potential. It is an organization in pursuit of a goal not more or less than any fully conscious person inevitably desires. It is one that provides a valuable means for objective cross-organizational communication and problem solving in a mutually respectful and participative manner. Big words meaning everyone can talk.

I am not a stranger, if anyone could arguably ever be, to the social, economic, environmental trilogy that defines the type of sustainability we are supporting. I spent 26 years supporting concepts of social sustainability in the Calgary Police Service. I know the necessary link between social and economic stability. Environmentally I was taught to “always leave a clean camp”. A timeless lesson from childhood. I’ve learned much from Nature; human and otherwise.

I retired in 1992 to buy a farm near Falkland, B.C., and help raise our family and our sheep. That directly exposed us to the everyday challenges of rural and agricultural life, and

*(Cont'd on Page 7)*

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