

Council to Hold First State-of-the-Fraser Basin Conference

When the inaugural State-of-the-Fraser Basin Conference convenes on Friday, November 20,

we will find out what we don't know, share what we do, and meet people with whom we share a common interest. In this case the common interest is the serious matter of discussing the state of the sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Council's constitution charges it with leading the search for a sustainable Basin and reporting to its partners and the public on progress.



Directors Iona Campagnolo, Marie Mervyn and Andy Motherwell review plans on new forestry practices in the Cariboo with Ken Day in the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest which Dr. Day manages.

Conference Co-chairs are Darlene Marzari, Basin Wide Director and former Municipal Affairs Minister, and Director Rose Guerin of the Musqueam Band. They have structured the conference according to the four directions outlined in the *Charter for Sustainability*; Understanding Sustainability, Caring for Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities and Improving Decision Making.

Each of these areas will be brought to life by reporting on progress toward sustainability, demonstrating actions that support it, enhancing partnerships and establishing benchmarks and indicators of sustainability. The conference will also recognize people and organizations who are making outstanding contributions to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. (See page 3 for more on the Sustainability Awards and Dinner).

Participants will include people from all over the Basin and beyond. Keep in mind that registration is limited to 200 delegates to ensure that everyone has a chance to take part. It will be a serious exchange, but also an exciting gathering precisely because of the people who will take part.

► **Thank You to our Sponsors** The Council thanks conference sponsors Alcan, Environment Canada, the Municipal Finance Authority, BC Hydro, Weyerhaeuser Canada, the Real Estate Foundation, KPMG, the Vancouver International Airport Authority, the Fraser River Harbour Commission, and the Vancouver Sun for their support.



State of the Basin Conference Particulars

When:

November 20 & 21,
8:30 am. to 4 p.m.
each day

Place:

Best Western
Richmond Inn
7551 Westminster
Highway
Richmond, B.C.

Where:

\$175 (GST incl.)
includes two continental
breakfasts, two working
lunches, registration
materials and post
conference proceedings.

Conference Draws Outstanding Speakers

A good speaker can change the way you see the world. The inaugural State-of-the-Fraser Basin Conference is blessed with speakers whose insights into the what and how of sustainability promise to do just that. They come from different disciplines and walks of life — science, government, business, and academia – and they share a compelling belief that sustainability is desirable and obtainable. Highlighted speakers include:

Janine Benyus Life sciences writer and author of six books including her latest *BioMimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*. Benyus, who lives in Montana, gives the name biomimicry to an emerging science that seeks sustainable solutions by mimicking nature's designs and processes, e.g., solar cells that mimic leaves, agriculture that sustains itself like a prairie, business that runs like a redwood forest.

Steve Bengston Partner in Viewpoints Research Ltd. in Vancouver. Knowing what people think is critical to developing policies and practices that support sustainability. Bengston has conducted both quantitative and qualitative research projects for public and private sector clients and has extensive experience in researching public and stakeholder attitudes on a wide range of controversial issues.

Coro Strandberg Chair of the Board, VanCity Savings Credit Union, Vancouver. VanCity is well known and widely respected for its community development work. Strandberg explains the interrelationship of community investment and environmental health, summed up in key VanCity principles: economic self-reliance, ecological integrity and social justice.

Mike Harcourt Former Premier of British Columbia and Mayor of Vancouver. Harcourt is now an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia and Senior Associate of the Sustainable Development Research Institute. He will talk about the enormous opportunity presented by the "urban tsunami" — the most massive urbanization in history that will take place over the next 30 years, — in the developing world. He will focus on what understanding sustainability really means, both "on the street and in the boardroom".

Bill Gaynor President and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., a major forestry products company. Gaynor will speak on the need to refine our decision-making processes by working together more effectively through cooperative agreements and partnerships. He will outline some of industry's more recent partnerships with government, First Nations, non-government organizations and individuals, reflecting new ways of doing business together.

Mike Healey Professor in Resources and Environment, Department of Earth Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia. Healey is trained as an ecologist and has served as a research scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as well as the Director of the Westwater Research Centre. He will talk about the state of the Fraser Basin's ecology with particular focus on the ecosystem of the Lower Fraser Valley and the prospects for sustainability.



Action Plan Rolling

On June 17, the anniversary of its first meeting, the Council released its first Five Year Action Plan. The fruit of intensive effort of Council partners, directors and staff, the Plan identifies 25 specific goals – and 28 actions required to achieve them. Each action is further spelled out in a series of tasks and time frames to be undertaken by partners, Council and staff. Some of the actions are already well advanced, some are only in the conceptual stage. The Plan will be reported on and updated annually.

As the name indicates, this is a rolling plan, which will see constant change and re-evaluation, as time passes. Copies of the Plan are available on request from the Fraser Basin Council offices. Some prominent actions are:

Upper Fraser

ACTION: Working in partnership with all interests, the Fraser Basin Council will facilitate the preparation of a water management plan for the Nechako River by 2003.

Cariboo - Chilcotin

ACTION: The City of Quesnel has incorporated the principles of the *Charter for Sustainability* into its revised Official Community Plan (OCP) and will look for opportunities to develop supporting planning materials by the year 2000.

Thompson

ACTION: The Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority will develop habitat restoration plans for the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers by 2000.

Fraser Valley

ACTION: The Fraser Valley Regional District will undertake the implementation of its Air Quality Management Plan by 2000 to improve air quality or prevent further deterioration without limiting growth.

Greater Vancouver

ACTION: The Greater Vancouver Regional District in partnership with municipal, federal and provincial government agencies and non-government stakeholders, will develop a watershed management plan for the Brunette Basin by 1999.

Basin Wide

ACTION: Environment Canada and Health Canada, together with several other key partners, will complete a major ecosystem initiative to improve the health of the Georgia Basin (including the Lower Fraser Valley) by 2003.

ACTION: The Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks in consultation with other provincial ministries and crown corporations, federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders, will oversee the development of Water Use plans for hydroelectric facilities in the Fraser Basin by 2002.

ACTION: Flood Hazard Management Strategy - The Fraser Basin Council will facilitate the development of an action plan by 2000 to respond to a number of recommended actions identified in the draft Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy.

The Sustainability Awards

On Friday, November 20 at the Ballroom of the Best Western Inn in Richmond, the Fraser Basin Council is staging an awards dinner to present five awards recognizing outstanding contributions to sustainability in the Basin. There will be one award for each of the four directions outlined in the Charter for Sustainability:

- Understanding Sustainability
- Caring for Ecosystems
- Strengthening Communities
- Improving Decision Making

The fifth award is for overall accomplishment in all four directions.

The cost for the evening is \$50.00. (Please note that dinner is not included in the Conference registration fee)

Directors Update

Thank you to retiring directors:

Chris Andersen. An inter-company transfer is taking Chris from Prince George to Canadian Forest Products Ltd.'s operation in Alberta.

John Backhouse. Moving on from his former position as Mayor of Prince George, John has accepted a new position as British Columbia's first Northern Development Commissioner.

Larry Bell. After helping to set up the financial infrastructure that will make it possible for the Council to become self-supporting, Larry is continuing his work as President & CEO of Shato Holdings Ltd.

The Council welcomes two new directors:



Tom Steadman,
new Council Director

Tom Steadman A long-time businessman and community builder in Prince George, he led the fund-raising effort to help establish the University of Northern British Columbia.

Kazuko Komatsu The innovative and entrepreneurial-minded President of Pacific Western Brewing Company, she was recently awarded the Order of B.C.



Kazuko Komatsu,
new Council Director

Meet some other Council Directors

Basin News introduces different directors in each issue.

Wendy Turner

A Vancouver resident, Wendy has been involved with issues focused on building environmental protection into decision making. A parent and former public school teacher, she has served as Chair of the Community Forum on Airport Development, a director of the Fraser River Coalition and the Save Our Parkland Coalition, and a consultant to the Greater Vancouver Regional District in liquid and solid waste planning.



The Fraser Basin Council's

effectiveness owes

much to the experience

and energy of its directors.

The Council wishes

to acknowledge

the contributions of

retiring directors and

welcome new directors.





George Ferguson

Mayor of Abbotsford and a Director of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), Chair of the FVRD Hospital Board, and FVRD Director on several committees, George is a farmer whose parents started one of the first dairy operations in Abbotsford. George has held public office in local government since the early 1960's, and has served as mayor for 26 consecutive years. He has also served on more than a dozen boards, commissions and associations.



Ervin Charleyboy

Chief Ervin Charleyboy of the Redstone Band brings a perspective to the Council from the Tsilhqot'in speaking people. The Redstone Band is located at Alexis Creek about two hours west of Williams Lake and is one of five in the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG). Ervin sits as Chair for the TNG Chiefs and serves as a director for the Nenqayni Treatment Centre and for Tsi Del Del Enterprises Ltd. The company is a joint partnership with Riverside Forest products Ltd. and manages its own forest license, silviculture and harvesting operations. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the western lifestyle and has long been a favourite announcer of Chilcotin Rodeo Association events.



Suzanne Veit

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Suzanne has worked as a public servant for the B.C. government since 1985. In 1996 Suzanne was appointed Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. Prior to joining the public service, she worked for several years as a policy consultant in Canada and abroad, developing particular expertise in the area of social impact assessment in connection with proposed large scale projects such as dams, highways, pipelines and coal developments located near various communities, particularly in northern British Columbia.



Partners, Programs, Projects and Progress

Watershed Snapshot Guide.

Council staffers Greg Mallette and Steve Litke have completed the first draft of The Watershed Snapshot Guidebook: Developing a Public Information Base for Watershed Stewardship and Sustainability. The Guidebook, of value to professionals and lay people, sets out a step-by-step process to identify priorities for rehabilitation, stewardship and sustainability.

Upper Fraser

Nechako Watershed Council After two years of work, the Nechako Working/Transition Group completed the terms of reference for a Nechako Watershed Council in May. On June 28 in Vanderhoof, the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC) was formally established when 30 representatives from 18 organizations signed their support for the terms of reference. Henry Klassen, Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce, was the unanimous choice as the first Chair of the Council. Rick Krehbiel, legal advisor to the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, was also unanimously chosen as Vice Chair.

McMillan Creek Stewardship Group (MCSG), started early in 1998, has held monthly meetings, a fly-over to film the Creek, cleanups on Earth Day and BC Rivers Day, a display booth at Forest Expo '98, researching potential funding sources, signage along roads, an application to incorporate under the Societies Act, and a presentation to the City of Prince George Mayor and Council. The Group is also drafting a proposal to prepare a management strategy for McMillan Creek and Watershed. The MCSG includes residents, small business owners, community organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Spruce City Wildlife Club, and staff from local, provincial and federal government agencies.

Robson Valley Community Tourism Development A UNBC research project funded by Forest Renewal BC is investigating what makes tourism businesses successful, how land use plans prepared by local and provincial governments enable or discourage tourism development at the community level. The project is also preparing a video and information kit for entrepreneurs.

Cariboo Chilcotin

Economic Development Planning & Strategy

Meetings The FBC is helping organize an October 15 follow-up meeting to an earlier networking session among agencies on economic development planning in the region. The FBC is also updating a draft directory compiled to identify the number of economic plans in the Cariboo Chilcotin, participating agencies and contact people.

Treaty Information Workshops FBC facilitated workshops on behalf of the federal, provincial and local Shuswap First Nations in April and July. The first workshop focused on self-government, the second featured field tours and discussions on natural resource and management challenges. The three parties are now looking at how to proceed with treaty negotiations and related issues.

Bridge Creek Watershed Preliminary discussions are exploring whether coordinated public participation and input will benefit water management in the Bridge Creek area. A sub-regional plan is now being developed for the 100 Mile Forest District that will include local objectives to meet the direction of the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan. Some residents want a more specific water management plan that focuses on maintaining water quality and quantity.



Thompson Nicola

Sinmax Creek: A Director of the Thompson Nicola Regional District has asked the Council for assistance in advising landowners along Sinmax Creek about actions they could undertake to prevent siltation of the creek and the subsequent building of a delta in Adams Lake. The creek is typical of interior waterways in that it has been developed for residential and agricultural use right to its shorelines, resulting in more siltation and erosion. A tour of the Creek in the latter part of June elicited great cooperation from the residents of the valley bottom. They have joined with Interfor and Forest Renewal BC and are jointly working toward solving the problem.

Salmon River Watershed Round Table The SRWR recently won a Forest Excellence Award in June. This award, given annually by Forest Renewal BC, honors groups and individuals around the province that have made valuable contributions to forestry in BC. The SRWR won in the category of Environment for its *"significant commitment toward enhancing and sustaining the richness and variety of the forest environment"*.

Grasslands Conservation Council. Much of the natural grasslands in this province are found in the Fraser Basin, but only very limited amounts of this ecosystem are on public lands. To ensure the sustainability of this ecosystem and all that depend on it, private landowners must practice good stewardship activities on their land.

Over the past two years a group has been formed to enable ranchers and other agriculturists to get the information they need. The group has developed a strategic plan and is appealing for funding to carry out their work. They will be holding a gathering October 16 - 18th in Ashcroft.



Fraser Valley

Nutrient Management A series of nine reports, Management of Livestock and Poultry Manure in the Fraser Valley was released in the Spring. Those who would like a copy of the summary report can contact Council staff member Brad Whittaker at (604) 795-2818. Those who would like a complete report should contact the Fraser Basin Council Vancouver office at (604) 605-3450.

Watershed Issues Council staff have been providing information and guidance on watershed issues to the Chilliwack Alliance, Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition, Abbotsford Aquifer International Task Force, Stave Lake Water Use Plan, and the Provincial InterAgency Management Committee.

Public Forum on Treaty Negotiations Council Staff facilitated a forum on treaty negotiations between the In-SHUCK-ch N*Quatqua and federal and provincial governments. They are also helping to organize a 1999 conference on what happens after a treaty is made.



Barriere Fall fair

Basin news

Fraser Basin Council Directors

Anna Campagnolo, Chair
Gordon Mussell, Vice-Chair
Deborah Abbot
Susan Anderson Behn
Dorothy Argent
Norman Bains
Dennis Brown
Nick Carson
Ervin Charleyboy
Roy Decker
Mark Duncan
Bob Ellis
George Ferguson
Jose Guerin
Bob Headrick
Masako Komatsu
Robert Leigh
Luth Madsen
Arthur Manuel
Ken Marr
Darlene Marzari
Marie Mervyn
Andy Motherwell
Don O'Riordan
Christine Percival-Smith
Frank Read
George Saddleman
Robert Smillie
Tom Steadman
Leonard Thomas
Vendy Turner
Luzanne Veit
Brian Wilson
Morgan Wells



Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy In March of 1998, the Fraser Basin Council helped to establish the Joint Program Committee of the Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy. This Committee is a collaborative effort with diverse representation including regional districts, local governments, federal government departments, provincial ministries, and First Nations administrations. This Committee will oversee the development of implementation plans and clarify specific roles and responsibilities of organizations.

The Joint Program Committee has directed the establishment and start-up of five subcommittees to focus on different aspects of integrated flood hazard management including:

1. Flood Proofing and Land Use Planning
2. Dike and Channel Maintenance and Habitat
3. Emergency Response and Recovery
4. Finance, and
5. Public Education.

Greater Vancouver, Squamish, Pemberton

Gravel Extraction Half of all Fraser River salmon spawn in the gravel reach from Hope to Sumas. At the same time, the lower Fraser is dredged for navigation, and gravel is also removed to steer currents away from dikes and banks protecting homes, businesses and industry. The construction industry also relies on gravel extracted from the river. The Fraser Basin Council, having co-sponsored a successful public forum last April with the Fraser River Management Program (FREMP), is sponsoring a technical workshop in October with FREMP for stakeholders to discuss specific actions to address conflicting gravel demands.

Salmon River Watershed The Salmon River Watershed Management Plan and Action Plan are now complete and have been circulated for review. When funding is secured, a coordinator will facilitate implementation of the Plan.

Britannia Beach Acid Mine Drainage The Fraser Basin Council, in consultation with the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, the provincial ministries of Environment, Lands and Parks, and Energy and Mines and the Federal departments of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans has initiated a collaborative, multistakeholder process to develop a common strategy with specific actions to address acid mine drainage at Britannia Beach. A site visit and working meeting were held on June 24, 1998 as a first step in this process. A technical review of treatment options is being undertaken along with discussion about financing appropriate solutions.

► BasinNews welcomes your feedback, success stories, observations, ideas and recommendations.

Send your contributions to: Editor, BasinNews,
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