

## Council helps win reprieve for Agassiz Debris Trap

*Funding flows can sometimes be as important to safety on a river as water flows.*

Last year, a projected funding shortfall threatened to shut down the Agassiz Debris Trap on the Fraser River. The shutdown would have posed an immediate threat to safety, navigation and valuable fish and wildlife habitat on the river. But the Fraser Basin Council was able to help round up interim funding to keep the trap in operation for at least another year. The next step is to find a new way to fund the trap - and plan better ways for managing debris throughout the Lower Fraser River and Georgia Strait.



*Agassiz Debris Trap: Every year the trap captures enough debris to fill about 10 football fields three metres high.*

For 22 years the trap at Agassiz has been preventing some 70,000 cubic metres of debris – about 90 per cent of it naturally occurring wood – from flowing further downstream on the Fraser River. The trap, a series of “fin booms,” funnels wood between the shoreline and a man-made dyke about 14 kms upriver of the Rosedale-Agassiz Bridge. The debris is trapped there by a submerged steel cable holding boom while water continues downstream.

By keeping trees, stumps and branches - and even tires - from flowing any further and damaging whatever they run into, the trap protects marine traffic and recreational boaters, and dyking, drainage and bridges. It also protects fish, shore and marsh habitat as well as waterfront and floating homes. Every year the trap captures enough debris to fill about 10 football fields three metres (10 feet) high. Only about five per cent of the wood trapped can be used for firewood, wood chips or logs. The rest is burned because it's in such poor shape after being in the water for so long.

The trap has operated under the direction of the Debris Management Board on funding provided in equal measures by the federal government, the provincial forests ministry and the Coast Forest Lumber Industry. But in April 1997, the Ministry of Forests announced it was no longer prepared to be the sole provincial government funder because most of the debris is, in fact, not due to forestry. This threatened the trap's continued operation.

The Fraser Basin Council was able to quickly obtain the support of 12 government, private sector and non-government organizations to help make up the shortfall. Minimum trap operational funding for 1999/2000 of \$451,000 is now secure. The next step is to establish a new group that better represents the beneficiaries of the trap to provide secure funding and enhance debris management throughout the region.

*Continued on back page*

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## Thanks to Conference Sponsors

The Fraser Basin Council wishes to thank the Conference sponsors who contributed to the success of the event. In alphabetical order, they are:

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# State of the Basin Conference

## First ever State of the Basin Conference draws top speakers & 300 participants

Inaugural events are a gamble under the best of conditions. But the general consensus is that the first ever State of the Basin Conference held last November 20th and 21st in Richmond was a rewarding experience for participants, sponsors and the event's host, the Fraser Basin Council.

Evaluations by participants singled out the Conference's strengths, which included:

- the high calibre of the speakers; especially well received were Richard Bocking, author of *The Mighty Fraser*; Arnie Narcisse of the Nicola Watershed Fisheries Authority; Janine Benyus, author of *Biomimicry*; Tim O'Riordan of East Anglia University; Coro Strandberg, Chair VanCity Savings Credit Union; Mike Harcourt of UBC's Sustainable Development Research Institute; and Edward John, Grand Chief of the T'laht'en Nation
- the diversity of the participants, who came from the private and public sectors, First Nations, academia and non-government groups that share the common goal of sustainability; and
- opportunities to network with people from other backgrounds and other parts of the Basin and the world.

The evaluations also pointed out areas for improvement. Their suggestions included:

- allowing more time for participants to interact, both formally and informally;
- sharpening the Conference focus with more concrete information and statistics about the environmental, economic and social conditions of the Fraser Basin; and
- expanding the number and length of workshops

The information and insights shared at the Conference will be invaluable in helping the Council function more effectively in facilitating steps toward sustainability of the Fraser Basin. Further comment and suggestions are invited (send to David Marshall at the Fraser Basin Council Vancouver office). The Council wishes to thank all participants for their contributions to this inaugural event - and invites you to take part in the next State of the Basin Conference, scheduled for November 24th and 25th, 2000.



The overall award winner, the City of Kamloops, received a feast bowl created by a First Nations carver. From left to right are Bob Ellis, Cliff Branchflower (Mayor of Kamloops), George Saddleman and Ruth Madsen.



## First-ever Sustainability Awards Recognize Exceptional Contributions to Sustainability

The first-ever State of the Basin Conference also saw the inauguration of the Sustainability Awards, which recognize achievement by organizations and individuals in helping advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. Five awards were given; one each for the four directions outlined in the Charter for Sustainability and one for overall sustainability.

- Overall Sustainability: the City of Kamloops
- Understanding Sustainability: the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)
- Caring for Ecosystems: the Fraser River Coalition, with a special tribute to Vernon (Bert) Brink
- Strengthening Communities: Keith Spencer of Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products
- Improving Decision Making: Alouette River Management Society (ARMS)

The winners of the awards for each of the four directions received paddles created by a First Nations carver. Each winner got one large paddle to be returned to the Council for the next winner in that category, and one small paddle to keep. The paddles symbolize the contribution to helping move the Fraser Basin closer to sustainability.

The overall award winner, the City of Kamloops, received a feast bowl, also created by a First Nations carver. Kamloops won the overall award for a number of accomplishments, including its balanced economy, joint initiatives with the Kamloops Indian Band, contributions to programs outside municipal boundaries, expansion of parkland, hosting of world, national and provincial events, and citizen involvement in Adopt a Street, Watersmart and Adopt a Stream programs.



Award winners received paddles created by a First Nations carver. From left to right are Ben Marr, Rick Bailey and Tom Cadieux

### The River Runs Through Us All

*akoh whatee (ancient river)*

*Lha't koh, old one*

*My heart sings*

*through a thousand generations*

*we have heard the thunder*

*announcing salmon's return to the mountain  
and to Dene smokehouses*

*Se k'et kwah, spiritual one,*

*soothe my soul*

*through the great plateau*

*dipping, dropping, rising*

*you sweep past our Sewepemc sweat lodges*

*honouring connections between all life*

*Lha'qu'at kwah, revered one*

*Hungry, raging over canyon rocks*

*carving deep in our mother*

*past our Stl'atl'mic, wind dried  
quiet your heart, you will be fed*

*Sto:lo, ancient one*

*dance for me*

*thundering drums*

*black paint, red paint of our Salish bighouses*

*honour you*

*and sing you to the sea*

*I have known you a long time, ancient one*

*Lha't koh,*

*Se ke't kwah*

*Lha qu'at kwah*

*Sto:lo*

*now you carry a foreign name*

*but be not a stranger*

*Fraser River*

Many Conference

participants requested

that we print this poem,

which was composed

and presented by

Edward John,

Grand Chief of the

T'lazt'en Nation, at the

luncheon keynote address

November 21.

## Fraser Basin Council Directors

Iona Campagnolo, Chair  
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Deborah Abbott  
Susan Anderson Behn  
Dorothy Argent  
Parm Bains  
Dennis Brown  
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George Ferguson  
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Kazuko Komatsu  
Ruth Madsen  
Arthur Manuel  
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Marie Mervyn  
Jon O'Riordan  
Corisande Percival-Smith  
Frank Read  
George Saddleman  
George Sexsmith  
Robert Smillie  
Tom Steadman  
Pam Tatterfield  
Leonard Thomas  
Wendy Turner  
Suzanne Veit  
Morgan Wells  
Jim Wild  
Brian Wilson  
Jon Wolbers



## Thank you to retiring directors

**Andy Motherwell** has served on the Council since its inception. Prior to that he worked closely with the Fraser Basin Management Board that helped establish the Council. His integrity and commitment as an advocate for sustainability will be missed.

**Rose Guerin** represented the Musqueam Band and the Tsawwassen First Nation on the Council. Rose brought calm and gentleness to the Council debates, taught heritage-based dimensions to understanding sustainability, and made significant contributions to the success of the first-ever State of the Basin Conference.

## Welcome to New Directors

**Nolan Charles** is serving his fourth two-year term as an elected member of the Musqueam Band Council. As a band council member Nolan has served extensively on the committee dealing with environmental issues. He also works on economic development on behalf of the band. He sees his participation on the Fraser Basin Council as an opportunity to educate groups involved with the Council about the nature and potential of treaties now being negotiated with First Nations as well as a chance to build relationships throughout the Basin.

**Jon Wolbers** is in his third three-year term as a Director of the Cariboo Regional District. Jon has served for more than 18 years as a social support worker and is currently employed by the Williams Lake Association for Community Living which provides services to the mentally handicapped. He feels his experience in social support can widen the Council's perspective. At the same time, serving on the Council is a learning experience as he comes to understand sustainability and the challenges of keeping environmental, economic and social concerns in balance.

**Diane Gorman** is the Regional Director General of Health Canada's Western Region. Prior to this assignment, Diane held the position of Assistant Secretary in the federal Treasury Board Secretariat, and has also worked for Environment Canada, Supply and Services Canada, Secretary of State, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada and Heritage Canada. She is currently a member of both the Pacific and Alberta Councils of Senior Federal Officials. In addition to being well positioned to help the Council with regard to the human health component of sustainability, Diane also believes her understanding of how the federal government works can contribute significantly to the Council's ability to facilitate solutions.

## Salute to Current Directors

*In each newsletter we profile different directors. In this issue we profile Frank Read and George Saddleman.*

**Frank Read** has served as the Mayor of the District Municipality of Vanderhoof for the past nine years. But Frank has been a vital part of the region's public life for much longer, having also served as an alderman, Chair of the Stewart Nechako Hospital District and Vice-Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. For the past 30 years he has owned and operated the Hotel Vanderhoof and also been active in logging, ranching and guiding. Few people know more about local needs. Frank sees serving on the Fraser Basin Council Board as an opportunity to convey these needs to other orders of government.

**George Saddleman** is currently completing a three-year term as Chair of Nicola Tribal Association. George, a member of the Upper Nicola Band and lifelong resident of Quilchena, has been serving the Association or its predecessors for most of his adult life. He has worked in various capacities, from economic development officer and administrator to field worker and plumber. In George's view, one of the Fraser Basin Council's greatest opportunities lies in educating people about issues, rights and responsibilities in a fair and balanced way.

## *New Regional Coordinators Named*

*The Council welcomes two new regional coordinators: Marion Robinson for the Fraser Valley Region and Bob Purdy for the Greater Vancouver, Squamish, Pemberton Region.*

**Marion Robinson** of Mission has extensive experience in both community development and business. Her farm business in the central Valley has given her direct exposure to sustainability issues in agriculture, urban development and water quality. Marion has worked for the preservation and site management of Hatzic Rock and the federal STAY IN SCHOOL initiative for at-risk youth. She has helped develop a new policies and procedures manual for the Community Services Society and acted as a consultant both for ratepayer groups on development/land use issues and the provincial growth strategies branch concerning land use and public process issues. And she continues to speak regularly on environmental, social and cultural issues to the District of Mission Council and at public hearings. Marion can be reached at (604) 826-1661

**Bob Purdy** of North Vancouver brings special expertise to the business dimension of sustainability. His most recent position was as vice-president, business development, for a software company specializing in spatial decision support systems that enhance land use planning, environmental impact assessment, public consultation and growth management decision processes. Prior to that Bob was project director for the Federation of BC Naturalists' Land for Nature Initiative. He also served on the GVRD Major Parks Planning Committee and on the Fraser Basin Management Board's Water Resources Steering Committee. As a consultant, Bob has provided communications, financial development and program management services to non-profit conservation programs. Bob is currently the vice president of Save Our Parkland Association, and a co-founder of the Environmental Fund of BC and the World Business Academy - Canada, which leads initiatives to facilitate the role of business in creating a sustainable future. Bob can be reached at (604) 605-3452

*The Rural Secretariat is a group of federal agencies that administer the Canadian Rural Partnership Initiative, which was established in 1998 to coordinate federal efforts across departments and agencies to support rural and remote communities.*

*For more information, contact Gail Wallin, Fraser Basin Council Coordinator for the Cariboo-Chilcotin at (250) 392-1400 or [gwallin@wlake.com](mailto:gwallin@wlake.com)*



## Fraser Basin Five Year Action Plan

In June the second edition of the Fraser Basin Five Year Action Plan will be released. The Fraser Basin Five Year Action Plan is a plan for the Basin that identifies and monitors the commitments of a diverse range of interests to address interrelated social, economic and environmental challenges facing the Basin. The 1999/2004 Action Plan identifies a number of new and innovative actions being undertaken to help sustain the Basin. The rolling Plan also provides progress reports on actions that were identified in the inaugural Fraser Basin Five Year Action Plan (1998/2003). For more information on the Fraser Basin Five Year Action Plan please contact Malcolm Smith, Basin-wide Coordinator: (604) 605-3454.

## Nechako Watershed Council Gains Momentum

The Nechako Watershed Council (NWC), established in June 1998, has made great strides before it even celebrates its first birthday. The Council, with 32 representatives from 17 organizations, has already met six times in three different communities. Each meeting has an educational component that lets members learn about the range of issues involved so that they can all work together from the same knowledge base.

For example, the June 1998 meeting was held in conjunction with a workshop on a possible Cold Water Release Facility at Kenney Dam sponsored by the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund (NEEF) Management Committee and hosted by the FBC. The September '98 meeting was held in Kemano, enabling NWC members to learn about Alcan's hydroelectricity generating operation - the major licensed user of Nechako River water. And at the February 1999 meeting, members received training in consensus-based decision making that emphasized the importance of listening, understanding others' concerns and interests and obtaining relevant information before developing solutions.

In particular, the NWC's Water Licensing Committee has been considering the inability of downstream users to get water licenses. Ranchers and farmers have not been able to get irrigation licenses since a moratorium was placed on licenses in the early 1990's in anticipation of the Kemano Completion Project (KCP). The KCP was cancelled in January 1995 by the provincial government but the moratorium remains. Another task group of the NWC is looking at options for a Cold Water Release Facility at Kenney Dam and has done a preliminary review to see how well various options would resolve key issues.

## McMillan Creek Stewardship Group prepares management strategy

Another relatively new group in the Upper Fraser also making great strides is the McMillan Creek Stewardship Group (MCSG). The group, formed in January 1998, focuses on the health of the creek and its fish stocks, which include two populations of rainbow trout. McMillan Creek stream is within the Prince George region.

The MCSG brings together residents, volunteer organizations and small business owners who work together with the assistance of the Fraser Basin Council, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the Ministry of Transportation & Highways. Volunteer organizations include Ducks Unlimited, Spruce City Wildlife Club and the BC Conservation Foundation

The MCSG has already held two clean-up days, on Earth Day in April '98 and on BC Rivers Day in September '98. The group is now preparing a management strategy and has hired consultants for assistance with funding from Fisheries Renewal BC and a court-ordered fine. In 1998, a local company was fined for a spill; the court ordered that the \$20,000 fine go toward community projects. The City of Prince George held the money in trust and \$10,000 was given to the MCSG.

The strategy will have three components: identify sites that need restoration and relevant restoration projects; identify ways to guide future land use and development to protect the Creek and avoid damage in the future; and identify potential public access points, trail corridors and park sites for the City's consideration.

## *Council to continue facilitating meetings for Cariboo groups*

Two different meetings on two different issues in the Cariboo came to the same conclusion; participants want the Fraser Basin Council to continue facilitating public meetings.

The first meeting included an information session on water quality in the Bridge Creek watershed, which provides drinking water for a number of communities, including 100-Mile House. Participants did not identify any one major problem, but agreed that monitoring and communication was important and asked the Council to remain involved.

The second was the second meeting of the Economic Networking Sessions in the Cariboo. In the sessions, participating communities come together to exchange information on economic development plans. The participants asked the Council to host future sessions and to help maintain a directory of information sources and contacts.

## *Council facilitates consultation and review process for Britannia Mine reclamation and remediation proposal.*

Once it was the largest mine in the British Empire. Today the site of the former copper mining operation at Britannia Beach just south of Squamish is the worst point source of acid mine drainage in North America. One estimate reckons that up to a ton a day of dissolved metals drains into Howe Sound from the mine, which yielded some 56 million tons of copper before closing in 1974.

"It's a long-studied, much discussed, little-acted upon environmental catastrophe," says Brent Leigh, former Squamish-Lillooet Regional District representative on the Fraser Basin Council. "This has major environmental impacts." Over the past year, area residents and government agencies have been considering the best course of action to solve the long-standing problem.

A proposal put forward by Copper Beach Estates Limited, the owner of the abandoned mine site, to develop and operate a treatment facility to remediate acid mine drainage was filed on March 15, 1999 with the provincial government to obtain the necessary operating permits. The proposal also includes a landfill program to finance the facility's operation. The landfill will restore topography, refill excavated mine areas, revegetate and reduce acid mine drainage.

The Fraser Basin Council became involved when the District sought the Council's help to bring together all the parties that would be involved in and affected by any possible solutions. The Council is facilitating a collaborative, multi-interest process to review the proposal and consider the environmental, economic and social aspects of both the problem and the proposed solution. The BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are also participating in the process.

Public information meetings took place throughout April and a regional public forum was held on May 6 at the Howe Sound Inn in Squamish.

Copies of the permit applications for the Copper Beach proposal are available for review at the BC Museum of Mining at Britannia Beach, the Squamish Public Library, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District in Pemberton, the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks in Surrey, the Ministry of Energy and Mines in Nanaimo, and from the Fraser Basin Council in Vancouver.

## *Britannia Mine Reclamation and Remediation Proposal*

*You can mail or fax comments about the permit applications to:*

*Fraser Basin Council,  
Suite #1257 - 409*

*Granville Street,  
Vancouver, BC*

*V6C 1T2*

*Fax: (604) 605-3459.*

*Attention:*

*David Marshall*

*A project summary and public feedback form have been distributed to residents in the region and are available to others on request by contacting the Fraser Basin Council office.*

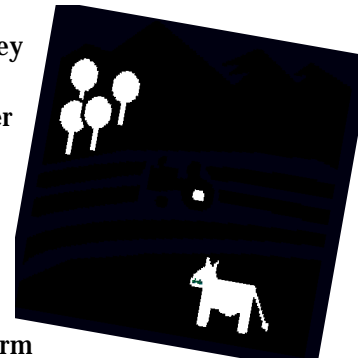


# *The Shape of Sustainability*

*There are many avenues to sustainability. The stories on these pages show how sustainability looks at the ground level throughout the Fraser Basin and beyond.*

## **Hog manure becomes cash crop**

Hogs are naturally tidy animals; given the opportunity, they will deposit their droppings in the same, separate spot every time, keeping the rest of their pen clean. Two lower Fraser Valley entrepreneurs, a farmer and a businessman, have devised an environmentally sound, animal friendly method of harnessing this natural behaviour to produce a high-grade, odour-free compost and turn a tidy profit in the bargain.



Cors de Lint and Brian Pouwels of Down to Earth Eco Farm Products near Abbotsford have structured a hog barn accommodating 600 pigs with a sawdust-filled gutter for the animals to use as their toilet. The gutter is scraped clean of soiled sawdust, which is moved to a covered bin where an auger keeps it well aerated. After 45 days, the manure/sawdust combination is odour-free. After another six to eight weeks of curing, it is ready for use as a soil amendment.

Greenhouse flower producers and organic vegetable growers are two of the biggest customers for the compost, which de Lint and Pouwels named "Unique," for the innovative method used to produce it. Both markets require large amounts of compost with consistent quality, but Down to Earth Eco Products also bags compost for smaller customers and can screen it for those who need it in finer form.

"We have turned what was seen as a liability into an asset and added income to the farm," says de Lint. "We're also getting inquiries from people who want to learn how to set up a similar system for their own operations."

## **Ocean Blue Foundation (OBF) promotes sustainable tourism**

Tourism plays an increasingly important role in BC's economy, ranking third in the value of exports after lumber and pulp. Preliminary statistics for 1998 from Tourism BC show that the province had 21.6 million overnight visitors who spent \$8.7 billion, which makes tourism the ninth ranked sector of the economy. The top three outdoor activities for visitors to BC are visiting national and provincial parks, wildlife viewing and bird watching, and hiking and backpacking; in short, to experience the province's great natural beauty.

Oceans Blue Foundation is a charitable organization founded in 1996 to encourage and promote environmentally responsible tourism – especially in coastal areas – through education and awareness by providing practical achievable programs for many of the challenges that face the industry and the community. OBF seeks to protect the very beauty that brings people from all over the world to BC from unmanaged tourism growth, ballooning coastal populations and the changing economic base in many coastal communities.

## **OBF Programs**

For more information on OBF programs - many of which are applicable to coastal and non-coastal communities alike - visit the website at [www.oceansblue.com](http://www.oceansblue.com). Or contact them at (604) 684-2583.

## Adding value to wood and communities

Keith Spencer wasn't able to make it to Vancouver to accept the Sustainability Award for Strengthening Communities but the Fraser Basin Council made it to Vanderhoof to make the presentation. Mr. Spencer was given the award for the positive impact his Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products has had in generating new jobs in the area. He was busy looking after his family and taking care of business interests, which are doing very well despite the general downturn in the forest industry in the region.

The economic impact Keith's businesses are having flows directly from their ability to innovate environmentally sound, value added uses for the area's leading resource, wood. The specialty wood products they make using finger-jointing and edge and face gluing not only use low-grade or waste wood, but also provide jobs for more than 130 people.

"These value added things are done all over the world," says Keith. "They just haven't been done as much in BC."

Keith has also helped engineer another solution that adds value to waste wood and creating even more jobs. He has set up the Touch Wood Industries Cooperative to make good use of kiln strips, which are produced when dimensional lumber is sawn. The strips used to be burned or chipped, but now they're laminated together to create products such as shelving, tables, chairs, puzzles, and coasters. They also create jobs that strengthen communities.

"People who look for opportunity tend to find it," says Keith. "I think there are lots of opportunities waiting to be found in adding value to wood products."

## *Sustainability begins in the mind*

### Long-term thinking turns Kingfisher Creek into environmental educational showcase

Twenty years ago the Shuswap River and Kingfisher Creek in the North Thompson watershed were among the most poached streams in the Interior. It was also common to see garbage littering the banks. Today, the Shuswap and Kingfisher are models of stream management that draw visitors from as far away as Japan and Germany while invigorating the revenue stream entering the local economy.

What caused the turnaround? A change in perception engineered by the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre and the hatchery that spawned it near Enderby, says Neil Brooks, one of the Centre's founders.

"About 1,500 school kids a year visit here and learn about the life cycle of salmon and the importance of protecting fish stock and habitat," he explains. "A whole generation has grown up with a whole new way of thinking about their relationship to the creek."

A core group of about 12 people, with three dozen regular supporters and up to 100 casual volunteers have developed education and enhancement programs that now have solid international appeal. Today, some 20 local kids go to Japan and an equal number of Japanese school kids come here to learn and share water stewardship wisdom and techniques for keeping streams healthy.



FBC is developing a "Youth and Sustainability" millenium project.

Other eco-tourists that visit sites across Canada have ranked the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre as one of the highlights of their tour. One group from Germany that recently took part in the broodstock capture or “egg take” raved about the experience.



“Egg take”  
at the Kingfisher  
Interpretive Centre

The health of the stream and fish stocks has enabled the establishment of a strong sport fishery on the creek that draws anglers from all over the North Okanagan. But poachers and litterers are no longer welcome. “The attitude has changed dramatically,” says Brooks. “Those things just aren’t tolerated any more.”

A catch and release program for trout is drawing fly fishers as well. Overall, the stream of new fishers is contributing significantly to the local economy.

“Fishermen spend money on gear, food and accommodations,” Neil adds. “And lot of them are compulsive buyers, which is very good for the local economy.”

## Water and Industry

BC’s economy depends on water to move goods to coastal communities and to Pacific Rim trading partners. But waterfront industrial land is under intense pressure from competing uses: commercial, residential and recreational. The Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) has formed a task group to research and develop tools that reduce land use conflicts, minimize environmental impacts and integrate water based transportation in regional planning. Specific strategies include creating water-dependent zoning schedules; road end and edge planning development guidelines; and integrating water based transportation into regional transportation planning. For more information on this or other FREMP initiatives, please contact Nancy Gehlen at (604) 775-5756.

## ICBC shows a little partnership goes a long way in the Cariboo

ICBC in the Cariboo is demonstrating the value of building partnerships to create healthier communities. Recognizing that legislation is only one means to create positive behavior, the Corporation has been working with community groups to bring about safer road travel and stronger communities.

For example, in 1995 more than 85% of logging trucks were overloaded, causing deterioration of local highways and creating safety hazards. A self-policing program that collected fees from overloaded trucks was developed with the help of the RCMP, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, local mills and truckers. These funds were then donated to local community organizations.

A special decal now identifies truckers who have been in regular compliance. This recognition eliminates the need for frequent weighing at roadside stations. By 1998, more than 85% of trucks in the Cariboo were hauling legal loads, which reduces safety hazards, road deterioration and costly maintenance.

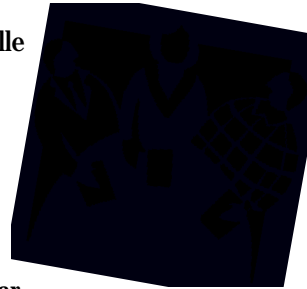
This approach is now being considered to overcome a rising incidence of infants being driven without child restraints. ICBC is seeking partnerships with hospitals, health boards, First Nations communities, daycare facilities and the RCMP to increase the voluntary use of child restraints.

### Fraser Basin Council Staff

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Doreen Wright,  
*Executive Assistant*

ICBC has also worked in partnership with many community groups to decrease the potential for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The local office has organized a Safe Ride Home program where volunteers drive people home after community events. The program requires volunteer drivers from local ICBC autoplan brokers to provide the extra transport vehicle and drivers. The program has worked especially well for local events such as the Williams Lake Stampede Barn Dance and the RCMP Golf Tournament. People got a safe ride home, and their own vehicles stayed safe at home, minimizing the opportunity of theft or vandalism.

Local ICBC staffer Dave Dickson and RCMP member Jacques Drisdelle are both recognized internationally for their leadership work in developing community involvement in decreasing auto thefts. They have served as guest speakers at last year's international police conference and were runners-up for the Herman Goldstein Award for community policing. Increased community awareness and use of anti-theft devices has decreased auto theft in the area from 315 in 1995 to 93 in 1998 and only eight so far this year.



## *Less is more*

### **Fraser-Fort George Regional District reduces solid waste for landfill by 35%**

The first programs to reduce the amount of solid waste going into landfills were introduced four years ago by the Fraser-Fort George Regional District as part of the provincial government's strategy to reduce solid waste going to landfills. Today, solid waste going to landfills is down by 35%. This represents enough solid waste to fill 7.4 million cans of household garbage. The District's goal is to reach the provincial target of 50% reduction by the year 2004.

### **Rural BC gets new voice**

Rural communities have different needs and ways of developing solutions than urban centres. But the fact that their communities are often isolated or far from government offices has meant that some people have experienced difficulty in accessing federal and provincial government programs. To give them more effective access, the Canadian Rural Partnership is working to get federal agencies more active and effective in helping communities link with government programs. The Canadian Rural Partnership Initiative was established in 1998 to coordinate federal efforts across departments and agencies to support rural and remote communities. Interdependent teams have been established across Canada to provide direction on how to improve local government services. The Fraser Basin Council has been meeting with the BC Rural Team to encourage linkage with rural citizens. The Council has liaised with provincial organizations such as the Coastal Communities Network and the Columbia Basin Trust on ways to enhance dialogue with the BC Rural Team. For more information, contact Gail Wallin, Fraser Basin Council Coordinator for the Cariboo-Chilcotin at (250) 392-1400 or [gwallin@wlake.com](mailto:gwallin@wlake.com).



*Willow cuttings  
for streambank  
restoration activities*

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Send your contributions to:

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## Basin Forum Set for May 27 to 29

Where do we want to be  
in five and 10 years  
from now in the Georgia  
Basin and Puget Sound?  
That's the question  
participants at the  
International Basin Forum  
to be held at the  
University of British  
Columbia from  
May 27 to 29 will  
try to answer.  
You are welcome  
to this workshop event  
which will look at  
transportation,  
population, water quality,  
wildlife and habitat,  
economic transition,  
wealth and institutional  
responsibility.

Please contact  
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Continued from front page

"This is excellent news for the river and everyone who uses it," says David Marshall, the Council's Executive Director. "But it's only a first step for a lasting solution. The fact that so many groups are coming on board in the new group is a good indicator that people recognize just how important the trap is to safety on the river."

### *An idea whose time has come*

#### *The Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy*

Four conditions have been present prior to the two major Fraser River floods in the modern era: a higher than normal snowpack, a late, cool spring and a quick thaw accompanied by prolonged rainfall. As this newsletter goes to press, there is mounting anxiety about a major flood on the Fraser occurring this Spring.

There have been two major Fraser River floods since European settlement. The first was in 1894, the second in 1948. Both struck on May 26, and both were disastrous. The Fraser River floodplain is much more densely populated and developed than it was half a century ago. It is estimated that there is \$13 billion worth of development on the floodplain today. If the dykes were breached, a repeat of the 1894 flood would cause about \$1.8 billion in flood damage, not to mention the potential loss of life and social and economic disruption. In the 1948 inundation, some 16,000 people were evacuated and 2,300 homes were destroyed or damaged. Rail, road and air connections to the east were severed.

No one can predict exactly when the next flood will occur. Nor can anyone stop it. But we can prepare for it. Are we ready? No one can ever really be ready for a natural disaster. But we can take reasonable precautions. This is precisely why the Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy was established - and what it is attempting to accomplish.

The aftermath of a flood is a model of cooperation of common sense. People do what needs to be done as quickly and efficiently as is humanly possible. The Fraser Basin Council's role in the strategy is to facilitate this kind of cooperation and commitment in dealing with the inevitable before it happens. Floods used to be regarded as local; geographically and institutionally. Now people realize everyone and every thing in the entire floodplain and beyond are affected - and that all orders of government have to integrate their efforts to be effective.

The Strategy is designed to reduce the threat of flooding, protect life, property and infrastructure, and lessen the cost of flood damage. A year ago the Fraser Basin Council established the 32-member Joint Program Committee (JPC) to develop and implement action plans to get ready for the next flood. The action plans focus on reducing the threat of flooding, protecting life, property and infrastructure and mitigating the cost of flood damage by integrating flood protection works, land use planning and emergency response and recovery.

The JPC has representatives from four federal departments, three provincial ministries, four regional districts, 16 local governments and three First Nations administrations. For more information on the Strategy, please contact Steve Litke at (604) 737-0196 or (604) 605-3461.

