

**Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual  
Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health**

**2008 Comox Valley  
Learning Lunch Seminar Series**

**Organized by:**

**Convening for Action on Vancouver Island  
Leadership in Water Sustainability**



**In partnership with:**



**And in  
collaboration with:**



**An initiative under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**

# Preface

This 52-page summary report on the **2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series** mainly comprises a set of articles published online on the Water Bucket Website. The report is organized as follows:

1. The first story is an overview of the Vancouver Island pilot program. This provides a provincial context.
2. The second item is a program synopsis. This is 1-page summary describes the scope of each seminar in the series.
3. Next is a list of the 25 stories published on the Water Bucket. The titles provide insight into the series curriculum. Only 7 stories are reproduced herein.
4. Then, a selection of 3 stories paints a picture of the series as a whole, with emphasis on goals and outcomes.
5. After that, there are stories on each of the three seminars. The format is a copy of the detailed agenda followed by a comprehensive web story for each seminar.
6. In the case of Seminar #3, two stories are reproduced herein, with the significance of the second one being that it elaborates on the importance of the series as a springboard for a regional team approach in the Comox Valley.

# “Learning Lunch Seminar Series” promotes consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure

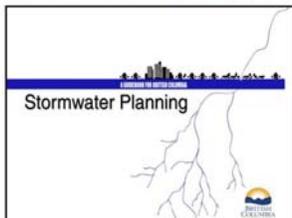
Desired outcome is liveable communities in balance with ecology

## Introduction

Vancouver Island is the pilot region for implementing **Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual**<sup>1</sup> through a precedent-setting approach to continuing education for local government practitioners, namely the **Learning Lunch Seminar Series**. This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by **Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia**,<sup>2</sup> published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years.

The Guidebook set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management in the urban environment. After six years, however, one of the lessons learned is the need for a program that will ensure province-wide consistency in understanding of approaches and desired outcomes. Hence, a premise underpinning the Learning Lunch Seminar Series is that this consistency is best achieved by taking a continuing education program into the places where local government practitioners work.

Because the Guidebook is **outcome-oriented**, this sets it apart from **output-oriented** approaches



Desired Outcome: Create liveable communities; protect stream health!

## Vancouver Island Pilot Program

The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay were the host local governments for Learning Lunch Seminar Series in the Summer and Fall of 2008, respectively. In total, the participating Vancouver Island local governments represented some 250,000 people. Based on the Guidebook, the Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure.



**The New Business As Usual:**  
Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years

*“Vancouver Island is the pilot region for a collaborative and inclusive approach to practitioner continuing education”*

According to **Kate Miller**, Environmental Manager for the Cowichan Valley Regional District, “Each series comprised three sessions that provided an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration. Each series was conducted as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools.”



“By spreading the curriculum over three sessions, this enabled participants to take in new information, reflect on it, blend it with their own experience, test it, and eventually apply it in making decisions,” reports **Kim Stephens**, team leader and Program Coordinator for the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**.<sup>3</sup>



## Series Overview

The duration of each session in the Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series was 11:00am through 2:30pm; and from 11am until 3pm for the Comox Valley Series. The theme and scope of each session are summarized below:

- **Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards:** Session #1 traced the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past decade. This provided a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.
- **Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure:** Session #2 introduced the extensive and very specific tools available under the Local Government Act so that they can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.
- **Nature Knows No Boundaries:** Session #3 introduced a framework for 'bringing it all together'; and explored a regional team approach that would ensure consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision: Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health.

**The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach**

### THE CURRICULUM

1. Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
2. Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
3. Nature Knows No Boundaries

## Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

*Beyond the Guidebook* advances a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health.

To support *Beyond the Guidebook*, the Province has funded integration of the web-based *Water Balance Model* with a hydrologic engine known as *QUALHYMO*. The "*new Water Balance Model*"<sup>4</sup> is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links the site to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish watershed targets.

"The original Water Balance Model was developed in 2003 as an extension of the Guidebook. It underpins a water-centric approach to climate change adaptation," reports **Ted van der Gulik** (Ministry of Agriculture & Lands), Chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership that developed the Water Balance Model.



"We are using the slogan *The New Business As Usual* to convey the message that, for change to really occur, practices that until now have been viewed as the exception must become the norm moving forward. We have to build regulatory models and develop models of practice and expertise to support *The New Business As Usual*", stated **Dale Wall**, Deputy Minister (Community Development) when he announced the change-over to the new Water Balance Model at the Gaining Ground Sustainable Development Leadership Summit.



## CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

The pilot Learning Lunch Seminar Series was implemented under the umbrella of **CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island**.<sup>5</sup> CAVI is co-funded by the Real Estate Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Community Development. The shared vision is to move toward water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices.

“CAVI is an innovative and precedent-setting approach to partnerships and collaboration,” said CAVI Chair **John Finnie**, General Manager Environmental Services with the Regional District of Nanaimo. “CAVI is bringing together those who plan and regulate land use (local government), those who build (developers) and those who provide the legislative framework (the Province).”



“The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will build capacity to apply the new Water Balance Model, and it will help make the transition to The New Business As Usual,” added CAVI Chair John Finnie.



## Settlement in Balance with Ecology

“The understanding gained will enable practitioners to make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives, and result in Green Value,” noted Real Estate Foundation Chair **Jack Hall**. “The Foundation encourages local and regional governments to implement policies and practices that accommodate settlement growth and change without irrevocable damage to the ecology that underlies the well being of Island communities.”



“The new Water Balance Model, Beyond the Guidebook, and CAVI together demonstrate what can be achieved through partnerships and collaboration; and illustrate how the green infrastructure mandate in the Throne Speech is being implemented on-the-ground,” concluded **Ted van der Gulik**, Chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership.



1 <http://bc.waterbalance.ca/index.asp?type=single&section=Events&sid=17&id=84>

2 <http://bc.waterbalance.ca/index.asp?type=single&section=Guidance%20Documents&sid=14&id=16>

3 [http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?type=summary&section=Water\\_Sustainability\\_Action\\_Plan&sid=4](http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?type=summary&section=Water_Sustainability_Action_Plan&sid=4)

4 <http://www.waterbalance.ca/>

5 <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=27&id=124&type=single>

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# Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

## Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

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### Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Local Government Capacity-Building

**CONTEXT:** Vancouver Island is the pilot region for rollout of *Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual* through an innovative and precedent-setting approach to practitioner continuing education, namely the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*, published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years.

Beyond the Guidebook advances a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health. To support Beyond the Guidebook, the Province has funded integration of the *Water Balance Model* with a hydrologic engine known as *QUALHYMO*. The web-based *Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO* is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links the site to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish watershed targets.

Session	Theme	Scope
1	Today's Expectation are Tomorrow's Standards  <b>EVOLUTION</b>	<p>Session #1 will trace the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past two decades. This will provide a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.</p> <p>The <i>2002 Stormwater Guidebook</i> and the <i>Water Balance Model</i> will be introduced so that participants have an understanding of the purpose and application of performance targets.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand <b>why</b> drainage practice comprises a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum.</p>
2	Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure  <b>TOOLS</b>	<p>Session #2 will introduce the extensive and very specific tools available under the Local Government Act so that they can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.</p> <p>The <i>Green Infrastructure Guide</i> will be explained so that participants will know how to use it effectively as a resource.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand <b>what</b> bylaw and policy tools enable incorporation and retrofitting of engineered green infrastructure into development plans.</p>
3	Nature Knows No Boundaries  <b>TARGETS</b>	<p>Session #3 will elaborate on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.</p> <p>A framework for 'bringing it all together' will be introduced so that participants can explore a regional team approach that ensures a common understanding and consistency at the front counter.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand <b>how</b> a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management (i.e. using infiltration and trees) will influence the greening of the built environment and protect stream health.</p>

Members of APEGBC and PIBC who participate can count the seminar series towards their Professional Development credits.

# Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

## Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

### Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Local Government Capacity-Building

<b>Themes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “We can create our future”</li> <li>▪ “What happens on the land matters”</li> <li>▪ “To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces”</li> </ul>
<b>Purposes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration</li> <li>▪ Enable local government practitioners to obtain professional development credits</li> <li>▪ Rollout <i>Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual</i></li> </ul>
<b>Structure:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organize three 3½ -hour teaching sessions held at four-week intervals</li> <li>▪ Conduct the series as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools</li> <li>▪ Provide information in an interactive way that triggers reflection, strategizing and action</li> <li>▪ Incorporate roundtable segments and provide a challenge for subsequent sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Context:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Vancouver Island landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth.</li> <li>▪ While the island has been experiencing a development boom, mitigation of environmental impacts has provided a driver for a ‘Design with Nature’ movement that is founded on a natural systems approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure.</li> <li>▪ The desired outcome is human settlement in balance with ecology.</li> </ul>
<b>Guidebook Vision:</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health</li> </ul> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p><b>A ‘Design with Nature’ approach to community design means...</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop compact, complete communities</li> <li>▪ Increase transportation options</li> <li>▪ Reduce the loads on water, waste and energy systems</li> <li>▪ Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space</li> <li>▪ Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’</li> <li>▪ Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection</li> </ul> </div> </div>
<b>Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help practitioners make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives, result in Green Value, and add up to <i>A Positive Settlement Strategy for VI</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local government practitioners will have a common and consistent understanding of:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. watershed performance targets and how they can establish them;</li> <li>2. how they can integrate good planning and innovative engineering designs; and</li> <li>3. the importance and maintenance of green infrastructure watershed performance targets (as they relate to land use and rainwater/stormwater management)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Resources:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i>, published by the Province in 2002</li> <li>▪ <i>Develop with Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia</i>, published by the Ministry of Environment in March 2006</li> <li>▪ <i>The Green Infrastructure Guide: Issues, Implementation Strategies and Success Stories</i>, published by West Coast Environmental Law in 2007</li> <li>▪ <i>Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia</i>, jointly released by the Green Infrastructure Partnership and Inter-Governmental Partnership in June 2007</li> </ul>
<b>Tools:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO</i>, an online decision tool at <a href="http://www.waterbalance.ca">www.waterbalance.ca</a></li> </ul>

## Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

# 2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series: List of Water Bucket Stories

Nature Knows No Boundaries: Making Green Choices to Create Liveable  
Communities & Protect Stream Health



**INTRODUCTION:** The Learning Lunch Seminar Series [promotes a consistent provincial approach](#) to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay were the host local governments for the Vancouver Island pilot program. In total, the participating Vancouver Island local governments represented some 250,000 people.

- The **Cowichan Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the June - July 2008 period.
- The **Comox Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the September - November 2008 period.

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure. The Seminar Series is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#), and is precedent-setting in its scope.

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### List of Water Bucket Stories

Twenty-five stories about the Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series are posted on several of the communities-of-interest that comprise this Water Bucket Website.

These stories provide insight into the philosophy and educational objectives behind the seminar series; at the time of posting, they also established expectations for series participants. Each story is complete with links to other related resources.

Only the seven stories highlighted in yellow are reproduced in this summary document:

- 1. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
["Learning Lunch Seminar Series" promotes consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure--- Desired outcome is liveable communities in balance with ecology](#)
- 2. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[The New Business As Usual in British Columbia: Schedule announced for 2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series --- City of Courtenay is host municipality for second round of seminars in Vancouver Island pilot program](#)
- 3. RAINWATER MANAGEMENT COI:**  
["Learning Lunch Seminar Series" promotes consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure --- Goal of Vancouver Island pilot educational program is to build inter-departmental and inter-municipal capacity](#)
- 4. WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING COI:**  
[Living Water Smart in the Comox Valley to implement a consistent regional approach to green solutions --- City of Courtenay champions a bottom-up approach to create liveable communities and protect stream health](#)
- 5. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[Convening for Action in the Comox Valley: 2008 Learning Lunch Seminar Series informs and educates local governments --- By 2012, all land and water managers and users will be doing business differently to create liveable communities & protect stream health](#)

### Seminar #1 on September 19, 2008

- 6. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #1 on September 19, 2008 --- Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health: To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces](#)
- 7. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[The Story of East Courtenay over the past two decades: from fields and forest to urban community --- Case study illustrates the evolution of drainage practices in Courtenay, British Columbia - from Stormwater Management to RAINwater Management](#)
- 8. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[Role of the building inspector in green infrastructure: "To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces" --- City of Courtenay champions a bottom-up approach to create liveable communities and protect stream health](#)
- 9. RAINWATER MANAGEMENT COI:**  
[Stormwater Guidebook, Performance Targets and the Water Balance Model: Connecting the Dots --- "The New Business As Usual": Integration of RAINwater management with land development practices](#)
- 10. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[Creating Liveable Communities and Protecting Stream Health: Helping goals become practice in BC --- Ministry of Community Development vision for leveraging change through infrastructure grant programs presented by Catriona Weidman at Comox Valley Seminar #1](#)

### Seminar #2 on October 24 2008

- 11. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #2 - policy and legal strategies to create liveable communities and protect stream health --- Taking actions on the ground that add up to A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Seminar #2 on October 24 2008 (cont'd)

12. **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[A Guide to Green Choices: Ideas & Practical Advice for Land Use Decisions in British Columbia Communities --- Ministry of Community Development document is expected to work in tandem with many other programs and projects](#)
13. **CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #2 on October 24, 2008 --- Strategies and Tools for Creating Liveable Communities & Protecting Stream Health: Actions on the ground add up to A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)
14. **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[Getting Your Green Infrastructure Plans Built: Opportunities for Law and Policy to Effect Changes on the Ground --- Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #2 featured Susan Rutherford, author of the Green Infrastructure Guide](#)
15. **WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING COI:**  
[British Columbia's "Living Water Smart" is a provincial strategy and shared responsibility --- By 2012, all land and water managers and users will be doing business differently](#)
16. **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:**  
[Turning the Tide in Nanaimo: The story of the Inland Kenworth development as told by Dean Mousseau and Gary Noble --- Design with Nature approach to site development results in Green Value and reduces the Hydrologic Footprint](#)

### Seminar #3 on November 21 2008

17. **CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:**  
[Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #3 on November 21, 2008 --- Nature Knows No Boundaries: Moving Toward a Vision for Living Water Smart](#)
18. **WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING COI:**  
[Nature Knows No Boundaries: Living Water Smart explained from local government perspective --- Successful implementation requires bottom-up approach: senior management to elected Councils to the Province](#)

### 19. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:

[Nature Knows No Boundaries in the Comox Valley: Learning Lunch Seminar Series provides springboard for regional team approach --- Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure - aligning local actions to achieve Living Water Smart goals](#)

### 20. RAINWATER MANAGEMENT COI:

[Brooklyn Creek established a precedent for inter-municipal collaboration to resolve drainage issues in the Comox Valley --- Town of Comox and City of Courtenay developed a joint approach to implementation of a suite of solutions that were keyed to rainwater runoff volume reduction at the source](#)

### 21. WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING COI:

[Living Water Smart - where and how land is developed determines sustainability of water supply & aquatic habitat --- Achieving "water sustainability" in British Columbia depends on integrated solutions for managing how water is used and how water runs off the land](#)

### 22. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:

[Nature Without Borders: Vision for Comox Valley Conservation Strategy contributes to Living Water Smart --- Community-driven initiative connects the dots between regional hydrological footprint and stream health](#)

### 23. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:

[Nature Knows No Boundaries - A Guide to Green Choices in British Columbia --- Green Communities initiative provides provincial context for Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#)

### 24. RAINWATER MANAGEMENT COI:

[Convening for action at Comox Valley seminar series: "create a picture of the future that we want" --- By 2012, all land and water managers and users will be doing business differently to protect stream health](#)

### 25. CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:

[A Vision for Vancouver Island: The Learning Lunch Series will inform implementation of "A Positive Settlement Strategy" --- Context for call to action to implement a regional team approach that ensures settlement is in balance with ecology](#)

For complete information on the Cowichan Valley Series, please click on [Summary document consolidates web stories describing the content of each seminar](#)

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## Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #1

# The New Business As Usual in British Columbia: Schedule announced for 2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

City of Courtenay is host municipality for second round of seminars  
in Vancouver Island pilot program



## The New Business As Usual:

Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years

*“Vancouver Island is the pilot region for  
a collaborative and inclusive approach  
to practitioner continuing education”*

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #1

## Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is a precedent-setting continuing education program for local government practitioners in planning, engineering, operations, building services, environment and parks. The series promotes a consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure.

The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay are the host local governments for the Vancouver Island pilot program. In total, participating Vancouver Island local governments represent some 250,000 people.

### Consistency at local government front counters:

The Vancouver Island pilot is the first step in building a regional team approach. The seminars provide an interdepartmental and inter-municipal learning opportunity for collaborative exploration. The desired outcome is that a common understanding of challenges and solutions will result in consistent expectations at front counters across the region.

When developers and development consultants hear a consistent message about what is expected of them, this will lead to implementation of good local examples that will further accelerate doing business differently.

### 2008 Cowichan Valley Series:

The **Cowichan Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the June - July 2008 period. To download a summary document that consolidates under one cover the set of Water Bucket web stories describing the content of each seminar, click on this link to [2008 Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#)

### Beyond the Guidebook:

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#). This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by [Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia](#), published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years in moving from planning to action.

**The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach**

#### THE CURRICULUM

- Sept 19: Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- Oct 24: Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- Nov 21: Nature Knows No Boundaries

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #1

## 2008 Comox Valley Seminar Series

The Comox Valley series will comprise three sessions at monthly intervals during the September – November 2008 period. For program information, click on either the image below or the following link to download a copy of the [Program Outline for Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#). "Based on the experience that we gained from the Cowichan Valley series, we have made adjustments in the curriculum design that we believe will enhance the learning experience," reports **Kim Stephens**, seminar team leader and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#). "By spreading the curriculum over three sessions, this enables participants to absorb new information and blend it with their own experience."



### East Courtenay Walkabout:

"One of the successful aspects of the Cowichan Valley series was the use of walkabouts, in particular that for the Busy Place Creek drainage area, because the walkabouts facilitated conversations and on-the-ground learning," observes **Kevin Lagan**, Director of Operational Services for the City of Courtenay. "Learning from this experience, we will be featuring the east Courtenay area in the first seminar because this part of the city has evolved from fields and forest over the past two decades, and so has our approach to rainwater/stormwater management."



"By placing the spotlight on the east Courtenay area, this will help seminar participants understand why drainage practices comprise a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum," adds **Derek Richmond**, Manager of Engineering for the City of Courtenay. "In the first seminar, the theme will be evolution. After that, the focus will be on tools, in particular legal and policy strategies that will help implement the New Business As Usual. Finally, the third seminar will look at how all the elements of regional needs fit together."



A paradigm is what we think is true and right about a certain subject. It's the grid through which we put all information and input about a subject. In fact, it's everything we think is true about something. To learn more about how drainage practices have evolved over time, click on this link to [Do you know where you really are in the shifting paradigms of stormwater management?](#)

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual  
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# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

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## Water Bucket Story #1

### CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island:

The Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series is being implemented under the umbrella of [CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#). CAVI is co-funded by the Real Estate Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Community Development. The shared vision is to move toward water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices.

“Throughout the series, we will be challenging participants by asking what will everyone do better or differently after the series to achieve a shared vision for their community and for Vancouver Island as a whole,” concludes **Kim Stephens**. “This is why it is so important to get everyone thinking in terms of the *What – So What – Now What* mind-map.” The process for moving from a vision to implementation of a strategy is captured in the graphic below. The goal is to implement the **New Business As Usual**.

## When ‘convening for action’, we build capacity by creating a picture of the future:

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1. **Vision:** What we want Vancouver Island to look like in 50 years ~**WHAT**~
2. **Goal:** Implement the New Business As Usual ~**SO WHAT**~
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there ~**NOW WHAT**~

## Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

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Water Bucket Story #2

# Convening for Action in the Comox Valley: 2008 Learning Lunch Seminar Series informs and educates local governments

By 2012, all land and water managers and users will be doing business differently  
to create liveable communities & protect stream health

## Vancouver Island Pilot Program

Precedent-setting in its scope and approach to building local government capacity, the [Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#) is designed to help local governments determine how they will achieve this over-arching goal statement in [Living Water Smart, BC's water plan](#):

- *By 2012, all land and water managers will know what makes a stream healthy, and therefore be able to help land and water users factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits (page 43, Living Water Smart)*

Organized under the umbrella of the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#), the series is adding depth to **Living Water Smart**. The 2008 provincial pilot was implemented through [CAVI...which is the acronym for Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#).

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #2

#### Series Curriculum:

"The goal of the series is to inform and educate local government practitioners. We describe our approach to curriculum design as *structured flexibility*," explains **Kim Stephens**, Program Coordinator for the Water Sustainability Action Plan and seminar team leader.

"We use the term structured flexibility because we have specific learning outcomes; and the seminar format is designed to achieve those outcomes," continues Kim Stephens. "Yet within the structured format, we are highly flexible and adaptable in terms of audience engagement."



"By spreading the curriculum over three sessions, this enables participants to take in new information, reflect on it, blend it with their own experience, test it, and eventually apply it in making decisions," concludes Kim Stephens.



#### Convening for Action Explained:

At the third in the [2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#), held in November 2008 and hosted by the City of Courtenay, **Kim Stephens** reinforced the provincial context for the series; and reviewed the learning outcomes for all three seminars comprising the series.

"Looking back at my 35 years of experience, we have always been very good at planning; but we have difficulty going from planning...or talk...to action," stated Kim Stephens when he explained the Convening for Action mind-map. "At the end of today, we want you to come out of here so inspired that you will actually do something...not just say that was a great day that I had."

#### When 'convening for action', we create a picture of the future that we want:

1. **Vision:** What the Comox Valley will look like in 50 years ~WHAT~
2. **Goal:** Implement the New Business As Usual ~SO WHAT~
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there ~NOW WHAT~

#### Consistency at the front counter !

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach to rainwater management & green infrastructure

#### THE CURRICULUM

- Sept 19 Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- Oct 24: Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- Nov 21: Nature Knows No Boundaries

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #2

#### Learning Outcomes:

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure.

**Seminar #1:** "There is a fundamental difference between **outcome-oriented** and **output-oriented**," explained Stephens. "We are not trying to crank out numbers. We are trying to change the way our communities look and feel."

**On September 19, you learned that 'today's expectations are tomorrow's standards' - *WHAT*:**

1. **From single purpose Stormwater Management to multiple objective RAINwater Management**
2. **To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces**
3. **Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for BC is science-based and outcome-oriented**

**Seminar #2:** "Rather than having Susan Rutherford just talking about the law...building it around a set of questions and issues...and really and truly getting a town hall discussion going was gratifying," Stephens stated.

**On October 24, you learned about 'legal and policy strategies to support green infrastructure' - *SO WHAT*:**

1. **The Green Infrastructure Guide illustrates the extensive and very specific tools available to local government**
2. **Accept the risks when choosing a new path and look for the benefits that will result**
3. **If it is a dirty construction site, there will be no building inspection!**

**Seminar #3:** "[The Natural City by Vic Derman](#) introduces [three lenses](#) that collectively bring the future of a region into focus," stated Stephens. "Today is about having the same storyline, the same understanding."

**Today, you will learn that 'nature has no boundaries' - *NOW WHAT*:**

1. **Three lenses bring our future into focus:**
  - A Regional Growth Strategy
  - Climate Change
  - Quality of Life and Place
2. **Water is the unifying element:**
  - Climate change adaptation is all about water
  - If we get the water part right, then other parts will be more likely to follow
3. **A regional team approach will ensure consistency in *doing business differently***

**Watershed Health:** Referring to Susan Rutherford's presentation at Seminar #2, Stephens said: "What I want to emphasize is... establishing watershed-specific runoff targets. This relates to the Water Balance Model."

**Municipalities have the tools to achieve urban watershed goals and objectives**

"The Commentary identifies specific actions and commitments for greening the built environment and protecting watershed health by means of affordable and effective performance targets."

- Susan Rutherford  
April 2008

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #2

**Living Water Smart:** Stephens directed participants to page 43. "This quote is the lynchpin of Living Water Smart," he underscored. "The desired outcome is create liveable communities and protect stream health."



**The New Business As Usual:** Stephens concluded the overview of learning outcomes by reminding the audience why designing with nature will create liveable communities and protect stream health.



### Link to YouTube Video:

To capture the flavour of presentations at the seminar, video clips have been uploaded to YouTube. Click on the image below.



In this 10-minute video clip, **Kim Stephens** reviewed the learning outcomes for each of the three seminars in the series. "A design with nature approach and re-use of resources are key to climate change adaptation," he stated in conclusion.

### PowerPoint Presentation:

The YouTube presentation is complemented by a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed by clicking on [Beyond the Guidebook: Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health](#)

### Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #3:

Seminar #3 provided the [springboard for a regional team approach](#) that would ensure consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision, namely: **Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health**. For the complete story about the November 2008 seminar, click on [Nature Knows No Boundaries: Moving Toward a Vision for Living Water Smart](#).



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #2

## About the Learning Lunch Seminar Series

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series [promotes a consistent provincial approach](#) to rainwater management and green infrastructure. In 2008, participating Vancouver Island local governments represented some 250,000 people.

- The **Cowichan Valley** series was hosted by the Cowichan Valley Regional District and comprised a set of three sessions during the June - July 2008 period. For links to each seminar in the series, [click here](#).
- The **Comox Valley** series was hosted by the City of Courtenay and comprised a set of three sessions during the September - November 2008 period. To learn more, click on [List of Water Bucket Stories](#).

The Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley series were characterized by curriculum cross-fertilization and inter-valley participation. The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#).

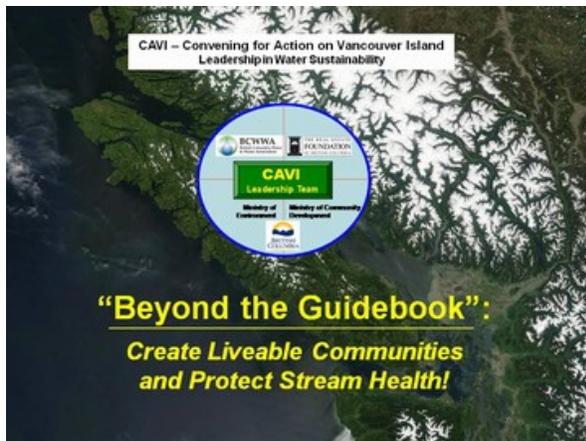
## Who is CAVI?

The CAVI Partnership comprises the [British Columbia Water & Waste Association](#), the [Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia](#), the provincial Ministries of Environment and Community Development, and the [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#). CAVI is co-funded by the Province and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.



The Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA is the managing partner

and is providing program delivery. For more information about the CAVI Partnership and what it wants to do, please [click here](#)



## Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #3

# A Vision for Vancouver Island: The Learning Lunch Series will inform implementation of "A Positive Settlement Strategy"

Context for call to action to implement a regional team approach that ensures settlement is in balance with ecology



CAVI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island  
Leadership in Water Sustainability

BCWWA  
British Columbia Water  
& Waste Association

THE REAL ESTATE  
FOUNDATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**CAVI**  
Leadership Team

Ministry of  
Environment

Ministry of Community  
Development

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

## Creating Our Future: The New Business As Usual

Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 Years

10

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #3

## Context for Vancouver Island Pilot Program

The [2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#) has provided a platform for advancing **A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island**. This new way-of-thinking was introduced in 2007, and was the program focus for the **Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum** held in Nanaimo.

To access a report that summarizes what was accomplished by the Leadership Forum, click on [Creating our future starts by asking what could Vancouver Island communities look like in 50 years?](#) The idea for the Learning Lunch Series was an outcome of the Leadership Forum.

### Expectations Exceeded:

At the last of the 2008 seminars, **Kim Stephens** reflected on what had been accomplished by both the Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley pilot series. "Our initial objective was simply to see if we could deliver continuing education in a different way," stated Stephens, Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#), and seminar team leader.

"The Series has exceeded our own expectations, Our initial objective was to facilitate a consistent understanding of core technical concepts. Because local governments enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to align local actions with over-arching provincial goals, the resulting success of the Series has enabled us to move beyond that limited objective," he continued. "The energy to **think like a region** has been unleashed."



### Convening for Action:

The Convening for Action mind-map, presented below, provided the **What-So What-Now What** framework for curriculum development. "The desired outcome for the series was to energize participants ...so that they would be inspired to move from talk to action in their jurisdictions ...and actually do something to make a difference," reported Kim Stephens.

**When 'convening for action', we create a picture of the future that we want:**

1. **Vision:** What Vancouver Island will look like in 50 years  
~WHAT~
2. **Goal:** Implement the New Business As Usual  
~SO WHAT~
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there  
~NOW WHAT~

### Creating Our Future:

The Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley series each comprised a set of three seminars. The third seminar in each constituted the call to action. To capture the flavour of the Learning Lunch Seminar Series, video clips have been uploaded to YouTube. The following images provided the basis for the call to action by Kim Stephens.

**Now What:** "You need the high-level language, but it is the bottom-up regional approach that will ensure consistency," observed Stephens. "I urge you to take a few minutes to read [The Natural City by Vic Derman](#)."

**Today, you learned that 'nature has no boundaries' – NOW WHAT:**

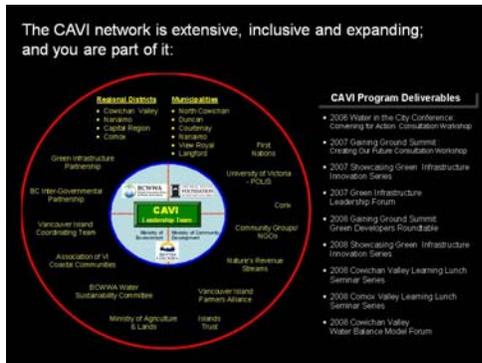
1. **Water is the unifying element, and a regional conservation strategy is a key first step**
2. **A bottom-up regional team approach will ensure consistency in doing business differently to achieve:**
  - Sustainability of water supply
  - Sustainability of aquatic habitat
3. **Your homework: Read *The Natural City* to learn about the three lenses that will bring the picture of the regional future into focus**

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

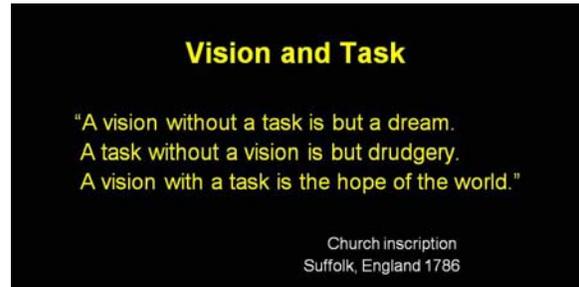
## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #3

**CAVI:** This graphic illustrates the expanding scope and participation in [CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#). "Today is not the end of the process," Stephens told participants. "It is the beginning of the next step."



**Vision and Task:** "Eric Bonham found this 1786 quote inscribed in a church in England," explained Stephens. "We describe Eric as the heart-and-soul of CAVI."



**What Next:** "The time is now to move with the regional team approach," concluded Stephens. "It's not just the Comox Valley; it's not just the Cowichan Valley; it's not just the Nanaimo region; it's not just the Capital Region."

**Examples:** "It starts neighbourhood by neighbourhood, and watershed by watershed," observed Stephens. "We now have three examples of watershed initiatives in three parts of the Island that can inform A Positive Settlement Strategy"



**WHAT NEXT:** Looking ahead to 2009, the two Learning Lunch Seminar Series will inform....

- Actions on the ground that add up to **A Positive Settlement Strategy**..... so that benefits exceed liabilities; and settlement will be in balance with ecology

#### Link to YouTube Video:

Click on the small image below to access the YouTube video of the concluding presentation by Kim Stephens.



To conclude the seminar, Kim Stephens addressed the question: What Next? he quoted Eric Bonham: "It is appropriate to now start moving towards talking in terms of Vancouver Island as a whole in terms of sustainability, collaboration and creative partnerships."

# Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

## Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

### Seminar #1 Agenda

Theme - Today's Expectation are Tomorrow's Standards	
<b>Segment #1</b>	<b>The introductory morning segment will 'Set the Scene' by tracing the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past two decades. This will provide a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.</b>
1100 - 1235	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks</li> <li>2. Creating Our Future: The New Business As Usual (Kim Stephens)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduces the New Business As Usual</li> <li>- Explains the 'Shifting Paradigms of Stormwater Management'</li> <li>- Asks the question: what is your role in implementing the New Business As Usual?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The Story of East Courtenay (Ian Whitehead)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sets the stage for the walkabout</li> <li>- Illustrates how drainage practices have evolved over 20 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Provincial Context (Catriona Weidman)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A key message: change is here</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Segment #2</b>	<b>East Courtenay will serve as a local example to illustrate how drainage practices have evolved from fields and forest to an urban area.</b>
1235 – 1430	<p>Grab lunch and hop on the bus.            Glacier View Pond walkabout            Return to the seminar venue</p>
<b>Segment #3</b>	<b>The 2002 Stormwater Guidebook, Performance Targets and the Water Balance Model will be introduced so that participants will have a basic understanding of core concepts and their application.</b>
1430 - 1500	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stormwater Guidebook, Performance Targets and the Water Balance Model (Kim Stephens)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduces the Guidebook</li> <li>- Reviews the water balance fundamentals</li> <li>- Explains that the WBM is an extension of the Guidebook</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum (Kim Stephens &amp; Kate Miller)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illustrates how to building capacity to implement the New Business As Usual</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Homework Assignment:</b> Participants are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the Stormwater Guidebook Table of Contents</li> <li>- Identify what aspects are relevant to your specific work areas</li> <li>- Report back at Session #2 on implementation challenges from your perspective</li> <li>- Return an index card with your conclusions</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggestion:</b> Read the 8-page <i>Rainwater Management: An Introduction to the Guidebook for British Columbia</i>. To download a copy, go to <a href="http://www.bc.waterbalance.ca">www.bc.waterbalance.ca</a> &gt; Resources &gt; Guidance Documents. This document is designed to provide the reader with a broad-brush picture of the Guidebook. The emphasis is on core concepts.</p> <p><b>Web Resources:</b> To download a PDF so that you can copy and paste links, start with this: <a href="http://bc.waterbalance.ca/sites/wbm-canada-template/documents/media/57.pdf">http://bc.waterbalance.ca/sites/wbm-canada-template/documents/media/57.pdf</a></p>

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

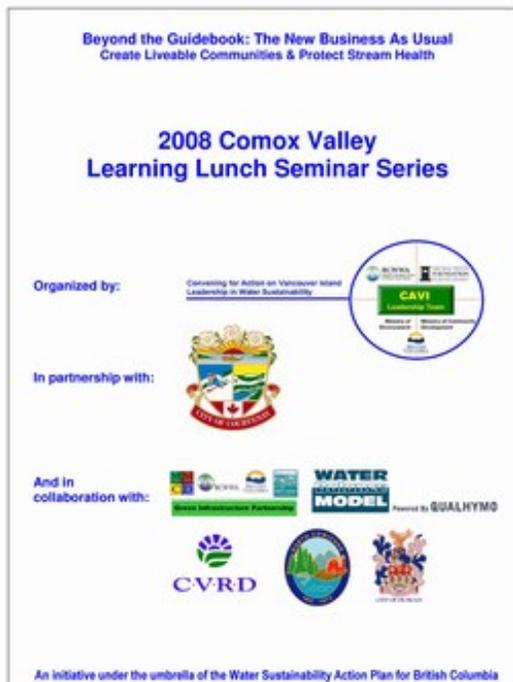
Water Bucket Story #4

## Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #1 on September 19, 2008

Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health:  
To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces

The first Comox Valley seminar was held on September 19. To download the agenda, click on the image below.

The City of Courtenay is the host municipality for the second series of pilot **Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminars**. The series promotes a consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The series comprises three events:



**The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach**

### THE CURRICULUM

- Sept 19: Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- Oct 24: Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- Nov 21: Nature Knows No Boundaries

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #4

## List of Web Resources

To access a list of web links for 24 references (i.e. guidance documents, web sites, web documents, magazine articles and announcements), click on the link to [Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure in British Columbia: List of Web Resources](#)

## PowerPoint Presentations & Links to YouTube Videos

A set of four presentations provided context for the day and set the scene for a walkabout through the Glacier View Pond area. The walkabout provided an on-the-ground illustration of how the engineering approach to detention pond design has evolved in response to changing expectations. When online, the user can click on the individual images to view the set of YouTube videos corresponding to each presentation.

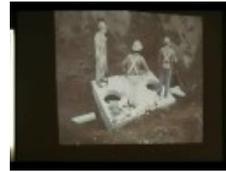
**Kim Stephens** (morning):  
[Creating Our Future - The New Business As Usual \(Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 Years\)](#)

**Ian Whitehead:**  
[The Story of East Courtenay over the past 20 years: from fields and forest to urban community](#)

In this first 10-minute clip, Ian Whitehead introduced the evolution theme and drew on his experience over 20 years to provide context for the Glacier View case study. He reflected on changes in drainage practice as he has implemented in East Courtenay over the past two decades.



In the second 10-minute clip, Ian delved into the next level of detail in terms of illustrating what the evolution in drainage practices looks like on the ground in Courtenay. The emphasis was on how to achieve a water balance through ground infiltration of rainwater runoff.



In the final 9-minute clip, Ian set the stage for the walkabout by describing the elements of the Glacier View case study. He presented a series of slides taken during construction, completed in 2008.



**Catriona Weidman:**  
[Creating Liveable Communities & Protecting Stream Health: Helping goals become practice](#)

Catriona's presentation was organized under three topic headings: Changing the Rules for Greener Communities; Living Water Smart; and Funding for Green Infrastructure. To both see and hear Catriona's presentation, click on the adjacent images to access two YouTube videos.



These will provide viewers with both the flavour and substance of the material that Catriona presented. The first 5-minute video covers Changing the Rules and Living Water Smart. The second video deals with funding.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #4

**Kim Stephens** (afternoon): [The New Business As Usual: Stormwater Guidebook, Performance Targets and Water Balance Model](#)

In this first 10-minute segment, Kim set the scene for the current "Beyond the Guidebook" initiative. The emphasis was on key messages that capture the essence of the outcome-oriented Guidebook: "This is what we want."



In the second 10-minute segment, Kim explained how lessons learned since publication of the Guidebook in 2002 have been incorporated in the "Beyond the Guidebook" initiative: "What we once believed to be unachievable is now within our grasp."



In the third 10-minuted segment, Kim introduced a generic application of the web-based Water Balance Model to illustrate how users can readily quantify performance targets for rainwater runoff on a single family residential property.



## Seminar Theme & Key Messages

The September 19 seminar was introductory in scope, with the objective of stimulating the interest of participants in doing self-exploration by digging into the list of web resources at their leisure. The seminar theme was: "Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards".

The Province is leveraging its grants programs to influence changes on the ground. British Columbia is in transition. Today, assessment criteria are based on a philosophy of "the greener the better". Tomorrow, all projects must meet a green standard. The Province's position is clear: Adapting to climate change and reducing our impact on the environment will be a condition for receiving provincial infrastructure funding

### Key Messages:

Two key messages shaped the approach to informing, educating and enabling participants.

- Doing more with less; and
- To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces.

The approach to series design is to start simply by highlighting key messages and examples that promote a common understanding; and progressively build to the regional picture. The ultimate goal is collaboration and integration that results in innovation in implementing policies and practices that create liveable communities and protect stream health.



## The New Business As Usual:

Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years

*"Vancouver Island is the pilot region for a collaborative and inclusive approach to practitioner continuing education"*

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #4

## Walkabout - You Tube Videos

The City of Courtenay prepared a brochure complete with aerial photo to highlight the points of interest along the walkabout route between Valley View Drive and Evans Place.



When online, the user can click on the YouTube links below for a series of commentaries by **Kevin Lagan** (Director of Operational Services), **Derek Richmond** (Manager of Engineering) and **Ian Whitehead** (consulting engineer):

1. [At Location #1 on the walkabout, Kevin Lagan, with assistance from Ian Whitehead \(the engineer of record for the project\), explained the development history of the Hawk-Glen Park & Water Retention Pond, constructed in 1993.](#)



2. [Cross-Country hike from Hawk-Glen Park & Water Retention Pond. Moving in a southwesterly direction away from the residential area and towards the creek/ditch that brings water from Cumming Road the pond.](#)



3. [Standing next to the creek/ditch that feeds Glacier View Pond \(constructed in 2008\), Kevin Lagan and Derek Richmond tag-teamed to explain the development of the Glacier View Detention Pond.](#)



4. [Derek Richmond emphasized how the City has achieved more with less in order to set the scene for Ian Whitehead to explain some of the details of pond construction, with emphasis on working with and blending in with nature.](#)



5. [At Location #4, Derek Richmond described the City's thinking with respect to the design of the outlet works for the Glacier View Detention Pond; with emphasis on liability concerns and mitigation of risk through proactive measures.](#)



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

## Water Bucket Story #4

6. [At Location #3, Ian Whitehead explained how necessity during construction resulted in a simple but elegant solution which involved diverting stormwater/rainwater runoff into the forest onto an interim basis such that natural infiltration prevented any downstream consequences.](#)



7. [At the same Location #3, Kevin Lagan explained the considerations that led to conversion of the Sheraton Road right-of-way into a paved bikeway and resulted in environmental and other benefits that contribute to the liveability of the surrounding neighbourhoods.](#)



8. [Also at Location #3, Kevin Lagan explained how the decision was made by the City to purchase a 20-acre forest experimental research area from the Province, and retain the land as green space rather than develop it for housing. It now serves an ecosystem function.](#)



9. [At Location #5, the Brookmere Subdivision, the City of Courtenay engineering team explained how the City is implementing changes in the way land is developed. The change in approach starts with the role of the building inspector.](#)



## Previous Water Bucket Stories

Two stories about the Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series were posted previously. These provide insight into the philosophy and educational objectives behind the seminar series, and establish expectations for participants. Each story is complete with links to other related resources, in particular the Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series:

- ["Learning Lunch Seminar Series" promotes consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure: Goal of Vancouver Island pilot educational program is to build inter-departmental and inter-municipal capacity](#)
- [The New Business As Usual in British Columbia: Schedule announced for 2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series - City of Courtenay is host municipality for second round of seminars in Vancouver Island pilot program](#)

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #4

## Photographs



Derek  
Richmond

Kevin  
Lagan

Kim  
Stephens

Ian  
Whitehead

Catriona  
Weidman



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

## Water Bucket Story #4



# Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

## Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

### Seminar #2 Agenda

Theme – Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure	
<p>Seminar #2 will introduce the extensive and very specific tools available under the <i>Local Government Act</i> so that municipalities can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand what bylaw and policy tools enable incorporation and retrofitting of engineered green infrastructure into development plans.</p> <p>The <i>Green Infrastructure Guide</i> will be explained so that participants will know how to use it effectively as a resource.</p>	
<b>Before Lunch</b>  1100 - 1230	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Establishing Expectations – This is what we want our community to look like!</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PART ONE: <i>Beyond the Guidebook: Creating Liveable Communities &amp; Protecting Stream Health</i></b> (Kim Stephens, Water Sustainability Action Plan)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This segment provides a bridge from Seminar #1, solicits feedback on the homework assignment, and sets the scene for the Inland Kenworth case study.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>PART TWO: <i>Inland Kenworth in Nanaimo: Where Design with Nature meets Green Value</i></b> (Dean Mousseau and Gary Noble, City of Nanaimo)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Inland Kenworth site on the Nanaimo Parkway at Northfield illustrates what can be accomplished through collaboration when a municipality establishes expectations and challenges a development proponent and design team to <i>do business differently</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Lunch</b>	<i>Take a break, re-energize and start a conversation!</i>
<b>After Lunch</b>  1315 - 1500	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Delivering on Expectations – This is how we can/will get there!</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>PART THREE: <i>Effective Municipal RAINwater/Stormwater Management &amp; Green Infrastructure to Achieve Watershed Health</i></b> (Susan Rutherford)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The title links back to the <b>Commentary</b><sup>1</sup> that is a resource for the Learning Lunch Series; by introducing “watershed health” this sets the stage for Seminar #3.</li> <li>▪ The presentation comprises a set of generic “what we would like to do” questions that have been framed through the eyes of practitioners in local government. The questions are intended to stimulate a dialogue that will achieve a learning outcome.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>PART FOUR: <i>Town Hall Sharing: Creating Our Future – taking actions on-the-ground that add up</i></b> (facilitated by Kim Stephens and Glen Brown)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participants will be invited to talk about what they have done or what they want to do. The objective is to encourage a spirit of camaraderie, generate positive energy, and identify content for a proposed future catalogue of preferred practices that create green value and add up to <b>A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island</b>.</li> <li>▪ Glen Brown of the Ministry of Community Development will weave the Province’s perspective into the town hall discussion by drawing on appropriate case study examples and/or precedents that illustrate <i>The New Business As Usual</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/118.pdf>

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #5

## Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #2 on October 24, 2008

Strategies and Tools for Creating Liveable Communities &  
Protecting Stream Health: Actions on the ground add up to  
A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island



The City of Courtenay is the host municipality for the second series of pilot **Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminars**. The series promotes a consistent provincial approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The second Comox Valley seminar was held on October 24. To download the agenda, click on the image below.

The meet-and-greet for each **Learning Lunch Seminar** starts at 10:30am. Each event concludes at 3:00pm. To register for the 3rd event in the series, contact Derek Richmond at the City of Courtenay by email at [drichmond@courtenay.ca](mailto:drichmond@courtenay.ca) or by telephone at 250-334-4441.

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual  
Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

2008 Comox Valley  
Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Organized by:  Convening for Action on Vancouver Island  
Leadership in Water Sustainability

In partnership with: 

And in collaboration with:  WATER SUSTAINABILITY MODEL  
Presented by GUALHYMO



An initiative under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #5

**Consistency at the front counter !**

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach to rainwater management & green infrastructure

THE CURRICULUM

- Sept 19 Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- Oct 24: Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- Nov 21: Nature Knows No Boundaries

## Seminar Focus & Key Messages

The approach to series design is to start simply by highlighting key messages and examples that promote a common understanding; and progressively build to the regional picture. The ultimate goal is collaboration and integration that results in innovation in implementing policies and practices that create liveable communities and protect stream health.

### Implementation Tools

The second in the series of three seminars was structured in two parts to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned. The focus was on implementation tools, in particular legal and policy strategies:

- Establishing expectations – this is what we want to achieve.
- Delivering on expectations – this is how we will get there.

**Derek Richmond**, City of Courtenay Manager of Engineering, opened Seminar #2 by emphasizing that the focus would be on **tools to meet objectives**. He also explained how the seminar would be conducted as a town hall session.



"We will ask you to share your experiences", he stated. To listen to Derek's opening remarks on YouTube, please [click here](#).

### Establishing Expectations:

In the morning, the team of **Dean Mousseau** and **Gary Noble** from the City of Nanaimo told the story of the Inland Kenworth industrial development. Their story illustrates what can be accomplished through collaboration when a municipality challenges a development proponent to be innovative.



The Inland Kenworth project also illustrates how a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management will influence the greening of the built environment and protect stream health. A key message is that the City of Nanaimo, in challenging the developer to do something different, has created a chain reaction in terms of the [approach being replicated](#) in Courtenay and North Cowichan.

### Delivering on Expectations:

In the afternoon, **Susan Rutherford** of West Coast Environmental Law employed a question-and-answer format to illustrate opportunities and scales for law and policy to effect change. Susan's presentation transitioned seamlessly into a town hall segment where seminar participants talked about what they have done or what they want to do. **Glen Brown** of the Ministry of Community Development weaved the Province's perspective into the town hall discussion.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #5

### Living Water Smart means “doing business differently” in BC

Published in June 2008, [Living Water Smart](#) is the provincial government's vision and plan to keep British Columbia's water healthy and secure for the future. By 2012, all land and water managers will know what makes a stream healthy, and therefore be able to help land and water users factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits.

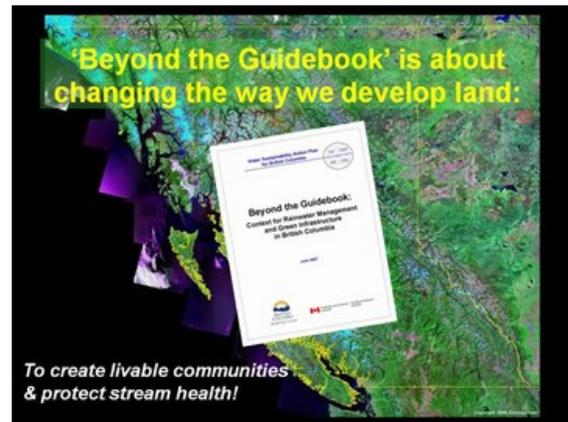
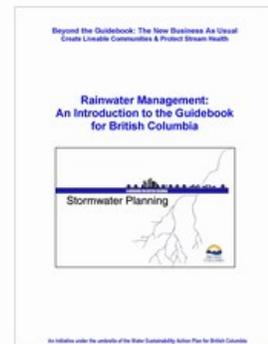
- **What does this mean to those involved in land development or redevelopment?**

The Province and local government are collaborating to develop a suite of user-friendly tools and approaches for assessment purposes and to provide consistency when reviewing development applications. The **Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series** is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#). This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by [Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia](#), published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years in moving from planning to action.



### Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia:

To prepare for the town hall segment, seminar participants were asked to read [A Guide to the Guidebook](#), an 8-page document that employs friendly language to provide readers with a broad-brush picture of core concepts. **Rainwater Management: An Introduction to the Guidebook for British Columbia** is written for both expert and non-expert audiences. It explains how the Guidebook is structured to meet the information needs of different audiences; and it provides a transition into the current **Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual** initiative. Click on the adjacent image to download the document.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #5

### Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards

The Province is leveraging its grants programs to influence changes on the ground. British Columbia is in transition. Today, assessment criteria are based on a philosophy of "the greener the better". Tomorrow, all projects must meet a green standard. The Province's position is clear: Adapting to climate change and reducing our impact on the environment will be a condition for receiving provincial infrastructure funding

### PowerPoint Presentations



**Today, you will learn that:**

1. **The Green Infrastructure Guide** illustrates the extensive and very specific tools available to local government
2. **Accept the risks when choosing a new path and look for the benefits that will result**
3. **If it is a dirty construction site, there will be no building inspection!**

### Design with Nature:

Dean Mousseau and Gary Noble first told the [Inland Kenworth story](#) in September 2007 when the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo co-hosted the first in the *Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island Series*. To view the set of PowerPoint slides that provide the backdrop for their conversational approach, [click here](#).

Over to you, Gary and Dean!



### Creating Our Future:

Kim Stephens, seminar team leader and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#), warmed up the audience by first reviewing what had been accomplished in Seminar #1, and then conducting an interactive segment to ask participants about their expectations for the day. To view the set of PowerPoint slides that guided this part of the Seminar #2 program, [click here](#).



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #5

### Legal and Policy Strategies:

**Susan Rutherford**, staff lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law, is the author of the [Green Infrastructure Guide: Issues, Implementation Strategies and Success Stories](#). It provides guidance on how local governments may, using legal and policy strategies, encourage or require more sustainable infrastructure designs. This part of the program was organized as a set of discussion segments built around an Issue / Question format. To download Susan's PowerPoint presentation, click on this link to [Opportunities for Law and Policy to Affect Changes on the Ground](#),



### Links to YouTube Videos

To both provide a record of the day and capture the flavour of the discussion in Seminar #2, video clips have been uploaded to YouTube. **To learn more, click on the images below to access YouTube.**

#### Creating Our Future:

**Kim Stephens** led off by explaining the program elements that comprise the Vancouver Island pilot program for practitioner continuing education. "Consistent messaging is what we are trying to accomplish," he said.



**Glen Brown** then explained what the Province wishes to accomplish through its *Living Water Smart* initiative. "This is a provincial strategy; we must look at it as a shared responsibility," he emphasized.



### And in summary

- **Soft approaches lay the foundation:**  
Seminars, workshops, internal and external training.....  
*where the key message is interaction of green value development components – integrated with ALL policies*
- **Back up your intentions with bylaws:**
  - Be clear with goals, standards and process
  - Be consistent with enforcement paths and devote resources to enforcement
  - Take security
  - Fix messes and charge the cost back!



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #5

**Kim Stephens** followed Glen Brown by summarizing learning outcomes for each seminar in the series. This primed the audience for an interactive segment. Kim asked participants about their expectations for the day.



**Kim Stephens** concluded the opening part of the program by elaborating on expectations for the day and explaining what *convening for action* means. "We are seeing the move from talk to action." he said in explaining the *what*, so *what*, *now what* mind-map.

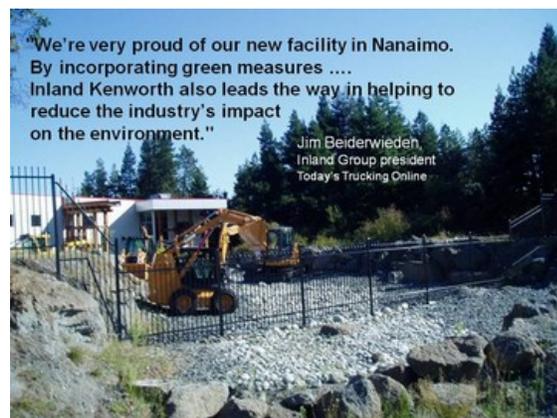


### Design with Nature:

**Kim Stephens** introduced the Inland Kenworth case study in Nanaimo and described its Vancouver Island significance. This set the scene for the tag-team presentation by **Dean Mousseau** and **Gary Noble**.



**Dean Mousseau** and **Gary Noble** engaged the audience by telling their story in a conversational style and interacting with the audience. Inland Kenworth is located at the intersection of the Nanaimo Parkway and Northfield Road.



### Legal and Policy Strategies:

At the start of the afternoon session, members of the organizing team and seminar faculty - **Derek Richmond, Kevin Lagan, Glen Brown** and **Susan Rutherford** - spoke about their expectations for the day. This helped provide context for the desired outcomes.



### "The best laid plans...."

The problem is the gap between design and build  
How to ensure that the best laid plans come to fruition?  
How to get all the actors singing from the same song sheet?

**Susan Rutherford** explained how Kevin Lagan and Derek Richmond generated a set of questions that revolve around the topic of *getting your green infrastructure plans built*. "The purpose of this approach is so that I can lead a town hall discussion," she said.



In this video clip, **Susan Rutherford** and others, in particular **Dean Mousseau**, engaged in a town hall discussion about sediment and erosion control during construction. Given that monitoring and compliance are challenges, the focus was on use of available tools to ensure compliance.



In this video clip, the focus of the town hall discussion led by Susan Rutherford is on drainage and grading plans. The question posed was: *how can we ensure that the original drainage/grading plan for the subdivision is being adhered to?*



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #5

In this video clip, the town hall discussion addressed the topic of soil depth, with emphasis on the City of Courtenay experience as the first BC municipality to implement a soil depth requirement. The question asked was: *What legal avenues exist for ensuring topsoil is kept onsite?*



In this video clip, **Susan Rutherford** highlights the importance of the Commentary on Effective Rainwater/Stormwater Management. "The Commentary ties together in a narrative how to achieve watershed health," she said.



In this video clip, listen to the off-camera voices of **District of Campbell River** and **Town of Comox** representatives. They described what *doing business differently* means in their communities.



In this video clip, **Glen Brown** cited examples of municipalities receiving infrastructure grants for *doing business differently*. **Maggie Henigman** of MOE had the last word when she observed that there has been 'huge shift' on Vancouver Island. "There is a new social norm," she said.



**Looking ahead to November 21:**

**Nature Knows No Boundaries:**

A framework for 'bringing it all together' will be introduced

To close out the town hall segment, **Kim Stephens** and **Kevin Lagan** offered observations on regional thinking. Listen to an off-camera voice suggesting alignment with NGOs to change thinking. "A bottom-up approach will achieve the high level goals," stated Kim Stephens.



At the end of the seminar, **Derek Richmond** outlined expectations and the homework exercise for Seminar #3. "Think about how all the various elements within an organization all need to work together," he said.



# Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

## Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

### Learning Lunch Seminar #3 – Nature Knows No Boundaries Agenda for November 21

Building on the common understanding developed in the first two seminars, a framework for ‘bringing it all together’ will be introduced. Seminar participants will explore a regional team approach that ensures consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision.

The focus will be on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.

A desired outcome is that participants will understand **how** they can champion a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management; and make *green choices* that create liveable communities and protect stream health.

<b>Before Lunch</b>	<b>Establishing Expectations – This is what we want our region to look like!</b>
1100 - 1230	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PART ONE: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Context for a Regional Team Approach</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Derek Richmond and Kim Stephens will provide a bridge from the first two seminars, reinforce key messages, and introduce a mind-map for the day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>PART TWO: <i>Moving Towards a Vision for Living Water Smart</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Nature without Borders - Vision for Comox Valley Regional Conservation Strategy:</b> First, Jack Minard will provide a community values perspective when he presents a framework for science-based planning. He will explain why a watershed governance council is needed to translate consensus into policy that results in action on-the-ground.</li> <li>▪ <b>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Living Water Smart:</b> Then, Ron Neufeld will follow with a regional district infrastructure perspective and explain what it means to establish and then meet performance targets. He will connect the dots between provincial policy and actions on the ground.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Take a break and start a conversation!</b>
<b>After Lunch</b>	<b>Delivering on Expectations – This is how we can/will get there!</b>
1300 - 1500	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PART THREE: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Making Green Choices</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Brooklyn Creek Case Study:</b> Derek Richmond and Glen Westendorp will elaborate on a 1999 precedent that illustrates what can be accomplished through inter-municipal collaboration.</li> <li>▪ <b>A Guide to Green Choices:</b> Laura Tate of the Ministry of Community Development will explain why and how this new provincial document is meant to assist communities of all types - large, small, rural, resort-based, urban and suburban – maximize both creativity and adaptability to changing conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>PART FOUR: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Table Topic Group Exercise</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Tell us what you have learned from this series that will now help you do what you could not have done before:</b> Each table will have 15 minutes to brainstorm this topic, and then each table will choose one individual to report out on the #1 item identified by the table (<i>Note: this will be a 25-minute plenary segment</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>PART FIVE: <i>Doing Business Differently in the Comox Valley – Now What?</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Creating Liveable Communities &amp; Protecting Stream Health – How we can work together to achieve the shared vision:</b> After reflecting on what they heard in the reporting out segment, a number of Comox Valley representatives will be called on to both identify and commit to specific actions that will align local government efforts and facilitate regional collaboration. (<i>Note: this will be a 30-minute plenary segment</i>).</li> <li>▪ <b>Bridging to the Comox Valley Sustainable Development Strategy:</b> Andrea Tower will share the insights she will take from the Learning Lunch Series to inform the current regional process.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

## Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #6

# Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: City of Courtenay hosted Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar #3 on November 21, 2008

Nature Knows No Boundaries: Moving Toward a Vision for Living Water Smart

Consistency at the front counter!

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series will facilitate inter-departmental alignment and a consistent regional approach to rainwater management & green infrastructure

THE CURRICULUM

- Sept 19: Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards
- Oct 24: Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure
- Nov 21: Nature Knows No Boundaries

*The City of Courtenay was the host municipality for the second series of pilot **Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminars**. The series is interdisciplinary and interdepartmental in scope, and [promotes a consistent provincial approach](#) to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The third and final Comox Valley seminar was held on November 21. The meet-and-greet for each **Learning Lunch Seminar** started at 10:30am. Each event concluded at 3:00pm.*

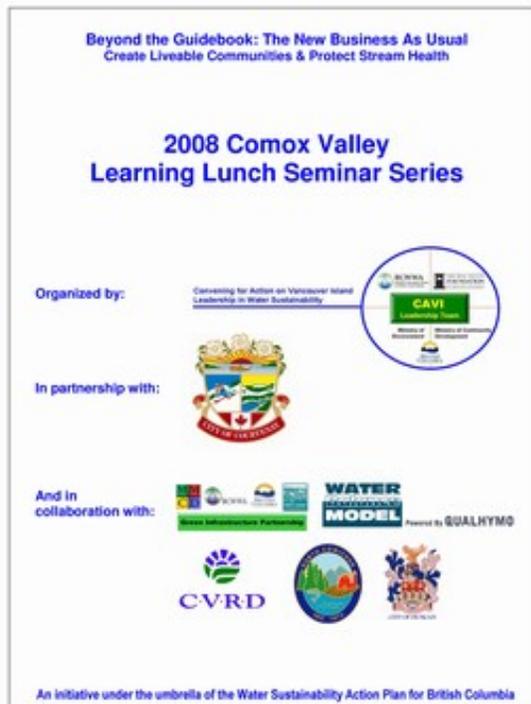
# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6

## Seminar Overview

Building on the common understanding developed in the first two seminars, a framework for 'bringing it all together' was introduced in Seminar #3. Participants explored a regional team approach that would ensure consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision, namely: **Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health**. To download the agenda for Seminar #3, click on the image below.



The emphasis was on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.

A desired outcome was that participants would understand how they can champion a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management; and make green choices that create liveable communities and protect stream health.

### Nature Knows No Boundaries:

The theme for the third in the Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series was **Nature Knows No Boundaries**. Two documents provided context for the day:

- **The Natural City** (written by Saanich Councillor Vic Derman): In this blueprint for action, the author introduces three lenses to shape the future of a region: **Regional Growth Strategy; Climate Change; Quality of Life and Place**.

3 Lenses  
to  
Shape  
our  
Region's  
Future:

The RGS

Climate  
Change

Quality  
of  
Life and  
Place

“Collectively, the three lenses bring our future into focus,” writes Derman. He lays out a layered



design process that demonstrates how conventional approaches to urban design could be modified to meet the goals of the Natural City. Click on the following link to watch [Vic Derman explain The Natural City on YouTube](#).

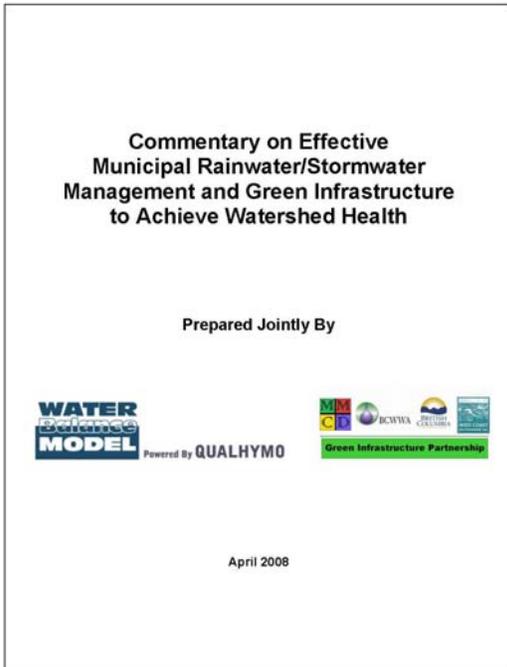
Vic Derman defines a set of ten principles that provide a planning framework for The Natural City. One of these is a 'design with nature' way-of-thinking and acting.

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6

- **Commentary on Effective Municipal Rainwater/Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure to Achieve Watershed Health** (prepared by the Green Infrastructure Partnership): The Local Government Act empowers municipalities with extensive and very specific tools to proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events.



These tools enable municipalities to achieve watershed goals and objectives. [The Commentary identifies actions that can be taken by municipalities](#) to create liveable communities and protect stream health.

Seminar participants committed to a regional team approach that crosses boundaries and ensures consistency in doing business differently to achieve the shared vision, namely: **Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health.**

### High-Level Endorsement:

High-level endorsement for a 'regional team approach' was provided when Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers representing all four Comox Valley local governments dropped in to show their support for the Learning Lunch Seminar Series.

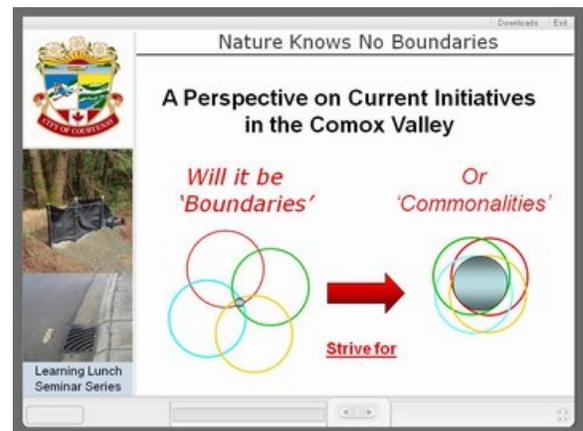


Click on this link to view a [YouTube video of Sandy Gray, City of Courtenay CAO, speaking on behalf of the four governments.](#)



### Striving for Commonalities:

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series provides the springboard for bottom-up regional action to **communicate, cooperate, collaborate and coordinate**. It is expected that senior staff from the four Comox Valley local governments will now report back to their Councils and the Regional Board regarding moving forward with **What Next action items** arising from the Learning Lunch Series.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6

## Seminar Structure

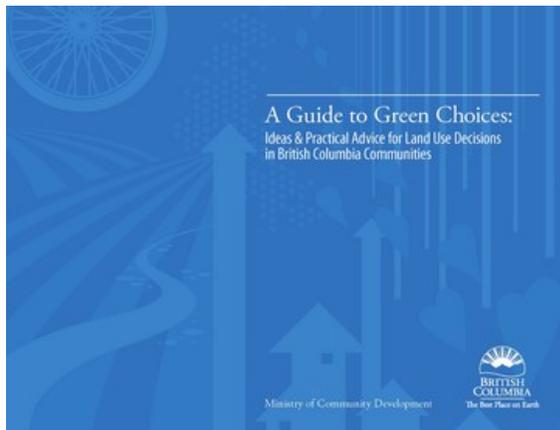
Seminar #3 was structured in two parts: presentations in the morning provided context and understanding for an interactive session in the afternoon.

### Establishing Expectations:

In the morning, **Jack Minard** (Executive Director, Comox Valley Land Trust) and **Ron Neufeld** (formerly with the Comox Valley Regional District; and now General Manager of Operations, City of Campbell River) connected the dots to [Living Water Smart](#) from the stream health and water supply perspectives, respectively. Their insights provided participants with a mind-map for the interactive segment in the afternoon.

### Delivering on Expectations:

In the afternoon, **Laura Tate** (Ministry of Community Development) outlined what the Province hopes to accomplish with [A Guide to Green Choices](#). This was followed by a Table Topic Group Exercise that addressed this topic: **Tell us what you have learned from this series that will now help you do what you could not have done before.** After that, participants were asked to identify specific actions that would align local government efforts and facilitate regional collaboration.

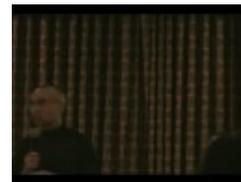


## Links to YouTube Videos

To both provide a record of the day and capture the flavour of the presentations in Seminar #3, a set of twelve video clips have been uploaded to YouTube. The maximum length is 10 minutes. Each YouTube clip provides a commentary to accompany the set of PowerPoint presentations listed later in this Water Bucket story. **To hear and learn more about the Nature Knows No Boundaries theme, click on the small images below to access the YouTube videos.**



In setting the context for the day, **Derek Richmond** explained the difference between *boundaries* and what he called *commonalities*. "To be successful, we need to work outside our normal boundaries," he said. "And we need to proactively communicate and work with others."



In this 2-minute video clip, **Kim Stephens** explains how CAVI has defined water sustainability. "Where and how land is developed determines the sustainability of water supply and the sustainability of aquatic habitat," he stated. "Soil depth is at the heart of the integrated solution."



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6

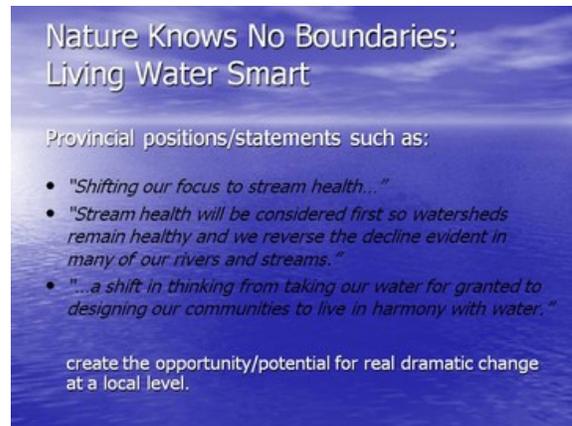
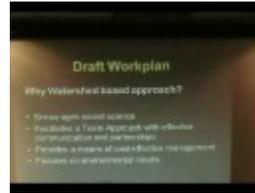
In this 10-minute video clip, **Kim Stephens** reviewed the learning outcomes for each of the three seminars in the series. "A design with nature approach are re-use of resources are key to climate change adaptation," he stated in conclusion.



When he spoke on behalf of the four Comox Valley local governments, **Sandy Gray** (Courtenay CAO) lauded the objectives of the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. "We are thrilled by the work of CAVI. It is a tremendous initiative," he said. "



In the second half of his presentation, **Jack Minard** connected the dots to illustrate how to do business differently in the Comox Valley. He identified the steps in a Draft Workplan for a regional team approach. "Use natural systems as your infrastructure," he said



**Jack Minard**  
Comox Valley Land Trust

In the first half of his presentation, **Ron Neufeld** used a driver training analogy to emphasize what makes good policy. "Good policy is knowing where the horizon is..so that you know where you want to get to," he told his audience.



In the first half of his presentation, **Jack Minard** explained the mission of the Comox Valley Land Trust and the Regional Conservation Strategy. "The Nature Without Borders report resulted from a bottom-up process," he told his audience.



In the second half of his presentation, **Ron Neufeld** elaborated on the elements of a bottom-up and regional team approach to implementing provincial policy. "Success depends on cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries," he underscored.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6



Ron Neufeld, City of Campbell River



Laura Tate, Ministry of Community Development



Glen Westendorp, Town of Comox



Bryce Gillard, Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Brooklyn Creek is an inter-municipal drainage system. **Derek Richmond** (city of Courtenay) and **Glen Westendorp** (Town of Comox) told the story of a 1999 joint drainage study.



"The Brooklyn Creek study established a precedent for working together to mitigate drainage impacts," noted Derek.

**Bryce Gillard**, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, reinforced the collaboration theme when he provided a DFO perspective on what can be achieved through cooperation, information sharing and communication.



"You cannot underestimate the importance of sharing information among jurisdictions," he said.

**Laura Tate** introduced the four pieces of the puzzle that comprise Green Communities Initiatives. She then described what is in *A Guide to Green Choices*, released by the Province in September 2008. "We are providing local government with the information to make better decisions," she said.



To conclude the seminar, **Kim Stephens** addressed the question: What Next? he quoted Eric Bonham: "It is appropriate to now start moving towards talking in terms of Vancouver Island as a whole in terms of sustainability, collaboration and creative partnerships."



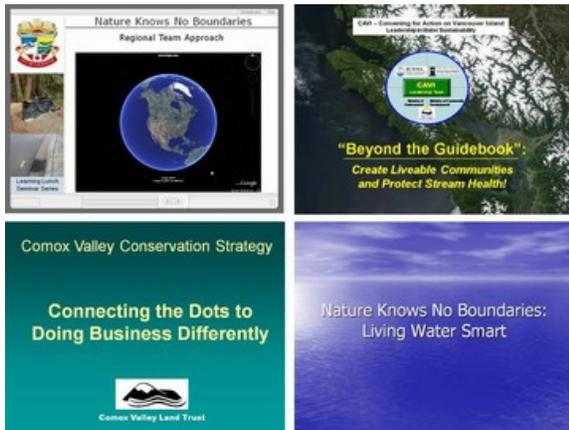
# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #6

## PowerPoint Presentations

A set of seven PowerPoint presentations supplement the YouTube video clips listed above. Viewed together, the presentations provide a seamless storyline that elaborates on the **Nature Knows No Boundaries** theme for Seminar #3. To view or download any or all of the presentations, click on the links listed below.



**Derek Richmond (City of Courtenay):** [Nature Knows No Boundaries - Context for a regional team approach](#)

**Kim Stephens (Water Sustainability Action Plan):** [Beyond the Guidebook: Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health](#)

**Jack Minard (Comox Valley Land Trust):** [Nature Without Borders - Vision for a Comox Valley Regional Conservation Strategy](#)

**Ron Neufeld (City of Campbell River):** [Nature Knows No Boundaries - Living Water Smart](#)

**Derek Richmond & Glen Westendorp (Town of Comox):** [Nature Knows No Boundaries - Making Green Choices: Brooklyn Creek Case Study](#)

**Laura Tate (Ministry of Community Development):** [Nature Knows No Boundaries - A Guide to Green Choices](#)

**Kim Stephens:** [Creating Our Future - The New Business As Usual: What Next](#)

## Table Topic Group Exercise

The Table Topic Group Exercise was an essential element of the seminar. Participants were asked to reflect on the series as a whole and brainstorm around this table topic: **Tell us what you have learned from this series...that will now help you do....what you could not have done before.** Each table had 15 minutes to brainstorm, and then each table chose one individual to report out on the #1 item identified by the table.

### How can we work together to achieve the shared vision:

After reflecting on what they heard in the reporting out segment, a number of Comox Valley representatives were called on to both identify and commit to specific actions that will align local government efforts and facilitate regional collaboration.



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #6

## About the Learning Lunch Seminar Series



**Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure:**  
Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years



*Vancouver Island is the pilot region for a collaborative and inclusive approach to practitioner education, namely:*

*Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series  
Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series  
Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum*

### Common Understanding and Consistent Approach

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series [promotes a consistent provincial approach](#) to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay are the host local governments for the Vancouver Island pilot program. In total, the Vancouver Island local governments that will be participating represent some 250,000 people.

- The **Cowichan Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the June - July 2008 period. For links to each seminar in the series, [click here](#).
- The **Comox Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the September - November 2008 period.

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure. The Seminar Series is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#), and is precedent-setting in its scope.

### Previous Water Bucket Stories

Eight stories about the Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series were posted previously. These provide insight into the philosophy and educational objectives behind the seminar series, and establish expectations for participants. Each story is complete with links to other related resources, in particular the Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series:

For complete information on the Cowichan Valley Series, please click on [Summary document consolidates web stories describing the content of each seminar](#).



# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

Water Bucket Story #7

## Nature Knows No Boundaries in the Comox Valley: Learning Lunch Seminar Series provides springboard for regional team approach

Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure –  
aligning local actions to achieve Living Water Smart goals

### Doing Business Differently in BC

Published in June 2008, [Living Water Smart](#) is the provincial government's vision and plan to keep British Columbia's water healthy and secure for the future. An over-arching goal is to encourage local governments to do business differently.

Nested under Living Water Smart is the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#), a partnership umbrella for action on the ground. The Water Sustainability Action Plan is also nested under the [Green Communities](#) initiative.

### Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

The Water Sustainability Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to better manage land and water resources.

One of these program elements is the [Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#), and is being implemented through [CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#). This is adding depth to Living Water Smart. The City of Courtenay was the host municipality for the second of two pilot series on Vancouver Island.

The Learning Lunch Seminars [promote a consistent provincial approach](#) to rainwater management and green infrastructure. The desired outcome is that local government and private sector practitioners will make green choices that create liveable communities and protect stream health.

### Nature Knows No Boundaries



**Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure:**  
Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years



*Vancouver Island is the pilot region for a collaborative and inclusive approach to practitioner education, namely:*

*Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series  
Cowichan Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series  
Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum*

# Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

## Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

### Water Bucket Story #7

## A Regional Team Approach

At Seminar #3 in November 2008, [participants explored a regional team approach](#) that would ensure consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision, namely: **Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health.**

## High-Level Endorsement

High-level endorsement for a 'regional team approach' was provided when Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers representing the four Comox Valley local governments dropped in to show their support for the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. Click



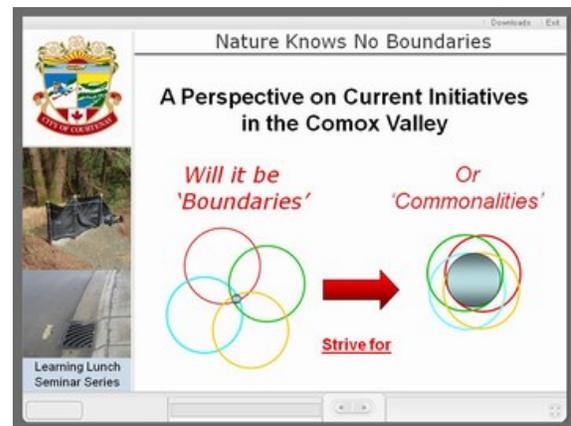
on this link to view a [YouTube video of Sandy Gray, City of Courtenay CAO, speaking on behalf of the four governments.](#)

Sandy Gray lauded the objectives of the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. "We are thrilled by the work of CAVI. It is a tremendous initiative," he said. "The cooperation that is taking place around a consistent approach to development is very critical to all of Vancouver Island."



## Striving for Commonalities

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series provides the springboard for bottom-up regional action to **communicate, cooperate, collaborate and coordinate.** It is expected that senior staff from the four Comox Valley local governments will now report back to their Councils and the Regional Board regarding moving forward with **What Next action items** arising from the Learning Lunch Series.



In setting the context for the day, **Derek Richmond** (Manager of Engineering, City of Courtenay) explained the difference between *boundaries* and what he called *commonalities*. "To be successful, we



need to work outside our normal boundaries," he said. "And we need to proactively communicate and work with others." To watch Derek Richmond explain why a Comox Valley regional team approach was the desired outcome for the series, [click on this link to a 6-minute YouTube video clip.](#)

He opened his presentation with a satellite image of North America, and then progressively zoomed in to show the boundaries of the newly formed Comox Valley Regional District. "Man imposes his own boundaries. So, we have an issue of inconsistencies ... or incongruities ... between natural and imposed boundaries which sets up a series of problems."

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#### The Paradigm-Shift:

"Our challenge is to work around and with boundaries," continued Derek Richmond. "Ideally, we would like to shift the paradigm from boundaries to areas of commonality."

"If we are to have a team approach, we need to think globally and act locally." he concluded. "We need to think of ourselves as a team, not as individuals within silos; and we need to **break down boundaries through communication, collaboration, cooperation and coordination.**"

To download a copy of the PowerPoint presentation by Derek Richmond, click on this link to [Nature Knows No Boundaries - Context for a regional team approach](#)



#### About the Learning Lunch Seminar Series

The Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay were the host local governments for the Vancouver Island pilot program. In total, the participating Vancouver Island local governments represent some 250,000 people.

- The **Cowichan Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the June - July 2008 period.
- The **Comox Valley** series comprised a set of three sessions held during the September - November 2008 period.

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is the first step in building a regional team approach so that there will be a common understanding and consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure.

#### Beyond the Guidebook:

The Learning Lunch Seminar Series is part of the implementation program for [Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual](#), and is precedent-setting in its scope.

Beyond the Guidebook builds on the foundation provided by [Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia](#), published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years in moving from planning to action.

