

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



CAVI announces that Comox Valley Regional District will host the 2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Comox Valley is the provincial pilot for a 'regional team approach' to integrating and implementing regional sustainability, growth and water infrastructure plans

The New Business As Usual: Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 years

The Mission is to Create a Legacy

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations***
- 2. Use the term "sustainability" as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices***

2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Comox Valley is the Provincial Pilot for a Regional Team Approach

Water Bucket Web Story #1 posted July 2009

The newly formed Comox Valley Regional District is the host local government for the **2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series**. The 2009 Series will comprise three learning events held in Courtenay and spread over a nine-week period between September 25 and November 27. The Series theme is:

Getting Ahead of the Wave: The New Business As Usual

*Change the We Develop Land to
Achieve Settlement in Balance with Ecology*

The 2009 Series is for implementers. It will capture what is in the regional processes, and will bring it back to local government staff who have to implement regional plans.

Provincial Context

The Province's **Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan** and **Green Communities Project** provide a framework for **convening for action** in order to improve the way that land is developed and water is used in BC. Commencing in 2007, Vancouver Island has been the pilot region for a grass-roots educational program that is water-centric and precedent-setting, is founded on partnerships and collaboration, and seeks to align local actions with provincial goals.

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

This pilot program is known by the acronym **CAVI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island**. The following challenge statement frames the learning outcomes when convening for action:

“How do we simultaneously work together as staff within a municipality and as a region AND externally with the stewardship sector, developers and other private sector players, to ensure we implement sustainable approaches to development?”

“We will have succeeded when we consistently integrate *community design* with desired outcomes at the provincial and regional scales and individual actions at the site scale,” states **John Finnie, CAVI Chair** (and General Manager for Water & Wastewater Services, Regional District of Nanaimo).



Building on Success

“Drawing on the experience of engineering and planning managers in local governments, the **2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series** employed provincial guidance documents, on-the-ground examples, walkabouts, and town hall sharing sessions to stimulate discussion of HOW to achieve water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices,” continues John Finnie.

“In 2008, the initial CAVI objective was to test an approach to providing continuing education where people work. The Learning Lunch Series then went beyond that objective because it created the springboard for a **regional team approach** in both the Cowichan and Comox valleys.”



“The Regional Growth Strategy and Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy provide the backdrop for the 2009 Comox Valley Series. The spotlight is on **how to implement the regional team approach** - that is, a unified approach from all levels of government,” states **Kevin Lorette, General Manager** of the Regional District's Property Services Branch. “At the end of the day, water is the underpinning of the community, and an integrated watershed approach to settlement is essential.”

The 2009 Series is a collaboration of four local governments in the Comox Valley, the Comox Valley Land Trust, CAVI, the Water Sustainability Action Plan, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the Green Infrastructure Partnership and two provincial Ministries.

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Getting Ahead of the Wave

“The theme, **Getting Ahead of the Wave**, defines what needs to be accomplished by the 2009 Series in building on the 2008 foundation,” states **Kevin Lagan, Director of Operational Services** for the City of Courtenay, the host for the 2008 Series. “The 2009 Series will serve as the springboard to advance **integration** of current Comox Valley regional initiatives in 2010. The unifying theme will be: *what all the plans will achieve.*”



“The goal is a truly integrated approach to land use planning, one that is founded on a water-centric way-of-thinking and acting, and one that achieves watershed protection and enhancement objectives,” adds **Jack Minard**, Executive-Director of the Comox Valley Land Trust.



“The 2009 Series will build on the water-centric credibility and strengths of the 2008 Series to raise the bar in addressing **Settlement in Balance with Ecology** in a pragmatic way: *Here is what it looks like; this is where it is going,*” continues **Tim Pringle, Director of Special Programs** with the Real Estate Foundation.



“The 2009 Series will also serve as a “springboard beyond the Comox Valley” in order to demonstrate what **A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island** could look like,” concludes **Glen Brown**, Executive Director with the Ministry of Community & Rural Development.



“The Comox Valley is the designated provincial pilot for implementation of a ‘regional team approach’ becausea convergence of interests has created an opportunity for all the players to set their sights on the *common good*....challenge the old barriers of jurisdictional interests, and make sustainability real.”



About CAVI

CAVI brings together those who plan and regulate land use (**local government**), those who build (**developers**), those who provide the legislative framework (**the Province**), those who provide research (**university and college**), and those who advocate conservation of resources (**stewardship sector**).

Designed through an inclusive and participatory process that draws on the experience of planning and engineering managers in local government, CAVI program elements are outcome-oriented.

The challenge posed by CAVI is this: **Visualize what we want Vancouver Island to look like in 50 years.** The CAVI vision is to move toward water sustainability and **A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island** by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices.