

# The 2009 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:



Under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC



# Getting Ahead of the Wave: The New Business As Usual

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

### 2009 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Implementing a Regional Team Approach

Program Overview	
<b>Context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Province's <b>Living Water Smart</b> and <b>Green Communities</b> initiatives provide a framework for <b>convening for action</b> in order to improve the way that land is developed and water is used in BC.</li> <li>Convening for action means bringing together those who plan and regulate (<i>local government</i>), those who build (<i>developers</i>), those who provide the legislative framework (<i>the Province</i>), those who advocate conservation of resources (<i>the stewardship sector</i>), and those who do research (<i>universities and colleges</i>).</li> <li>Through CAVI, Vancouver Island is the pilot region for implementing a 'regional team approach' that aligns local actions with provincial goals to achieve sustainable solutions: <i>What do we want Vancouver Island to look like in 50 years and beyond?</i> Making this happen requires partnerships, collaboration, innovation and integration.</li> <li>The Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series is an important cornerstone towards integration across the Island. The series is a forum for bringing together people who share a vision for adopting sustainability practices... so that they can focus on solutions and generate positive energy and passion that results in commitment...commitment that leads to action and implementation.</li> <li>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 "Comox Valley regional team approach".</li> <li>In 2009, the Regional Growth Strategy and Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy provide the backdrop for the second Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series. The focus is on <b>how to implement the regional team approach</b> (i.e. "a unified approach from all levels of government").</li> </ul>
<b>The Challenge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Meeting the Challenge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The theme, <b>Getting Ahead of the Wave</b>, defines what needs to be accomplished by the 2009 Series in building on the 2008 foundation.</li> <li>The 2009 Series will build on the water-centric credibility and strengths of the 2008 Series to raise the bar in addressing <b>Settlement in Balance with Ecology</b> in a pragmatic way: "Here is what it looks like; this is where it is going."</li> <li>The 2009 Series will serve as the springboard to advance <b>integration</b> of current Comox Valley regional initiatives in 2010. The unifying theme will be: <i>what all the plans will achieve</i>.</li> <li>The 2009 Series will also serve as a "springboard beyond the Comox Valley" in order to demonstrate what <b>A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island</b> could look like.</li> <li>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 the regional plans.</li> <li>The 2009 Series will address the Water/Energy Cycle in the context of Climate Change Adaptation.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

# Getting Ahead of the Wave: The New Business As Usual

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

2009 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series:  
Pilot for Implementing a Regional Team Approach

Program Outline	
Local governments in the Comox Valley are convening for action around this unifying theme: <i>Water is the finite resource; however, management of development is the control.</i>	
Seminar Theme	Seminar Scope
<b>1 Understand the Dynamics of Settlement Changes</b>  <b>WHAT</b>	a. Session #1 will start where the 2008 Series ended by posing this question: <i>How will we implement a regional team approach in the Comox Valley, and how can this inform A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island?</i> This question will provide a frame of reference for achieving ‘settlement in balance with ecology’. b. Research findings re this question will be shared: <i>What are key factors that drive large-scale real estate development projects on Vancouver Island?</i> The implications for the Comox Valley will be explored from three perspectives, namely: community values, provincial policy, and regional strategies/plans. c. A desired outcome is that participants will understand WHY the notion of “sustainable” communities begins with a discussion of values that communities declare or reflect as changes occur in their landscapes.
<b>2 Regional Plans – Pathway to Water Sustainability</b>  <b>SO WHAT</b>	a. Session #2 will introduce a <b>Water OUT = Water IN</b> framework for achieving water sustainability; coupled with a <i>design with nature</i> approach to climate change adaptation. b. Lessons learned by the Regional District of Nanaimo ( <i>Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection Action Plan</i> ) and Metro Vancouver ( <i>Liquid Resource Management Plan</i> ) will be shared so that participants can apply the universal principles. c. A desired outcome is that participants will understand WHAT alignment of regional processes with local actions looks like on-the-ground: <i>what all the plans will achieve.</i>
<b>3 Commitment to the Regional Team Approach</b>  <b>NOW WHAT</b>	a. Session #3 will introduce integration: WHO will do it, and HOW it will be done. b. The series outcomes will be synthesized: <i>How 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.</i> c. A desired outcome is that participants will COMMIT to a regional team approach which results in implementation of an <b>Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement.</b>