

# The 2010 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



**2010 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series**  
 Collaboration, Adaptation and Risk Management –  
 A Regional Response to Climate Change

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<b>Program Overview</b>	
<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>), those who grow food (<i>the agricultural sector</i>), and those who do research (<i>universities and colleges</i>).</li> <li>• Through CAVI, Vancouver Island is the demonstration 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... so that they can focus on solutions and generate positive energy and passion that results in commitment that, in turn, 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 focus was on <b>how to implement the regional team approach</b>. This resulted in three tangible outcomes: CV-OPS, Engineering &amp; Planning Collaboration Protocol, and Integration Theme for 2010 Series.</li> </ul>
<b>The Challenge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How we will 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 a regional stewardship approach to land and water resource uses.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Meeting the Challenge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The theme, <b><i>A Regional Response to Climate Change</i></b>, defines what needs to be accomplished by the 2010 Series in building on the foundation provided by the two previous series.</li> <li>• Address the “needs of the funders” in demonstrating that Comox Valley collaboration is a provincially significant initiative.</li> <li>• Build on the water-centric credibility and strengths of the 2009 Series to demonstrate how a <b><i>‘Design with Nature’</i></b> approach to land development can produce a <b><i>‘Settlement Change in Balance with Ecology’</i></b> outcome.</li> <li>• Continue to advance the regional team approach consistent with “the 4Cs” (i.e. communicate, collaborate, cooperate and coordinate) to meet the collective vision.</li> <li>• Demonstrate how the regional team approach can translate the three 2009 outcomes into action on the ground.</li> <li>• Focus on a land development project as a case study (i.e. to make the integration process real).</li> <li>• Learn from the case study application and validate tools that will help the regional team make progress towards this over-arching goal: <b><i>An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement</i></b>.</li> <li>• Serve as a “springboard beyond the Comox Valley” in order to contribute to water sustainability in the Georgia Basin.</li> </ul>

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### Seminar Program Outline

Local governments in the Comox Valley are convening for action around this unifying theme:  
*Water is the finite resource; however, management of development is the control.*

**Water OUT = Water IN** is the mind-map for achieving water sustainability.

**NOTE:** A desired outcome for the 2010 Series is that the four local governments will submit a Joint Report to the Regional Board and three Municipal Councils.

The Joint Report will summarize what has been accomplished by the 3-year Learning Lunch Seminar program; and will seek endorsement/support for a consistent regional approach to integration and implementation of rainwater management and drought management strategies/practices.

Seminar Theme	Seminar Scope
<p><b>1 Collaboration – Comox Valley Regional Initiatives</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SO WHAT</b></p>	<p>a. Session #1 will start where the 2009 Series ended. Two regional initiatives will serve as ‘integrators’ and will provide focus for the collaboration theme. These are: <i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> and <i>CVRD Water Efficiency Plan</i>.</p> <p>b. The scope and function of CV-OPS will be explored: <i>How can it provide added value as a forum for championing new tools and advancing collaboration on-the-ground?</i></p> <p>c. A desired outcome is that participants will understand how the 2010 Series can inform the activities of CV-OPS; and influence the scope of the <i>Engineering &amp; Planning Collaboration Protocol</i>.</p>
<p><b>2 Adaptation – Design with Nature to Achieve Rainfall Capture &amp; Water Conservation Goals</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOW WHAT</b></p>	<p>a. Session #2 will focus on watershed protection and restoration issues, with emphasis on a ‘design with nature’ approach to climate change adaptation: <i>These are the values of importance to everyone; and this is the community standard that we wish to build to.</i></p> <p>b. Northeast Comox will serve as a case study to test the application of ‘green infrastructure’ and ‘green value’ approaches embodied in the <i>Water Balance Model</i> and the <i>Comparative Land Use Typologies &amp; Matrix</i>, respectively.</p> <p>c. A desired outcome is that participants will understand how a ‘design with nature’ approach integrates rainwater management and drought management.</p>
<p><b>3 Risk Management – Respect the Power of Mother Nature</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEN WHAT</b></p>	<p>a. Session #3 will focus on floodplain and flooding issues, with emphasis on a ‘risk management’ approach to sea level rise and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>b. Flood overflows due to the combination of high river and high tide levels this past winter provide context for identifying guiding principles for a regional risk tolerance framework: <i>Because we have a limited ability to engineer change, we need to be cautious and anticipate nature’s extremes.</i></p> <p>c. A desired outcome is that participants will understand how a commonsense approach to determining ‘risk tolerance’ would inform the Comox Valley regional response to climate change.</p>

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### Collaboration, a 'Design with Nature' approach, and re-use of resources are keys to climate change adaptation

- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Re-use and recycle water, energy and nutrients from liquid wastes
- Protect and restore urban 'green' space
- Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and marine environment protection

