

# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

**Organized by:**

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



**In Collaboration with:**



**November 2007**

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# Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



## Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

Presented In partnership with

**Regional District of  
Nanaimo**

**City of Nanaimo**

**Cowichan Valley  
Regional District**

**District of  
North Cowichan**

**City of Duncan**

**Comox Strathcona  
Regional District**

**City of Courtenay**





# Vancouver Island Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series a success - 2007 program resonates

Three events attracts local governments and other stakeholders  
from Campbell River south to Victoria

## Background:

The projected growth of Vancouver Island and resulting cumulative impacts are drivers for reassessing where and how land is developed, and water is used. To promote a new way-

**What could Vancouver  
Island look like in 50 years  
with a new way-of-thinking?**

Where and how land is developed determines

how water is used => *sustainability of supply,*

and how water runs off the land

=> *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)** organized **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series**. To read the story announcing the Series schedule, follow the link<sup>1</sup> below.

CAVI was supported by the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** in undertaking the Series. To learn more about the origin of the Series and how it

has evolved, please click on the link<sup>2</sup> below. The 2006 pilot program was held in Metro Vancouver. In 2007, parallel series were held on both sides of the Georgia Basin on alternating Fridays during the September/October period.

This web story (which is posted on the Water Bucket website) contains a consolidated listing of links to previous WaterBucket stories that describe the scope of each event in the Showcasing Innovation Series.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=61&id=271&type=single>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=61&id=271&type=single>

## The Showcasing Innovation Series



According to **John Finnie**, CAVI Chair, "The goal in showcasing innovation and celebrating successes was to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' – through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of [designing with nature](#)<sup>3</sup>."

"There are a lot of good things happening throughout Vancouver Island. Yet practitioners in local government are not necessarily aware when they are being innovative and are not often aware of innovation in other municipalities," continues John Finnie, "Because people are so busy in their own worlds, it takes a third party to connect them. That is the role that CAVI plays."



"The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Kim Stephens**, Series organizer and event Moderator, and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#)<sup>4</sup>.

According to Kim Stephens, "A Showcasing Innovation event is not a conference. Neither is it a workshop nor seminar in the conventional sense. Rather the purpose of the presentations is to whet the appetites of participants for the site tour that follows. The quality one-on-one conversations take place on the bus and when we go for a walkabout."

### Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

- ☑ **September 14 – Nanaimo Region**  
'Designing with Nature'
- ☑ **September 28 – Cowichan Basin**  
'Partnerships & Collaboration –  
Moving from Concept to Reality'
- ☑ **October 12 – Comox Valley**  
'Connecting to Sustainability'

Copies of the programs for the three Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation events are included as attachments.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=5&id=15&type=single>

<sup>4</sup> [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)



## Organization & Response:

Each event was co-hosted by a regional district and one or more of its member municipalities. Each event comprised presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon. Each event was unique.



First, the project preview

Then, the site visit

A CAVI theme is that it often takes a third party to bring busy people together. This is the CAVI role. According to **Kim Stephens**, "Experience shows that intra-region communication among local governments tends to be the exception rather than the rule. The CAVI objective is to turn the exception into the rule"

Support for the Showcasing Innovation Series starts at the top. Chairs of three regional districts made opening statements at each event. For the complete story, please click on the [link below](#)<sup>5</sup>.

Registration for each event was capped based on bus capacity. The total registration was approximately 140. While a number of people attended two or even three of the events, the majority attended only one event. In all three cases, the seats on the bus were filled quickly.

### Attendance at Nanaimo Event:

Over 50 people from far and wide registered for the Nanaimo event. "The diverse audience was comprised of representatives from four regional districts, ten municipalities, three provincial ministries, and a half-dozen private sector organizations. Included in the audience were elected representatives, senior managers, and on-the-ground practitioners," reports **John Finnie**.

### Attendance at Cowichan Valley Event:

Close to 50 people registered for the Cowichan event. "When we looked at who registered, we were struck by the diversity of the audience. There were representatives from four regional districts, ten municipalities, two provincial ministries, a number of private sector organizations, and several non-government organizations," observes **John Finnie**.

### Attendance at Comox Valley Event:

Over 40 people registered for the Comox Valley event. "There were representatives from three regional districts, ten municipalities, the Clearbrook Waterworks District from the Fraser Valley, two provincial ministries, a number of private sector organizations, and several non-government organizations," reports **Kim Stephens**.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=27&id=142&type=single>



## Nanaimo Region

The Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo co-hosted the first event. The elements of the Nanaimo program are described in two comprehensive stories, one before the event and the other after:

- [Regional District of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo co-host first in '2007 Showcasing Innovation Series'](#)<sup>6</sup> - 'Design with Nature' is the event theme for celebrating Green Infrastructure
- [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series on Vancouver Island launched in Nanaimo](#)<sup>7</sup> - First of three events shows there is an appetite for networking and sharing of lessons learned

In addition to these comprehensive stories, a number of stand-alone stories provide details of projects which were showcased. Links for before and after stories are listed below:

- [City of Nanaimo Implements Green Building Policy](#)<sup>8</sup>: Oliver Road Community Centre will be featured in the 'Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series'
- [Oliver Road Community Centre is the first LEED Silver civic building in Nanaimo](#)<sup>9</sup>: City implements Green Building Policy
- [City of Nanaimo Industrial Development Demonstrates 'Design with Nature' Solution](#)<sup>10</sup>: Inland Kenworth site will be featured in the 'Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series'
- [Inland Kenworth industrial site in the City of Nanaimo establishes 'design with nature' precedent](#)<sup>11</sup>: Rainwater management plan reduces 'hydrologic footprint' by capturing rain where it falls
- [City of Nanaimo Implements Steep Slope Development Policy](#)<sup>12</sup>: Cottle Creek Estates will be featured in the 'Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series'
- [Cottle Creek Estates in Nanaimo developed in accordance with 'design with nature' principles](#)<sup>13</sup>: Residential development is the first application of Steep Slope Development Area Guidelines

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=202&type=single>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=255&type=single>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=97&id=205&type=single>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=97&id=256&type=single>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=93&id=207&type=single>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=93&id=257&type=single>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=94&id=206&type=single>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=94&id=258&type=single>

- [Climate Change Adaptation in the Regional District of Nanaimo](#):<sup>14</sup> Community Action Plans will be featured in the 'Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series'
- [Partners for Climate Protection - Corporate and Community Action Plans in the Nanaimo Region](#):<sup>15</sup> Precedent for linking regional and municipal plans

## Setting the Context

### Finding the right “balance” to make things happen on the ground:

- Leaders and champions
- Set goals and direction
- Integrate goals and processes
- Build partnerships and expertise
- Pilots – build success incrementally
- Monitor and adapt



<sup>14</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=98&id=208&type=single>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=98&id=261&type=single>



## Cowichan Valley

The Cowichan Valley Regional District, the District of North Cowichan, and the City of Duncan co-hosted the second event. The elements of the Cowichan program are also described in two comprehensive stories, one before the event and the other after:

- [Cowichan Valley Regional District and two member municipalities partner to co-host second in '2007 Showcasing Innovation Series'](#)<sup>16</sup> - 'Partnerships and Collaboration' is the event theme for celebrating Green Infrastructure
- [Local Governments in the Cowichan Basin Showcase Green Infrastructure Innovati](#)<sup>17</sup>[on](#) - Second of three events focuses on role of partnerships in moving a vision from concept to reality

These comprehensive stories are supplemented by a number of stand-alone stories. The latter elaborate on projects which were showcased. Links are listed below:

- [Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: from Awareness to Action](#):<sup>18</sup> Water Plan will be featured in the "Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series"
- [City of Duncan vision is to be one of the most liveable small towns in Canada](#):<sup>19</sup> Official Community Plan will be featured in the "Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series"
- [Blending Urban with Rural in the District of North Cowichan](#):<sup>20</sup> 'Green' developments will be featured in the "Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series"
- [Development of 'O.U.R. Ecovillage' on Vancouver Island established a Canadian precedent](#):<sup>21</sup> Model sustainable village community will be featured in the "Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series"



<sup>16</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=225&type=single>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=266&type=single>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=10&id=237&type=single>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=5&id=234&type=single>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=10&id=235&type=single>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=92&id=236&type=single>

## Comox Valley

The Comox Strathcona Regional District and the City of Courtenay co-hosted the third event. As with the Nanaimo and Cowichan programs, the elements of the Comox program are described in two comprehensive stories, one before the event and the other after:

- [Comox Strathcona Regional District and City of Courtenay co-host third in Showcasing Innovation Series<sup>22</sup>](#) - 'Connecting to Sustainability' is the event theme for celebrating Green Infrastructure
- [Local Governments in the Comox Valley Showcase Green Infrastructure Innovation<sup>23</sup>](#) - Third of three events focuses on role of communication, collaboration and cost-sharing in progressing to sustainability

In addition to the above comprehensive stories, these stand-alone stories provide details of the projects which were showcased. Links are listed below:

- [Municipal Collaboration - Making it Happen in the Comox Valley:<sup>24</sup>](#) Collaboration is one of the keys to 'connecting to sustainability' at the operational level
- [Comox Lake Watershed Assessment - from Awareness to Action on Vancouver Island:<sup>25</sup>](#) Precedent established for British Columbia's Comprehensive Drinking Water Source to Tap Assessment Guideline
- [Innovation in the Comox Valley: First Wal-Mart, Then Home Depot:<sup>26</sup>](#) Capturing rainwater runoff where it falls
- [City of Courtenay the First British Columbia Municipality to Implement a 'Soil Depth Policy'<sup>27</sup>](#)
- [Absorbent Soil for Rainwater Management - Lessons Learned in the City of Courtenay<sup>28</sup>](#)



<sup>22</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=262&type=single>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=89&id=272&type=single>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=6&id=143&type=single>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/wcp/index.asp?sid=21&id=513&type=single>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=93&id=273&type=single>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=93&id=119&type=single>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=93&id=274&type=single>



## Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum

The success of the Showcasing Innovation Series has laid the groundwork for a **Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum** which will be held on December 3, 2007. This will be co-hosted by CAVI and the [Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities](#)<sup>29</sup>.

This event is designed for elected representatives and senior managers in local government. The Leadership Forum is viewed as a first step to enabling Vancouver Island municipalities and regional districts to align their regional growth strategies and official community plans to achieve **A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**. For more on this story, please follow the [link below](#)<sup>30</sup>.

## Who is CAVI?

The CAVI Partnership comprises the [British Columbia Water & Waste Association](#)<sup>31</sup>, the [Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia](#)<sup>32</sup>, the provincial Ministries of Environment and Community Services, and the [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#)<sup>33</sup>.



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 follow the [link below](#).<sup>34</sup>

Posted October 2007

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.avicc.ca/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=27&id=130&type=single>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.bcwwa.org/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.realestatefoundation.com/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/gi/index.asp?sid=5&id=13&type=single>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=13&id=124&type=single>

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## Attachment A Showcasing Innovation Series



# Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



*The CAVI Partnership collaborated with three regional districts and their member municipalities to present....*

## Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

*How land is developed determines how water is used, and how water runs off the land*

<b>WHY:</b>	<p><b>The purpose</b> of the <i>Showcasing Innovation Series</i> is to celebrate... and build on...the on-the-ground successes that are enhancing the ways communities are being developed and water is being managed.</p> <p><b>The goal</b> is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned.</p>	
<b>WHAT:</b>	<p><b>Green infrastructure</b> is associated with how water is used and how water use impacts on the <i>sustainability of water supply</i>.</p> <p><b>Green infrastructure</b> is also associated with the management of water that runs off the land and how water runoff impacts on the <i>sustainability of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat and resources</i>.</p>	
<b>WHEN &amp; WHERE:</b>	<p>Friday, September 14, 2007 Friday, September 28, 2007 Friday, October 12, 2007</p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo Cowichan Valley Regional District Regional District of Comox-Strathcona</p> <p>Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon</p>
<b>WHO:</b>	<p>The Series will be of interest to Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities</p>	
<b>For more information:</b>	<p>Kim Stephens, PEng, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC <a href="mailto:sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca">sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca</a> OR <a href="http://www.conveningforaction.ca">www.conveningforaction.ca</a></p>	

# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

## Showcasing Innovation in the Nanaimo Region: 'Designing with Nature'

The Regional District of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo showcased their over-arching 'green development' policies and how they are being implemented on the ground. The combination of presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon provided some insight into strengths and limitations in trying to develop in a more sustainable manner.

Three policies each address public concerns on different scales: a regional Climate Change policy (which led to *Community Action Plans for Greenhouse Gas Reduction*); a Steep Slope subdivision development policy, and two site-specific approaches: a Green 'Sustainable' building construction policy for City buildings and an alternative rainwater treatment approach taken at a commercial industrial site. Each policy and application represents a 'first' for either the region or the City of Nanaimo.

In the City, the site tour featured Cottle Creek Estates (Steep Slope Development), the Oliver Road Community Centre (LEED Silver Green Building), and the 'Island Kenworth' site on Northfield Road. In the Regional District, the tour featured the Fairwinds Green Solutions Demonstration Home, a rainwater infiltration pond at the RDN offices, and creek channel daylighting at the Greater Nanaimo treatment plant.

## Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin: 'Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality'

The Cowichan Valley Regional District, District of North Cowichan and City of Duncan showcased the role of partnerships – first, in developing a shared vision of what the 'valley future' can look like; and next, in implementing actions that will bring the vision to fruition. The unifying theme is: *to make things happen, local governments need to partner and pool resources.*

The *Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan* has been developed through a uniquely inclusive consultation process; and provides the umbrella for aligning community development policies with emerging best practices. Featured projects will cascade down in scale from the basin....to a neighbourhood and subdivision.... to an industrial park....and to the site/house.

The setting for an interactive experience was *O.U.R. Ecovillage*, located near Shawnigan Lake. The theme was *blending urban with rural to achieve quality of life*. Participants were challenged to brainstorm what aspects of the Ecovillage experience can local governments transfer to an urban development setting?

## Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley: 'Connecting to Sustainability'

The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and the City of Courtenay showcased on-the-ground benefits that result when local governments collaborate to integrate their efforts, and are guided by an holistic way-of-thinking and acting. Case studies will demonstrate how to 'connect the dots' to achieve integrated and sustainable outcomes.

Featured projects ranged from the *Comox Lake Watershed Assessment*, the first to be completed pursuant to the Province's new 'Comprehensive Drinking Water Source to Tap Assessment Guideline'...to servicing of the Home Depot site and surrounding commercial development area. Home Depot is the first application of deep-well injection in BC for returning rainwater runoff to the ground. Also, the innovative design of the water supply system serving the surrounding area is saving everyone money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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## **Attachment B**

# **Showcasing Innovation in the Nanaimo Region**

# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

## Showcasing Innovation in the Nanaimo Region: 'Designing with Nature'

Time	Program for Friday, September 14, 2007		Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at the Regional District of Nanaimo offices at 6300 Hammond Bay Road		
CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS (Kim Stephens, Moderator)			
0900	<b>Context &amp; Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Opening Remarks</li><li>Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability</li></ul>		Joe Stanhope, RDN John Finnie, CAVI
0915	<b>Lessons Learned in Piloting Innovation in the City of Nanaimo</b> <b><i>Oliver Road Community Centre: A LEED Silver Green Building</i></b> The City's Green Building Policy requires all new public buildings over 500 square metres to meet the LEED Silver standard. Because the Oliver Road Community Centre is the first City project to follow the LEED approach, it has been a learning experience, with the lessons learned being transferable to other communities that are considering LEED policies. Having an integrated design and construction team proved invaluable. This approach enabled timely and effective resolution of unforeseen challenges. The team came up with a number of innovative solutions on site, which would not have happened with a traditional approach to project implementation. The site incorporates a number of rainwater capture features.		Rob Lawrance & Maurice Mauch, City of Nanaimo
	<b><i>Rainwater Capture at 'Inland Kenworth' Industrial Site</i></b> This award-winning project applied a unique approach to site development that combined function and design in first capturing and then absorbing rainwater on-site. The site and developer won a City design and environmental award.		Gary Noble & Dean Mousseau, City of Nanaimo
	<b><i>Cottle Creek Estates: First Application of Steep Slope Policy</i></b> Pressure to build on hillside lands was the catalyst for adopting the City's steep slope development permit area and zoning bylaws. Cottle Creek Estates provides an early example of how these bylaws, and Nanaimo's approach to green infrastructure, are being implemented. Guiding principles include altering standard development practices, working with the landscape, and allowing greater opportunity for rainwater to be absorbed by the surrounding landscape.		Kevin Brydges & Deborha Jensen, City of Nanaimo
1100	<b>Climate Change Adaptation: Community Action Plans Set a Direction</b> In 2002, the RDN and City joined the <i>Partners for Climate Change Program</i> . Five individual plans (for the RDN, Nanaimo, Qualicum Beach, Parksville and Lantzville) plus one overall community plan are being developed to reduce corporate energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.		Carey McIver, RDN
1130	Bus departs. A box lunch will be provided.		
	<b>Field Tour:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rainwater infiltration pond at RDN offices</li><li>Fairwinds Green Solutions Demonstration Home</li><li>Island Kenworth industrial site</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oliver Street Community Centre</li><li>Cottle Creek Estates on Hammond Bay Road</li><li>Creek restoration at Greater Nanaimo treatment plant</li></ol>	
1530	Bus returns to RDN offices		

For more information on the Showcasing Innovation Series, contact [sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca)



# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series on Vancouver Island launched in Nanaimo

First of three events shows there is an appetite for  
networking and sharing of lessons learned



## Introduction:

The projected growth of Vancouver Island and resulting cumulative impacts are drivers for reassessing where and how land is developed, and water is used. To promote a new way-of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) has organized [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series](#).

**What could Vancouver  
Island look like in 50 years  
with a new way-of-thinking?**

Where and how land is developed determines  
how water is used => *sustainability of supply,*  
and how water runs off the land  
=> *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

According to **John Finnie**, CAVI Chair, "There are a lot of good things happening throughout Vancouver Island. Yet practitioners in local government are not necessarily aware when they are being innovative and are not often aware of innovation in other municipalities. Because people are so busy in their own worlds, it takes a third party to connect them. That is the role that CAVI plays."



## Showcasing Innovation in Nanaimo

The first event in the series of three was co-hosted by the [Regional District of Nanaimo](#) and the [City of Nanaimo](#) on September 14. "The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Kim Stephens**, Series organizer and event Moderator, and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#).



"CAVI is a regional pilot program that is being implemented under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan," adds Stephens.

Over 50 people from far and wide registered for the Nanaimo event. The diverse audience was comprised of representatives from four regional districts, ten municipalities, three provincial ministries, and a half-dozen private sector organizations. Included in the audience were elected representatives, senior managers, and on-the-ground practitioners.

To read a story that provides a comprehensive overview of the program design for **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Nanaimo Region**, please [click here](#).

### Regional District Context:

In his welcoming remarks, **Joe Stanhope**, Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo, provided context for the day when he described how he has applied [design with nature](#) principles to achieve a water and energy saving home. "On a personal note, my house could very well have been included on the tour today because it demonstrates what CAVI is about. It costs me only \$10 per year to heat my house."



"In the Regional District of Nanaimo, the elected representatives are providing direction through the [Regional Growth Strategy](#). Our actions show that the Board members believe in sustainability," Stanhope added, "Through the Urban Containment Boundary, we have avoided urban sprawl and we are doing our best to do what is right; and that is why the RDN Board is both supporting and partnering with CAVI. As a Board, we believe it is our job to protect the *quality of life* values that attract people to Vancouver Island."

### Report from the CAVI Chair:

**John Finnie** followed Joe Stanhope and provided an overview of what has been accomplished by CAVI in Year One of a 3-year program. "The CAVI Leadership Team is really pleased and somewhat surprised at how successful and how quickly CAVI has advanced in the first year. Today we are at a point where we thought we might be in two or three years from now."



"CAVI had its roots in the [Meeting of the Minds](#) initiative which **Eric Bonham** spearheaded and got off the ground through his passion and energy," noted Finnie, "Originally envisioned as a forum for water and wastewater practitioners to network, *Meeting of the Minds* has morphed into something bigger as CAVI."

Finnie continued: "The CAVI vision for Vancouver Island is catching on. There is increasing interest. The turnout today is an indicator of the interest. We had a wait list for seats on the bus."

"We believe a key to the success of CAVI is that we are talking to people, not preaching at them," stated Finnie, "Our approach is to inform and educate. We do this by creating situations for people to have conversations. Like today."

"The CAVI role is to plant seeds and start the conversations that will lead to action," concluded Finnie, "We are encouraging people to move from conversations to dialogue, and to learn from the experience of each other."

## The Showcasing Series

The Showcasing Innovation Series comprises three one-day events in each of three regional districts, namely:

- Regional District of Nanaimo (September 14)
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (September 28)
- Comox Strathcona Regional District (October 12)



First, the project preview

Then, the site visit

Each event is co-hosted by the regional district and a member municipality. Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon.

"Experience shows that the site tour creates those unplanned moments for spontaneous and effective sharing of knowledge and lessons learned," observes **Kim Stephens**, "We also find that the presentations in the morning serve to whet the appetite of the audience, and people then seek out the one-on-one opportunities to have a conversation on the bus. It is then that the real learning takes place."



The goal in showcasing innovation and celebrating successes is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' – through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of [designing with nature](#).



"Celebrating successes raises the bar and creates a healthy competition that will be self-fulfilling in achieving replication of [design with nature](#) outcomes," adds **Eric Bonham**, Chair of the Highlands Stewardship Foundation and a founding member of CAVI. Bonham also notes that the Series is an effective way to promote region-wide networking and sharing of lessons learned.



## The Nanaimo Program

Consistent with the theme of 'designing with nature', a 6-person City of Nanaimo team led by **Rob Lawrence** (the City's Environmental Planner) presented three case studies that illustrated [Lessons Learned from Piloting Innovation in the City of Nanaimo](#).

- **Case Study 1** - [Oliver Road Community Centre: A LEED Silver Green Building](#)
- **Case Study 2** - [Rainwater Capture at 'Inland Kenworth' Industrial Site](#)
- **Case Study 3** - [Cottle Creek Estates: First Application of Steep Slope Policy](#)



"We describe the approach to program design for the Showcasing Innovation Series as structured flexibility," comments **Kim Stephens**, "While there is a framework and a desired outcome, we emphasize storytelling to encourage conversations within the presentations. People learn best from stories; and when someone tells a story, one never knows where the conversation may lead."

**RDN Content:** The morning part of the Showcasing day was rounded out by a climate change overview by **Carey McIver** of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). In addition, **John Finnie** told introductory anecdotes about three sites included on the bus tour, namely: a rainwater infiltration pond at the RDN offices, the [Fairwinds Green Solutions Demonstration Home](#), and a creek restoration project at the Greater Nanaimo wastewater treatment plant.

## Setting the Context:



**Rob Lawrence** [set the context](#) and introduced the unifying themes for the three City presentations. "Our participation in the Showcasing Innovation Series has served as a catalyst for the City to evaluate our progress to date, and reflect on lessons learned from our experience in piloting innovation," reports Lawrence.

In his presentation, he identified four tools that are enabling City staff to drive green infrastructure innovation in Nanaimo:

Rob Lawrence also elaborated on what is involved in finding the right 'balance' to make things happen on the ground. His introductory comments foreshadowed one of the unifying themes for the three Nanaimo presentations, and that is: *"It's all about people, and most of all, it's about involving the right people at the start. The ingredients for success include passion and a willingness to take a vision and make it happen."*

## Setting the Context

### Green Infrastructure tools used in Nanaimo:

1. City of Nanaimo Green Building Policy
2. City Development Permit Areas
  - Watercourses
  - Parkway
  - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
3. Steep Slope Development Permit Area and Zone
4. Alternative Stormwater Council Policy
  - Development adjacent to watercourses

## Setting the Context

### Finding the right “balance” to make things happen on the ground:

- Leaders and champions
- Set goals and direction
- Integrate goals and processes
- Build partnerships and expertise
- Pilots – build success incrementally
- Monitor and adapt



### Case Study 1 - Oliver Road Community Centre:

The Oliver Road Community Centre is the first public building to be designed and built to a LEED Silver standard. **Rob Lawrence** and **Maurice Mauch** co-presented in order to provide the [Green Building Council Policy](#) and Oliver Road Community Centre project implementation perspectives, respectively.

To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Green Building Policy and Oliver Road Community Centre](#). For more on the presentation by Rob and Maurice, please [click here](#).

### Case Study 2 – Inland Kenworth:

From a City of Nanaimo perspective, the Inland Kenworth industrial development is a milestone project because it represents the turning of the tide in the way land is being developed in the City. Furthermore, the raised expectations have changed the nature of consulting in Nanaimo by stimulating green infrastructure innovation. **Gary Noble** and **Dean Mousseau** co-presented in order to provide the planning and development services perspectives, respectively, as to how the [Nanaimo Parkway Design Guidelines](#) provided the catalyst for designing with nature.

To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Inland Kenworth Site – Northfield Road](#). For more on the presentation by Gary and Dean, please [click here](#).

### Case Study 3 – Cottle Creek Estates:

The [Cottle Creek Estates](#) development is also a milestone project because it demonstrates what can be achieved by applying a design with nature way-of-thinking, both in terms of subdivision development and stream habitat creation. **Deborah Jensen** and **Kevin Brydges** co-presented to describe this first application of the bylaws that created [Steep Slope Zones](#) and the [Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines](#).

To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Cottle Creek Estates on Hammond Bay Road](#). For more on the presentation by Deborah and Kevin, please [click here](#).



## Climate Change Community Action Plans:

In 2002, the Regional District of Nanaimo joined the [Partners for Climate Change Program](#) to reduce corporate energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. From a plan development perspective, the Nanaimo region has established a precedent in the way in which five individual municipal Community Action Plans dovetail with an overall regional plan.

To download a copy of her presentation by **Carey McIver**, please click on this link to [Partners for Climate Protection - Corporate and Community Change Plans](#). For more on her presentation, please [click here](#).



## What is Green Infrastructure?

### Green Vocabulary:

There is a plethora of 'green' vocabulary that we now hear on a daily basis. To develop a common understanding plus help advance a new way-of-thinking about land development, the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** is promoting use of the following hierarchy of 'green' vocabulary:

- **Green Value** means land use strategies will accommodate settlement needs in practical ways while protecting the ecological resources upon which communities depend. At the heart of a *Green Value* approach is the valuation methodology that provides the business case for reconciliation of short-term versus long-term thinking related to risk and profit.
- **Design with Nature** is one approach to achieve *Green Value*, and is supportive of community goals that relate to building social capacity.
- **Green Infrastructure** is the on-the-ground application of *Design with Nature* standards and practices.
- **Water Sustainability** is achieved through *Green Infrastructure* practices that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

### A 'Design with Nature' approach to community design means...



- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Reduce the loads on water, waste and energy systems
- Protect and restore urban 'green' space
- Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection

This cascading vocabulary was unveiled at the [Creating Our Future Workshop](#) that was held in conjunction with the *Gaining Ground Summit* in Victoria in June 2007. The Creating Our Future Workshop was a consultation opportunity for Vancouver Island local governments that are interested in implementing infrastructure practices and regulation that result in **green value**.

### Green Infrastructure Explained:

Green infrastructure is associated with the management of water that runs off the land and how water runoff impacts on the **sustainability of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat and resources**.

Green infrastructure is also associated with how water is used and how water use impacts on the **sustainability of water supply**.

Desired outcomes for **water sustainability** and **green infrastructure** can be achieved through infrastructure standards that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

Posted September 2007

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## Attachment C Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin

# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

## Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin: 'Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality'

Time	Program for Friday, September 28, 2007	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at the Freshwater Eco-Centre at 1080 Wharncliffe Road in Duncan	
<b>CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS</b> (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	<b>Context &amp; Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Remarks – “Learning outcomes for today”</li> <li>Water for BC – Safe, Sustainable and Valued by All</li> <li>Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability</li> </ul>	Mayor Jon Lefebure Zita Botelho, MOE John Finnie, CAVI
0920	<b>Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: from Awareness to Action</b> Moving ‘green infrastructure’ and ‘water sustainability’ from awareness to action requires equipping local governments and the development community with new tools and the capabilities to use those tools.	Tom Anderson, CVRD
	<b>City of Duncan – Vision for a Livable Small Town</b> Consistent with the direction provided by the Water Plan, the City has adopted a new <i>Official Community Plan</i> that establishes expectations for implementation of green infrastructure standards in conjunction with redevelopment and densification	Cheryl Wirsz, City of Duncan
1010	<b>Blending Urban with Rural in the District of North Cowichan</b> Two projects will be profiled: the Echo Heights neighbourhood in Chemainus and Stonegate subdivision. This will be an interactive session as the District wishes to tap the expertise and commonsense of participants. Feedback on Vancouver Island examples that show how to implement green infrastructure effectively will become input to the District’s planning framework for Echo Heights. This segment will also frame the desired learning outcomes for the Ecovillage segment.	Facilitated by Brigid Reynolds & Peter Nilsen, District of North Cowichan
	<b>Koksilah Industrial Park - Adding Value through Green Design</b> Multi-stakeholder collaboration and property redevelopment combine to create an opportunity for development and implementation of a Master Plan that will produce ‘green value’ by retrofitting green infrastructure and stream habitat restoration	Kate Miller, CVRD
1145	Depart by bus for O.U.R. Ecovillage near Shawnigan Lake where lunch will be served	
1230	<b>O.U.R. Ecovillage – What Can Local Governments Learn?</b> Ecovillages are full featured settlements in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future.	Guided tour and presentation by Brandy Gallagher
	<b>Roundtable Forum</b> – How transferable is the Ecovillage experience to a small town urban setting?	Facilitated by Brigid Reynolds
	<b>Closing Remarks</b> - “What we learned today”	Sharon Jackson, Duncan Councillor
1530	Return by bus to Freshwater Eco-Centre in Duncan	

For more information on the Showcasing Innovation Series, contact [sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca)



# Local Governments in the Cowichan Basin Showcase Green Infrastructure Innovation

Second of three events focuses on role of partnerships  
in moving a vision from concept to reality



## Introduction:

The projected growth of Vancouver Island and resulting cumulative impacts are drivers for reassessing where and how land is developed, and water is used. To promote a new way-of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) has organized [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series](#).

The goal in showcasing innovation and celebrating successes is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' – through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of [designing with nature](#).

INSIDE



First, the case study overview

OUTSIDE



Then, the site visit

## A Unique Forum for Local Government

The Showcasing Innovation Series comprises three one-day events. Each is structured as presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon.

"The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Kim Stephens**, Series organizer and event Moderator, and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#).



"CAVI is a regional pilot program that is being implemented under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan," adds **John Finnie**, CAVI Chair, "This is allowing us to adapt lessons learned from regional pilots undertaken in Metro Vancouver and in the South Okanagan."

## Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin

The second event in the series of three was co-hosted by the Cowichan Valley Regional District, District of North Cowichan, and City of Duncan on September 28. The Cowichan event was titled **Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality**.

**John Finnie** reports that close to 50 people registered for the Cowichan event. "Our expectations are being exceeded. When we look at who registered, we are struck by the diversity of the audience. There were representatives from four regional districts, ten municipalities, two provincial ministries, a number of private sector organizations, and several non-government organizations," Finnie explained.

"We had a great mix of people and perspectives. We had elected representatives, senior managers, and on-the-ground practitioners," he added.

To read a story that provides a comprehensive overview of the program design for **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Cowichan Basin**, please [click here](#).

## Two Venues Add Interest



The day was organized in two parts. The morning session was held at the [Freshwater Eco-Centre](#) in Duncan. The afternoon session was held at [O.U.R. Ecovillage](#) near Shawnigan Lake.

"Given that the Cowichan River is the lifeblood of the Cowichan Valley, it was especially appropriate to host the morning session at the Freshwater Eco-Centre which serves an important outreach and educational function", notes **Kate Miller**, Environmental Manager with the [Cowichan Valley Regional District](#).



"We selected **O.U.R. Ecovillage** for the afternoon session for a walkabout because it is an outstanding model of how the combination of passion and partnerships can move a vision from concept to reality," continues **Peter Nilsen**, Assistant Municipal Engineer with the [District of North Cowichan](#).

"This unique location enabled us to explore the theme: *blending urban with rural to achieve quality of life*," adds **Brigid Reynolds**, District of North Cowichan planner.

## The Cowichan Program

Three overview presentations provided context for the day. **Jon Lefebure**, Mayor of the District of North Cowichan and Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, opened by describing his vision for water sustainability. **Zita Botelho**, Ministry of Environment, followed with a provincial perspective on partnerships. **John Finnie** closed by describing how CAVI originated and where it is heading.

The core program comprised a set of four case study presentations that described current initiatives. The case studies were presented as packages of two. Please click on the links below to access the PowerPoint slideshow for each case study:

- **Case Study 1** - [Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: from Awareness to Action](#) – Moving 'green infrastructure' and 'water sustainability' from awareness to action requires equipping local governments and the development community with new tools and the capabilities to use those tools. The Water Plan has established a policy direction that will trickle down to influence how water is used and how it runs off the land.
- **Case Study 2** - [City of Duncan – Vision for a Livable Small Town](#) – Consistent with the direction provided by the Water Plan, the City has adopted a new Official Community Plan that establishes expectations for implementation of green infrastructure standards in conjunction with redevelopment and densification.
- **Case Study 3** - [Koksilah Industrial Park – Adding Value through Design and Partnerships](#) - Multi-stakeholder collaboration and property redevelopment combine to create an opportunity for implementation of a Master Plan for the Koksilah Industrial Park that will produce 'green value' by retrofitting green infrastructure and stream habitat restoration.
- **Case Study 4** - [Blending Urban with Rural in the District of North Cowichan: Innovative Subdivision Design](#) – This was an interactive session because the District wished to tap the expertise and commonsense of participants. Feedback on Vancouver Island examples that show how to implement green infrastructure effectively will become input to the District's planning framework for the Echo Heights neighbourhood in Chemainus..

To download a copy of a handout that contains program information for the Showcasing Innovation Series, the Cowichan agenda, and other pertinent information relating to CAVI and the Water Sustainability Action Plan....please click on this link to [Cowichan Showcasing Innovation Handout](#).

## Setting the Context

A CAVI theme is that it often takes a third party to bring busy people together. This is the CAVI role. According to **Kim Stephens**, "Experience shows that intra-region communication among local governments tends to be the exception rather than the rule. The CAVI objective is to turn the exception into the rule."

### Regional Perspective:

**Mayor John Lefebure** touched on the need for collaboration in his opening remarks: "As both the Mayor of North Cowichan and Chair of the Regional District, I am really pleased to see the involvement of both staffs in the Showcasing Innovation Series. This is really good because I need you both working together."



"Water in the District of North Cowichan is a huge concern," the Mayor continued, "The [Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan](#) is having a certain amount of challenges on the political side. But the Plan is such an important regional initiative that we simply must follow through....because there are major issues around water supply, and I relate those issues to how land is developed."

In elaborating on the implications of the current water situation, the Mayor introduced his vision for a path forward in these terms: "I believe and hope we can use the limitations of the water resource to plan our future better. As an elected representative, I find myself continually in a state of contradiction. As local government, we have been responsible for growth. That's been our business. Looking back, we never anticipated that one day we might actually conclude that there are limitations."

Building on the theme of limitations and planning for the future, **Mayor Jon Lefebure** noted there is an engine of development. "We have to think about how to operate that engine differently," he stated, "We must focus on preserving what we have that provides our quality of life. As a group, politicians tend to be conservative. This means we tend not to be as forward looking as perhaps we should be. Moving forward from today, I would like the political leadership of Vancouver Island to be more proactive. I am therefore pleased and excited that CAVI is partnering with the [Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities](#) to co-host a [Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum](#) on December 3."



### Provincial Perspective:

**Zita Botelho**, Manager of Water Strategic Initiatives and a member of the Innovation and Planning Team in the [Water Stewardship Division](#) of the Ministry of Environment, built on the partnerships and collaboration theme in providing a provincial perspective.



According to **Zita Botelho**, "CAVI exemplifies the partnerships and innovation that are required in BC to meet all the water challenges that we face province-wide. The Ministry of Environment funds the work of the BCWWA Sustainability Committee, one of the CAVI founding partners, because the committee provides a forum for the Ministry of Environment to engage with a variety of partners. This leads to leveraging of efforts through programs such as the Showcasing Innovation Series."





To download a copy of Zita Botelho's PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Water Leadership – making it upstream through Innovation and Partnership](#). To read a story that elaborates on what she said, please [click here](#).

### CAVI Perspective:

**John Finnie**, CAVI Chair, is General Manager of Environmental Services for the [Regional District of Nanaimo](#). In his overview remarks, he provided the next level of detail in highlighting how the [CAVI Partnership](#) is translating a shared vision into action that is resulting in an expanding and inclusive partnership.



"CAVI had its roots in the [Meeting of the Minds](#) initiative which **Eric Bonham** spearheaded and got off the ground through his passion and energy," explained **John Finnie**, "Originally envisioned as a forum for water and wastewater practitioners to network, *Meeting of the Minds* has morphed into something bigger as CAVI."

"We believe a key to the success of CAVI is that we are talking to people, not preaching at them," stated Finnie, "Our approach is to inform and educate. We do this by creating situations for people to have conversations. Like today."

"The CAVI role is to provide venues which create opportunities to start conversations that will ultimately lead to action," concluded Finnie, "We are encouraging people to move from conversations to dialogue, and to learn from the experience of each other."

To download John Finnie's PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Creating Our Future: Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#).

### Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

- ☑ **September 14 – Nanaimo Region**  
'Designing with Nature'
- ☑ **September 28 – Cowichan Basin**  
'Partnerships & Collaboration –  
Moving from Concept to Reality'
- ☑ **October 12 – Comox Valley**  
'Connecting to Sustainability'



## Case Study 1 - Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan

No one wants to run out of water. That is why the **Cowichan Basin Water Management Forum** has been working to establish a basin-wide *Water Management Plan*. The plan will ensure that there is enough water - for people and ecosystems - now and in the future. **Tom Anderson** explained why the vulnerability of supply is a driver for changes in the way water is managed at a watershed scale and used at the site scale.

To download a copy of his PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: from Awareness to Action](#). For an earlier story on this initiative, please [click here](#).

## Case Study 2 - City of Duncan Official Community Plan

The City of Duncan community vision is to be one of the most liveable small towns in Canada. The City of Duncan approached the updating of its Official Community Plan with a social responsibility to accept the density in the region because the City is fully serviced, this will help curb sprawl, and it will enable us to do our part to implement Smart Growth principles in a small town setting.

**Sue Hallet**, the primary author of the Official Community Plan, filled in for **Cheryl Wirsz** of the City and explained the thinking behind plan development. To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [City of Duncan – Vision for a Livable Small Town](#). For an earlier story on this initiative, please [click here](#).

## Case Study 3 - Master Plan for Koksilah Industrial Park

The **Koksilah Industrial Park** is located in close proximity to the Koksilah River. **Kate Miller** spoke to the partnership theme in describing a process that is currently unfolding to restore the habitat values of a drainage connection from the Koksilah Industrial Park to the Koksilah River.

To download a copy of her PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Koksilah Industrial Park – Adding Value through Design and Partnerships](#)

## Case Study 4 - Development Plan for Echo Heights Neighbourhood

Echo Heights is a 52-acre parcel of municipally owned land. The Municipality proposed to develop it in the early 90's using a traditional single-family subdivision layout but market conditions postponed this initiative. In 2005, the Municipality began a planning process to discuss how the parcel could be developed. For an earlier story on this process, please [click here](#).

To download a copy of the PowerPoint presentation by **Brigid Reynolds** and **Peter Nilsen** that provided context for a breakout group session, please click on this link to [Blending Urban with Rural in the District of North Cowichan: Innovative Subdivision Design](#).

This was an interactive session because the District wished to tap the expertise and commonsense of participants from other municipalities. After an introduction by Brigid and Peter, breakout groups provided mini-forums for obtaining feedback from participants on the currently proposed development concept plan. The ideas generated in the breakout session will become input to the District's planning framework for Echo Heights. This exercise may lead to possible refinements to the Concept Plan.





## An Afternoon at O.U.R. Ecovillage

**O.U.R. Ecovillage** began operations in 1999 with a mandate to create a model demonstration sustainable village community rooted in social, ecological, and economic well being. People from all walks of life and all ages are able to benefit from educational services on redesigned sustainable modes of living, delivered on the location in a healthy, supportive, and operational Ecovillage.

The "O.U.R." stands for One United Resource.

**O.U.R. Ecovillage** acts as a bridge between the rural and urban experience. The Ecovillage offers a protected green space and a healthy, supportive community learning environment for residents and participants in programs and the wider local and global communities.

**Brandy Gallagher** explained how O.U.R. Ecovillage was started and how over \$1 million in grant monies have been invested to create a demonstration project that has attracted international attention.



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## Attachment D Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley

# Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

## Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley: 'Connecting to Sustainability'

Time	Program for Friday, October 12, 2007	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at the offices of Comox-Strathcona Regional District (600 Comox Rd, Courtenay)	
<b>CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS</b> (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	<b>Context &amp; Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Remarks</li> <li>Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability</li> <li>Green Infrastructure Partnership: Convening for Action in British Columbia</li> </ul>	Mayor Starr Winchester Eric Bonham, CAVI Susan Rutherford
0920	<b>Municipal Collaboration – Making it Happen at the Operational Level</b> The Regional District, Courtenay and Comox are making progress on the ground because they communicate and collaborate. Examples will be provided to illustrate how efforts are being integrated and resources are being pooled.	Kevin Lagan, City, & Graeme Faris, CSRD
0945	<b>Comox Lake Watershed Assessment – from Awareness to Action</b> Continued urbanization within the Comox valley coupled with competing land uses and recreational interests within the Comox Lake watershed have led to shared concerns and co-operative actions aimed at managing watershed uses to ensure water quality is preserved. Completed in accordance with provincial drinking water source to tap assessment guidelines, the watershed assessment process shows how a range of interested parties – including numerous governments - can work cooperatively towards common watershed protection objectives.	Graeme Faris & Ron Neufeld, CSRD
1030	<b>Innovation in the Comox Valley: First Wal-Mart, Then Home Depot</b> Both Wal-Mart and Home Depot capture rainwater runoff, treat it and retain it in the catchment area. <b>Wal-Mart</b> was the first big box store to come to Courtenay. This development precipitated the beginning of a major change in how the City administers the zoning/development/approval process, collaborates with other agencies and also manages the rainwater resource. <b>Home Depot</b> established a BC precedent when it implemented a deep deep-well system for injecting rainwater runoff and recharging the underlying groundwater aquifer. Also, a unique partnership with other commercial property owners resulted in an innovative plan for sustaining water supply pressures without relying on BC Hydro.	Kevin Lagan, City
1115	<b>Absorbent Soil for Rainwater Management - Lessons Learned</b> The City of Courtenay was the first BC municipality to adopt a policy requiring developers to provide a minimum soil depth on building sites as a rainwater management tool. The challenge is in how to ensure that developers and house builders fulfil their obligations to provide and preserve the minimum required depth	Sandy Pridmore, City
1145	Lunch will be provided	
1230 until 1530	<b>Field tour on a transit bus that has Internet access!</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Veterans Memorial Parkway:</b> <i>engineered detention pond; Findley Creek tributary stormwater separation; and habitat compensation for the Red Legged Frog</i></li> <li><b>Muir Road Development:</b> <i>Findlay Creek flow augmentation and community detention ponds</i></li> <li><b>Comox Lake</b></li> <li><b>Compost/Skyrocket Plant</b></li> </ol>	

For more information on the Showcasing Innovation Series, contact [sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca)



# Local Governments in the Comox Valley Showcase Green Infrastructure Innovation

Third of three events focuses on role of communication, collaboration and cost-sharing in progressing to sustainability



## Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

- ☑ September 14 – Nanaimo Region  
'Designing with Nature'
- ☑ September 28 – Cowichan Basin  
'Partnerships & Collaboration –  
Moving from Concept to Reality'
- ☑ October 12 – Comox Valley  
'Connecting to Sustainability'

### Introduction:

The projected growth of Vancouver Island and resulting cumulative impacts are drivers for reassessing where and how land is developed, and water is used. To promote a new way-of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) has organized [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series](#).

Each event has been co-hosted by a regional district and one or more of its member municipalities. Each event has comprised presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon.



INSIDE



First, the project preview

OUTSIDE



Then, the site visit

## The Showcasing Innovation Series:

The third in the series was co-hosted by the Comox-Strathcona Regional District and the City of Courtenay on October 12. To view a previous story, please [click here](#).

The goal in showcasing innovation and celebrating successes is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' – through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of [designing with nature](#).



"The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Kim Stephens**, Series organizer and event Moderator, and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#).

According to Kim Stephens, "A Showcasing Innovation event is not a conference. Neither is it a workshop nor seminar in the conventional sense. Rather the purpose of the presentations is to whet the appetites of participants for the site tour that follows. The quality one-on-one conversations take place on the bus and when we go for a walkabout."

## Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley

The Comox Valley event was titled **Connecting to Sustainability**. The City of Courtenay and the Regional District showcased how they are making tangible progress on-the-ground through a philosophy that embodies the three C's: *communication, collaboration* and *cost-sharing*.



**Ron Neufeld**, the Regional District's Senior Manager of Operational Services, reports that over 40 people registered for the Comox Valley event. According to Neufeld, "Once the program details were announced, the response was immediate and we very quickly reached the bus capacity,"

"When we look at who registered, we are struck by the diversity of the audience. There were representatives from three regional districts, ten municipalities, the Clearbrook Waterworks District from the Fraser Valley, two provincial ministries, a number of private sector organizations, and several non-government organizations," **Kim Stephens** elaborated.

"We had a great mix of people and perspectives. We had a representative of the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, a number of senior managers in engineering and planning departments, on-the-ground practitioners, and community activists," he added.

To read a story that provides a comprehensive overview of the program design for Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Comox Valley, please [click here](#).



## Program Scope

**Starr Winchester**, Mayor of the City of Courtenay and Chair of the Comox Stathcona Regional District, opened by providing a regional sustainability context. **Eric Bonham**, representing the CAVI Leadership Team, followed by describing how CAVI originated and where it is heading. **Susan Rutherford**, representing the Green Infrastructure Partnership, closed by providing a synopsis of the Showcasing Innovation Series on both sides of the Georgia Basin.

The core program comprised a set of four case study presentations that described current initiatives. The case studies were presented as packages of two. Please click on the links below to access the PowerPoint slideshow for each case study:

- **Case Study 1** – [Municipal Collaboration - Making it Happen](#) – Local government collaboration is one of the keys to connecting to sustainability. Efforts are being integrated and resources are being pooled. To read a previous story please [click here](#).
- **Case Study 2** – [Comox Lake Watershed Assessment – from Awareness to Action](#) – Comox Lake is an unprotected watershed. An action plan is being developed to address risk as a function of likelihood of occurrence, consequence if something happens, and vulnerability. To read a previous story please, please [click here](#).
- **Case Study 3** – [Innovation in the Comox Valley: first Wal-Mart, then Home Depot](#) – Big box development has been the trigger for major changes in land development practices. In particular, rainfall capture is now standard practice in the City. To read a previous story please, please [click here](#).
- **Case Study 4** – [Absorbent Soils For Rainwater Management and Achieving Compliance To Meet Green Infrastructure Goals](#) – Courtenay was the first BC municipality to require that a minimum soil depth be retained on building sites. Enforcement is the operational challenge. To read a previous story please, please [click here](#).

To download a copy of a handout that contains program information for the Showcasing Innovation Series, the Comox agenda, and other pertinent information relating to CAVI and the Water Sustainability Action Plan...please click on this link to [Comox Showcasing Innovation Handout](#).



## Setting the Context

A CAVI theme is that it often takes a third party to bring busy people together. This is the CAVI role. According to **Kim Stephens**, "Experience shows that intra-region communication among local governments tends to be the exception rather than the rule. The CAVI objective is to turn the exception into the rule."

### Local Government Perspective:

**Mayor Starr Winchester** referred to the Premier's call for action at the recent annual conference of the Union of BC Municipalities. "Local government leaders are telling our staffs that we want to be a sustainable community tomorrow," she stated. "We are not being so unrealistic as to ask for this yesterday," she added with a twinkle in her eye.

"Like most other areas on Vancouver Island, the Comox Valley is at a major cross-roads as to how we will develop and still maintain the natural beauty of our community," she continued, "This is a real challenge."



Mayor Winchester explained that: "We want to keep our rural areas rural, yet we are faced with many people coming into the valley, especially now that we have an international airport."

"We are experiencing phenomenal growth," she continued, "So we are really depending on the practitioners to keep us grounded and realistic so that growth will be sustainable."

Mayor Winchester concluded by referring to the position of her Council on sustainability: "Two years ago we made a resolution to raise the bar, and that's why you are here today...to help us further raise the bar so that we can ensure a sustainable future for the Comox Valley."

### CAVI Perspective:

**Eric Bonham**, a founding member of CAVI, told the story behind CAVI and highlighted how the CAVI Partnership is translating a shared vision into action that is resulting in an expanding and inclusive partnership.



"This started in 2002 when I was still with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and a Director of BCWWA," Eric told his audience, "I had the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of Vancouver Island and talk to people about the issues of concern to them. I would ask ...where are we going on Vancouver Island."

Eric elaborated on how it became clear through all these conversations that there was a shared concern: there was no forum for discussing the future of Vancouver Island. Filling this vacuum provided the impetus for CAVI.



To provide context for the Showcasing Innovation Series, Eric referred to a quote from Patrick Condon: ***What the cell is to the body, the site is to the region.*** “If we are to have a healthy Vancouver Island region, then every site needs to be developed in a manner that sustains the health of the region,” Eric postulated.

For the complete text of Eric’s remarks, please [click here](#). To download a copy of his PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Creating Our Future: Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#).

## Green Infrastructure Partnership Perspective:

**Susan Rutherford**, a lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law and a member of the Green Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee, described how the Green Infrastructure Partnership has supported CAVI in undertaking the *Showcasing Innovation Series*.

According to Susan, “The philosophical underpinning of the green infrastructure approach is a design with nature way-of-thinking and acting. This is very intuitive. It is about ensuring that when we plan our communities, we keep the ecological systems that we rely upon in the forefront of our thinking.”

“When we organized a consultation workshop for local governments in the Greater Vancouver region in 2005, people in local government told us that they wanted a venue where they could share successes and tribulations,” she continued, “They told us that they didn’t want another document that would go on the shelf. They wanted to hear the stories from those who are overcoming hurdles to make green infrastructure happen on the ground.”



“The Showcasing Innovation Series gets people excited,” reported Susan, “It is amazing. It works. People want to tell their stories and they want to learn from their neighbours.”

To learn more about what Susan talked about, please [click here](#) to read a story about how the Green Infrastructure Partnership has evolved the Showcasing Innovation Series. To download a copy of Susan’s PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Convening for Action to Change the Way We Develop](#)

[Land: Design with Nature](#).



## Context Presentations

The four presentations covered a broad range of subject areas that demonstrated the breadth and depth of inter-governmental collaboration.

### Case Study 1 – Municipal Collaboration - Making it Happen

**Graeme Faris** and **Kevin Lagan** described on-the-ground benefits that result when local governments collaborate to integrate their efforts, and are guided by an holistic way-of-thinking and acting. They provided examples of how local governments in the Comox Valley are 'connecting the dots' to achieve integrated and sustainable outcomes.



To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Municipal Collaboration - Making it Happen](#).

### Case Study 2 – Comox Lake Watershed Assessment – from Awareness to Action

The Comox Strathcona Regional District manages the Comox Valley Water System. Water originates in Comox Lake, is taken from the Puntledge River downstream of the lake, and delivered to over 40,000 people. The lake is a glacier-fed lake that is also used for power generation by BC Hydro, maintenance of fish hatcheries by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, recreation by anglers, boaters and swimmers.



**Graeme Faris** and **Ron Neufeld** described the steps in the process for completing the first Watershed Assessment in accordance with the new drinking water source to tap guidelines. According to **Graeme Faris**, "The Watershed Assessment is done. We have commitments from the stakeholders. We have informed the public. But this is just the opening salvo. We are now moving into Phase 2 to develop strategies to meet water demand and manage risk."

To download a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to

[Comox Lake Watershed Assessment – from Awareness to Action](#).



## Case Study 3 – Innovation in the Comox Valley: first Wal-Mart, then Home Depot

Wal-Mart established the precedent for rainwater runoff capture in the City of Courtenay. The Home Depot development then went beyond the Wal-Mart experience when it established a British Columbia precedent for deep-well injection of runoff for groundwater aquifer recharge.



According to **Kevin Lagan**, “As the Wal-Mart development is situated adjacent to the Millard Creek, any loss of precipitation to the catchments area was deemed to be critical. For this reason, the precipitation falling on the roof area of Wal-mart, Winners and Staples (approx. 1.2 hectares) is captured, passed through an oil/grit interceptor and then discharged into a artificial aquifer running the length of the west side of the development.”

“At the Home Depot site, roof and parking lot drainage is controlled and piped to oil/grit interceptors,” continued Kevin, “From there, the drainage water is piped to exfiltration galleries, with any excess flow going to a deep-well injection system.”

To download a copy of his PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Innovation in the Comox Valley: first Wal-Mart, then Home Depot](#)

## Case Study 4 – Absorbent Soil for Rainwater Management: Lessons Learned

The *Official Community Plan* states that a minimum depth of 300mm of topsoil or amended organic soil will be provided on all landscaped areas. The required depth is increased to 450mm for shrubs, and is 300mm around and below the root ball of all trees of a property. Soil depth is a requirement in all new subdivisions.

According to **Sandy Pridmore**, “The purpose of the soil is to function as a sponge. In terms of implementing the soil depth requirement, we have little or no problems in commercial or multi-family developments. It is the single-family properties where ensuring compliance causes me challenges. This is a work in progress. Increasingly, it looks like we will have to rely on an educational approach so that everyone involved will understand what we are trying to achieve.”



To download a copy of Sandy's PowerPoint presentation, please click on this link to [Absorbent Soils For Rainwater Management and Achieving Compliance To Meet Green Infrastructure Goals](#) .

## Scenic Tour

Transit ridership continues to grow faster in the Comox Valley than anywhere else in British Columbia. As the showcasing tour moved from site to site, there was a discussion of some of the ways that the region has been encouraging the use of public transit - including on-line internet service that will be available in November on major bus routes, notably the Courtenay to Campbell route..



### **Stops Within the City of Courtenay:**

The field trip portion of *Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley* included a drive by Home Depot, Mazda and Toyota; and stops at the Veterans Memorial Parkway and the Muir Road Development. It was a 2 kilometre walkabout to visit the sites of interest along the Parkway.

According to **Kevin Lagan**, "At the Veterans Memorial Parkway, we showcased an engineered wetland, stormwater separation on the Findley Creek tributary, and habitat compensation for the Red Legged Frog. When we visited the Muir Road Development, the focus was on Findley Creek flow augmentation and community detention ponds."

Please click on this link to download a copy of [Comox Valley Showcasing Innovation Tour within the City of Courtenay](#) to see where these stops of interest are located.





Along the Veterans Memorial Parkway, the group found the road crossing provisions for the Red Legged Frog to be intriguing. In the photo below can be seen the half-pipe section which is intended to direct the frog to the designated crossing points.



A memorable moment on the bus ride was circling around the roundabout, not once but twice. Previously, there was a high frequency of occurrence of traffic accidents at the original 4-way intersection. Construction of the roundabout involved a partnership comprising the City, ICBC and the Ministry of Highways.



### **Stops Outside the City of Courtenay:**

"We also visited Comox Lake; and on the way back to town we stopped at our SkyRocket biosolids composting plant," added **Graeme Faris**, "The compost is made of wood chips from processed wood waste received at the landfill and biosolids from the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre."

Please click on this link to download a copy of [Comox Valley Showcasing Innovation Tour outside the City of Courtenay](#) to see where these stops of interest are located.

