

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	
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province's Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives provide a framework for convening for action in order to improve the way that land is developed and water is used in BC. 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>). 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. 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. 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". 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 how to implement the regional team approach (i.e. "a unified approach from all levels of government").
The Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
Meeting the Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme, Getting Ahead of the Wave, defines what needs to be accomplished by the 2009 Series in building on the 2008 foundation. The 2009 Series will build on the water-centric credibility and strengths of the 2008 Series to raise the bar in addressing Settlement in Balance with Ecology in a pragmatic way: "Here is what it looks like; this is where it is going." The 2009 Series will serve as the springboard to advance integration of current Comox Valley regional initiatives in 2010. The unifying theme will be: <i>what all the plans will achieve</i>. The 2009 Series will also serve as a "springboard beyond the Comox Valley" in order to demonstrate what A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island could look like. 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. The 2009 Series will address the Water/Energy Cycle in the context of Climate Change Adaptation. 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.