

Revelstoke Development News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

JUNE 23, 2004

*Revelstoke
Economic
Development
Commission*

*Community
Futures
Development
Corporation of
Revelstoke*

*Revelstoke
Community
Skills
Centre*

*Revelstoke
Chamber of
Commerce*

*Revelstoke
Tourism*

*Revelstoke
Business
Mentorship
Program*

Revelstoke Community Energy Corporation

The wood residue fired \$5.3M biomass energy project of Revelstoke Community Energy Corp. (RCEC) to heat Downie's dry kilns and a number of buildings on a Community Energy System (CES) will now proceed. The Project will benefit from a Green Municipal Investment Fund grant and loan combination of approximately \$2.7 million. The Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation has made a \$1.25M capital investment in the project. The balance of funding is coming from the Revelstoke Credit Union and the City's Electrical Utility Reserve Fund, as preferred shares. Twenty year Energy Supply Agreements have been signed with Downie and the School District, as well as a twenty year Fuel Supply Agreement with Downie.

"This project is another example of Revelstoke's forward thinking and entrepreneurship," said Mayor Mark McKee. "The project will give rise to other opportunities for Downie and for extension of the CES to other parts of the City, especially as anticipated increases in the costs of other energy sources make the CES increasingly attractive. Now that financing is in place and the bids on the pipe and boiler have been received, the project is close enough to budget to give City Council and the RCEC the confidence needed to give the 'go ahead'." City Council is establishing a RCEC Board of Directors and a call for citizens interested in serving on the Board has been advertised.

The plant will be constructed on a 1/2-acre site across from the dry kilns. The property is being donated to the project by Downie St. Sawmills. Once detailed drawings for the plant are received, a contract will be let for construction of the building, which will be ready to receive the boiler for installation in November 2004. The plant is due to be in operation in early 2005. The plant has been designed so that incremental boiler capacity can be added as needed.

It is estimated that the project will result in a net 40 - 60 % process efficiency improvement (in energy capture, transmission and delivery), primarily because of utilizing a state-of-the-art biomass combustor, renewable and locally sourced fuel, as well as offsetting energy transmission/transport losses. It is also estimated that the project will result in greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions of over 4,000 metric tonnes per year from propane offsets, and reductions in nitrogen oxide (NO_x), sulphuric oxide (SO_x) and particulate matter (PM).

Larry Marchand of Paragon Project Management Services was the successful applicant to RCEC's call for proposals in early May and has been contracted to provide Project Construction Management services. Mr. Marchand will soon be soliciting expressions of interest from local contractors to do various aspects of the project.

KMW Systems Inc. of London, Ontario was the low tender on the boiler and Mr. Eric Rosen, a principal of KMW, as well as, the project-engineering consultants (John Chin and Jim Manson of FVB Energy Inc.) will be in Revelstoke the week of June 28 to finalize the boiler contract. The pipe for the CES has been ordered and will arrive in August. The laying of the pipelines will take up to four months.

Geoff Battersby

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Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce

May 1st saw the opening of the Visitor InfoCentre (VIC) back in Grizzly Plaza. In May 2003, the Plaza VIC served 2,449 visitors, this year the count for May is 3,054 persons, up 605 visitors for the month. The number of visitors to the VIC is up for the first two weeks of June as well, let's hope this trend continues for the rest of the summer months.

Construction is well underway on the new VIC location at the Canadian Avalanche Centre. The building is scheduled to be at the lock-up stage by July 1st. This will be an excellent facility and a good use of the building by two non-profit organizations in the community.

On June 14th the Chamber and the Revelstoke Times Review hosted the Federal Election All Candidates Forum. All four candidates were present and the evening was attended by nearly 130 citizens with a broad cross-section of questions tabled to the candidates.

The Chamber has scheduled Michael Tindall from the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce to deliver a seminar for local retailers in October. Vernon is seeing a considerable shift on the retail sector with the new WalMart and significant development at the north end of that city. These retail expansions can have a serious effect on local retailers. Watch for more information on this seminar in the fall.

Thom Tischik

Revelstoke TOURISM

We attended the Vancouver Outdoor, Travel & Golf Show and the Calgary Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show this spring to promote interest in tourism in our area.

The all new Bed & Breakfast/Camping Brochure has arrived. The new 2004/2005 Vacation Guide is here as well. This year, the number of copies printed increased to 35,000. We are still getting feed back from around the province that our Vacation Guide publication is one of the best there is out there. Copies are available at the Chamber office or at the VIC Center which is open for the summer at 111 Mackenzie Ave. The 2004 'City Tourism Map' is also available.

Work is progressing on revising the Hiking and Biking Brochures. If any of you are Hiking or Biking gurus for our area, I could use your help and input. Please give me a call at 837-5345 if you can help. I would greatly appreciate it.

Gerry Gardner

Revelstoke Community Skills Centre

As government dollars for community programs have been reduced, so to has the income for the Revelstoke Community Skills Centre. The Revelstoke English Language School has been the best source of income since both Provincial and Federal dollars ended.

The Revelstoke English Language School celebrated its first year of operation in May. Since May 2003 there have been over 70 International students registered to study English and learn about Revelstoke, British Columbia and Canada. The staff, Homestay families, School District # 19 staff and members of the community have been great hosts for our students.

Students leave Revelstoke with a great appreciation of our beautiful mountain community and the value of the friendly people they have met here. Official visitors and business people who have visited the Revelstoke English Language School have also appreciated the welcome received in Revelstoke.

This summer will be busy with over twenty students registered for programs and a tentative scheduling of 49, Grade 7 to 9 students from Korea for 10 days starting July 25. Upon confirmation of the 49 students many Homestay placements will be needed and the tentative integration plans with the City's Parks and Recreation programs will need to be confirmed.

A big cheer for all the Revelstoke people who have welcomed students into their homes and organized many hours of recreation and enjoyment for our International students! We all have benefited from learning more about many different cultures.

Carol Powadiuk

REVELSTOKE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CENTRE

117 CAMPBELL AVENUE

Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

What We Can Do For Employers:

Job Postings Need an employee? Give us a call at 814-0244, tell us what you need, and your posting will be on our board in minutes. Over 75 people a day will see your posting.

Application / Resume Drop Off Your job posting can specify the Centre as the drop off for resumes and applications – you collect them at your convenience.

Assistance with Interview Techniques We can help with sample interview questions.

Employer Programs We can help with how to access employer programs such as the Employment Wage Subsidy program. For information call Annie Christman at 837-5888.

Economic Development Commission

THE NUMBERS PROVE IT-REVELSTOKE IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!!

While we often hear that statistics can be used to prove almost anything, some recent information compiled by BC Stats indicates that **Revelstoke is one of the top ten BC communities** to live in.

On a regular basis, BC Stats collects information related to a number of socio-economic measures for local health areas in the province. These socio-economic indices consider factors such as the demographic profile of the community, human economic hardship levels, labour market structure, education concerns, crime rates, health problems in the community, the number of children at risk and the number of youth at risk. The local health area is a good geographic area to look at because it essentially covers the community of Revelstoke.

Several different variables are used to determine how each community measures up with respect to these indices. For example, two measures of economic hardship are the percentage of the population in a community receiving income assistance and the percentage of seniors receiving the maximum guaranteed income supplement. Crime rates are measured, in part, by tracking the number of violent crimes and the number of serious property crimes. Education concerns are benchmarked by measuring, among other things, the percentage of students who did not graduate and the percentage of students below standard in Grade 4 reading, writing and math. The levels of children and youth at risk are partly measured by the percentage of the population aged 0-18 who are in receipt of income assistance. Health problems are measured by calculating the number of potential years of life lost due to natural causes, accidental causes and suicides/homicides.

These, and many other statistics, are compiled for each local health area in B.C. and the data for each variable is rolled together into a composite index to measure how the local area is doing relative to other health areas in the province. Based on data collected during 2003, Revelstoke ranked #9 out of 78 local health areas in the province. Revelstoke scored very well on indices measuring economic hardship, crime, and children and youth at risk, and above the median for indices measuring health problems and education concerns.

While it is always rewarding to be recognized as one of the top communities in the province, particularly when the recognition is based on objective and measurable data, that is not to say that we can sit back and admire the view from above. We are ranked so highly thanks to the good work done by many people in the community — businesses, the non-profit sector, workers in government, education and health care, and the many volunteers who are active in Revelstoke. To maintain

Community Futures

Festival and Events Coordination & Marketing

With funding assistance received from Western Economic Diversification, we have been fortunate to initiate several new and enhanced tourism marketing products. Three new billboards have been installed: one just east of Sicamous, one just west of Golden and one on Mutas Road (behind A & W and McDonalds) in Revelstoke. These signs are intended to draw visitors into downtown Revelstoke. Interactive visitor information kiosks at the Rogers Pass Centre and Railway Museum have been updated with new equipment and interactive programming. Four target market CD ROMs have been completed for promoting Revelstoke as a place to live, visit and/or invest.

The Festival and Events Coordinator has been very busy assisting with upcoming summer events. The Revelstoke Beats and Blues Festival, Timber Days, Railway Days and Mountain Arts Festival will all benefit from increased marketing exposure provided by this program. A new event HOG® Ride In Show & Shine for Harley motorcycle enthusiasts will occur in late September in Grizzly Plaza.

Posters and tent cards have been distributed around the community to keep visitors informed about this summer's special events. If you would like to have posters or tent cards for display at your business please contact me at 837-5345 or by email cgosselin@revelstoke.net.

An 'Our Town' production featuring our special events will be airing on CHBC TV during July and August. This is another initiative designed to attract visitors into the community.

The festival and events website has been updated with film clips and an on line ticket registration system for events at www.seerevelstoke.com/events. If you have an event to post please do contact me.

For this winter we will be working on enhancing 'SnowFest' activities. If you are interested in helping out with SnowFest or have an idea for a SnowFest activity, please let me know.

Christiane Gosselin

our ranking and to improve it, we need to continue to look to the future and to focus on all the things that make Revelstoke a better place to live.

For more information on the BC Stats reports, see www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/regions.htm, or contact Alan Mason, Director of Community Economic Development at 837-5345 or redc@revelstoke.net.

Alan Mason

Participating Development Organizations



Revelstoke
Community Skills Centre
PO Box 4500, Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0
Phone (250) 837-4239 Fax (250) 837-2882



Western Economic Diversification Canada / Diversification de l'économie de l'Ouest Canada



City of Revelstoke



Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce

The Enterprise Centre
204 Campbell Avenue
PO Box 2398
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
Phone: (250) 837-5345
Fax: (250) 837-4223
Email: cfdc@revelstoke.net
www.seerevelstoke.com
www.cityofrevelstoke.com

Revelstoke Community Foundation

Clare Singleton Painting

In support of this year's homecoming reunion, the Foundation commissioned Clare Singleton to paint a Revelstoke scene. Raffle tickets for the original painting are available at Pharmasave, People's Drug Mart, Revelstoke Museum, Chamber of Commerce office and the Visitor Information Centre. Reproduction prints are being sold at Ambience Gallery, Revelstoke Museum and the Visitor Information Centre in Grizzly Plaza.

2004 Grants & Scholarships Approved

- 16 grants totaling \$20,040 to local charitable projects
- 15 scholarships totaling \$5,750 to graduating students of Revelstoke Secondary School

Your own legacy in the making...

a new opportunity to give an everlasting gift to the community of Revelstoke and also provide a permanent legacy in your family name or person you would like to recognize. Make a donation to the Foundation's '**Legacy Fund**' program and be on your way to creating your own fund. Cash is not the only way to donate, ask about bequests through a will or other options available.

ProAm Golf Tournament, Monday, July 19

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Revelstoke Golf Club for organizing this event and designating the foundation as the annual beneficiary of this event's proceeds. Many thanks to the tournament sponsors and good luck to all participants.

Debra Wozniak

**“We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give.”**

Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

**Community Futures
Development Corporation**



Small Business Loans

**Loans for small business start-up
or expansion are available as well as
business planning information.**

Self Employment Grant

**For individuals on Employment Insurance or who
have been on EI in the last 3 years or on maternity
in the last 3—5 years.**

**Provides financial support, business counseling
and business training.**

Community Lenders Since 1988

For Information Call: 837-5345

**FOR FREE CONFIDENTIAL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

Contact: David Royce

Revelstoke Business Mentorship Program

Suite D, 200 Campbell Avenue

Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

Phone: (250)837-5712

Email: facilitator@revelstoke.net