



The Coast Sustainability Trust

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The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the Mount Waddington area

Over the past eight months the Mount Waddington Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust approved \$503,138 in funding for seven initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the Mount Waddington area.

“This brings the total number of approved projects in the Mount Waddington area to 10, with a total dollar value of \$753,081,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren. “Six other applicants have been asked to submit detailed stage two proposals. Over the next year the Coast Sustainability Trust expects to invest a total of \$1,000,000 in Mount Waddington community based projects,” said van Soeren.

The North Island Trail Riders Organization has been offered \$74,500 towards a \$200,000 project to develop approximately 10 kilometres of multi-use trails, located on private Weyerhaeuser lands. The trails will be used for hiking, biking, wildlife, whale and bird watching, and educational marine and wilderness interpretive tours. The trails are expected to encourage tourists to spend more time in the North Island as well as actually draw tourists to the area. The proponent has had difficulty obtaining matching funds. The project is on hold until those funds are found.

The District of Port Hardy will receive \$100,000 towards a \$1,250,000 project to expand the existing trail system in Cape Scott Provincial Park, providing an additional 40 km of trails. This expansion will provide a world class wilderness experience for hikers and will be a major tourist attraction. The addition of this trail will also act to relieve some of the environmental pressure on existing wilderness trails. Construction of the trail improvements should start in the latter half of 2004.

The Village of Port Alice will receive \$100,000 towards a \$550,000 project to develop an industrial park to create more employment opportunities in the area. The lots have been presold, and the project will commence as soon as a final purchase of the land from Doman Industries is completed.

The Mt. Cain Alpine Park Society has been offered \$100,000 towards a \$995,000 project on Mt. Cain, to upgrade the road and expand its lodge. With these improvements, Mt. Cain should be able to grow and expand as a regional recreation resort, fostering economic growth and diversification on North Vancouver Island. The proponent has not yet located matching funds, so the project is on hold for now.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington received \$5,000 towards a \$10,000 project to create a regional economic development strategy for Mount Waddington that will direct future investments of human, social and financial capital into the area. It is based on the various studies, workshops and proposals that have been done in Mount Waddington in recent years. This project has been completed.

The Town of Port McNeill will receive \$63,000 towards an \$189,000 project to construct two calm-water loading and unloading docks at its existing municipal marina. The creation of this facility will bring many different types of businesses to the marina that presently load and unload elsewhere.

The Indian Summer Days Society will receive \$60,638 towards a \$158,776 project to dismantle the existing run down Big House in Port Hardy and erect a new First Nations Pavilion/Big House. It will be used for a variety of cultural and special events for the Port Hardy and North Island First Nations Communities.

“With the help of the Coast Sustainability Trust these projects will enable communities to grow by improving multi-use trails, transportation routes as well as creating new tourism and business opportunities,” said George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management.

“The Regional Steering Committee members, Chief Tom Nelson, Dawn Nicolson, Mayor Larry Pepper and Brenda Swanson are all working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide sustainable long-term economic development in the communities of the Mount Waddington area.”

Interested parties are invited to go to the Coast Sustainability Trust website at www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com and follow the links to the Community Guidelines (Stage One Proposals) to see if their project might be eligible.