



## **The Coast Sustainability Trust**

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**October 2, 2003**

### **News Release**

#### **The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the Central Coast**

In its September 29, 2003 meeting the Central Coast Regional Steering Committee of The Coast Sustainability Trust approved funding for two Bella Coola based initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the Bella Coola Valley.

The Bella Coola Watershed Conservation Society will receive \$23,550 to help establish a resource centre and purchase a global positioning unit to map features such as currently unrecorded streams, tourism trails and other natural features. This will be invaluable in future development projects.

The Bella Coola Valley Museum will receive \$10,000 to help collect and preserve Central Coast archival records, employ a full time archivist, purchase computer equipment to access national and provincial archive and technical support and resource centres, train volunteers and provide displays.

The Regional Steering Committee also decided to ask 11 stage one applicants to advance to a more detailed stage two application. These applications include tourism, shellfish aquaculture, forestry guided by ecosystem based management principles, Broadband Internet access and seafood processing initiatives.

Trustee Eric van Soeren said, "The Regional Steering Committee members, Terry Corbould, Debbie Nelson, Brian Clerx and Keith Hamilton, are all working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects. Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide sustainable long-term economic development in the communities of the Central Coast. Over the next year The Coast Sustainability Trust expects to invest \$1,000,000 in Central Coast community based projects."