



## **The Coast Sustainability Trust II**

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### **January 2008 News Release**

#### **The Coast Sustainability Trust Invests in the Islands**

Nine initiatives in the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii will receive a total of \$1,153,713 in funding from the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST).

The Mount Moresby Adventure Camp Society was approved for \$226,702 to add a wide range of improvements to its facility at the base of Mount Moresby. The improvements are expected to lengthen the operating season, increase tourist traffic to the region, and create additional job opportunities for local residents through an increase in visitors, and coordination with other eco-tourist operators in the region.

The Laskeek Bay Conservation Society (LBCS) will receive \$35,000 to help it complete three projects that will add attractions to the Haida Gwaii museum in Skidegate. These include hydrophones so people can listen to the sea life in Skidegate inlet, mainly Grey whales that migrate to the area and feed on the herring in front of the museum. A web cam project will install non-intrusive live web cams to monitor the seabirds that nest on the rocks near the museum. Finally, exhibit display boards will be created to explain the two projects and other information about the LBCS

The Old Massett Village Council was approved for grants to 2 different projects, for a total of just under \$500,000. The first project involves helping 18 people from the Masset area to obtain Level One and Two of the Carpentry Apprentice Program through North West Community College (NWCC). As part of the instruction they will build a 2,000 square foot house for a local elder, and bring a community long house to lock up. The hope is that this will be the beginning of a local construction crew that will be able to build 12 to 20 new houses per year for the foreseeable future. The second project involves the carving of 4 new totem poles, three large signs, and the restoration of a 35-foot totem pole burnt in 2003. This will create new tourist attractions in Masset, and give valuable experience and additions to the portfolios of 8 lead carvers, as well as training for 10 apprentices that recently completed a CST supported carving tool making course.

The Village of Queen Charlotte will receive almost \$10,000 to help in its design of a new logo, creation of a new tourism brochure, development of a modern interactive website to compliment and link to the Friends of the Visitor Information Centre Society's new reservation system, and production of various pieces of promotional material for Queen Charlotte.

The Moresby Island Management Committee, a standing committee under the bylaws of the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District, will receive \$250,000 to help with the Moresby Camp Recreational Gateway Project. The project includes the placement of Shoreline riprap, a one meter site elevation lift and leveling, the installation of a formal boat launch, and the development of new camp sites, parking areas and other recreational infrastructure. The shoreline riprap and the site lift will increase the year round usability and safety of the site from periodic storm surge flooding. The installation of the boat launch will provide users with the islands' southern most high quality and reliable marine access point. It will also prevent further beach degradation from the current unregulated use for boat launching. The camping and recreational facilities will provide for a first class outdoor experience and the necessary infrastructure to help support tourism operators.

The Haida Forestry Department of the Haida Heritage and Forest Guardians were approved for a grant of \$100,698 to help purchase hardware and software. Haida Forestry has been responsible for on the ground delivery of projects and providing technical advice and support for the Council of the Haida Nation. These include the cedar inventory, Haida Cultural Values Surveys, trails, Government to Government technical support, and a variety of studies and field reviews. The equipment and training involved in this project will keep its capabilities current and expand its ability to provide the support necessary to encourage long-term, sustainable economic development and diversification on Haida Gwaii.

Finally, the Friends of Queen Charlotte Visitor's Centre will receive just over \$33,000 for two projects. One of the projects involves a gallery upgrade, to allow for a better display of local artisans work. The other involves the design and production of small, inexpensive but locally produced souvenir items for tourists that want to bring back affordable gifts or mementos of their trip to the islands.

“These are the most recent of what we hope will be many worthwhile projects that the CST will be able to support. To date, over \$2.23 million has been committed to projects on the Islands,” said Trustee Eric van Soeren.

Funding for the nine projects was approved at the November 2007 meeting of the Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii Regional Steering Committee of the CST.

“Regional Steering Committee members Duane Gould, Carol Kulesha, Amanda Reid-Stevens and Ken Rea work hard to sift through worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide long-term sustainable economic development in the communities of the Islands.”

Communities, First Nations and community-based non-profit organizations are invited to submit funding proposals. Application guidelines and general information is available on the CST website at [www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com](http://www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com). Interested parties can follow the links to the Community Matching Fund Guidelines and Stage One Application.