

Infrastructure News



The Newsletter of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program

Fall 2004

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Fraser River Discovery Centre

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Courtenay art gallery uses "green" design

This Vancouver Island community is redeveloping its fire hall into an arts centre. *Page 4*

Infrastructure Program builds tourism opportunities across B.C.

Over \$836 million approved for 289 projects

Across British Columbia, communities continue to benefit from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program. Projects funded under the program are improving drinking water, wastewater systems, community facilities and creating energy efficient local government buildings. And tourism infrastructure is being built to help communities build stronger, diversified economies for future growth.

Under the program, 289 local infrastructure projects with a total value of more than

\$836 million have been approved. The federal and provincial governments have allocated more than \$513 million towards the program, with local government and community partners making up the balance. The program, a unique partnership between three levels of government – federal, provincial and municipal – aims to enhance quality of life by investing in modernized infrastructure that supports long-term economic growth, creates job opportunities and offers improved community facilities.

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Information centres promote tourism in B.C. communities

Golden and Cache Creek receive project funding

Information centres are a first stop for tourists looking for local information, and a great draw to increase tourism in an area. Several B.C. communities, such as Golden and Cache Creek, have received funding from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program to create or improve infrastructure for tourist centres.

Golden – The town of Golden is situated between five national parks and recently became home

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The new tourist information centre being built in Golden will make it easier for visitors to obtain information about local attractions such as this summer farmers' market held near the town's timber-frame pedestrian bridge.

A message from your governments

For Canada



*The Honourable Stephen Owen
Minister of Western Economic Diversification
Canada and Minister of State (Sport)
Government of Canada*

A message from the Honourable Stephen Owen

As Minister responsible for administering the Infrastructure Canada program in Western Canada, I am proud to share with you the accomplishments achieved by the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program over a short period of time. This edition of Infrastructure News is focused on tourism, and illustrates how the program is helping communities across B.C. build strong tourist attractions, diversify local economies and build sustainable communities for the future. The key to the unquestionable success of this program is partnerships. All three levels of government share a commitment to improving the quality of life for British Columbians and creating vibrant communities. In building a stronger West, we are building a stronger Canada.

*Stephen Owen
Minister of Western Economic Diversification Canada and Minister of State (Sport)
Government of Canada*

For British Columbia



*The Hon. John Les
Minister of Small Business and
Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

A message from the Honourable John Les

British Columbia is an exceptional place to live, work and play. In order to retain and attract new investment, our communities must have the infrastructure needed to support new growth. The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program helps communities throughout our province bring out their best and achieve new levels of success. What makes this program a success is the partnership between the federal government, the provincial government and the communities. Working together, we are building a better British Columbia for now and for the future. Whether improving the water system in Kamloops or building a marine discovery centre at the Vancouver Aquarium, this program is providing British Columbians with the local infrastructure needed to build safe, healthy and thriving communities.

*John Les
Minister of Small Business and Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

For the Union of B.C. Municipalities



*His Worship Frank Leonard
Mayor, District of Saanich
President, Union of
British Columbia Municipalities*

A message from His Worship Frank Leonard

The Union of B.C. Municipalities, representing all 184 local governments in the province, continues to be a proud partner in the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program. The program is proving highly successful at meeting locally identified needs, funding a wide variety of both 'green' and 'non-green' infrastructure projects across B.C. I am pleased to note that with approximately 18 months remaining to complete projects, almost 98 percent of available funds are committed, exceeding the level for the program nationally. We congratulate the provincial and federal governments on their continued commitment to collaborative intergovernmental decision making and trust that the delivery of future infrastructure funding will build on the strong foundation laid by this program.

*Frank Leonard
Mayor, District of Saanich
President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities*

Prince Rupert port development

City is set to become a major cruise ship port

British Columbia's cruise ship industry is growing and with support from Infrastructure Canada, the City of Prince Rupert is set to become the province's next location for a major cruise ship port.

The City of Prince Rupert, the Prince Rupert Port Authority, and the federal and provincial governments created a \$9 million joint investment to develop the marine infrastructure required to accommodate the docking of large cruise vessels in this North Coast city, as well as the transfer of passengers to and from shore at the Port of Prince Rupert.

The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program is contributing \$2 million to the Prince Rupert cruise dock project by improving the Uplands area, which is right on the water's edge and adjacent to the Port of Prince Rupert buildings. The project

involves widening 800 metres of existing roadway, replacing sections of storm sewer, sanitary sewer and waterworks, and relocating existing utilities.

"We are putting in a proper road network to facilitate passenger movement for things such as pedestrians and bus traffic, as well as developing the area for tourist-related commercial use," explains Bob Thompson, director of engineering services for Prince Rupert. "The Prince Rupert community was behind the project from the beginning. With



Improvements to the Uplands area adjacent to the Port of Prince Rupert will help large cruise vessels have space to dock and will make it easier for passengers to get to and from shore.

ships regularly docking here, we have an influx of visitors contributing to the local economy and spurring more development on the city's waterfront."

New Westminster attraction expands

Due for completion in the spring of 2006

The Fraser River Discovery Centre Society of New Westminster expects to be one of the Lower Mainland's most popular tourist attractions when it opens its expanded centre on the Quay in New Westminster in the spring of 2006.

With \$2 million from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program, the Society plans to expand the existing centre from 15,000 to 40,000 square feet to increase educational and tourism services related to the Fraser River. As well, the increased space will help the centre to provide broader consultation services on the

economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser River Basin.

The Fraser River Discovery Centre offers visitors a place that connects them to the Fraser River, its history, people, communities, environments and industry. It is a tourist destination and a resource centre for the Fraser Basin as a whole. Expansion will enable a significant increase in exhibits and educational services, as the Fraser River Discovery Centre emerges as a destination tourism facility.

Society Chair Lucille Johnstone expects the expanded centre to attract large numbers of tour groups to the New Westminster



By expanding its facilities, the Fraser River Discovery Centre in New Westminster expects to become a major destination for tourists.

waterfront. "With this addition we're going to be a top attraction in the Lower Mainland into the future," she says. "The location is quite awesome and we're determined to make it even better. In a smaller way, it'll be another Gastown."

Courtenay redeveloping fire hall into arts centre

Comox Valley Art Gallery in Courtenay is expanding

The Comox Valley Art Gallery in Courtenay is expanding to become an even bigger tourist attraction thanks to the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program.

The project will redevelop a 50-year-old fire hall into a first-class art gallery featuring sustainable “green” design solutions using energy efficient technology for electrical, heating, water management and climate control systems. The new gallery will be used for performances, visual arts and as space for use by local cultural groups and commu-

nity festivals. Both the federal and provincial governments equally contributed \$788,000 to this \$1.2 million project.

The Comox Valley Art Gallery currently showcases local artisans’ work in contemporary art forms, pottery, jewellery, textiles, carvings, stained glass and First Nations art. “The redeveloped Comox Centre for the Arts will be a central gathering place for the visual and performing arts and will form a dynamic cultural atmosphere in the community,” said Randy Wiwchar, project coordinator and director of community



The Comox Valley Art Gallery is redeveloping this 50-year-old fire hall into a first-class art gallery featuring sustainable “green” design solutions.

services for the City of Courtenay. Wiwchar says the new centre will provide greater creative opportunities to the entire community and will be integral to expanding a cultural core in the Comox Valley.

Infrastructure Program builds tourism *continued from front page*

The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia committed funding for a five-year period, which ends on March 31, 2006. It is expected that all projects funded under the program be completed by then.

This issue of Infrastructure News focuses

on projects related to tourism infrastructure. About a quarter of the program’s funding is being directed to community projects such as cultural and recreational facilities, local transportation, and infrastructure to support tourism.

Information centres promote tourism *continued from front page*

to a new resort. With its own scenic golf course and proximity to ski hills, rock climbing and white-water rafting, Golden offers many recreational activities. Visitors will be able to discover more about the town’s many attractions when it opens the new Golden Visitor Information Centre.

Built with \$1.3 million in funding from the Infrastructure Program, the new centre will include interpretive displays, a picnic area, children’s play area and walking trails.

Cache Creek – As a gateway for people traveling to and from Northern B.C., the historic Gold Rush town of Cache Creek is well placed to take advantage of tourism opportunities. To help direct tourists in this community, the Canada-British Columbia



The information centre being built at Cache Creek will have a fifties-style diner look and will help tourists explore this interesting region.

Infrastructure Program is funding \$242,000 for a new Tourist Information and Services Centre. “Even though the centre is not yet opened, the project is already generating a buzz,” said Martin Dalsin, project administrator. “Many local people are asking how they can contribute at the centre and showcase their community.”

For more information about the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program, please visit the following World Wide Web sites:

Infrastructure Canada –
www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development –
www.cse.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/Canada-BCInfrastructureProgram/default.htm

Or call us

For general information on the program:
Western Economic Diversification Canada – Toll-Free number
1-888-338-WEST (9378)

For information on community infrastructure projects:
Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development
(250) 952-0675

For information on water and sewer-related projects:
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services
(250) 387-4060