

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Britannia Treatment Plant Cleans Up the Environment](#)

[45 New Species at Risk Protected](#)

[New Ponds Will Help Kids Get Hooked on Fishing](#)

PROVINCE ORDERS CRD TO TREAT SEWAGE

VICTORIA - Based on the recent Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) report presented to the Capital Regional District (CRD) and additional analysis by the Ministry of Environment, the CRD has been directed to provide a plan for sewage treatment to the provincial government no later than June 2007, announced Environment Minister Barry Penner.

Currently, the CRD releases its sewage into the ocean untreated, relying on water dilution and the ocean currents. Recent analysis showed that historic and projected population growth in the capital region makes natural dilution unsustainable.

To ensure value for taxpayers, the provincial government is encouraging the regional district to consider new technologies and alternative financing and delivery options, including the potential for private sector involvement.

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MESSAGE FROM ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BARRY PENNER

This is the second issue of Environment Report. My goal is to give you an update on the things I've been doing in the past few months as the provincial government works to ensure that British Columbia leads the world in sustainable environmental management.

Recently, I was north of Vernon in the Okanagan with my colleague, Health Minister George Abbott (MLA for Shuswap). We wanted to thank local residents who supported designating Enderby Cliffs as a new Class "A" Provincial Park. We brought in legislation in March to establish this park, and three others, including:

- Kiskatinaw River Park (154 hectares) - Peace Region
- Klin-se-za Park (2,689 hectares) - Peace Region
- Sikanni Chief Canyon Park (4,641 hectares) - Peace Region

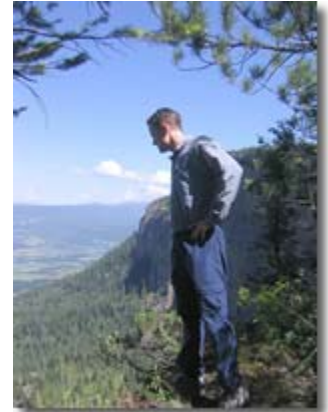
Enderby is a beautiful park that is 2,246 hectares in size. It has two well-established trails that provide steep hiking access to the top of the cliffs. The climb to the top of the cliffs has become very popular, and as many as 10,000 people make it to the summit each year to take in the views. Although it's quite a workout, my hike to the top was well worth the effort! Whenever I do have time for a breather, I think of how incredibly fortunate I am to have this job and how lucky I am to have an opportunity to make changes that will benefit British Columbia for years to come.

Whether it's presiding at the official opening up a new fish pond at the Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery in Abbotsford (to teach children the ancient art of

angling) or helping some kids establish a nature garden at a Central Saanich school, it's a great feeling to know these efforts will have a lasting and beneficial impact on people's lives and the environment they live in.

That feeling was prevalent on June 5, when I stood in front of a gathering at Britannia Beach with my colleague, Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell. We officially opened a new water treatment facility that is a good example of a public-private partnership. For decades, heavy metals leaching into Howe Sound from runoff at the old Britannia Mine site were an environmental disgrace. Our government was able to work with experts to develop a solution that was also good for taxpayers. It's extremely satisfying to finally see the water cleaned up and the problem solved.

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment



Environment Minister Barry Penner hiked to the top of the trail recently to see the spectacular view at Enderby Cliffs Provincial Park in the Okanagan. It's one of four new Class "A" parks the B.C. government established this year.

B.C. CELEBRATES PARKS DAY WITH LAUNCH OF PHOTO CONTEST

MAPLE RIDGE – Environment Minister Barry Penner snapped photos in Golden Ears Provincial Park to kick off a photo contest aimed at showing people enjoying and participating in recreational activities in B.C.'s parks.

BC Parks has partnered with the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-BC) to create the "Picture My Parks" B.C. Photo Contest.

"One of our government's great goals is to lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness," said Penner. "I think a fun way to achieve this goal is to explore B.C. parks and have a chance to win some great prizes. With more than 800 provincial parks and protected areas to choose from in B.C., there are wonderful opportunities across the province."

Grand prizes include a Wanderer 2 tent, backpack and sleeping bag from Mountain Equipment Co-op, and a two-night stay for two at the beautiful Kokanee Glacier Cabin.

*[More >>](#)



Chloe O'Loughlin, executive director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (B.C.) and Environment Minister Barry Penner kick off the "Picture My Parks" B.C. Photo Contest at Golden Ears Provincial Park on Parks Day July 15.

* To view the Environment Report online, go to www.env.gov.bc.ca/pac/envrep/

BRITANNIA TREATMENT PLANT CLEANS UP THE ENVIRONMENT

BRITANNIA BEACH – A new water treatment plant at the historic Britannia Mine site is now fully functional, leaving the lasting legacy of a cleaner environment for generations to come, Minister of Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell, and Environment Minister Barry Penner announced.

"When this mine went into operation more than 100 years ago, environmental standards were much different," said Penner. "For 30 years, previous governments have talked about stopping acid rock drainage from flowing into Howe Sound, but it's our government that's actually done it. It's also timely that we are celebrating this official opening on World Environment Day at the start of Canadian Environment Week."

Construction of the Britannia water treatment plant is the result of a public-private partnership between the Province and EPCOR. The partnership approach maximizes value, minimizes the cost and risk to taxpayers and raises the bar on accountability and innovation. For example, a micro-turbine driven by the flow of the mine's water will generate the treatment plant's power needs. The Province will save more than \$10 million dollars compared to completing the plant on its own.

"For decades this old mine site has had the dubious distinction of being one of the worst polluters in all of North America, but this government and its partners have changed that," said Bell. "One of the goals the Premier has challenged us with is to lead the world in sustainable environmental management. This project is a great example of how our province is taking innovative action to achieve that goal."

Rainwater and runoff entering the old mine becomes contaminated as it passes through remaining mineral deposits. The resulting contamination, known as acid rock drainage, once flowed untreated into Howe Sound. Now, contaminated water is diverted to EPCOR's new water treatment plant where heavy metals are removed from the water. The water is also treated to eliminate the acidity and discharged through a new outfall. The end result is a huge improvement to the marine environment in Howe Sound.



Environment Minister Barry Penner, centre, is joined by West Vancouver-Garibaldi MLA Joan McIntyre and Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell, to his immediate right, flanked by EPCOR executives at the official opening of the new water treatment plant at the Britannia Mine site.



45 NEW SPECIES AT RISK PROTECTED UNDER LEGISLATION

VANCOUVER – Environment Minister Barry Penner announced measures to protect more endangered species while attending the opening ceremonies of the Canadian Geographic 2006 Canadian Environment Awards in Vancouver.

Forty-five new species were added to the category of species at risk under the Forest and Range Practices Act. The Ministry of Environment has authority to designate species to be protected under this act. These are provincially red- and blue-listed (endangered and threatened) species identified as being impacted by forest and range activities, and requiring specific habitat protection.

"British Columbia is Canada's most biologically diverse province," said Penner. "Our government is identifying and protecting those species and ecosystems that are most vulnerable."

Penner was joined at the grand opening of the awards gala by numerous guests, including environmentalists, government representatives and industry leaders, who had gathered from across the country to attend the 2006 Canadian Environment Awards. [*More >>](#)

NEW PONDS WILL HELP KIDS GET HOOKED ON FISHING

ABBOTSFORD – Environment Minister Barry Penner made the first official cast at the grand opening of two new fishing ponds stocked with feisty rainbow trout that will be used to teach children and novices how to fish.

Penner had the honour of being the first to try his hand at the ponds constructed by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC as part of its provincewide Learn to Fish Program. Earlier, he congratulated the society on the ponds and the program that the society hopes will introduce as many as 10,000 people a year to the "art of angling."

"This is a fantastic facility and it will complement the work that is being done by the Freshwater Fisheries Society and its public, private and non-profit partners. Hopefully, it is going to make avid anglers of thousands of youngsters," said Penner. "Teaching people about fish and how to catch them is a great way to foster respect for the environment and stewardship of our fish, fish habitat and water resources."

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