

Infrastructure News



The Newsletter of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program

INSIDE

A message from your governments

All three levels of government share a commitment to improve the quality of life for Canadians and to strengthen communities ...Page 2

Vancouver Aquarium

A new Discovery Education Centre at the Vancouver Aquarium will expand learning opportunities ...Page 1

Finlayson Sport Field

A new artificial, all-weather sports field allows Victoria to host international sporting competitions ...Page 3

Westside Mount Boucherie Complex

A newly expanded Okanagan multiplex provides youth with new opportunities in sport...Page

Surrey Museum

New museum will celebrate the City of Surrey's heritage ...Page 4

Infrastructure Projects Proceeding

More than 300 projects worth \$900 million to better communities

With the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program fully committed and heading into its final phase, construction has become the focus. On June 30, 2005 the application process ended with investments in more than 300 infrastructure projects throughout British Columbia worth over \$900 million. To date, 115 projects have been completed with many more to come during the summer months. The program funded projects to develop energy-efficient buildings, improve drinking water, and implement wastewater systems, while

creating and improving community facilities. As well, communities are building recreational and tourism infrastructure to improve their quality of life.

This edition of the Newsletter focuses on successful community (non-green) infrastructure initiatives in urban centres. With British Columbia playing host to the 2006 World Urban Forum the spotlight is on issues surrounding British Columbia's urban communities and their physical infrastructure. Urban centres such as Vancouver and Kelowna are diverse communities, ...continued on page 4

Vancouver Aquarium Teeming With Learning Opportunities

One of the most popular attractions in Vancouver, the Vancouver Aquarium, is expanding its facility to increase learning opportunities available to tourists, students, and residents of the greater Vancouver area. The Aquarium's 2,047 square metre (42,000 square foot) Discovery Education Centre, slated to open in Fall 2006, is a new state of the art interactive space including a wet-lab, two classrooms, an environmental newsroom, an exploration gallery, and increased administrative facilities.

Visitors will be fully engaged in the lives of cuttlefish, barnacles, jellies, flashlight fish and more, through screen browsers, interactive classes, and hands-on learning.

The new environmental newsroom will educate visitors on the latest news and scientific discoveries affecting marine life. Importantly, the new centre will help the aquarium to better accommodate the nearly 60,000 school children that visit the attraction each year.

In keeping with the Aquarium's goal of becoming an environmentally sustainable operation by 2007, the expansion has been built to abide by new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Standards. This will be accomplished through the use of a living "green" wall, a water conservation system, and a displacement air heating system.

...continued on page 4

Message from your governments

For Canada



The Honourable Carol Skelton, P.C., M.P.

*Minister of National Revenue and Minister of
Western Economic Diversification*

A message from the Honourable Carol Skelton

As the new Minister responsible for administering the Infrastructure Canada Program in Western Canada, I look forward to seeing the results of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program. Infrastructure is a crucial investment in our economic productivity and quality of life. Communities throughout British Columbia have made key investments for their residents through a variety of infrastructure initiatives from wastewater systems to new roads. Through the Infrastructure Canada Program, all three levels of government are committed to continue to address the unique infrastructure needs of urban and rural communities throughout this province.

The Honourable Carol Skelton, P.C., M.P.

*Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Western Economic
Diversification Government of Canada
Government of Canada*

For British Columbia



*The Hon. Colin Hansen,
Minister of Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

A message from the Honourable Colin Hansen

The Province of British Columbia is committed to building strong, healthy communities and, through more than 300 projects funded under the Canada - British Columbia Infrastructure Program; we're helping to deliver on the priorities of BC's municipalities and regional districts. As more and more of these projects reach completion, communities are seeing the tangible benefits from our partnership of federal, provincial and municipal governments working toward the same goal: making British Columbia the best place to live.

Colin Hansen

*Minister of Economic Development
Province of British Columbia*

For the Union of B.C. Municipalities



*Councillor Marvin Hunt
President, Union of British Columbia
Municipalities*

A message from Marvin Hunt

This program continues to assist local governments in increasing community liveability through provision of much needed infrastructure projects and improvements. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities is confident that new federal-provincial-local government cost-sharing infrastructure programs, such as the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, will continue to build on the success of Canada - BC Infrastructure Program.

Councillor Marvin Hunt

President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Multiplex Expansion Encourages Increased Sport And Leisure Activities

With the expansion of the Westside Mount Boucherie multiplex, just outside Kelowna, residents and visitors to the Central Okanagan Regional District will soon be able to participate in additional sports and leisure activities.

The Regional District is completing an expansion of the multiplex, thanks in part to a \$2 million investment from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program toward the \$7.7 million construction costs. It will build the 5,355 square metre (57,565 square-foot) multiplex including a second ice surface at the Mount Boucherie Community Centre complex. To be named Royal LePage Place, the new 214-seat arena will include a year-round walking concourse, sound system, sports floor and centre ice clock.

Royal LePage Place will be home to the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Westside Warriors. It will help meet the growing demand for youth sporting programs including minor hockey, ringette and figure



The new Westside Mount Boucherie multiplex under construction, also the home of Royal LePage Place ice arena.

skating, as well as general recreational programs such as seniors hockey and public skating. Thanks to availability of a sports floor, lacrosse, indoor soccer and other non-ice groups will be able to use this facility. The facility will also provide opportunities for concerts, trade shows and conventions that are not currently available in the Westside area.

“The Mount Boucherie Multiplex will fulfill the recreational demands of the Westside community for many years, while providing an opportunity for future economic benefits,” said Robert Hobson, Chair of the Regional District of Central Okanagan. “The Regional District looks forward to opening the doors on this much needed facility.”

Victoria's New Artificial Turf Field Provides Fun Without the Sun

Victoria's first artificial turf surface has been installed at Finlayson Field and is being enjoyed by the community.

Victoria is known for its outdoor-oriented community and dedication to active lifestyles. As a destination for international competition, the field promotes the City to world-class athletes and high-level competitions.

On October 19, 2005, Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe was joined by City Councillors, representatives of sports organizations and the neighbouring community to kick-off the official opening of the new artificial turf surface.



International athletes will be showcased at Victoria's Finlayson Field.

The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program contributed \$638,378 toward the \$1.2 million total costs for the Finlayson field surface.

By choosing artificial turf over a traditional grass surface Victoria-area field users gain an additional 3,216 hours of playing time each year, which is equivalent to five traditional sports fields. Installed by Field Turf Inc., the synthetic field measures 127 metres by 75 metres and includes a warm-up area, spectator bleachers and lighting. The turf area allows for year-round play that isn't weather dependent. An environmentally friendly approach, the field requires no watering. Installation of the turf will decrease annual water consumption by over 6 million litres at an estimated financial savings of just under \$4,000 per year.

Museum Brings Economic Growth To The City Of Surrey

The City of Surrey is home to the first museum built in British Columbia in the 21st century.

Officially opened in October 2005, the new 2,237 square metre (24,046 square foot) Surrey Museum features permanent and temporary exhibits, three flexible activity rooms, a weaving library, a textile craft studio and a 42-seat orientation theatre. With a rich collection of artifacts, images and interactive exhibits, the facility enables visitors and residents to learn about the City's history.

The museum has enjoyed great success early in its operations. On opening day alone, more than 3,000 visitors joined in the celebrations. During the museum's first seven months, it has averaged twice the monthly attendance of the former museum.

The federal and provincial governments jointly provided \$2 million in funding for

the construction of the \$4.9 million museum, which also included renovations to the Municipal Hall. A heritage site, the Hall will later house the City Archives. The museum and relocated City Archives, along with the Cloverdale Library make up the Surrey Learning and Discovery Centre—a campus style tourist destination.

“The Learning and Discovery Campus and the Surrey Museum give our youth the opportunity to learn more about the City that is their home,” said Surrey Mayor, Dianne Watts. “As Surrey continues to grow and change, it is important that we know about our past as we move forward.”



The Surrey Museum is the first museum to be built in British Columbia in the 21st century.

The Surrey Learning and Discovery Centre is an important cultural landmark that is expected to bring economic growth to the City of Surrey and its surrounding communities for years to come.

Infrastructure Program Proceeding

Continuation of front page story

with their own regional differences, making important contributions to British Columbia's economic prosperity. The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program has invested in projects that are strengthening British Columbia's urban communities and ensuring this province is one of the best places to live in Canada and the world.

The partnership between the three

levels of government – federal, provincial and local – has been paramount to the success of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program. This partnership is helping build sustainable communities by investing in modernized infrastructure that supports long-term economic growth, creates job opportunities and offers improved community facilities.

Vancouver Aquarium teeming with learning opportunities

Continuation of front page story

“The new Education Centre will feature displays so unique that visitors will find themselves looking at animals they might normally pass by,” says Dr. John Nightingale, President of the Vancouver Aquarium. “Using the newest technologies, people will be able to learn the latest news in science, conservation and the environment in our environmental newsroom. And, in addition to these

exciting features, the Education Centre will be the first LEED Gold Aquarium facility in the world, thus demonstrating our commitment to conservation and sustainability.”

The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program provided \$2 million in funding for the construction of the \$7.9 million Discovery Education Centre.

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

Infrastructure Canada
– www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Ministry of Economic Development
– www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev

For general information on the program:
Western Economic Diversification
Canada
(604) 666-6256

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

For information on water and sewer-related projects:
BC Ministry of Community Services
(250) 387-4060