



ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CAPE SCOTT NORTH COAST TRAIL

For Immediate Release – June 25, 2007. Mayor Jack Peake, Town of Lake Cowichan, and Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), today announced funding approval by the Board of Directors of \$249,920 to complete the construction of the Cape Scott North Coast Trail near Port Hardy, on the northern tip of Vancouver Island.

“The Cape Scott North Coast Trail will provide a world class wilderness hiking experience that complements and sustains the natural attractions of Cape Scott Provincial Park, while generating increased tourism and investment in Northern Vancouver Island” explained Mayor Peake. “It will be a strategic component in the diversification of the economy of the North Island. This is also the first project approved by the Board of Directors and we are proud to support the completion of the Cape Scott North Coast Trail”.

The recipient of this funding is the Northern Vancouver Island Trails Society (NVITS), the non-profit society which has managed all of the funding that has gone into the trail to date. Al Huddleston, chair of NVITS, confirmed that all funding is now in place for a total project cost of \$699,920 to complete the trail. Construction will start immediately. “Implementation and operation of the trail will recognize mutual benefits for local First Nations, local employment, supporting communities and the tourism industry,” said Al Huddleston.

Al Huddleston explained the economic benefits expected from the trail. “It is estimated that the Cape Scott North Coast Trail will attract over 4,000 visitors in its first year and grow yearly, attracting more visitors to the North Island.”

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board’s mandate is to make strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, projects related to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, agriculture and aquaculture, small business and other opportunities for regional economic diversification. Information about the Trust can be found on www.islandcoastaltrust.ca.

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FACT SHEET

CAPE SCOTT NORTH COAST TRAIL*

- Cape Scott Provincial Park is a remote wilderness area located on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, approximately 233 kilometres north from Campbell River. The Cape Scott North Coast Trail will provide a world class wilderness hiking experience that complements and sustains the natural attractions of Cape Scott Provincial Park.
- The Cape Scott North Coast Trail is a strategic component in the diversification of the economy of the North Island. The project will increased tourism visitations and investment in Northern Vancouver Island. In the first year of operations, it is expected that there will be some 4,000 new visitors to the trail; by 2010 this could rise to 8,000 visitors. This is estimated to produce \$790,000 of expenditures in the local economy from May to September.
- The Cape Scott North Cost Trail is a Class III wilderness trail which will extend the existing trail from Nissen Bight to Shushartie Bay, providing an additional 46 km of trails for a total of 71 km within Cape Scott Park.
- Construction will involve approximately 2000 metres of boardwalk, 240 metres of stairs and 250 metres of retaining walls which will be completed this season on the trail.
- Access the trail will be at the existing Cape Scott trail head and at Shusartie Bay.
- The Cape Scott North Coast Trail includes 6 new campsites and 2 cable cars.
- The Society's goal is to have the trail complete this fall and open to hikers.

* Note: Digital photos available upon request.