

Funds mean work can begin!

The west coast enjoyed an unusually HOT summer and a number of ICET capital projects heated up, moving forward and are now 'ready for action' as the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan provided key matching funding amounts to a number of regionally significant capital projects. Here are some snapshots of four projects announced in the past two months alone.

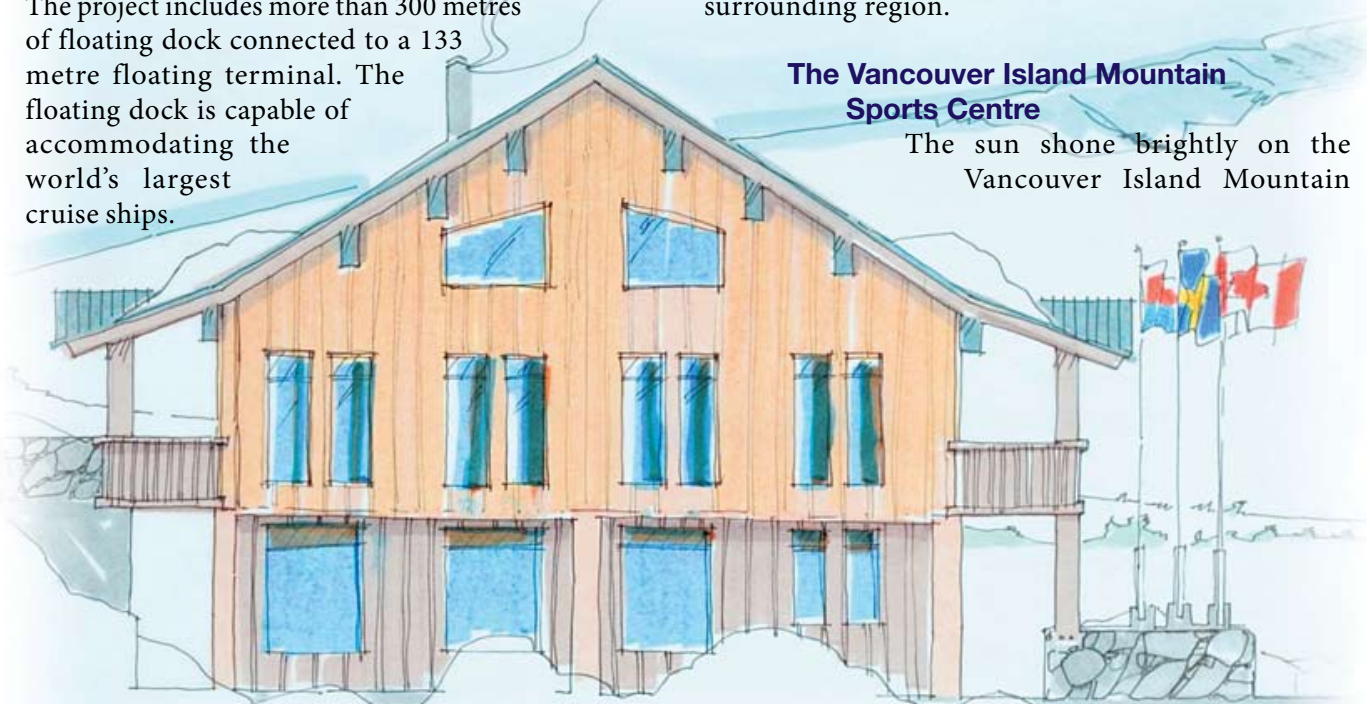
The Nanaimo Port Cruise Facility

The Nanaimo Port Authority is about to become "ship-shape" now that it has secured all the funds required to start construction on a cruise ship docking facility. The project includes more than 300 metres of floating dock connected to a 133 metre floating terminal. The floating dock is capable of accommodating the world's largest cruise ships.

\$3.5 million in wages. With clear sailing ahead for the Cruise Ship Facility the total annual impact is expected to result in \$12 to \$20 million in direct and indirect spending, greatly benefiting Nanaimo and the surrounding region.

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre

The sun shone brightly on the Vancouver Island Mountain



Artist impression of the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre

The Port Authority received a federal contribution of \$8.5 million under Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The total capital cost of the cruise ship docking facility stands at \$22 million and ICET's contribution is \$3.5 million. The Port could see up to 40 cruise ship visits per year in the future, generating up to \$9 million in direct passenger spending, \$1.8 million in crew spending, \$1 million in cruise line spending, as well as the creation of possibly 118 direct jobs and

Sports Society when this summer they received a federal contribution of \$795,000 under the Community Adjustment Fund towards the total capital cost of building a Mountain Sports Centre on Mount Washington. ICET's contribution towards the \$2.3 million facility is \$555,500. With these funding commitments in place, this project aims at a construction start this fall with completion slated for late 2010.

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ICET Chair Mayor Barry Janyk at the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre Federal Funding Announcement on August 6, 2009

The Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre will be a unique multifunctional building. The Centre will offer meeting and video rooms, training facilities with fitness equipment and space for a sport science lab, equipment storage and maintenance rooms as well as modest accommodations with cooking facilities designed to meet the needs of athletes as well as school and other community groups.

The employment impact during the construction phase is estimated at 60 full-time equivalent positions in the Comox Valley.

On a daily basis, the Centre will serve as a central training hub used by numerous mountain sports groups, local residents and visitors to Mt. Washington. It will also serve as a staging facility for camps, outdoor education trips, school field trips, hiking and mountaineering trips, courses and retreats by community, school or sports groups. By having hostel-like accommodations available, the Centre will enable community organizations and schools to have suitable, low cost accommodations during field trips year round.

In addition, the Centre will provide much needed infrastructure to facilitate the hosting of national and international sporting events. Its facilities and meeting rooms will be used as a command centre and media centre as well as accommodating the technical needs of the visiting teams and athletes.

An independent economic impact study estimates that all construction spending will generate an economic output of more than \$7 million, with an additional \$1.3 million per year province-wide once the Centre is operational. Additional government revenue generated by the



Artist impression of Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre cross country complex

project will be nearly \$1 million in the construction phase in 2009, with an ongoing impact of about \$150,000 per year to the three levels of government.

The employment impact during the construction phase is estimated at 60 full-time equivalent positions in the Comox Valley with an additional 11 jobs elsewhere in the province. Permanent employment impact generated during the operational phase is 25 to 30 jobs per year locally, and an additional 2 to 3 jobs provincially.

The New Gateway Visitor Centre for the Alberni Valley and Pacific Rim Region

The Alberni Valley will be a focal point for visitors now that all of its matching funding has been secured for the New Gateway Visitor Centre. The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce received a federal contribution of \$706,192 under the Community Adjustment Fund towards the construction cost of the Centre. The total capital cost is \$1.5 million and ICET's contribution is \$706,192.

The new 3,800 square foot log building will be made

ICET is governed by a Board of Directors representing the communities we serve on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

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Joe Stanhope, Director, Nanaimo Regional District

with local products and labour, and will be constructed on the site of the current visitor information centre. Inside will be First Nations' interpretive displays,



Artist impression of The Gateway Visitor Centre for the Alberni Valley and Pacific Rim Region

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ICET Funds blazing trails!

ICET has teamed up with the Province of BC's Community Development Trust's Job Opportunities Program (JOP) and allocated up to \$2 million to create employment and diversify the economy of the ICET region through the development and improvement of trails on the North Island and Sunshine Coast. Trails are a major component of the Trust's tourism sector and they will ensure a permanent legacy while also helping resource workers to weather the current economic storm and remain in their communities.

The following is a sampling of just some of the trail projects that are already underway under the Job Opportunities Program.

Snowden Demonstration Forest – Workers on the Snowden Demonstration Forest will spend up to six months replacing stream crossings, falling danger trees, building information kiosks, improving existing trails and new trail development, building new picnic tables and adding washroom facilities.

The Snowden Demonstration Forest was first logged between 1929 and 1953 via an intricate system of railway spurs and mainlines, some of which are still visible. Today, the area is an active demonstration forest



where silviculture systems are integrated with environmental concerns, recreation, education and wildlife management.

North Island Trails – The funding includes three trail projects within the Regional District of Mount Waddington. On the San Josef Bay Trail in Cape Scott Provincial Park, workers will repair, resurface and enhance the trail, enabling more visitors to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of San Josef Bay as they embark upon the North Coast Trail.

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Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre open

On the weekend of **September 18 to 20, 2009** the Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre opened its doors to the public in Port Hardy. The Grand Opening and open house festivities saw some 500 visitors at the interpretive centre and hatchery. This project was one of the earliest approvals by ICET that is now completed and available to the public.

The North Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association (NVISEA) began construction of the 4,600 square foot, multi-purpose stewardship centre, in April 2008.

The intent of the project was not only to replace an aging piece of hatchery and office infrastructure, but to add a community classroom, wet and dry labs and an interpretive gallery that would allow the association to expand its operations to include more public education, research and monitoring, and a local attraction that would complement existing tourist infrastructure, and benefit the region generally.

Funds for construction of the facility came from a variety of sources, including the Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Island Coastal Economic Trust, Coast Sustainability Trust, Towns For Tomorrow, Pacific Salmon Foundation, NVISEA, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Port Hardy and District Rotary. The total cost of the construction of the building was \$1,406,000.

One of the most significant in kind contributions to

this phase of the project was made by the Vancouver Aquarium, when John Nightingale provided one of his key staff, Doug Munday, to assist with developing a plan and identifying a variety of design and fabrication sources to complete the interpretive displays. The association



retained an interpretive design professional who worked with NVISEA staff and local contractors to complete the first phase of exhibits and design the second phase. It is anticipated that funds for the second phase of interpretive displays will be raised in the fall of 2009.

The main messages of the interpretive centre comes from NVISEA's chair Grant Anderson: "We want people to know that there is hope for the future of the Pacific Salmon and that each and everyone of us has the responsibility and the opportunity to help salmon."

More information about the Centre is available at www.nvisea.org.

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meeting rooms, washroom facilities, a spacious visitor counselling area and a “great room” which will feature majestic Mount Arrowsmith through the picture windows. The grounds will include picnic areas for the travelling public.

The new Visitor Centre will provide detailed visitor information to all travellers with the goal of keeping them in the community for an extended period of time, thereby increasing the economic impact of tourism in the area, a key objective of ICET. Construction is expected to start shortly with a completion date for the summer of 2010.

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden

The Sunshine Coast is sprouting some new developments and will be able to add a botanical garden to its growing list of unique features. The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society received a federal contribution of \$717,077 through the Community Adjustment Fund towards the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden in Sechelt. ICET’s contribution to the Garden is \$370,295 with the total cost of the project an estimated \$1,481,185.

The Botanical Gardens will be situated on an expansive 40 acre site and designed to attract gardening enthusiasts as well as the general public. The significant physical size of the Garden should encourage visitors to spend more time in the region while they take in the sights, sounds, and smells of what is sure to be a beautiful feature.

The Botanical Garden will be one more uniquely coastal community amenity that entices tourists to explore the area and then stay for educational and recreational programs, cultural events and activities which will add to the overall Sunshine Coast experience. Plans for year-round horticultural courses will offer opportunities to locals and visitors to learn about conservation and land stewardship while promoting awareness about the environment and the importance of plants to a healthy planet.



Don Ferster, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority; Elliot Drew, President, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Ken McRae, City of Port Alberni and ICET Board Member; Dr. James Lunney, MP, Nanaimo-Alberni; and Doug Blake, Chair, Community Futures at New Gateway Visitor Centre federal funding announcement on September 24, 2009.

Sunshine Coast citizens, who have been working toward this community dream for the past seven years, realized a huge milestone when in June 2009 they were able to purchase the 40 acre Sechelt property. This organization is now very eager to get to work and start planting and by March 2011, the botanical garden is expected to be completed. •



OTHER ICET PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Woss Trail Development and Enhancement Project

The Woss Trail Development and Upgrade project is creating local employment in the Woss area by enhancing trails for locals as well as improving the natural attractions for visitors to the North Island. The grant provided much needed local job opportunities for young people as well as opening up the opportunity for local residents and tourists to view the natural beauty of the area.

ICET is contributing \$15,000 with the total cost of the project estimated at \$30,000.

'Lights, Camera ... Tourists!' Regional Film Development Project

Movies are traditionally known as a

form of "escapism" to exotic locales. Island North Film Commission (INFilm) is spearheading the development of film induced tourism in B.C. Film fans can now travel to the locations featured in their favourite movies. INfilm is creating an electronic and print film tourism map highlighting the many filming locations complete with detailed information about each community. The map will feature all of Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

INFilm is also making significant improvements to its photo library to create the most updated and current photo data library

in the region. This industry has been growing steadily over the last 15 years in B.C. and INfilm has facilitated \$70 million in direct impact on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. Unlike many



other industries affected by the global downturn, film and television is alive and well in the region.

ICET is contributing \$43,250 out of a total project cost of \$129,750. •

ICET Welcomes New Board Member

ICET is pleased to welcome Arlette Raen to the Board of Directors. The Province of B.C. appointed Arlette as a Provincial Director of the Trust for a three year term ending in August 2012. Arlette has a background in economic development and organizational training.



She is Regional Campus Principal of Vancouver Island University and past President of the Powell River Regional Economic Development Society.

Arlette holds a M.A. degree in Leadership and Training from

Royal Roads University, and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Victoria. She began her career with Canada Employment and Immigration, in Employment Counselling and Labour Market Analysis. Her work in post secondary education started in the entrepreneurial training and development area, and she has worked effectively to address the human resource needs of the Powell River region.

Her interest in leadership and organizational development has resulted in the active pursuit of sound community economic development practices, linking the needs of education, business, industry, and community. Arlette's contribution to ICET should complement effectively the array of professional, business, and political skills and knowledge currently sitting at the ICET board table. Welcome aboard Arlette. •

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In addition, workers will improve Alice Lake Loop, the first phase in the creation of a recreational corridor

marked by a waterfall. Workers will also enhance and repair Link River Regional Park and campground, the

(Sointula) and Cormorant Island (Alert Bay). There will be a substantial investment in trail repair and enhancement in each of these locations linked by the Tri-Island ferry service. Workers will also repair and enhance Bere Point Regional Park and Campground on Malcolm Island and Broughton Campground near Port McNeill. •



between Port McNeill and Port Alice. Workers will repair and enhance key trails and attractions, including limestone rock landscape features known as karsts. Work will take place at the Devil's Bath, a rock bowl filled by an underground stream, and the Eternal Fountain, an underground cave

gateway to these attractions, as well as the Spruce Bay Recreation site.

Finally, workers will start on the first phase of a recreational corridor that will run from **Port McNeill** and the **Kwakiutl First Nation's Cluxewe Resort** to both Malcolm Island

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