

Revelstoke DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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*Revelstoke
Economic
Development
Commission*

*Community
Futures
Revelstoke*

*Revelstoke
Chamber of
Commerce*

*Revelstoke
Tourism*

Community Futures Revelstoke

A Year of Transition

Over the years, Community Futures has been exceptionally fortunate to be able to retain key personnel with very little staff turnover. This June we say farewell to Carol Palladino, our Loans Analyst who has been with us since our first year of operations in 1988. She played a major role in building the loan fund and the integrity of our lending and business advisory services. She was very instrumental in the development of local arts and culture, raising the profile of this very important economic sector and its contribution to our intellectual and community well being. Her attitude, smile and sense of humour will be greatly missed by us on both a personal and professional basis.

Kevin Dorrius who has been with the corporation for the past ten years, is taking Carol's place in our lending department and we welcome Kyla Schell as our new self employment coordinator. Kyla is new to Revelstoke and we look forward to her enthusiasm and expertise she will be bringing to the organization.

After almost seven years of providing business facilitation and mentorship services the Business Mentorship Program was concluded on March 31, 2007. During that time a total of 293 contacts were made with prospective entrepreneurs of which 195 became active clients resulting in 58 businesses that were either initiated or improved. Clients previously assisted by this program will now be supported through our regular business advisory services.

Darryl Willoughby

Chamber of Commerce

David Thompson 2007 Columbia River Brigade



To commemorate David Thompson's exploration of the Columbia River in 1807 and to recognize his extraordinary contribution to Canadian history, a brigade of voyageurs will paddle the Columbia River from its headwaters to Trail, BC in early July. The Brigade will arrive in Revelstoke with its 25' Voyageur Canoes on July 1 at 3:00 pm at Centennial Park. The David Thompson Heritage Stage Show will be performed in Grizzly Plaza at 7:00 pm. Free Admission.

Join us on July 1 to celebrate the accomplishments of David Thompson. For more information visit www.canadianvoyageur.com.

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Community Futures Revelstoke (continued)

New Resident Survey

Many new people are moving to Revelstoke and we would like to hear from these new residents to gain a sense of why they chose Revelstoke as a place to live and what could the community do to make Revelstoke a better place to live and work. If you are new to town please share your thoughts with us at www.revelstokecf.com/newresidentsurvey.

Mount Begbie ASCENTennial



On June 11, 1907, a climbing party of four brave men: Edward Feug, a Swiss guide from Glacier; Rev Dr. Herdman of Calgary; R.W. Haggan and the Rev J.R. Robertson of Revelstoke — ascended Mount Begbie summit for the first time.

To mark their accomplishment a community celebration featuring a wide range of activities has been organized. These include a juried art exhibit at the Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre, 'Begbie in our Backyard' exhibit at the Revelstoke Museum, a re-enactment of the original climb on June 9 & 10 and an essay and art contest for school children. The highlight will be the entombment of a time capsule on Mount Begbie to be opened in 100 years time. The contents of the time capsule will be on display at the Revelstoke Museum until July 15.

Debra Wozniak

Chamber of Commerce (continued)

Visitor Statistics

The Chamber is getting ready for another busy season at the Visitor Information Centres. So far in May 2007, the centre assisted 3909 visitors to Revelstoke, mainly from European countries. This is up 34% over last year's statistics. This trend doesn't seem to be slowing down with brisk traffic to the centres in June as well. The popular Info on The Go Microvan will be back in operation at the end of June and will operate seven days per week throughout July and August.

Small Business Roundtable Consultation

Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, will be hosting a Small Business Roundtable Consultation in Revelstoke and is seeking your views on what you consider to be the key issues for growth and success of small business in your community.

- **Wednesday, July 11**
- **5:00pm – 7:30pm**
- **Regent Inn, Begbie Room (112 East First Street)**

If you would like to participate please register via the Small Business Roundtable website at www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca or by calling Michael Kagis at **250-356-8797** or **1-800-663-7867**. Seating is limited, so please register early to guarantee attendance.

As always, if you have any suggestions or concerns that you wish to bring to the Chamber, please email: revelstokechamber@telus.net or come into the Chamber at 204 Campbell Avenue.

Tom Tischik

Revelstoke TOURISM

The new, completely redesigned 2007/2008 Vacation Guide has arrived and is being distributed around the province and the world. We have received a lot of good feedback on the new look and content.

We have just re-ordered more copies of our Biking brochure that are quite popular and the new Hiking brochure is about to go to print as well. The Museums and Gallery Collective's brochure is also turning out to be very popular and a re-order has gone in for it as well.

The Hotel Revenue statistics for 2006 have finally been released and the growth of our Tourism marketing efforts continues to pay off as Hotel Revenues are up 8.7% over 2005 and up 40% since we started tracking the revenues in 2000.

The next project will be a re-design of our website www.seerevelstoke.com. If any of you out there have any great ideas—let me know. We also have our website at www.revelstoke.travel which is a whole new internet domain exclusively for travel.

Gerry Gardner

Community Economic Development Commission

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

After several months of research, meetings, a community-wide survey and consultations with community groups, the final draft of the new Community Development Action Plan is ready for review. The Strategy provides direction for the community in terms of identifying economic, social and environmental priorities, allocating resources to achieve these priorities, and identifying agencies and organizations that will work to implement the various development activities. A critical component of the Action Plan is the identification of measurable objectives to ensure that the goals and objectives identified in the strategy are achieved.

A Steering Committee with membership from a broad range of community organizations and the public at large are directing this project, and the project is being completed by Cindy Pearce of Mountain Labyrinths Inc. and Jill Zacharias, both local residents. The Action Plan identifies over 300 objectives which would help make Revelstoke a better community. Some of the highest priorities include retaining and creating housing that is affordable for workers, seniors and others; addressing the growing workforce shortage; and supporting community organizations to take on the new social, environmental, cultural and economic challenges facing the community.

The Community Development Action Plan is different from the Official Community Plan (OCP). The Action Plan has a three year timeline while the OCP looks out 10-20 years. The Action Plan identifies priority projects for the City and community organizations to improve the quality of life in Revelstoke, while the OCP is intended to guide the City's land use planning and operations.

Residents have several opportunities to provide input to the Action Plan. Members of the public are invited to take a tour of the Action Plan and provide their input on the draft ideas. You can take a self-guided tour at the Community Centre anytime between June 19 and 29. Or join the project team on guided tours on Monday, June 25 from 4 to 8 pm at the Community Centre. The DRAFT Community Portrait and Action Plan are available on the City's website www.cityofrevelstoke.com, with a feedback form for input. **Deadline for feedback is July 6.** We would really like to get additional input from the public to make sure the goals and objectives we have identified are important for community residents.

For more information contact Alan Mason, Director of Community Economic Development at 837-5345 or amason@cityofrevelstoke.com.

COMMUNITY SURVEY INDICATES RESIDENTS ARE POSITIVE ABOUT REVELSTOKE

A major survey of local residents was undertaken earlier this year as part of the process to develop the Community Development Action Plan. Over 500 people completed questionnaires, which is an excellent response for a community of our size. Generally, people were more positive about Revelstoke than they were five years ago, when the last survey was done.

The survey shows that 93% of respondents are satisfied with Revelstoke as a place to live, up from 87% in 2000, while 78% said they are proud of Revelstoke, compared to 59% in 2000. Over 87% said they are optimistic about the future of our community, an increase from 82% in 2000, and 90% said they now invite people to vacation here, up from only 64% in 2000. People also continue to consider Revelstoke as a very safe community with 95% saying they feel safe.

In terms of the local economy, over 50% think the economy is growing, and 41% think it is stable. This is almost a complete turn around from 2000. In the 2000 survey, over 50% said the local economy was in decline, so this is positive news. I think the resort development has made a big difference, but other sectors of the local and provincial economies have also improved since 2000. In addition, over 77% said they would now encourage someone to start a business in Revelstoke, compared with only 52% in 2000.

The survey also shows that people are very satisfied with the services they receive in the community. Almost 84% said our recreational and cultural facilities are meeting their needs, up from 50% in 2000, and there was a high level of satisfaction, over 85%, with our emergency services (fire, police and ambulance). Satisfaction with the local school system has also increased.

Local residents are still in strong support of a larger community. Almost 70% said they would like to see the population grow to between 8,000 and 12,000. This idea that people want to see Revelstoke grow has been a consistent response in community surveys going back to the early 1990s.

While the majority of residents are optimistic about the future of the community, there are a range of opinions regarding the development of Revelstoke Mountain Resort, a major four-season resort currently being developed immediately adjacent to Revelstoke. People identify positive impacts such as economic opportunities for young people, growth for local businesses, improved services and expanded recreation opportunities. But there is some concern about the increased cost of living, especially housing, and the impacts of many more visitors coming to the community.

Alan Mason

Participating Development Organizations



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



THE BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTRE

- Community Futures Revelstoke
- Community Economic Development Commission
- Chamber of Commerce & Revelstoke Tourism

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**www.seerevelstoke.com
www.cityofrevelstoke.com
www.revelstokecf.com**

Revelstoke Community Foundation

Endowment exceeds \$1 Million

Many thanks to donors that contributed to the foundation over the past eight years. Our goal is to return 5% of the endowment annually from investment earnings to charitable activities in our community. As the endowment continues to grow so too will our granting program.

2007 Grants & Scholarships

This year \$37,343 was awarded to 21 charitable projects and \$10,975 in scholarships will be awarded to 23 local students pursuing post secondary education.

For More Information

Contact Geoff Battersby or Debra Wozniak at 837-5345, email us at foundation@revelstokecf.com or visit our website at www.seerevelstoke.com/communityfoundation.

Debra Wozniak

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We Can Help!

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204 Campbell Ave.
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www.revelstokecf.com

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One Idea at a Time.*

**Small opportunities are often the
beginning of great enterprises.**

Demosthenes
Greek orator & politician in Athens (384 BC - 322 BC)

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www.revelstokecf.com/volunteers