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BOARD NOTES

Board Members

Greenways' Annual General Meeting was held on 23 April 2003 at the Radium Seniors Hall. Please contact us for a copy of the Minutes.

COLUMBIA RIVER GREENWAYS ALLIANCE

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We are a registered charity

86386 4666 RR0001

Contact Greenways' Volunteer Coordinator
Brian McLaughlin 342-0201
for information on Volunteer Opportunities

Our second edition of THE CURRENT provides updates on our many successful and on-going projects from the last year. It also profiles our newest partnership opportunity with the Mark Kingsbury Foundation and the Radium to Golden Greenway project. As our projects gain momentum and our network of partners and supporters grows, we look forward to another year of exciting Greenways initiatives!

Greenways welcomes feedback from our community, and THE CURRENT is our attempt at opening the lines of communication. We encourage you to contact us with your ideas, questions, concerns or support.

Gerri Brightwell
Chair, Columbia River Greenways

S.BENNETT/PROSE ART



RADIUM TO GOLDEN GREENWAY

Recent support (\$60,000) from the Mark Kingsbury Foundation has launched a new phase of the Columbia River Greenways; project development from Radium to Golden. Please see our "Funder Profile" on the back page for more information on the Foundation.

The project represents an exciting opportunity to forge new partnerships with community of Golden. Greenways is delighted to welcome Mandy Cattle of Golden to the Board of Directors.

SUPPORT

The project is sponsored by the Mark Kingsbury Foundation (see Funder Profile on the back page for more information on the foundation).

1 RIVER INVENTORY

Greenways will be conducting a comprehensive inventory to identify sensitive ecological areas, greenways routes and possible interpretive and restoration sites between Radium and Golden. The inventory will be presented to Greenways stakeholders to stimulate discussion about possible interpretive sites.

2 INTERPRETIVE NODES

Designs for four new interpretive nodes along the wetlands between Radium and Golden will be created. The nodes will be chosen through consultation with community stakeholders and through findings from the river inventory. A consultation meeting for community stakeholders in the Golden area is scheduled for the evening of February 19th, 2004.

Continued on page 2

GREENWAYS' VISION

OUR MISSION

To develop a network of linear corridors of open natural spaces that maintain the wildlife habitat and recreational legacy of the region and enhance the ecological, economic, and community well-being of the Upper Columbia Valley.

VISION STATEMENT

The Columbia River Greenways Alliance seeks a day when:

- The critical landscape and habitat features in our region are effectively connected allowing for the long-term health of the plant and animal communities that rely upon it for survival.
- Our communities evolve in ways that enhance the total well-being of the region, taking into equal consideration the economic, ecological and social components of well-being.
- The communities of the Upper Columbia Valley are linked both physically and socially by effective, educational and aesthetically appealing human use corridors. These corridors are a significant contributor to the economic and ecological stability of the region as a whole.

PROJECTS

For further information on funding, see Fundraising Section.

SINCLAIR CREEK

IN-STREAM RESTORATION

DESCRIPTION

Sinclair Creek is a critical connector for native fish and wildlife, flowing from its headwaters in Kootenay National Park and joining the Columbia River at Radium Hot Springs. The stream supports a large run of Kokanee, as well as resident eastern brook trout.

The in-stream fisheries habitat and production capacity has been degraded by the alteration of the stream's natural course: the lower part of the stream has been subject to development impacts including highway construction, flood control and irrigation work. The primary problems have been extensive channelization and a partial fish passage barrier at the Highway 95 culvert. Invasive species better adapted to the changed stream, have entered the waterway, pushing out natural species.

CHALLENGE

To restore the in-stream fisheries and riparian habitat within the bounds of the Village of Radium Hot Springs

HOW?

The Sinclair Creek Restoration Project began in 2000 when the Village of Radium Hot Springs hired Naito Environmental to conduct a fish and fish habitat assessment to identify habitat deficiencies. Greenways secured funding for Naito Environmental to proceed with development and implementation of habitat improvement prescriptions during 2003.

Greenways' goals for the project included: increasing public awareness of the issue, improving fish passage and aquatic and riparian habitat, promoting the increase/reestablishment of native fish species and securing the protection of Sinclair Creek as an ecologically sensitive area in the official community plan of the Village of Radium Hot Springs.

This type of restoration is usually conducted by placing large natural objects such as logs and boulders in the stream to create pools and to allow the stream to meander. Weirs, small dams and pools were added to the creek and gravel was added in places to facilitate better spawning to encourage the reintroduction of native species.

WHY IS SINCLAIR CREEK IMPORTANT?

Healthy Ecosystem

Sinclair Creek is one of the few relatively undisturbed alluvial fans entering the Columbia River.

Increased nutrients from the presence of kokanee carcasses, enhanced riparian growth due to restoration, and increased cover and food supply for wildlife are direct benefits of this project. Protection of endangered bunchgrass communities and a riparian corridor is another tangible projected outcome of the restoration.

PLENTIFUL FISH

The rehabilitation will benefit the kokanee population by improving access to the stream as well as by

increasing the quantity and quality of a section of stream habitat. It is also hoped that stream rehabilitation will promote the increase or re-establishment of indigenous fish species (cutthroat, bull, and rainbow trout).

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Sinclair Creek serves as a critical wildlife (ungulate) corridor between Kootenay National Park and the Columbia River Wetlands. The restoration and protection of Sinclair Creek is a significant step in assuring the long-term viability of the Sinclair corridor as an effective site for wildlife feeding, breeding and migration.

NEXT STEPS

TRAIL

Village of Radium council and staff are planning a trail network to facilitate access to Sinclair Creek. The trail will follow the creek west of the highway, with a bridge providing access to both sides of the stream. A later phase will connect North Radium and extend the walkway toward the Creek's junction with the Columbia Wetlands. Disabled access is also being considered, with a parking lot and access point proposed downstream east of the Slocan Mill. Phase One of the trail has been drafted, with target



GERRY NAITO AND STUDENTS FROM WINDERMERE SCHOOL DURING LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

SUPPORT

Local community donors such as Slocan Forest Products, Pacific Salmon Foundation, BC Ministry of Transportation, Baymag Mines, John Wolfe Construction and the Village of Radium Hot Springs generously offered an estimated \$60,000 in materials, equipment time, cash, and labour to help improve fish habitat in Sinclair Creek.

The rehabilitation work was due to the organizational efforts of the Greenway Alliance under the guidance of hired consultant Gerry Naito, and carried out in collaboration with the Village of Radium.

SUCCESS

In-stream work was scheduled for the last two weeks of August and first two weeks of September, however the forest fires impacted the work, delaying approvals from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air and minimizing the available rock for donation due to industrial closures. Despite these challenges, our donors and volunteers prevailed and stream bed rehabilitation work was concluded 10 September 2003.

completion date optimally by the end of 2004.

OUTREACH

- 1 Involve the public in volunteer Kokanee counts during the annual spawn
- 2 Partner with the Village of Radium in the development of educational and recreational features along Sinclair Creek, including spawning viewing platforms, self-guided interpretive tours and a recreational pathway.

RADIUM TO GOLDEN GREENWAY

Continued from page 1

3 COLUMBIA RIVER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The objective of this program is to attract the international research community to locate and conduct work in the internationally-significant Columbia River Wetlands, thereby contributing to the region's economy and to our base levels of research and understanding of the region as a whole.

badger > red-tailed chipmunk > least chipmunk (oreocetes subspecies) > caribou (southern population) > swainson's hawk > peregrine falcon (anatum subspecies) > prairie falcon > western screech-owl (macfarlanei)

(black alpine sedge) > salygrass (foxtail barley) > bluebunch wheatgrass (junegrass) > ponderosa pine (trembling aspen/rose - solomon's seal) > ponderosa pine (bluebunch wheatgrass - lupine) > black cottonwood (red-osier)

JAMES CHABOT DRAGONFLY BOARDWALK

THE EVENT

Successful grand opening (windy) party on 7th September 2003

IN ATTENDANCE

Issuing Statements of support:
Bob Campsall, Councillor DOI
Greg Deck, Village of Radium Hot Springs mayor and Chair of the RDEK
Wendy McMahon, MLA

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

District of Invermere
Real Estate Foundation
Represented by Barry Brown-John

ANNOUNCEMENT

Marion Kingsbury, President of The Mark Kingsbury Foundation announces \$60,000 grant in support of new Radium to Golden Greenway project.

SPEAKER

Meredith Hamstead, environmental consultant

NEXT STEPS

Create interpretive signage for the boardwalk featuring wetlands ecosystem and local dragonfly species via funding from TEMBEC and the Real Estate Foundation

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Adapted from Meredith Hamstead's speech

VALUE OF THE WETLANDS

Wetlands are ecologically, economically, and socially significant and they are disappearing all around the world. Wetlands house much of the world's biodiversity. Just south of us begins one of the worlds longest intact wetland ecosystems. Over 150 kilometers of green stretching north from Canal flats, over 26,000 hectares. Wetlands, and our other local gem grasslands, are among the worlds most endangered ecosystems. In BC, most endangered species, plant and animal, are dependent on grasslands and wetlands for survival. As these ecosystems are filled, drained, and polluted, they unravel, jeopardizing the well-being of the human, plant and animal communities that rely on them.



S.BENNETT/PROSE ART

Ungulates, dragonflies, migrating birds, plants, and people, all depend on wetlands for survival. The Columbia Valley Wetlands host over 250 species of birds. Wetlands also offer significant benefits to human communities, in the form of flood regulation, water treatment and supply management, pollution control, air quality protection. Together with the oceans, wetlands are the lungs of our planet, ensuring that our air is clean and plentiful.

Economically, wetlands provide billions of dollars worth of ecosystem services to human communities, for free, that we would otherwise have to engineer, manufacture, and maintain. It has been estimated that the economic values of wetlands sits somewhere around \$22,000/hectare/year - far more than the value of forests, agricultural lands, or prairies.

WHY THE JAMES CHABOT DRAGONFLY TRAIL?

We chose this tiny wetland patch to invest the time and energy of this community. The wetland featured by the trail is relatively cut off from the rest of this ribbon of green and is surrounded by fast food outlets, roads, a railway, a provincial recreation area, and a growing industrial park. Hardly pristine, and perhaps, barely functioning. But as Meredith Hamstead put so aptly,

"As long as we perceive nature to be somewhere out there, beyond the boundaries of our urban environments, we will fail to connect our own well-being with the condition of the world around us. The Greenways Alliance has chosen to focus some of their energies on showcasing the smaller but equally significant remnants of ecosystems that exist well within the bounds of our communities. Any one can come here - they don't need Gortex or a kayak to be here. They don't even need money. Soon they will be able to come here and learn about the 24 species of dragonflies that we share this little space with. And they'll be able to watch flocks of migrating birds touch down and take off, heading to some strange and foreign land. They can watch the water levels rise and fall, and the plants change with the seasons."

OLD COACH TRAIL

RADIUM TO DRY GULCH

DESCRIPTION

The Invermere to Radium Greenway or "Old Coach Trail" is envisioned as a protected open space corridor linking the communities of Invermere and Radium with the Columbia River and other natural and recreational features of the Upper Columbia Valley. Phase I of the Greenway runs from Radium to Dry Gulch.

The Invermere to Radium Greenway project envisions public, open access and protection for the natural habitat that sustains people and wildlife in the Columbia Valley as our community grows.

PROJECT STATUS

The proposed route was first put forward in 2000 supported by the Columbia River Greenways Alliance's (CRGA) assessment process and by participants in the Upper Columbia Successful Communities Forum. The

planned Greenway received overwhelming support when the CRGA hosted the "Landscapes, Wildlife and People" public workshop in October 2001.

Since that time, the CRGA has proceeded with other aspects of this Greenway, like the Botanical Gardens Greenway Loop at Kinsmen Beach and the Dragonfly Boardwalk at James Chabot Park.

The project has attracted the support of the District of Invermere (DOI) and Village of Radium Hot Springs (VRHS) councils.

Partnership with the Regional District of East Kootenay has allowed the Columbia River Greenways Alliance the potential to establish this area under the RDEK's regional parks function as a regional trail. The project is still in the planning and approval stage within the RDEK. The RDEK and the CRGA hosted an open house on May 22nd, 2003 in Radium to elicit public feedback about the project. Recent work is underway to collaborate with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection since the provincial Wildlife Management Area overlaps portions of the proposed greenway.

"These communities have been paying into the RDEK's parks function for several years and the Greenway represents a fantastic opportunity to receive a reciprocal benefit." says VRHS Mayor and RDEK Board Chair Greg Deck.

"The Greenway has the strong support of area residents and will be a benefit to the recreation, conservation and tourism base of our community" adds DOI Mayor Mark Shmigelsky.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps are to confirm designation of the area as a regional trail and to collaborate on a joint land use management agreement with partners and stakeholders involved in the project.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

SINCLAIR CREEK

Gerry Naito of Naito Environmental gave a slide show presentation about the fisheries-related aspects of the Sinclair Creek Project at the Seniors' Hall in Radium Hot Springs on Wednesday April 23rd 2003. He covered the history of the project, highlighted the habitat problems that exist and showed examples of stream habitat restoration measures that would be applied. The presentation was generously sponsored by the Village of Radium Hot Springs.

OLD COACH TRAIL

The RDEK hosted an open house in connection with Phase I of the Greenway (Radium to Dry Gulch) on 22 May 2003 at the Radium Senior Citizen' Hall, and provided information, fielded questions and listened to area residents' thoughts on the Greenway.

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Fisheries biologist Gerry Naito led a guided walk along the creek on September 27th 2003 as part of the Living with Wildlife weekend.

FUNDRAISING

FUNDERS BY PROJECT - DECEMBER 2003

SINCLAIR CREEK	<i>Slocan Forest Products</i>	\$25,000
	<i>BC Ministry of Transportation</i>	\$15,000
	<i>Pacific Salmon Foundation</i>	\$10,000
DRAGONFLY BOARDWALK	<i>Real Estate Foundation</i>	\$20,000
	<i>District of Invermere</i>	\$9,000
	<i>Tembec Environmental Fund</i>	\$6,500
SELF-GUIDED TOURS	<i>Tembec Environmental Fund</i>	\$6,100
	<i>Successful Communities Forum</i>	\$4,700
	<i>Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens</i>	\$1,000
RADIUM TO GOLDEN GREENWAY	<i>Mark Kingsbury Foundation</i>	\$60,000
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT	<i>Columbia Basin Trust</i>	\$30,000
	<i>Sonoran Institute</i>	\$11,140
	<i>EYCI</i>	\$5,000
OUTREACH	<i>Resources for Community Collaboration</i>	\$11,140
	<i>Village of Radium Hot Springs</i>	\$1,000
	<i>Columbia Basin Trust - Community Initiatives</i>	\$5,000
COWS & FISH EDUCATION	<i>Columbia Basin Trust</i>	\$700
	<i>CKFRP</i>	\$500
	<i>District of Invermere</i>	\$400
	<i>Farmer's Institute</i>	\$300
	<i>CBFWCP</i>	\$1,375
TOTAL		\$223,855

FUNDER PROFILE

THE MARK KINGSBURY FOUNDATION

Mark Kingsbury worked at Canadian Mountain Holidays for 30 years, beginning as a member of the lodge staff and eventually becoming President



MARION KINGSBURY PRESENTING GREENWAYS CHAIR GERRI BRIGHTWELL WITH A PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

and CEO. Throughout his career, he spoke of the environmental, social and economic role that adventure tourism plays in Western Canada.

Mark was certain that wilderness tourism businesses could flourish in tandem with the protection of environmental values. He believed in tourism as a leading source of employment, rewarding careers and rich community life. Mark was increasingly concerned about the need to bring facts to discussions and to the decisions

being made regarding tourism and the environment.

Mark worked relentlessly to make sustainable tourism a reality. The leadership evinced during his life will be carried on by The Mark Kingsbury Foundation, a long-term legacy supporting Mark's vision and passion.

The purposes of the Foundation are:

- To encourage, support and nurture projects and initiatives designed to protect and enhance the ecological and social components of sustainable tourism;
- To provide environmental education programs for tourism guides;
- To support research projects designed to improve operational practices for tourism operations from an environmental perspective;
- To provide scholarships bursaries for students in adventure tourism programs in universities and colleges;
- To build community sustainability projects.

Marion Kingsbury, Mark's wife and president of the Foundation, will do her utmost to ensure the society fulfils its mandate. Greenways is proud to be supported by the Kingsbury Foundation: their pledge of \$60,000 over the next year will facilitate the Radium to Golden Greenway project, an exciting and important endeavour described on Page 1 of this newsletter.

BOARD NOTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gerri Brightwell	Brian McLaughlin
Mandy Cantle	Mark Read
Robert Earl	Russell Tibbles
Anne Glassford	Klara Trescher
Ross MacDonald	Ron Verboom

OUR SPONSORS

PATRONS

The Mark Kingsbury Foundation
Columbia Basin Trust
Real Estate Foundation
Slocan Forest Products
The Sonoran Institute
Tides Foundation

SPONSORS

Canadian Council for Human Resources & Environment Industry
District of Invermere
Pacific Salmon Foundation
BC Ministry of Transportation
Tembec

DONORS

Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife
Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens
Successful Communities Forum
Windermere District Farmer's Institute
Village of Radium Hot Springs

PARTNERS

Columbia Kootenay Fisheries
Renewal Partnership
District of Invermere
East Kootenay Conservation Program
Friends of the Columbia Wetlands Society
Osprey Communications
Regional District of East Kootenay Rotary Club
The Lands Conservancy of BC
The Sonoran Institute
Trout Unlimited Canada
Village of Radium Hot Springs

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