



Fraser Basin Council



The Value We Bring

Annual Report
April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Directors

Here are the Fraser Basin Council Directors, as of March 31, 2006:

Patrick Reid

Chair, Fraser Basin Council, Vancouver

Deborah Abbott

Executive Director, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton

David Barratt

Former Regional Director, Harbours & Ports, Transport Canada, Mission

Nate Bello

Director, Cariboo Regional District, Quesnel

Marty Bootsma

Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Salmon Arm

Ervin Charleyboy

Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, Williams Lake

Linda Coady

Vice President, Sustainability, VANOC - 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games, Vancouver

Randal Cripps

Regional Director, Corporate Branch - Pacific/Yukon Region, Environment Canada, Vancouver

Leah George-Wilson

Chief, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver

Sheilagh Foster

Artist, McBride

Judy Guichon

Rancher, Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited, Quilchena

Duncan Jeffries

Director, Career & Business Development, University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

Eddy Jules

Chief, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Kamloops

Colin Kinsley

Chair, Fraser-Fort George Regional District, Prince George

Peter Ladner

Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Vancouver

Ken Melamed

Director, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Whistler

Peter Milobar

Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Kamloops

Michael O'Brien

Vice President, Vancouver International Airport Authority, Vancouver

Alan Osborne

Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Victoria

Robert Patterson

Mine Superintendent, Gibraltar Mines Ltd, 150 Mile House

Ardath Paxton-Mann

Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver

Bob Peart

President, The Nexus Learning Group, Sidney

Jerry Petersen

Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Vanderhoof

Terry Raymond

Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Boston Bar

Perry Redan

Chief, Sekw'el'as Band, Cayoose Creek Stl'atl'imx, Lillooet

George Saddleman

Representative, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Bruce Sampson

Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Sustainability, BC Hydro, Vancouver

Marcel Shephert

Executive Director, Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

Bob Smillie

Retired Physician, Kamloops

Coro Strandberg

Principal, Strandberg Consulting, Burnaby

Tracy Summerville

Assistant Professor, Political Science Program, University of Northern BC, Prince George

Chris Trumpy

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Victoria

David Van Seters

President, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, Vancouver

Jim Wild

Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta

Bill Young

Consultant, Bill Young Forest Management Inc., 150 Mile House

Completed Terms of Service

Thanks to the following directors who completed service in 2005 -2006:

Betty Abbs

Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Prince George

Sharolise Baker

Fisheries Program Manager, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George

Tom Coombes

Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Anglemont

Caroline Grover

Economic Development Officer, Economic Development Corporation, Salmon Arm

Ronald Hawkins

Retired Forest District Manager, McBride

Dave Hendrixson

Director, Cariboo Regional District, Wells

Hugh O'Reilly

Director, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Whistler

Joe Post

Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Merritt

Sylvia Pranger

Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Kent

Barbara Sharp

Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, North Vancouver

Special Acknowledgement

Roy Mussell (Chief of the Skwah First Nation, Chilliwack) was Vice-Chair of the FBC and a founding director who had served the Council nine years at the time of his passing in March, 2006.

Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy
and sustained by a healthy environment.

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Message from the Chair

At the Fraser Basin Council, we sometimes say that we are “one of BC’s best kept secrets.”

At the Fraser Basin Council, we sometimes say that we are “one of BC’s best kept secrets.”

I, for one, am happy to help let that secret out. The Fraser Basin Council has an important story to tell, and what is fundamental is that the Council rarely takes a starring role in that story—some of its best, most dramatic work comes in arranging centre stage for others.

The Fraser Basin Council has a stellar reputation as a trusted, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to sustainability. That reputation has been built one relationship at a time, as the Council works together with government, the private sector, community organizations and citizens to make the Fraser Basin a better place.

The Council promotes all aspects of sustainability—social, economic and environmental—and works on projects as diverse as integrated flood risk management, rural partnerships and sustainable urban design. The touchstone for the Council is its Charter for Sustainability, which sets a framework for collaboration, long-term thinking and principles of sustainability.

Sustainability is a practical concern. After all, what most people want for themselves, their children and their grandchildren is a good quality of life, strong economic opportunities and a healthy environment. Meeting all those aspirations in a balanced way is the challenge.

Government, the private sector and civil society already entrust to the Fraser Basin Council many critical research studies, educational programs and collaborative initiatives on sustainability. Because it is recognized as an impartial, non-partisan organization focused on collaboration, the Council is ideally placed to help other agencies resolve concerns and coordinate responsibilities on some of today’s toughest issues.

If ever there was a time for shared leadership on sustainability, the time is now. In March, 2006 the first Canadian public opinion survey on sustainability was released. This was part of a larger public research project sponsored in part by the Council. The survey results offer hope. Canadians do care greatly about sustainability, and they are willing to see changes. But as individuals they feel isolated—labouring under the mistaken belief that their neighbours do not share the same concerns.

These thoughts also call up memories of a close collaboration with our Vice-Chair, Chief Roy Mussell, who passed away—far too young—earlier this year. I miss him greatly, as do so many others. It is a rare privilege to know someone as extraordinary, as talented and as wise as Roy. He was a true leader of people, and a friend to each of them.

Everyone in positions of leadership must collaborate to prove that collective efforts do make a difference. The Council can help. We offer experience and expertise, inspiration and sensitivity to others throughout the Fraser Basin, and indeed beyond.

I would like to thank all the directors with whom I have had the pleasure to work over my three years as Chair. I leave this organization in good hands, those of its new Chair, Dr. Charles Jago and his colleagues on Council, and with our outstanding Executive Director David Marshall and his superb staff.

These thoughts also call up memories of a close collaboration with our Vice-Chair, Chief Roy Mussell, who passed away—far too young—earlier this year. I miss him greatly, as do so many others. It is a rare privilege to know someone as extraordinary, as talented and as wise as Roy. He was a true leader of people, and a friend to each of them.

Roy Mussell was also one of the creators of the Fraser Basin Council, and the Council will always reflect that creativity. The Council does a great deal, every day, both in leadership and in service to others. It's a best-kept secret that deserves to be a secret no longer.

For more on Roy Mussell, please see "In Memory" on page 26.



Patrick Reid, OC
Chair, Fraser Basin Council





The Fraser Basin Council in Brief

BC's Fraser Basin

From its source at Mount Robson in the Rockies, the mighty Fraser River travels almost 1,400 km to meet the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Georgia. It is British Columbia's longest river and, together with its many tributaries, drains a quarter of the province. This is the Fraser River Basin, a land of spectacular beauty, diversity and opportunity.

For thousands of years, the Basin has been home to many aboriginal peoples including the Halquameelem, Hun Qui Min Um, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc, Stl'atl'imx, Tsilhqot'in, Carrier and Okanagan-speaking Nations. Aboriginal peoples are an integral part of the Fraser Basin's history, its cultural heritage and its future.

The faces of the Basin are ever changing. Today, 2.6 million people—two-thirds of BC's population—call this place home, people of all cultures, languages and religions.

In addition to its rich cultural heritage, the Fraser Basin offers a diverse natural heritage. It boasts one of the world's most productive salmon river systems, supporting five salmon species and 65 other species of fish, including steelhead and sturgeon. Here also is British Columbia's most productive waterfowl breeding area, home to 300 species of birds, and many mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

From Vanderhoof, Prince George and Kamloops to the most populated stretches of the Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Basin is a place where many communities thrive, supported by a range of economic activity. The Basin contributes about 80% of BC's gross domestic product. There are natural resource industries, as well businesses of all types. The Fraser River system supports many people's livelihoods, directly or indirectly, such as through forestry, fisheries, agriculture, shipping and tourism.

The Fraser River Basin is a special place. Keeping it that way demands that people share in the responsibility for its future.

The Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser River Basin is a special place. Keeping it that way demands that people share in the responsibility for its future.

That is where the Fraser Basin Council comes in. Formed in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable, not-for-profit body that plays a unique role in advancing the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

The FBC is led by 36 directors representing the diversity of the Basin—from the four orders of government, including First Nations—and from the private sector and civil society.

All directors commit to the vision, principles and goals of a Charter for Sustainability, which means making decisions through collaboration and consensus, based on mutual understanding, respect and trust. This governance structure and philosophy is the first of its kind in Canada and has served as a model to others in this country and abroad.

The structure also positions the FBC to help others in public and community life find shared solutions through collaboration and long-term thinking. This is one way the FBC brings a unique and lasting value to the Basin and its people.

Sharing a Charter for Sustainability

The Charter for Sustainability, adopted by the Fraser Basin Council in 1997, sets out the vision, principles and goals that guide the Council in building a better future for the Basin.

The Charter articulates these principles:

Mutual dependence: Land, water, air and all living organisms, including humans, are integral parts of the ecosystem. Biodiversity must be conserved.

Accountability: Each of us is responsible for the social, economic and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.

Equity: All communities and regions must have equal opportunities to provide for the social, economic and environmental needs of residents.

Integration: Consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision-making.

Adaptive approaches: Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values.

Coordinated and cooperative efforts: Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.

Open and informed decision-making: Open decision-making depends on the best available information.

Exercising caution: Caution must be exercised to avoid making irreversible mistakes when shaping decisions.

Managing uncertainty: A lack of certainty should not prevent decisive actions for sustainability.

Recognition: There must be recognition of existing rights, agreements and obligations in all decision-making.

Aboriginal rights: We recognize that aboriginal nations within the Fraser Basin assert aboriginal rights and title. These rights and title now being defined must be acknowledged and reconciled in a just and fair manner.

Transition takes time: Sustainability is a journey that requires constant feedback, learning and adjustment. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance.

What is sustainability?

The Fraser Basin Council believes that sustainability embraces more than one dimension, and that long-term thinking should be behind all human endeavours. The Charter for Sustainability defines sustainability as:

“Living and managing activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations.”



The Charter for Sustainability—online at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca—is a source of inspiration for all people who believe in sustainability. It is a document to be lived, and shared.

Our vision: We want to see the Fraser Basin as a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

The Fraser Basin Council —Bringing Value That Lasts

Showing that collaborative governance works

The Fraser Basin Council believes that broad-based collaboration among people leads to long-term thinking, shared action and sustainability.

Directors come from all four orders of Canadian government, including First Nations, from the private sector and from civil society. This broad-based structure is the first of its kind in Canada and helps bridge diverse interests. It is not only the composition of the Fraser Basin Council that is striking, however, but also its way of doing business. In the words of former FBC Chair Iona Campagnolo, step one at the Council is to “check your ego at the door.”

Inside the boardroom and in all the FBC’s work, decisions are made through dialogue, collaboration and consensus—not debate or divisive positioning. It all starts with a commitment to respect each other, value diversity and relations with other people, consider multiple perspectives and foster trust.

This governance model truly works, not only for the Council, but for other organizations that have since embraced it. The FBC is always happy to work with other agencies, boards, committees and task forces, in the Basin and beyond, that are interested in collaborative governance.

Leading sustainability research, strategies and education

Research and education is a critical foundation for sustainability, and a cornerstone of the Fraser Basin Council’s work.

The FBC has been entrusted over the years with a number of major studies in the Fraser Basin and with recommending strategies for government, agencies, business and community groups. One such project is integrated flood risk management—to give local governments the information and tools they need for flood prevention, mitigation and recovery along the Fraser. Other strategies developed by the FBC, in partnership with others, include a plan to combat invasive plants and a plan to manage agricultural organic waste in the Basin. Each year the FBC provides education on diverse topics—such as approaches to watershed management, stewardship and air quality.

Every two years, the FBC hosts a State of the Fraser Basin Conference and publishes a report on the health of the Basin based on social, economic and environmental indicators.

Initiating and supporting new programs for sustainability

In partnership with others, the Fraser Basin Council introduces new programs for sustainability. Recently, the Council was instrumental in launching Fleet Challenge BC to encourage lower vehicle emissions and the BC Climate Exchange to promote public education. It has also implemented a climate station program to assist the Thompson agricultural community with a water conservation initiative and supported a Sustainability Purchasing Network in the Lower Mainland.

Building sustainability partnerships, and stronger communities

The Fraser Basin Council brings value to others by helping them collaborate for their mutual benefit.

The FBC is asked to lead discussion forums, consultations, workshops, dialogues and planning sessions on sustainability, with participation of the public sector, the private sector and civil society. Success often means bringing people together at the right time, in the right spirit and with the right information to begin a dialogue. This is how ideas take root, grow and blossom into wonderful new partnerships and programs—such as Fraser Valley small lot producers reaching new markets for



Collaborative governance is a proven model for achieving sustainability, as more people are beginning to realize.

their produce, an eco-industrial partnership at Tilbury Business Park in Delta, and a BC Rural Network.

Strong partnerships, in turn, build strong communities—of utmost concern to the Council.

Encouraging collaborative solutions to today's problems

Many of today's toughest public issues are, in essence, sustainability issues. That is because the big decisions made today shape the future of the Fraser Basin for generations to come. One of the things the Fraser Basin Council does best is bring people together to work on collaborative solutions to contentious social, economic and environmental issues.

The Fraser Basin Council is an impartial body in these discussions. It leads the interested parties to identify areas of concern, begin a dialogue and seek resolutions.

Beginning a collaboration can sometimes be daunting for those in public life, private business and community organizations. People frequently come to the table with different priorities and viewpoints, and it may not be clear where responsibilities lie, especially when multiple agencies are involved. But once the table for dialogue is set, and people take the first steps, common ground emerges. The difficult issues are no longer relegated to the "too hard" pile, and progress is possible. This requires patience, but can yield brilliant results.

It is through the FBC's efforts, for example, that government and private parties began discussing clean-up of the contaminated Britannia Mine site on the Sea to Sky highway. In a similar vein, collaboration led to consensus on a plan to maintain a wood debris trap on the river, critical to public safety and navigation.

Sharing lessons abroad

The Fraser Basin Council is a recognized leader on collaborative watershed management—and other countries seek out the Council's expertise and assistance.

The FBC hosts delegations from around the world and also travels abroad to help with new initiatives. Since 1998 the Council has worked with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Government of the Philippines and SNC Lavalin Inc. as part of a "Philippines-Canada Environmental and Economic Management Project." Watershed management projects modelled on the FBC in the Filipino cities of Cebu and Davao have been so successful in overcoming local conflicts that the Philippine Government has decided to adopt a collaborative approach to watershed management throughout the country.

In 2005 FBC Executive Director David Marshall and FBC Vice-Chair Roy Mussell travelled to Warsaw, Poland, to attend a workshop on Integrated River Basin Management, hosted by the World Bank. The FBC model resonated with delegates, and offered fresh hope to those grappling with watershed issues. As World Bank advisor Bill Blomquist said, "nothing looked quite the same to us once we had seen what you're doing."

For details on these projects, see "Across the Basin" in the pages that follow.



BC Biofleet was one of several programs launched by the FBC.



Sustainability partnerships at work—Fraser Valley small lot producers reach new markets.



Celebrating a new water treatment plant at Britannia Mines in 2006. Years earlier, it was the FBC that called on the parties to negotiate a clean-up of this seriously contaminated site.

Across The Basin Caring for the Fraser and its Future

For more information, contact:

Steve Litke, *Program Manager*
T (604) 488-5358
slitke@fraserbasin.bc.ca



A look down onto the Lower Fraser floodplain. Flood hazard management requires sound research, effective strategies and coordination of efforts.

Managing flood risk

Rivers are dynamic, and it is their nature to flood. The question is not if the Fraser River will flood, but when, where and how extensively.

Historically, there have been two major floods of record in the Lower Fraser—one in 1894 and another in 1948. In the late 1960s the federal and provincial governments began an extensive diking program as a preventive measure. Today, there are 600 km of dikes, 400 floodboxes and 100 pump stations to protect communities and infrastructure.

Experts predict a one-in-three chance that another Fraser River flood of record will occur within the next 50 years. As there has been significant development in the Lower Fraser floodplain in recent years, a repeat of the flood of record could be catastrophic—leading to evacuations, injury or loss of life; damage or destruction to property and infrastructure; disruption of business and community services; degradation of water quality; and damage to fish and wildlife habitat.

If there were major dike failures during a record flood in the Lower Fraser, there could be direct flood damages in the billions of dollars, affecting more than 300,000 people within the floodplain. On top of that would be the indirect costs and the social impacts that come from business interruptions or infrastructure damage.

Flood hazard management requires sound research, effective strategies and coordination of efforts. Since its inception, the Fraser Basin Council has taken a leadership role in helping to raise public awareness of flood risk and helping government authorities in carrying out their responsibilities.

In its 2005 -2006 fiscal year, the FBC undertook the following flood hazard management projects and initiatives, with financial support coming primarily from the BC Ministry of Environment:

- **Dike crest gauges:** Managed a project to install 37 flood warning gauges (dike crest gauges) throughout BC, in cooperation with 15 local partners.
- **Digital floodplain maps:** Initiated the development of digital floodplain maps in the communities of Kent-Agassiz, Harrison Hot Springs, Abbotsford and Mission, a project to be concluded in 2006-2007.
- **Hydraulic model to predict water levels:** Initiated the development of a hydraulic model to update the predicted water levels associated with a Fraser River flood of record. The project will help to assess the adequacy of current dike elevations and may also inform land use planning decisions and development practices to reduce future flood damages. This project will also be completed in 2006-2007.

To help keep all interested agencies informed, the Fraser Basin Council chairs the Joint Program Committee for Integrated Flood Hazard Management, bringing together federal, provincial and local government agencies and organizations on an annual basis to discuss and advance flood hazard management.

For the past eight years, the Fraser Basin Council has shown leadership to the multiple parties responsible for the Fraser River debris trap. It has done this by securing funding commitments for the trap's ongoing operation, researching various uses for debris and researching the costs and benefits of the trap.

Fraser River debris trap—will it be there tomorrow?

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Located between Hope and Agassiz, the debris trap is a special boom that floats in the water and corrals uprooted trees, wayward logs and wood debris into a quiet channel where the wood can be collected and removed. Without the trap, up to 100,000 cubic metres of debris would make its way into the lower reaches of the Fraser and the Strait of Georgia each year, threatening people and property.

To imagine that mass, picture thirteen football stadiums full of wood, stacked three metres deep.

Without the trap, logs and wood debris would travel unimpeded down to the lower reaches of the Fraser. This debris would endanger boats, block beaches, litter shorelines, threaten public safety, interfere with commercial and recreational navigation, damage infrastructure such as docks, dikes, bridges, foreshore structures and submarine cables and damage sensitive habitat.

If that isn't enough, there is also potential for dike failures and flooding should debris jam up a given area. If a channel becomes blocked, water is forced in another direction, which could damage sensitive estuary habitat, farms, businesses and homes.

Short-term funding is one thing, long-term commitments are another. The unfortunate reality is that, unless long-term funding for the debris trap is in place soon, the trap may need to be decommissioned. FBC is asking all responsible agencies to step up to a long-term agreement to ensure that does not happen.

For more information, contact Bob Purdy, *GVSS Regional Manager*, at (604) 488-5355 or email bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca.



The Fraser River wood debris trap helps keep the Fraser safe for navigation.



Across The Basin Caring for the Fraser and its Future

The wealth of the rivers—sustainable fish and fisheries

The Fraser River salmon is a symbol of bounty, health and survival against the odds. It is both a cultural icon and a highly prized resource. To ensure a promising future for salmon, other species of fish and for fisheries in the Fraser and its tributaries, it is time for the community and government to share in a vision and management strategy for the Basin, in a spirit of collaboration.

The FBC has worked towards this end. One initiative has been hosting dialogues between First Nations and recreational anglers in the Fraser Valley to improve communications and provide the opportunity to share fisheries information. The Council has also actively supported stewardship groups by assisting the Stewardship Centre of BC.

Over the past year, the Fraser Basin Council and the Pacific Salmon Foundation worked together on an exciting initiative—a five-year business plan to support programs that inspire and support changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmon and watersheds. The plan is supported by the BC Government's Living Rivers Trust Fund, a legacy fund to support healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities.

Other work during the year included input on a Fraser River white sturgeon conservation plan. Sturgeon is an endangered species, and there is evidence that the distinct population in the Nechako River is at risk of extinction. For a closer look, see the Upper Fraser regional report on page 24.

For more information on fish and fisheries, contact Coral deShield, Program Manager, at (604) 488-5361 or by email at cdeshield@fraserbasin.bc.ca, or Saul Milne, Program Coordinator, at (604) 488-5353 or by email at smilne@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The Fraser River salmon is a symbol of bounty, health and survival against the odds. It is both a cultural icon and a highly prized resource. To ensure a promising future for salmon, other species of fish and for fisheries in the Fraser and its tributaries, it is time for the community and government to share in a vision and management strategy for the Basin, in a spirit of collaboration.

Across The Basin

Air Quality, Energy and Climate

Clean air is essential to health. Today people recognize that smog-related emissions are harming the quality of the air they breathe, and that Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are contributing to climate change, one of the world's most serious problems. As people face up to these problems, support for change grows, and new economic opportunities emerge for local companies working in sectors such as power technology, clean transportation and green buildings. The Fraser Basin Council, in partnership with others, has been at the forefront of local initiatives on air quality, energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

Fleet Challenge BC

Transportation accounts for over 40% of all GHG emissions in BC, with the greatest portion attributable to vehicles.

To help tackle the problem, the Fraser Basin Council hosted Fleet Challenge BC under the national umbrella of Fleet Challenge Canada, principally funded by Natural Resources Canada. Through this program, the public and private sector have been able to achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce emissions from their on-road fleets such as freight trucks, municipal and utility vehicles, buses, taxis, police cars and emergency vehicles.

Fleet Challenge BC has led the country in engaging fleets to adopt clean fuels and best management practices. Here are the recent initiatives managed by FBC through this program, thanks to many funding partners:

BC BioFleet: This program promotes the use of biodiesel in BC public sector and commercial vehicle fleets through branding, website resources, training workshops, outreach and incentives. As a result of this program, over 50 fleets in BC are now using biodiesel.

Hybrid Experience Report: Online at www.hybridexperience.ca, the report documents the real-life experiences and fuel efficiency results of fleets that use hybrid vehicles. Simply put, a hybrid is a vehicle with an internal combustion engine and electric motor, powered by a large rechargeable battery. The Hybrid Experience website is unique in Canada, and has attracted national attention. It is a valuable resource for fleet managers, businesses and individuals contemplating hybrids.

Fleet Managers Network: The network provides training and information exchange opportunities for fleet managers to learn about new technologies, fuels and best practices.

Hydrogen Market Development: The vision behind this program is a "hydrogen highway" for BC by 2010, that is, hundreds of clean, hydrogen-fuelled vehicles on the road. A workshop for fleet managers, featuring a ride-and-drive, was held in March to show the capabilities of this new generation of vehicle.

Just Ahead...

E3 Fleet Rating: Energy, Environment, Excellence

To publicly recognize fleets that reduce emissions and cut operating costs, the FBC will introduce a new rating program in the fall of 2006. The program will encourage best practices in fleet management.



Biodiesel is a natural fuel, derived from vegetable or animal fats. It can be used in conventional diesel engines, typically in a blend, to reduce harmful emissions.

Across The Basin

Air Quality, Energy and Climate

For more information contact:

Jim Vanderwal, *Program Manager*
T (604) 488-5359
jvanderwal@fraserbasin.bc.ca, or

Terry Robert, *Program Manager*
T (604) 488-5360
trobert@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE)

The FBC is administering a federal-provincial funding program that supports local government in BC in developing innovative policies, bylaws and information tools to promote green buildings in their communities.

BC Climate Exchange

The FBC hosts an educational outreach and support program—the BC Climate Exchange (www.bcclimateexchange.ca)—through federal and provincial funding. In addition to user-friendly material on its website, the BC Climate Exchange has extended its educational outreach to the Chinese-Canadian community on home energy savings and GHG reductions, and has also provided customized resource kits to partnering organizations.

Idle Free BC

Idle Free BC (www.idlefree.bc.ca) is an important initiative to build awareness among fleet managers and operators and the general public about the economic, environmental and health costs of idling, and to encourage idling reduction programs.

BC Clean Air Forum

In March 2006 FBC hosted a second annual BC Clean Air Forum, in conjunction with the BC Lung Association's annual Air Quality and Health Workshop. Topics included hydrogen fuel cell technology, local airshed planning and biodiesel.



Across The Basin Invasive Plants

Invasive Plant Council of BC—taking aim at invaders

Invasive alien plant species that have the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems are the focus of the BC's invasive plant strategy.

The FBC, in partnership with government, private and community interests, led in the development of this strategy, beginning in 2001, and subsequently in the formation of the Invasive Plant Council (IPC) of BC. The Council has 18 directors and five committees, and is supported by Fraser Basin Council staff.

The IPC is leading the way in BC, and indeed the country, in coordinating efforts to tackle invasive plant species. It does so by:

- encouraging the formation of broad-based regional committees on invasive plants
- compiling and reviewing current legislation and regulations relating to invasive plants and making recommendations to improve effectiveness
- working towards a province-wide inventory system that builds on current databases, and recommending how these can be effectively linked
- developing communications tools and resources through its website and providing educational opportunities
- supporting and expanding research on bio-control and the economic impacts of invasive plants to BC
- developing a trust fund to help ensure stable long-term funding for coordination and operations.

In November, 2005, the IPC hosted a federal government caucus meeting on invasive plants, and in early 2006 held its second annual forum—themed “Aliens as Foes”—with attendance more than double that of the first forum a year earlier.

The IPC recently helped form a Coastal Invasive Plant Committee on Vancouver Island and began work in the Greater Vancouver area. The Council has also shared its experience with other provinces considering similar initiatives.

What are invasive plants?

An experienced gardener keeps a keen watch out for invaders, those beautiful, and seemingly innocuous plants that have a voracious appetite for space and can quickly take over the entire garden. Imagine such a plant invasion on a much bigger scale—across large tracts of BC—and it is easy to see consequences for the social, economic and environmental landscape.

Orange hawkweed, English ivy, leafy spurge, field scabious, scotch broom, spotted knapweed and purple loosestrife are just a few examples from a long list of invasive plant species—or noxious weeds as they are also known—that now dominate private and Crown land across the province. Unfortunately, some of these plants came to BC touted as “new arrivals” for the garden, exotics that look lovely cradled in their garden centre pots, but turn harmful once in the ground or allowed to seed. Others were imported as garden seed, birdseed or medicinal herbs, or accidentally introduced, such as through contaminated crop seed or unintentional seed dispersal in cross-border travel, or distributed by vehicles and recreation activities.

These plants are aggressively prolific once they find new ground. They often defeat native species in the battle for nutrients, sunlight, and water. As many are unpalatable or harmful to livestock and wildlife, there is little to keep them in check. Today, invasive plants are harming fragile ecosystems in BC and reducing habitat and biodiversity. They also cost the provincial economy over \$50 million each year through loss of rangeland and a reduction in yields and quality of crops.

Across The Basin

Strengthening Communities



Strengthening agriculture and boosting opportunities for small business—two ways to build strong communities.



Great culinary experiences begin with fresh local products.



Members of the BC Rural Network—building awareness of rural issues.

Economic diversity and resilience are critical to the sustainability of communities. Yet in many rural areas of the Fraser Basin, people remain dependent on the fortunes of single natural resource sectors, such as forestry, mining, or fisheries. Through its Strengthening Communities program, the Fraser Basin Council works with communities to meet local social and economic needs over the long term.

By the spring of 2006 the FBC had:

- Supported the development of the Small Lot Agriculture sector in Agassiz-Kent
- Developed a community profile and business directory in the South Cariboo, to increase awareness of the diversity of goods and services available to local residents, as well to prospective residents and investors
- Facilitated community visioning and improved networking among the small business and tourism sectors in McBride and Dunster through the establishment of a community calendar of events and a quarterly small business networking night
- Facilitated strategic planning sessions for the new Barkerville Heritage Trust. The goal was to develop a plan to ensure a sustainable future for this important historic site by establishing effective governance and future direction.

Today, other projects are underway, including a BC Rural Network that is structured on the FBC's collaborative governance model. Chaired by the FBC Regional Manager for the Cariboo-Chilcotin, the Network aims to build stronger rural and remote communities and organizations in BC by promoting better understanding of rural issues across all jurisdictions, and developing responses to rural issues.

The Network acts as a coordinating body for the dissemination of information, tools, and resources of importance to rural and remote communities. In 2005-2006 the Network expanded its website resources and worked in partnership with other organizations to develop an online directory of rural organizations and another directory of funding sources.

Economic diversity and resilience are critical to the sustainability of communities.



Across The Basin Celebrations

BC's Lieutenant Governor was guest of honour at the BC Rivers Day Music Festival in Fort George Park in Prince George in September, 2005. Over 4,000 residents gathered to celebrate "the history of rivers" as well as the City's 90th anniversary. FBC Upper Fraser Regional Manager Joan Chess chaired Rivers Day in Prince George, one of many community events supported by the Fraser Basin Council during the year.

An enthusiastic young crowd goes "hands up" at the 2005 Celebration of Community in Mission.

"A Celebration of Community" was another fall event, held at Fraser River Heritage Park in Mission, thanks to the efforts of FBC Fraser Valley Regional Manager Marion Robinson who chaired the organizing committee. A showcase of local talent, cuisine and community activities, the celebration attracted 4,000 people. The day closed with the spectacular Illuminaria Lantern Festival and fireworks, under the guidance of the Mission Association for Community Living and with the full participation of people with developmental disabilities.

And in the Cariboo, the colours of autumn marked the return of the Quesnel sockeye and the Horsefly River Salmon Festival. This celebration attracted visitors from across the province and local schools who enjoyed hands-on learning. These were just a few of the moments to sit back, reflect and cherish life in the Fraser Basin, this place called home.

"It will take immense human dedication and disciplined personal, public and corporate stewardship to hold on to the ongoing integrity of the Fraser River. It may surround us with our own history, but we can never afford to forget that it has also had a major role to play in all our futures. The spirits of all those who preceded us in this place are surely with us today urging us on, as we rededicate ourselves to sustaining this great river that has faithfully served the human family for millennia and that must continue to do so, if we are not to just survive but to thrive in a quality of life that has given all of us such immense joy and comfort."

—The Honourable Iona Campagnolo
*Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
Prince George, Rivers Day, 2005*



In the Regions

Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky

Directors

Linda Coady
Leah George-Wilson
Hugh O'Reilly/Ken Melamed
Barb Sharp/Peter Ladner
David Van Seters

Staff:

Bob Purdy, *Regional Manager*
Deana Grinnell, *Assistant Regional Manager*

For more information, contact:

Bob Purdy, *Regional Manager*
T (604) 488-5355
bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Youth of today need support to take on the sustainability issues that will shape their world tomorrow.

Sustainability By Design

By 2050 Greater Vancouver's current population of 2 million is expected to double. How can this growth be accommodated while protecting and enhancing the attributes of the region that make it one of the world's best places in which to live, work and play? Answering this question is the focus of "Sustainability by Design", a collaborative effort led by the UBC Design Centre for Sustainability and the FBC.

The focus of "Sustainability by Design" is to develop visually compelling neighbourhood and regional concept plans consistent with sustainability principles and targets. Through a series of presentations, panel discussions and design charrettes (intensive time-limited design workshops), municipal staff, developers, citizens and others have worked collaboratively to design *corridors* (commercial arterials), *nodes* (key interchanges where transportation, community centres and natural systems conjoin) and *edges* (urban and rural interfaces).

The FBC is playing an instrumental role in Sustainability by Design by ensuring broad-based participation, assisting with process design and facilitation, and helping to encourage integration of case study outcomes in current municipal and regional plans. Three neighbourhood case studies were selected: the corridor along Kingsway in Burnaby, the rural/urban interface in East Ladner and the town centre nodes along 200th Street in Langley. By the end of the FBC fiscal year, case study work was well underway and preparations were being made to convene a day-long regional charrette at the World Planners Congress to create a design for the entire Greater Vancouver Region, for exhibition at the 2006 World Urban Forum 3 in June.

Youth and sustainability

The Fraser Basin Council participated in "30 Days of Sustainability" in March, 2006—including a youth forum called "Look Who's Talking: A Dialogue on the Future with Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders."

To prepare for the forum, Grade 11 and 12 students from Vancouver-area schools participated in a workshop to develop presentations on their hopes, aspirations and concerns for the future. At a subsequent event at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue attended by over 100 participants, three youth teams delivered their presentations on topics such as health and healthy schools, access to education, advertising and its effects on self-image, consumerism, globalization and trade, First Nations identity and opportunity, building community, peace and security, and negative media portrayal of youth.

The success of the event underscored the importance of continued dialogue between youth and today's decision-makers in business, government and civil society.

Towards sustainability in a regional economic plan

The Fraser Basin Council, BC Business Council and Greater Vancouver Regional District together serve as an advisory group on the economic aspects of the Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI). Through a steering committee, the three organizations began work on a discussion paper intended to build a compelling case for a "sustainability-inspired" regional economic strategy for Greater Vancouver. This

is a timely effort, as it brings a complementary focus to other organizations working on local and regional economic strategies. With all eyes turning to Vancouver in 2010, it is the ideal time to advance economic development at the regional scale in ways that support sustainability.

Water treatment underway at Britannia Mine

Thanks to a new water treatment plant at Britannia Mine (midway between Vancouver and Whistler), contaminated outflow from a former mine site into Howe Sound has ended. Britannia Beach residents now have a more secure future, and local economic opportunities abound. It is a reminder for the FBC that perseverance on important issues is worth the effort.

Back in the late 1990s, progress towards the Britannia clean-up had stalled, and the Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors decided that the FBC should intervene. In 1998 the FBC brought together representatives of the relevant regulatory agencies, the private sector and residents of Britannia Beach. Those discussions proved a turning point. Subsequent to this initial effort, the FBC raised public awareness of the issue, facilitated public consultation on a proposed solution, and helped the residents of Britannia Beach look at options to secure their future in the community.

Support to the community

The FBC regional staff raise awareness on the need for sustainability by regularly delivering presentations to diverse audiences and providing facilitation and capacity-building support to the citizens, government agencies, corporations and non-government organizations interested in advancing sustainability. 2005-2006 activities included:

- **Tilbury Eco-Industrial Networking:** FBC has continued facilitation support to the Tilbury Eco-Industrial Networking Initiative at the Tilbury business park in Delta. The initiative is encouraging the 600 businesses in the park to share materials, energy and other resources for greater efficiency.
- **Debris Trap:** The GVSS Regional Manager coordinated funding for the Fraser River debris trap and the examination of various wood utilization options—see page 9 for details.
- **Richmond Olympic Oval consultation:** FBC facilitated a one-day workshop for the City of Richmond to elicit input into the design of the Olympic Oval and promote the use of sustainability principles in site development.
- **Smart Growth in Pemberton:** At the request of SmartGrowth BC, FBC staff facilitated a workshop in early 2006 on land use and the application of smart growth principles in the Pemberton Valley.
- **Planning for Healthy Communities Dialogue:** Staff assisted in facilitating this dialogue in Vancouver.
- **"Imagine BC" Dialogue:** The future of BC was the focus of this dialogue, broadcast live on CBC's Almanac, in partnership with SFU Centre for Dialogue and with assistance from the FBC.
- **Telus Network BC workshop:** The FBC assisted Telus, provincial government ministries and agencies to identify common public service delivery goals and approaches to achieving them through telecommunications and information systems technologies.



Greater Vancouver would have much to gain from a regional economic strategy that is inspired by sustainability principles.

In the Regions

Fraser Valley

Directors

Dave Barratt
Duncan Jeffries
Roy Mussell
Sylvia Pranger/Terry Raymond

Staff

For more information, contact:

Marion Robinson, *Regional Manager*
T (604) 826-1661
mrobinson@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Farmers' markets and farm tours help connect people to local land and food.

Restorative resolutions—towards long-term solutions

In 2000 the Mission Community Justice Council began extensive public consultations on the best ways of addressing crime in the community. That work culminated in the *Crime Prevention Plan: A Social Approach*, which identifies priorities for crime prevention and resolution, including the need for restorative justice programs.

The District of Mission has since committed to a Restorative Resolutions Program—also known as RAP (Responsibility, Accountability and Peacemaking). RAP is a special program in that it helps members of the community become directly involved in resolving conflicts and incidents of harm in a positive way.

Family and community members are often involved to support the people most affected. Restorative processes may include victim-offender mediation, community conferencing, circles and mediation.

Many agencies worked to turn this idea into reality. The local school district, the RCMP, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, Safe Online Outreach Society and SFU were all pivotal, as well as the program's coordinator.

The FBC was pleased to be part of it. FBC Regional Manager Marion Robinson is a member of the select committee of RAP, as is Fraser Valley director Dave Barratt who worked on the restorative resolutions training curriculum.

Fraser Valley Housing Network

Homelessness is a serious problem in many Basin communities, and one that takes coordination to resolve. One way the FBC has helped is through strategic planning for a new Fraser Valley Housing Network. The Network is a collaboration of over 50 agencies that help people in need—such as by providing them with emergency shelter and other assistance to secure housing.

Supporting Small Lot Agriculture—the Kent experience

Small Lot Agriculture (farms under 10 acres or having annual sales under \$50,000) constitute 25% of BC's agriculture. The food produced by this sector is integral to sustaining both the people and the economies of the Fraser Valley.

Kent (Agassiz) is one rural community that is strengthened by strengthening agriculture. The FBC surveyed the community to identify small lot producers, and the results were included in the integrated land use inventory of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. These producers were given opportunities to deliver to new markets, including Vancouver restaurants. This initiative resulted in strong media coverage, sparking new interest in culinary experiences using local products.

Another FBC initiative of the past year was a feasibility plan for a farmers' market in Kent—and this project is now under consideration.

Circle Farm Tours

Circle Farm Tours (www.circlefarmtours.com) in the Fraser Valley are a resounding success and give the public opportunity to see agriculture as a valuable asset and important part of the economy.

In just a few short years, people have cultivated a growing interest in agri-tourism. By touring farms in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Mission, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows and Langley, local residents and visitors have a chance to meet farmers and sample exquisite local products firsthand. The FBC was pleased to showcase local agriculture by supporting the Agassiz Circle Farm Tour in 2005 and developing the Mission tour in 2006.

Chilliwack River Watershed Plan

A booming population and dramatic increase in visitors to the Fraser Valley bring the prospect of economic opportunities, as well as challenges in watershed management. A project team of the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy, chaired by the FBC Fraser Valley Regional Manager, is addressing the issues. The goal: to provide a common understanding of watershed values, based on sound science and local knowledge, and to assist in decision-making that will promote and improve the sustainability of the Chilliwack River watershed.

The project team has led public forums and government meetings to identify the issues, and applied appreciative inquiry techniques to gain further insights and rapport among the parties. Key goals include increasing public awareness and identifying stewardship and enhancement opportunities.

Other community support

The Fraser Valley Regional Manager was also involved in other initiatives during the year, including:

- Chairing the organizing committee for Mission's 2005 Celebration of Community under the theme of stewardship.
- Presenting at the Rotorua Lakes Water Quality Symposium in New Zealand in March, 2006—and working with environmental districts and universities to address nutrient management issues and explain the FBC facilitation and management model.
- Presenting at the Certified Organic Association of BC Conference, Union of BC Municipalities Economic Conference and Philosopher's Café.
- Assisting the FBC with First Nations and recreational fisheries dialogues.
- Attending various events including a local forestry tour, Mission Showcase, Pacific-Agrishow, Gateway Openhouse, BC Ministry of Health and BC Housing sessions and a Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society session.



The Chilliwack River Watershed Plan project team are helping to build a common understanding of watershed values.

In the Regions Thompson

Directors

Deborah Abbott
Tom Coombes/Marty Bootsma
Judy Guichon
Eddy Jules
Perry Redan
Joe Post/Peter Milobar
George Saddleman
Bob Smillie

Staff

For more information, contact:

Phil Hallinan, *Regional Manager*
phallinan@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Jodi Romyn, *Assistant Regional Manager*
Email: jromyn@fraserbasin.bc.ca

T (250) 314-9660



Water is a scarce resource in many communities. Climate stations help support efficient irrigation schedules in agriculture.

Stewardship workshop

The Thompson Region hosted a second annual stewardship workshop in March, 2006, which proved a resounding success, drawing over 60 enthusiastic participants to Williams Lake from communities, agencies, industry, local government and First Nations across the Interior. The two-day event helped local stewards gain strategic communications skills to promote their efforts, learn techniques for developing successful funding applications and understand more about integrating traditional and scientific knowledge in their stewardship work.

Perhaps most importantly, everyone took the time to build connections with each other. The next workshop is slated for 2007.

Committee on watershed stewardship (COWS)

Without a doubt, the Committee on Watershed Stewardship (COWS) is an inspirational success, and FBC has been pleased to be an active member since 1998. Originally formed as the educational branch of the BC Cattleman's Association, COWS has evolved into a broad-based advisory group on watershed issues composed of federal, provincial and local government representatives and conservation non-governmental bodies such as Ducks Unlimited.

Climate stations for water conservation

The Nicola River watershed is short of its most valuable resource—water—which creates the potential for conflict in the face of competing demands. To tackle the problem, the Nicola Watershed Roundtable developed a Water Use Management Plan, a strategic approach to meeting the needs of people, fish and wildlife, agriculture, commerce, industry and recreation.

Water conservation in agriculture is now assisted by climate and soil moisture stations. The FBC, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and with funding from the Pacific Salmon Commission, recently expanded the network of these stations in the Thompson region.

The stations measure evapotranspiration of field crops—the amount of water that is evaporated from the soil and crop surface (evaporation) and the water that is taken in through the plant and released as water vapour (transpiration). By providing climate data and soil readings, the stations offer producers a scientific aid for managing their irrigation, planting, fertilization and pest management.

The readings from all climate and moisture stations are available to the agricultural community and members of the public at www.farmwest.com.

Complementary to this project, FBC regional staff have taken a role in educating on the significance of the stations and efficient agricultural water use.

Studying stream flow in the Nicola watershed

A study is underway to gain a better understanding of the relationships between stream flow, stream temperature and anadromous fish stock in the Nicola watershed. The FBC is administering the project, which will help determine demands on the limited water supply. This, in turn, will assist the Nicola Water Use Management Program (WUMP) on water use and conservation practices.

Thompson residents measure progress on sustainability

In June, 2005 the FBC distributed 100,000 copies of *Thompson Region Indicator Report* to residents in Kamloops, Lillooet, Ashcroft, Barriere, Clearwater, Merritt, Salmon Arm and Lumby.

From water consumption to economic diversification, forestry, health, fish and wildlife, the report examined 14 top issues that impact people every day. The report flags what is going well in the region (improved sewage treatment and certification of forest stewardship, for example) and what issues need attention (high water use rates, lack of protection for some ecosystems and a net loss of ALR land).

The Thompson report, like the FBC *Sustainability Snapshot* report, which covers the whole of the Fraser Basin, supports better public understanding and appreciation of sustainability issues.

Other community support

The Thompson Region was also involved in other initiatives:

- A food security mapping pilot project was completed in March, 2006 to explore the feasibility of adding food security map layers to the Community Mapping Network.
- The Thompson Assistant Regional Manager continued serving as secretariat for the Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement Committee of the Invasive Plant Council of BC.
- The Region acted in an advisory capacity to the Lillooet, Lytton and the SLRD Electoral Districts A and B under a Land and Resources Management Plan. New initiatives under that plan include an experimental viticulture program in Lillooet and a downtown beautification project for Lytton.



FBC distributed the Thompson Region Indicator Report to 100,000 residents. The report highlights some of the top sustainability issues that impact people every day.

In the Regions

Cariboo-Chilcotin

Directors

Nate Bello
Ervin Charleyboy
Dave Hendrixson
Bob Patterson
Bill Young

Staff

For more information, contact:

Gail Wallin, *Regional Manager*
T (250) 392-1400
gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Interface fire plans are fast becoming a priority—and FBC was pleased to help facilitate planning in Williams Lake and Quesnel.

Interface fire plans

In 2003 fires tore across southeastern BC and the Okanagan, threatening a number of communities, including Kelowna, whose residents witnessed the approach of a terrifying firestorm. For all those who fought the fires, and all those who watched and waited, it was a sober reminder that wildfire has no respect for city limits.

By the following year, many people in the BC Interior were ready to take preventive action. The Fraser Basin Council facilitated meetings of 18 organizations that came together to prepare an interface fire plan for Williams Lake. An interface fire plan is designed to address concerns in critical interface areas, that is, where forest or grasslands meet up with low-density residential properties on the outskirts of a city or town.

Completed in August, 2005, the Williams Lake and Area Interface Fire Plan made 22 recommendations to lower the risks presented by potential wildfire. A key recommendation was for the formation of 13 interface fire planning units around Williams Lake. The work includes reduction of canopy cover and woody debris in interface zones, improving road access and ensuring effective communications across the region.

The idea of interface fire planning has caught on quickly. The City of Quesnel was next to begin work on an interface fire plan of its own, using the Williams Lake plan as a model. Since early 2006, the FBC has led this work, thanks to the participation of community associations, the forest industry and utilities, and funding from the Union of BC Municipalities.

A plan for 100 Mile House is ahead. All three plans complement a regional plan led by the Cariboo Regional District to support rural communities.

South Cariboo business directory

The FBC was pleased to initiate a South Cariboo business directory as part of its Strengthening Communities program, thanks to those across the region who helped get this project off the ground. The directory is now available online and accessible via the FBC website. It spans two regional districts and many small and remote communities, and offers a diverse choice of business listings. Most importantly, it puts local people in touch with goods and services available in their communities. Over time, the goal is stronger small communities in the South Cariboo with healthy small businesses supported by local residents.

Aboriginal forestry directory and forum

Another online directory is on its way—this one intended to increase employment among aboriginal people in forestry. The Aboriginal Forestry Directory will be accessible through the FBC website and will list members of First Nations and Métis communities who have specific forestry skills or forestry-related businesses, making them more accessible to forest industry companies.

A team of First Nations representatives and the Aboriginal Forestry Forum, co-hosted by the FBC, provided direction for this project. Funding came from the forest industry and the provincial government.

Visioning session on governance

The FBC has supported regional visioning sessions in the Cariboo-Chilcotin to build strong partnerships across communities. In October, 2005 a session on governance drew elected and senior administrators from all orders of government in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Over 60 people came together—including leaders from First Nations bands, municipalities and the regional district. They flagged community issues of concern and identified shared actions that could be undertaken in the near future to make the region a better place for all its citizens.

Other community support

Among other commitments, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Manager serves as Executive Director for the Invasive Plant Council of BC to implement the provincial invasive plant strategy (see page 13 for details) and chairs the BC Rural Network (see page 14 for details). She has also assisted with a Stewards Workshop in the Thompson Region and assisted the Upper Fraser Regional Manager by leading a rural dialogue about learning communities in Burns Lake.



In the Regions

Upper Fraser

Directors

Betty Abbs/Colin Kinsley
Ron Hawkins/Sheilagh Foster
Jerry Petersen
Marcel Shephert
Tracy Summerville

Staff

For more information, contact:

Joan Chess, *Regional Manager*
T (250) 612-0252
F (250) 564-6514
jchess@fraserbasin.bc.ca



After ice jams and flooding at Naver Creek, attention turned to future flood mitigation and stream bank restoration.

Naver Creek—Restoration after ice jams and flood

In late January 2005 the residents of Hixon, a central BC town midway between Prince George and Quesnel, faced a crisis near Naver Creek. Three weeks of extreme cold (-30° to -40°C) had been followed by heavy rain and mild temperatures that caused rapid thaw. Large ice blocks jammed the creek, blocking the abnormally high waterflow. The result was flooding and an evacuation of many homes.

In early 2006, at the request of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, the Fraser Basin Council agreed to help provide leadership in forming the Naver Creek recovery project. The flood had put Hixon residents and their properties at risk, as well as the railway, hydro-electricity transmission line, natural gas pipeline, oil pipeline and Highway 97. There were many interests at stake, and the FBC was well positioned to help coordinate future flood mitigation and stream bank restoration.

The FBC undertook community consultations, helped obtain provincial funding for an assessment, and oversaw a study by independent consultants. The overarching goal was to minimize the risk of future floods and land erosion along Naver Creek, and stabilize stream banks, while simultaneously protecting fish habitat.

Recovery efforts will continue next year involving the community, government agencies and companies.

Stewardship on the Nechako

The Fraser Basin Council has been active in the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC) since initiating its formation in 1998. The NWC is a multi-interest group with representation from Alcan, aboriginal groups, government and community interests. A key focus of the group is to develop water management strategies that resolve longstanding conflicts in the Nechako watershed.

The NWC supports the development of a Cold Water Release Facility (CWRF) at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako, as the primary means of managing water flow to meet a wide range of interests, such as migratory and resident fish, including the endangered white sturgeon, tourism, recreation, agriculture, and the redevelopment of the Murray-Cheslatta drainage. Alcan will be able to continue meeting its legal obligations and to generate electricity for its smelter in Kitimat.

The provincial government and Alcan have funded Phase 1 of the NWC's Cold Water Release Facility Work Plan. With assistance from FBC, NWC members are also working on new flow regimes that could be implemented after the proposed CWRF has been constructed—to accommodate a variety of ecological, social and economic needs. In March, 2006 the government and Alcan provided matching grants of \$120,000 for Phase 2 of the NWC work plan. The FBC assisted the Nechako Enhancement Society (BC and Alcan) in preparing a qualitative summary of the benefits of a CWRF.

Nechako sturgeon conservation and recruitment efforts

White sturgeon, Canada's largest freshwater fish, is found only in the Fraser, Columbia and Sacramento Basins. These great fish trace their heritage back to dinosaurs. They can exceed 600 kg in weight and 3 m in length, and live over 100 years. But this magnificent survivor of the ages is now on the endangered species list.

FBC is assisting conservation and recruitment efforts for the white sturgeon of the Fraser River and, in particular, the distinct population of the Nechako River which is the most seriously endangered.

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative is a collaborative effort to save and re-establish a naturally producing population. A technical team of fisheries biologists and other specialists and a communications group consisting of representatives of community groups, industry and four orders of government have joined forces, and the FBC Regional Manager is part of this effort.

Other community service and support

Other projects of the Upper Fraser Regional Manager included:

- Chairing BC Rivers Day celebration in Prince George—see more on page 15.
- Guest lecturing at UNBC on Integrated Resource Management and Natural Resources Planning, using the FBC's approach and projects as examples.
- Participating in Health Canada's Contaminated Sites and Public Participation workshop, and sharing FBC's model based on inter-jurisdictional and multi-interest approach.
- Serving as an external advisor on the curriculum review committee for the Environmental Planning degree program.
- Through NWC, reviewing a proposal by Huckleberry Mine, a copper mine located at the western end of the Nechako Reservoir, to discharge treated run-off water into Tahtsa Narrows.



Conservation and recruitment efforts are underway to rebuild the Nechako White Sturgeon population.



“He lifted the spirits of all those around him. He was a true leader.”

—Grand Chief Rose Charlie

In memory

Roy Mussell (Sxela:wtxw till) 1948-2006
President, Fraser Basin Council Society 2003 - 2006
Vice-Chair, Fraser Basin Council 1997 - 2006

When Chief Roy Mussell passed away on March 5, 2006, the people of the Fraser Basin lost a great leader. Roy cared passionately about his community, and about the communities of others. Most importantly, he understood how to reach out to all people—Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal—and to build bridges of understanding between them.

Roy was Chief of the Skwah First Nation near Chilliwack. In a Sto:lo First Nations naming ceremony in late 2005, Roy Mussell was honoured with the name “Sxela:wtxw till”, after the land of his people in the heartland of the Fraser Valley.

A tireless advocate of Aboriginal inclusion and opportunities for Aboriginal youth, Roy worked over many years, and on many fronts. He was Manager of the Sto:lo First Nation Human Resources Development, a board member for the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada and Chair of the Ch-ihl-kwa-uhk Forestry Limited Partnership—a joint logging venture providing valuable skills to Aboriginal youth.

He was also a long-serving board member and Vice-Chair of the Fraser Basin Council, an organization he described as dear to his heart. The mission of the Council accorded well with Roy’s deep-rooted commitment to sustainability. He was especially gifted at bringing people together to identify common ground and forge new partnerships. For his friends, colleagues and all who knew him, Roy Mussell was a source of inspiration—a leader in every sense.

In memory of Chief Roy Mussell, a new endowment fund has been created to support leadership capacity of First Nations youth, and the FBC is accepting donations to this fund on behalf of the family.

Financial Statements of FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005



AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the statement of financial position of Fraser Basin Council Society as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding fiscal year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KPMG LLP". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

Chartered Accountants

Burnaby, Canada

June 2, 2006

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Financial Position

March 31, 2006 and 2005

	2006	2005
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,039,133	\$ 638,774
Restricted cash (note 3)	1,098,663	1,343,255
Project and other receivables (note 4)	1,241,922	1,112,683
Prepaid expenses	26,843	15,843
	3,406,561	3,110,555
Computer and office equipment (note 5)	44,545	39,770
	\$ 3,451,106	\$ 3,150,325

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 601,999	\$ 486,368
Deferred revenue (note 6)	439,868	119,175
Obligation under capital leases	-	8,994
Funds held in trust (note 7)	1,098,663	1,343,255
	2,140,530	1,957,792

Net assets:

Invested in capital assets	44,545	30,776
Internally restricted:		
Sustainability Fund (note 2(c))	442,029	380,333
INAC Fund (note 2(d))	100,000	150,000
Mussell Fund	4,133	-
Unrestricted (note 2(e))	719,869	631,424
	1,310,576	1,192,533
	\$ 3,451,106	\$ 3,150,325

Commitments (note 8)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Members:



Director



Director

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Operations

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

	2006	2005
Revenue:		
Government contributions:		
Federal	\$ 120,000	\$ 300,000
Provincial	350,000	350,000
Municipalities and regional districts	440,715	436,601
Project revenue	2,740,483	1,403,712
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	428	219,125
Investment income	80,447	57,979
Donations	183,108	65,043
	3,915,181	2,832,460
Expenses:		
Projects:		
Basinwide	2,140,059	1,184,601
Regional	1,039,150	505,418
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	-	147,164
Communications	64,721	124,686
Board operations	124,896	110,077
Administration	388,381	407,248
Amortization of computer and office equipment	28,183	18,761
Goods and Services Tax	11,748	57,369
	3,797,138	2,555,324
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 118,043	\$ 277,136

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Changes in Net Assets

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

	Internally restricted						Total 2006	Total 2005	
	Invested in capital assets	Sustainability Fund	INAC Fund	Mussell Fund	Unrestricted				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 30,776	\$ 380,333	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 631,424	\$ 1,192,533	\$ 915,397		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(28,183)	-	-	-	146,226	118,043	277,136		
Acquisition of capital assets	32,958	-	-	-	(32,958)	-	-		
Repayment of capital lease obligation	8,994	-	-	-	(8,994)	-	-		
Transfers	-	61,696	(50,000)	4,133	(15,829)	-	-		
Balance, end of year	\$ 44,545	\$ 442,029	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,133	\$ 719,869	\$ 1,310,576	\$ 1,192,533		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Cash Flows

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

	2006	2005
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 118,043	\$ 277,136
Amortization of computer and office equipment	28,183	18,761
Decrease (increase) in non-cash working capital:		
Project and other receivables	(129,239)	(320,431)
Prepaid expenses	(11,000)	(3,291)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	115,631	215,163
Deferred revenue	320,693	(5,761)
Funds held in trust	(244,592)	(196,131)
	197,719	(14,554)
Investments and financing:		
Purchase of computer and office equipment	(32,958)	(30,344)
Repayment of capital lease obligation	(8,994)	(15,720)
Restricted cash	244,592	196,131
	202,640	150,067
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	400,359	135,513
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	638,774	503,261
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 1,039,133	\$ 638,774

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and short-term investments with maturities less than ninety days from inception, excluding restricted cash.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

1. Operations:

The Fraser Basin Council Society (the "Society") is incorporated under the Society Act of (British Columbia). Its mandate is to advance sustainability of the Fraser Basin and monitor implementation of the *Charter for Sustainability*. The *Charter for Sustainability* is designed to maintain and enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Society qualifies as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and, accordingly, is exempt from federal and provincial income and capital taxes.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations as prescribed by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

(b) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions and investment income are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

(c) Sustainability Fund:

Transfers to the Sustainability Fund from unrestricted net assets are restricted through Board approval. Interest earned on the fund balance is transferred to the fund as it is earned. The Society intends to create an endowment fund to generate income for future operations. The funds restricted by the Board are currently available for use under certain circumstances as determined by the Board.

(d) INAC Fund:

The INAC Fund includes amounts contributed without restriction by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that have been restricted through Board approval. The funds restricted by the Board are available for use on any society project, to be utilized at a rate of \$50,000 per year until the fund is exhausted in fiscal 2008. The restriction on the use of funds is based on an understanding by the Society that the contribution by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada relates to the agreed upon Federal Government contributions through fiscal 2008.

(e) Unrestricted net assets:

Unrestricted net assets are the accumulation of excess revenue over expenses, which have not been internally designated for use on a specific project.

(f) Computer and office equipment:

Computer and office equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is computed on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	
Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	5 years

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates.

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

3. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash represents the funds held in trust.

4. Project and other receivables:

	2006	2005
Federal agencies:		
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	\$ 84,175	\$ 10,397
Canada Revenue Agency	25,446	17,947
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	71,866	175,865
Environment Canada	42,704	137,500
Health Canada	1,561	50,000
Industry Canada	-	5,000
Natural Resources Canada	86,074	25,000
Public Works and Government Services	-	20,000
Western Diversification Office	233,169	279,000
Provincial agencies:		
Ministry of Energy and Mines	163,523	-
Ministry of Forests	5,000	-
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	-	1,000
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection	-	5,105
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fish	-	38,131
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services	-	16,000
Municipalities and Regional Districts	13,384	120,185
Other	515,020	211,553
	\$ 1,241,922	\$ 1,112,683

5. Computer and office equipment:

	2006		2005	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer and office equipment	\$ 153,200	\$ 108,655	\$ 44,545	\$ 39,770

Included in computer and office equipment are assets under capital lease with a net book value of nil (2005 - \$13,209).

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

6. Deferred revenue:

The changes in deferred revenue related to expenses of future periods are as follows:

	2006	2005
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 119,175	\$ 124,936
Amounts received during the year related to future periods	425,868	105,175
Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(105,175)	(110,936)
Balance, end of year	\$ 439,868	\$ 119,175

Deferred revenue is to be used for operations and specified programs that are expected to be completed in fiscal 2007. Specified programs include research and co-ordination initiatives related to Climate Change, Rural Development Database, Community Action on Energy Efficiency, Flood Management, Hydraulic Model, Biodiesel Market Development, and the Clean Air Forum Conference.

7. Funds held in trust:

Funds held in trust represent the excess of funding received from government and private sources over disbursements made in respect of specific projects. The Society acts as an agent only to collect funds and make disbursements with respect to these projects, and accordingly, related revenue and expenditures have not been included in the financial statements of the Society. During the year, the trust funds managed by the Society had the following activity:

	2005	Funds received	Disbursements	2006
Hydraulic Model Trust	\$ 50,000	\$ 392,242	\$ 442,242	\$ -
Cariboo LRMP Trust	23,010	-	-	23,010
Community Learning Network Conference	13,862	-	-	13,862
Cheslatta Watershed Study	738	-	738	-
First Nations Development Trust	-	270,000	270,000	-
Flood Hazard Management Program	366,921	-	6,451	360,470
Lessons Learned Forum	8,525	-	-	8,525
Lillooet LRMP Trust	81,163	-	58,532	22,631
Log Debris Management	282,542	420,000	404,741	297,801
Manual River Gauges Trust	-	181,883	181,883	-
Merritt - SRM Planning Process	112,500	-	15,141	97,359
Noxious Weeds Trust	5,000	100	5,100	-
Sea to Sky LRMP Trust	253,197	-	-	253,197
St'at'imc / BC Protocol Implementation	102,715	734	103,449	-
Thompson - OGMA Processes	54,000	-	32,192	21,808
BC Rural Network Trust	(10,918)	10,918	-	-
	\$ 1,343,255	1,275,877	1,520,469	\$ 1,098,663

Years ended March 31, 2006 and 2005

8. Commitments:

The Society is obligated to make monthly rental payments of \$5,500 for office space under a five-year lease expiring June 30, 2006. The landlord has carried out improvements to the premises costing \$200,000 to accommodate the needs of the Society and it is a condition of the lease that the Society is liable to repay this \$200,000 should they vacate these premises prior to expiry of the lease term.

Subsequent to the year end, this lease was renewed for an additional five years at \$6,284 per month.

9. Financial instruments:

The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, project and other receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, obligation under capital lease and funds held in trust approximate their fair values due to their relative short-term nature.

10. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.

Staff

Here are the Fraser Basin Council staff, as of March 31, 2006:

David Marshall

Executive Director

Jessica Bratty

Program Manager

Laura Brend

Administrative Assistant, Council Operations and Information Technology

Joan Chess

Regional Manager, Upper Fraser

Diana Dilworth

Manager, Council Operations

Deana Grinnell

Assistant Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky

Phil Hallinan

Regional Manager, Thompson

Steve Litke

Program Manager

Terence Ng

Finance Coordinator

Bob Purdy

Director of Corporate Development and Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky

Terry Robert

Program Coordinator

Marion Robinson

Regional Manager, Fraser Valley

Jodi Romyn

Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson

Linda Shore

Administrative Assistant, Operations

Jim Vanderwal

Program Manager

Gail Wallin

Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Also completing service with the FBC in 2005-2006:

Elizabeth Balkwill

Administrative Assistant, Operations

Raymond McAllister

Communications Consultant

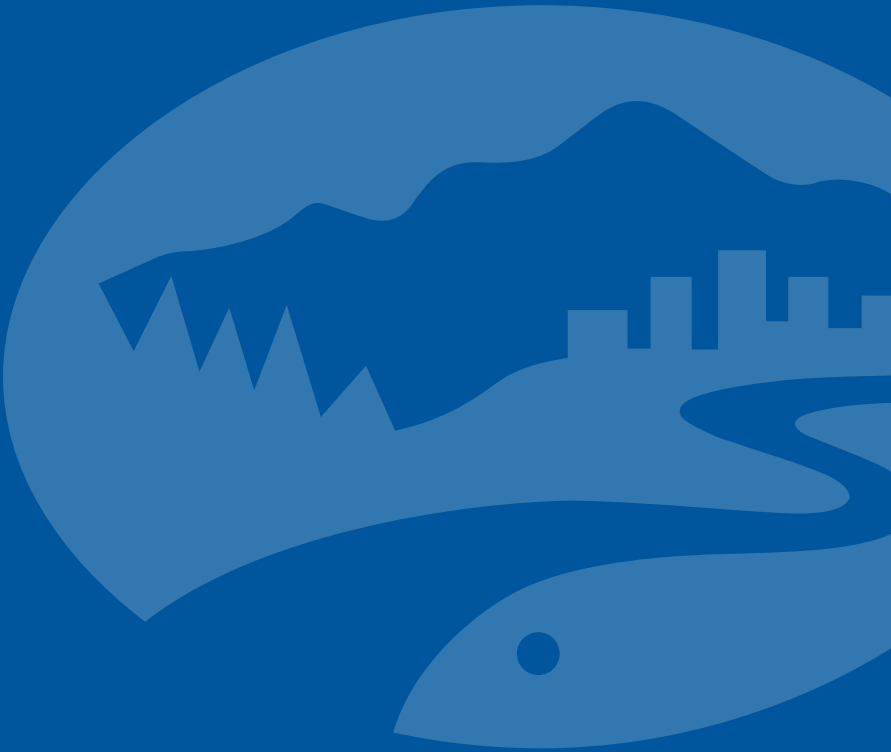


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Regions and Offices

A FBC Head Office and Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky (GVSS) Regional Office

1st Floor, 470 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 1V5

FBC Executive Director:
David Marshall
T (604) 488-5350
F (604) 488-5351
info@fraserbasin.bc.ca

GVSS Regional Manager and Director, Corporate Development:
Bob Purdy
T (604) 488-5355
bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca

B Fraser Valley Regional Office

PO Box 3006
Mission, BC
V2V 4J3

Regional Manager:
Marion Robinson
T (604) 826-1661
F (604) 826-6848
mrobinson@fraserbasin.bc.ca

C Thompson Regional Office

#200A-1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC
V2C 6K7

Regional Manager:
Phil Hallinan
T (250) 314-9660
F (250) 828-2597
phallinan@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Assistant Regional Manager:
Jodi Romyn
jromyn@fraserbasin.bc.ca

D Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Office

104 - 197 2nd Avenue North
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 1Z5

Regional Manager:
Gail Wallin
T (250) 392-1400
F (250) 305-1004
gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca

E Upper Fraser Regional Office

207-155 George Street
Prince George, BC
V2L 1P8

Regional Manager:
Joan Chess
T (250) 612-0252
F (250) 564-6514
jchess@fraserbasin.bc.ca

