

ACCESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July - September 2003

Climbing to the Top of the 'Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada'

by Anny Ko

Imagine going rock climbing along granite cliffs. Windsurfing the Squamish spit. Mountain biking on international race paths. Hiking and mountaineering on some of the most diverse and challenging lands. Observing eagles wintering on the banks of the local rivers. These are some of the activities offered by the natural surroundings in Squamish, crowned the "Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada."

Western Economic Diversification Canada provided the **Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) of Howe Sound** with \$33,000 in assistance, some of which was used to help develop the **Centre for Outdoor Adventure** in partnership with the District of Squamish and the Canada West Mountain School.

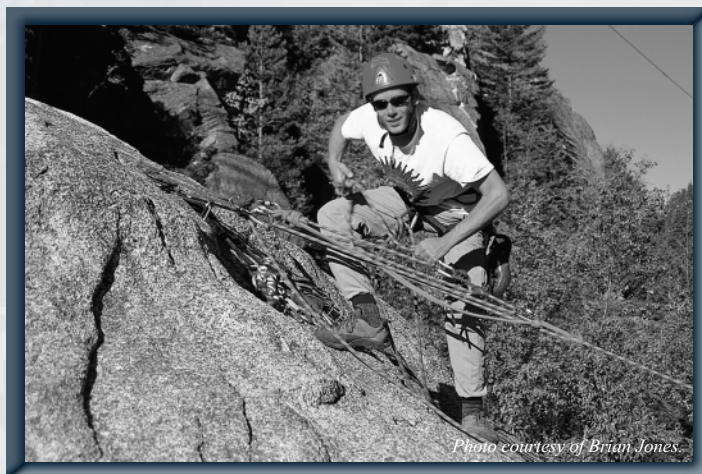


Photo courtesy of Brian Jones.

The project was designed to help the region diversify from the primary resource-based industrial foundation it depends on, and undertake business activities that will lead to a more sustainable economic base. The Centre for Outdoor Adventure will provide employment for local residents by promoting the natural attributes of the area,

rather than depending on an economy that consists mainly of forestry and fishing. It also allows Squamish to form valuable partnerships and strategic alliances with the business community and develop into a more diversified economy.

"This initiative represents a wonderful opportunity for Squamish to take great strides in showcasing our incredible outdoor recreation possibilities to the world," said Jeff Dawson, executive director of CFDC of Howe Sound.

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

From Cloud to Tap – Ensuring

A raindrop's journey from cloud to tap is long and complex. In British Columbia's lower mainland, by the time a raindrop trickles from the tap it has spent half its life cycle traveling through one of Greater Vancouver's three watersheds.

Watersheds collect snowmelt, creeks and streams in supply lakes. The **Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD)** maintains three large watersheds – Seymour, Capilano and Coquitlam — that serve over two million people in the district.

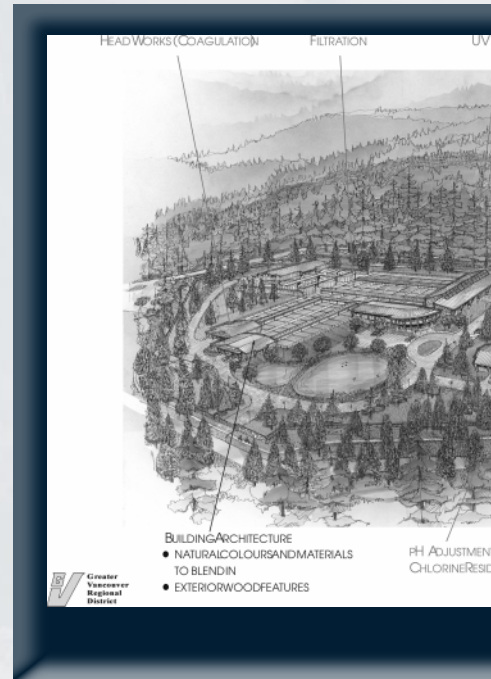
To ensure residents enjoy safe drinking water, the Water District put together an ambitious multi-million dollar project to build Canada's largest water filtration plant.

Because of the scope of work involved, the GVWD approached the other levels of government for assistance. The federal and provincial governments contributed \$100 million through the **Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program** toward the new \$150 million water filtration plant to be constructed in the Lower Seymour Conversation Reserve in North Vancouver.

“Over 786,000 households currently connected to the municipal water system will benefit directly from this project,” commented Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development). “It's an excellent example of all levels of government working together to protect the health of our communities.”

The Reserve currently serves as a drinking water reserve, but also supports recreational and educational activities in the area — activities that annually attract 300,000 visitors.

Capable of treating 1,800 megalitres of water per day, the new plant will use a high rate deep bed direct filtration system to treat raw water from the Seymour and Capilano watersheds. As part of its Sustainable Region Initiative, the GVWD plans to use green



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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Bringing Clean Water a Priority

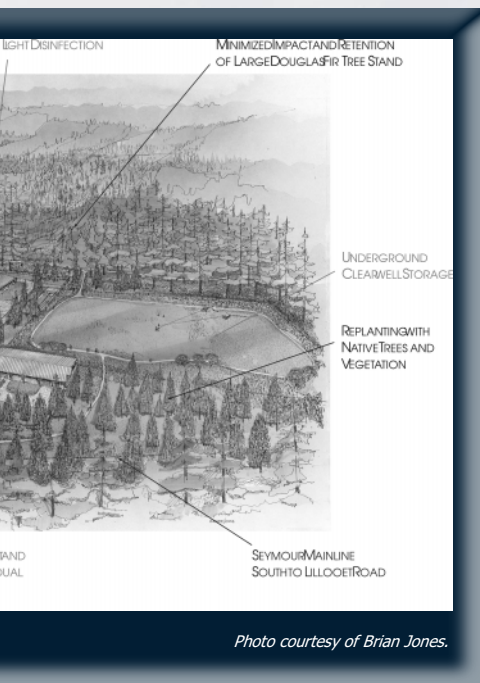


Photo courtesy of Brian Jones.

technology – green roof technology, energy recovery systems and backwash water recycling – during both construction and operation of the facility.

The Water District will improve on its current high quality drinking water using proven technology. Filtration provides an even higher quality of drinking water by resolving the issue of turbidity — removal of small, suspended particles washed into the reservoirs by rainfall. It also removes giardia and cryptosporidium –

organisms that are present in all surface waters and are intestinal parasites not normally deactivated by disinfectants such as chlorine.

This project will reduce turbidity, the demand for chlorine by almost 50 per cent, disinfection byproducts and the need for flushing water mains – saving almost \$1 million annually.

The Seymour watershed supplies water to approximately 40 per cent of the households in the GVWD, but in an emergency becomes the primary water source because of its high elevation in the North Shore Mountains.

The Seymour plant is expected to be complete by March 2006.

For complete details of projects undertaken by the Greater Vancouver Regional District at (604) 451-6107 or visit their Web site at: www.gvrd.bc.ca/services/water.

The Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program is investing over \$800 million in the province. Program priorities include: water and wastewater systems, water management, and capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of local government buildings and facilities. In the West, the Infrastructure Canada Program is managed by Western Economic Diversification Canada. For more information about other infrastructure projects in B.C., visit: www.cse.gov.bc.ca/InfrastructureProgram. ♦

Columbia

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Squamish – an Adventure in the Outdoors

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An advisory group for the project visited Canmore, Alberta, to gather information about a range of business and community development opportunities that are available to a community whose focus is on outdoor adventure tourism. Representatives from both communities agreed there is an opportunity for greater collaboration in helping to market Western Canada internationally as an outdoor adventure tourism destination.

Located between the world famous Whistler resort and metropolitan Vancouver, Squamish will run its pilot Adventure Program in July and August to tour operators, media, the public and agents of strategically placed companies in the international adventure tourism sector. Brian Jones, executive director of the Canada West Mountain School developed the five-day program that will be marketed to create an awareness of Squamish as an adventure travel destination.

Additionally, if the 2010 Whistler-Vancouver Winter Olympics bid is successful, Squamish has the ability to become the gateway to further business opportunities and tourism initiatives.



Photo courtesy of Brian Jones.

Community Futures Development Corporations in Western Canada are funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada. These offices provide one-on-one service and program delivery to businesses in their region and strengthen the ability of the communities they serve to plan and implement activities that promote sustainability.

For more information about the program and services offered by the CFDC of Howe Sound, call (604) 892-5467 or visit their Web site at: www.cfdchs.com. 🍁