

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2015

MEETING PLACE VILLAGE WILL BRING MORE TOURISM DOLLARS TO COMOX WATERFRONT AND DOWNTOWN

COURTENAY – Economic activity in the Comox harbour and downtown will see a boost after a waterfront project to build a ‘meeting place village’ concludes next year.

The Island Coastal Economic Trust has approved a grant of \$320,000 for the Town of Comox’s Marina Centre project. Two new buildings, with recreational spaces for rendezvous boating gatherings, as well as public meeting spaces for up to 70 people each, will be constructed.

Also included will be a new Harbour Services Building which will house the wharfinger, visitor information services as well as washrooms and showers.

The broader project also features a Central Plaza: a meeting place for visitors and locals alike, with benches, fountains, and open spaces to gather and enjoy the panoramic views. The concept also allows for the establishment of new businesses in Marina Park adjacent to the facilities.

The new buildings and outdoor amenities will facilitate the hosting of festivals, markets and other special events with plug and play facilities that can be used year-round.

“Visitors to Comox, whether arriving on water or land, will soon be able to enjoy enhanced services and amenities,” said ICET Chair Phil Kent. “Improving visitor experiences leads to more frequent and longer stays, and that helps support the economy of the Comox Valley.”

ICET previously provided funding to the Comox Harbour Revitalization Project. The BC Ocean Boating Tourism Association also received ICET funding for international marketing efforts. The new Comox Meeting Place at Marina Centre will complement and build on these initiatives, becoming a new focal point for marine tourists.

“This project will generate nearly a dozen person-years of construction employment, and 16 more direct tourism-related jobs once it is fully operational,” said Comox Mayor Paul Ives. “We’re looking forward to attracting new businesses to the waterfront and creating a better link to the downtown area as more tourists and locals use these new facilities.”

The Meeting Place Village is anticipated to be complete by fall 2016.

About the Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust is a \$50 million endowment established in 2006 by the Government of British Columbia to help diversify the economies of central and northern Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

ICET is guided by a Board of Directors and two Regional Advisory Committees which include more than 50 locally elected officials and MLAs and five appointees. This exceptional team of leaders collaborates to set regional priorities and build vital multi-regional networks.

Through a community-centred decision-making process, ICET has approved \$48 million for over 125 economic infrastructure and economic development readiness projects on the Island and Sunshine Coast since implementing its grant program in 2007. ICET investments have leveraged over \$270 million in incremental funding into the region.

A full overview of ICET can be found at www.islandcoastaltrust.ca

-end-

For further information:

Line Robert, CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
Tel. 250-871-7797 (Ext. 227)
line.robert@islandcoastaltrust.ca

Mayor Phil Kent, ICET Chair
City of Duncan
Tel. 250-709-0186
mayor@duncan.ca

Richard Kanigan, CAO
Town of Comox
Tel. 250-339-2202
rkanigan@comox.ca