

Outreach across the province

PCC visits Comox, Campbell River & Cumberland



PCC staff recently completed a series of visits to the north Island communities of Comox, Cumberland and Campbell River. This is the Provincial Capital Commission's fifth annual Outreach visit initiative to a selected region of BC; past visits have taken place to Dawson Creek (2005), the West Kootenays (2006), North Coast and Bulkley Valley (2007) and South Okanagan (2008).

In August, staff made a pre-visit to the Comox Valley area, with meetings scheduled at municipal halls and local museums. The PCC Outreach Director followed up in October and November to make presentations and hold discussions with interested groups.

Of particular value was the opportunity to speak at district-wide meetings of school administrators in two different districts, 71 (Comox Valley) and 72 (Campbell River). At both meetings, there were schools represented which had taken advantage of the PCC's signature Student Travel Subsidy program. In addition, staff spoke at early breakfast meetings of the Campbell River Daybreak Rotary and the Cumberland Centennial Rotary clubs.

Among the museums visited, one highlight was the Comox Air Force Museum. Jon Ambler, a retired base commander and now city councillor in Courtenay, provided a special tour of the varied and intriguing displays.

Another highlight was a meeting with representatives of the K'ómoks First Nation. Over coffee with the Band Manager, Education Director, and Liaison Officer, an interesting discussion took place as to how the PCC could help "connect and celebrate" with the K'ómoks people. What emerged from the discussion was a delightful two-day Capital visit in late November, with the PCC arranging for guided tours for 48 K'ómoks band members at the Royal BC Museum, Parliament Buildings, and Government House.

One notable change in the Provincial Capital Commission's community visits since 2005 is that they now take place in the context of ongoing programs. Future visits, like the one to the Comox Valley, will likely be targeted to specific client groups that would benefit from taking greater advantage of PCC programs.