



Community visit: Penticton area

Provincial Capital Commission representatives spent a week in the South Okanagan in October, 2008, meeting locals and promoting PCC programs. This is the fourth such outreach visit in four years, following similar trips to the Northeast (Dawson Creek), West Kootenays (Nelson, Trail, Castlegar), and the North Coast and Bulkley Valley (Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hazelton).

The centerpiece of this year's trip was an evening reception held aboard the *S.S. Sicamous*, a restored Okanagan Lake sternwheeler that now functions as a museum and event venue. Honoured guests included local MLA Bill Barisoff, who is also Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, and the mayors of Penticton, Osoyoos, Oliver and Summerland. Introductions were made by retiring PCC director Beth Campbell, who is herself a former mayor of Penticton.

PCC staff were also guest speakers at three Rotary meetings in the area.

One of the highlights of the trip was a two-hour roundtable with senior staff of the En'owkin Centre, a vibrant adult education facility located on the Penticton Indian Reserve. At the end of the meeting, PCC and En'owkin staff committed themselves to working together to bring a group of En'owkin students to the Capital.

Staff education is an important part of the Provincial Capital Commission's community visits. In Penticton, the PCC contingent visited the Penticton Art Gallery and Penticton Museum. In addition, the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association provided a familiarization tour of the region, including a guided tour of the new viticulture unit of the federal agri-food research centre near Summerland.

Above: the historic SS Sicamous on the shore of Okanagan Lake. At left: PCC HQ in Penticton; PCC CEO Ray Parks with Mayor David Gregory of Summerland and Mayor Ron Hovanes of Oliver; director Jane Durante with curator Paul Crawford at Penticton Art Gallery; director Beth Campbell and Ray Parks with Rotarians; PCC inspects federal wine-making operation.