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Comox Valley Tourism Leaves Legacy

On March 31, 2009, the Comox Valley Tourism Society will officially cease to exist, but thanks to a significant donation to the North Island College Foundation, its legacy will live on forever.

Several members of the Comox Valley Tourism Society met with NIC President Dr. Lou Dryden to present a cheque for \$12,000, which will formally establish the Comox Valley Tourism Legacy Bursary Fund. Once the residual balance is forwarded by March 31, 2009, the endowment will total approximately \$15,000 and will remain in perpetuity with the North Island College Foundation. The funds are eligible for matching funds from North Island College and the annual interest generated from the endowment will create two bursaries for students in the Tourism and Hospitality program at North Island College.



Comox Valley Tourism President Marty Douglas and members Sharon Morgan and Bob Thompson presenting cheque to NIC President, Dr. Lou Dryden.

At their wrap-up meeting in February, society members voted unanimously to commit remaining cash assets to the legacy fund. "There was no hesitation among our members to give this money to the college," said Comox Valley Tourism President Marty Douglas, "we felt it was the best option for the society and the best way to honour its members."

Dr. Dryden assured members that North Island College Foundation will steward the funds very carefully, noting that the Foundation has fared among the best of B.C.'s post-secondary foundations during recent market downturns and escalating economic uncertainty.

For more than 20 years, the Comox Valley Tourism Society and its 300 commercial members have been committed to supporting tourism in the Comox Valley. By creating these bursaries, which will support students pursuing sustainable and environmental tourism, members of the society have ensured their years of dedication will continue to have a lasting impact on the local tourism and hospitality industry.

"In creating this endowment legacy," added Douglas "we invite current and future supporters of the Tourism/Hospitality industry to consider the opportunity to build the fund. Some may be inspired to make annual contributions, perhaps creating their own legacy of support for a vital component of our economy."

For further information on Comox Valley Tourism Legacy Bursary Fund, or the NIC Foundation, please contact North Island College Foundation at 250-334-5000 ext 4267, or foundation@nic.bc.ca.

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