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Media Release

Central Saanich Receives CRD EcoStar Community Environmental Award

CENTRAL SAANICH – The District of Central Saanich is the recipient of the 2010 Capital Regional District (CRD) EcoStar Community Environmental Award for Integrated Watershed Management.

The CRD annually recognizes the top environmental stewards in nine categories, thereby celebrating green practices and showcasing municipalities across the Region that are exemplary leaders in creating and implementing such practices. At the June 1, 2010 Awards Ceremony, Central Saanich was honoured as the winner of the Integrated Watershed Management Award for its innovative Integrated Watershed Management Plan (ISMP).

“As the Mayor and a farmer of Central Saanich, I was very proud to accept the CRD EcoStar Award on behalf of the District, and of Council’s commitment to the ISMP and the implementation of its recommendations”, said Mayor Jack Mar. “Our entire Region will benefit from the investments we make to ensure stormwater runoff is treated as a valuable resource.”

Serving as a model for other British Columbian municipalities, the District of Central Saanich is the first municipality on Vancouver Island to develop a progressive, cost-effective ISMP following the guidelines and recommendations of the BC Stormwater Planning Guidebook. Central Saanich is already implementing many of the Plan’s short-term recommendations, and will continue implementing its goals over the next five to twenty years. Achieving these goals will contribute significantly towards restoring the dispersal of rainwater flows, thereby preserving the natural environment and improving the quality of life in this District, the Region and the Province.

“This comprehensive plan is the result of the collaborative effort of numerous stakeholders, including area farmers, local interest groups and government agencies, together with District staff,” said Mayor Mar. “It is gratifying that the contributions of the many participants in this accomplishment have been recognized and celebrated by this award for excellence in Watershed Management.”

The major watersheds addressed in the Central Saanich ISMP include the Hagan Creek, Tetayut Creek and McHugh Ditch/Noble Creek Watersheds. One of the most important strategies in rainwater management is increasing rainfall capture (the amount of rainfall that infiltrates the ground). Through the activities of individual property owners, new municipal policy for commercial and industrial areas, and the District’s own design standards and practices, the Plan provides for achieving increased capture and the consequent benefits of reduced peak flows in creeks, reduced runoff volumes and increased summer base flow in creeks. The result is a holistic and sustainable approach for adapting to climate and development change.

For more information please contact:

Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technologist,
District of Central Saanich

Office: 250 544-4213