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# Streams money back up

By Cat George - Peninsula News Review - March 19, 2008

Environmental initiatives winners in North Saanich grants-in-aid

Last year, Peninsula Streams received \$1,000 as a grant from the district of North Saanich — something of a surprise to the group, as they had received \$10,000 in previous years during the district's grant allocation. This year, things are back on track for Peninsula Streams, as the district's recent announcement of their grants-in-aid budget included \$10,000 for the watershed restoration group.

"I appreciate the fact that North Saanich councillors have recognize the value of the work that we do," said Ian Bruce, executive coordinator at Peninsula Streams. "By supporting Peninsula Streams, we can bring money from outside into the community to support restoration and community stewardship."

In 2007, council's decision to give the group \$1,000 was based on a lack of financial information from the group. Ian Bruce said at the time that the timing of the application had limited what financial information they had available to share with council.

In other grants announced by council, a number of other environmental initiatives received funds. The SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, which works to conserve and restore marine habitats, especially in the Saanich Inlet, received \$5,000; the CRD Roundtable for the Environment, a volunteer group working with the CRD on developing environmental policy, received \$500; Habitat Acquisition Trust, a group which acquires land on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands for permanent conservation, received \$1,000; and Recipe for a Cool Planet, an information booklet about combating climate change produced by Helen Lupowitz, a Central Saanich resident, received \$300.

Other big grants included \$6,000 for the Peninsula Soccer Association, \$4,500 each for Beacon Community Services' Youth Employment and Seniors' Hotline programs, \$3,000 for the Community Arts Council, and \$2,500 for the 676 Kittyhawk Air Cadet Squadron.

Sidney grants

Sidney council approved a total of \$27,000 in grants to Peninsula organizations this year. The list of recipients includes \$1,000 for the 676 Kittyhawk Air Cadet Squadron, \$3,000 for Beacon Community Services' Volunteer Services and Seniors' Hotline programs, \$2,500 for Beacon Community Services' Youth Employment program, \$3,300 for the Community Arts Council, \$4,000 for the Peninsula Celebrations Society, \$1,000 to the Navy League of Canada - Saanich Peninsula Branch, \$3,000 to the Saanich Peninsula Foundation Society, \$2,100 to the Sidney Sister Cities Association and Cairns committee, \$1,000 to Silver Threads Meals on Wheels and \$1,000 to the Victoria Human exchange society. The Peninsula Streams Society received \$250 from Sidney council.

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