



# The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan  
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## Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting– April 28, 2003

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### Regional District to apply for Infrastructure Grant

The Regional Board agreed to apply for a one-time grant under the Federal-Provincial Infrastructure program (Tourism) to help improve sections of two access roads to the popular Myra Canyon trail. An Ad Hoc committee representing groups connected to the trail told the Regional Board that safety is becoming a concern on the Little White and Myra Forest Service Roads, since the Ministry of Forests no longer maintains them. The group says more than 45,000 visitors use the trail each year. The Regional Board agreed to fund \$7,000 for the upgrading on the condition the Federal and Provincial governments provide matching funds.

Contact: *Harold Reay* 868-5235  
*Director of Finance*

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### Community-based project financing possible

The Regional Board received a report about a rarely used funding alternative for community projects. The BC Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) suggests consideration might be given to setting up a Community Bond, which would be sold to local residents. The MFA says interest costs to the District would be lower than that of a traditionally financed debenture, but higher than the rate of return available to consumers on other fixed investments. The bonds would be guaranteed by the MFA's triple-A credit rating and would qualify for self-administered RRSP's.

Contact: *Harold Reay* 868-5235  
*Director of Finance*

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### Concern over possible Highway pullout commercialization

The Transportation Ministry will be getting a letter from the Regional District outlining its concerns on a Provincial idea. The Ministry has called for proposals into possible business opportunities at highway pullouts. The Planning Department says should a commercial enterprise be approved for the Highway 97-C pullout just west of Westbank, it wouldn't conform to local bylaws. As well it could provide unfair competition to local business. The District wants full consultation with the Ministry to ensure its concerns are addressed, before any commercial proposals are approved.

Contact: *Jason Johnson* 868-5287  
*Manager of Current Planning*

### Support for Crown Land Recreation

The Regional Board has given its support in principle to expanded recreation opportunities on Crown Land. It's the result of a study identifying possible tourism and commercial opportunities. The Board says its support is conditional and that any proposals must ensure drinking water is protected, public roads access to tourist amenities and they fit with the Regional District Park Master Plan. The District will continue working with provincial agencies to develop guidelines for land use and servicing on Crown Land.

Contact: *Ken Arcuri* 868-5246  
*Director of Planning Services*

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### Sensitive Ecosystems Recorded

Over the past two years, almost 31,000 hectares within the Regional District has been surveyed and seven different ecosystems have been identified. Environment Canada, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the Regional District commissioned the *Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory*. The Regional Board received the report and along with interested groups will learn more about the study results in the near future. With the Inventory in place and recently approved Habitat Conservation Trust Fund money, planning staff in consultation with the public, will develop guidelines to help manage and plan development in ecologically fragile areas.

Contact: *Ken Arcuri* 868-5246  
*Director of Planning Services*

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### Westside Committee Approved

The Regional Board formally approved the creation of the Westside Issues Committee to review issues pertaining to the Westside electoral area. Directors Aaron Dinwoodie, David Knowles and Len Novakowski will make up the Committee, along with Board Chair Robert Hobson as an ex-officio member. The Committee will hold regular meetings and will provide advice to the Regional Board on matters of concern to Westside residents.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum* 763-4918  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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### **Ade's Art on RDCO walls**

The work of local artist Kevin Ade will adorn the art wall of the Regional District building at 1450 KLO Road, through the month of May. Best known in the Okanagan as an environmentalist and founder of the Friends of Brandt's Creek, Ade's work illustrates his love for wildlife and in particular, the wildlife of the Central Okanagan.

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The Board Report is a bi-weekly publication of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.  
The Regional Board meets every second Monday night at the RDCO at 1450 KLO Road.  
The public is welcome to attend.

*For copies of this publication or more information contact*

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