

Community Tourism News

Duncan, British Columbia

July-September, 2007

COMMUNITY TOURISM PLANNING & DESIGN RELOCATES

Community Tourism Planning & Design has relocated to Duncan, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. Duncan is in the centre of a rich community tourism destination region that includes the icon tourism community of Chemainus, the little town well known for its large outdoor murals.

A focal point of tourist activity in Duncan is in the downtown heritage area that includes a vintage railroad station. The station serves as the local history museum as well the VIA Rail stop on the historic and unique E&N rail line. The Island Corridor Foundation, a non-profit NGO incorporated by the local communities and First Nations along the rail corridor took over ownership of the E&N line in 2006. Expanding regional tourism through operating passenger rail service along the northeastern side of Vancouver Island is one of their stated goals (www.islandcorridorfoundation.ca/index.asp).

Duncan is also the home of the Cowichan First Nation. With over 70 Cowichan/Coast Salish totem poles found throughout the city, it is known as the City of Totems.



One of Duncan's 70 odd Totem Poles.

Along with relocating CTP&D to a new home, your editor has redesigned the newsletter. Future issues will be published quarterly.

The CTP&D web site is also under going renovations. Be sure to take a look at it soon and let me know what other changes

and improvements I might make.

ON ASSIGNMENT

While your editor has enjoyed a sabbatical from newsletter publishing for the last six months, they have been busy months for Community Tourism Planning & Design. Assignments completed during this time include:

- An assessment of tourism development options being considered by the District of New Hazelton, BC.
- A SDC Assessment and preparation of a Tourism Action Plan for the District of Fort St. James, BC.
- Participation and presentation at the CUSO conference on Community Tourism held in Flores, Guatemala.

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NUEVO HORIZONTE: COMMUNITY TOURISM IN GUATEMALA

The village of Nuevo Horizonte is located in the central Petén region of northern Guatemala, an hours drive from Tikal. The corporate structure of the village is as a co-operative.

The village was established twelve years ago as part of a peace settlement between a band of guerilla fighters and the central government. It was settled by a hundred guerillas along with their families. The guerillas had fought together for fifteen years during which time they had lived in secret camps in the rain forests of the region. The land they received from the government for their new village was a barren 450 hectares.

Since then, the village has flourished with several community and economic development projects. These include housing

for each family, village infrastructure, commercial and breeding cattle herds, a fish farm, and gardens.

The village also hosts a community tourism program supported in part by an international development assistance grant from the Province of Québec. The prominent interpretive theme of the Nuevo Horizonte experience is life as a guerilla. Former fighters now tell stories about their local heros and how they survived the many years they spent in the rain forests by leading tourists through a reforested setting they have created in the village. They support their adventure attraction by providing visitors with both lodging and food services (www.gcnetwork.ca/index.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=6).



“Community -based tourism can develop in a myriad of ways. However, communities that have based tourism development on an open and inclusive process appear to reap benefits earlier, more broadly and in a more sustainable fashion.”

– Michael J. Hatton, 1999, Community-Based Tourism in the Asia Pacific

Community Tourism News is edited and published four times a year by Michael E. Kelly, AICP, MCIP in Duncan, British Columbia. The newsletter may be freely copied and distributed to others with due credit and contact information provided to recipients. Contact newsletters@community-tourism.net to be added to or deleted from our distribution list, for further information, or to make contributions to future issues.

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Community Tourism
Planning & Design
Helping Communities Succeed