



Coastal Community Credit Union gives \$150,000 to Vancouver Island communities

For immediate release

Vancouver Island, February 5, 2007 -- Coastal Community Credit Union is pleased to announce its 2006 Coastal Spirit Fund recipients. The Credit Union is awarding a total of \$150,000 in grants, from \$1,000 to \$10,000, to sixty community organizations to fund worthwhile initiatives across Vancouver Island.

Over 200 community groups and organizations applied to the 2006 Coastal Spirit Fund, representing \$1.4 million in requests. "This incredible response reflects a great need in our communities," says Joe Cristiano, Coastal's Senior Vice President of Marketing. "While we would have liked to support all requests, we believe the choices we made will make a real difference in our communities."

The Credit Union launched the Coastal Spirit Fund last year to best meet the diverse needs of Vancouver Island communities. Funding is allocated regionally based on a combination of Credit Union membership and community population, with decisions made locally. Donations are distributed in the following focus areas: the Arts & Culture, Community Service, Environment, Health, Sports & Recreation, and Youth & Education.

In addition to \$150,000 through the Coastal Spirit Fund, Coastal provided more than \$200,000 last year to Vancouver Island communities through a variety of other initiatives. "Our community investment programs demonstrate Coastal's vision to be the best choice for financial and community leadership," says Coastal's President and CEO, Garth Sheane. "We're proud to be able to contribute to our communities in this way."

Coastal Community would like to congratulate the 2006 Coastal Spirit Fund recipients:

Alberni Forest Fest Society
Alberni Valley Community School Society
Alberni Valley Hospice Society
Alert Bay Public Library
Amazing Grace Ecological Society
Arrowsmith Search and Rescue Society
BC Schizophrenia Society – Campbell River Branch
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island
Boys and Girls Club of Nanaimo & District
Campbell River Hospice Society
Campbell River Hospital Foundation
Campbell River Stroke Recovery Association
Canadian Red Cross, BC Coastal Region
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society
Child Development Centre - Nanaimo
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club
Comox Valley World Cup Organizing Committee
Courtenay Recreational Association
Duncan Disability Resource Centre
Echo Village Ladies Auxiliary
Errington and District Volunteer Fire Department
Filberg Festival
First Open Heart Society of B.C.
Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce
Gabriola Rescue of Wildlife Society
John Howard Society – Nanaimo Region
Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Interpretive Centre Society

Marmot Recovery Foundation
Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education
Nanaimo Arts Alive Summer School of the Fine Arts Society
Nanaimo Astronomy Society
Nanaimo Community Hospice Society
Nanaimo Field Naturalists Club - Buttertubs Marsh Expansion Project
Nanaimo Schools Financial Awards Society
Nanaimo Volunteer & Information Centre Society
Nanaimo Women's Resources Society
Nanoose Place Landscape Project
North Island Dragon Boat Society
North Island Infant Development Program
Oceanside Community Arts Council
Open Minds Open Window Society
Opportunities Career Services Society
Pacific Rim Arts Society
Pacificsport Vancouver Island
Parksville Lawn Bowling Club
People for a Healthy Community on Gabriola Society
Qualicum Beach Seniors Activity Center
Qualicum Beach Volunteer Fire Department
Radio Malaspina Society
Sointula 1st Scouts Canada (Cubs and Beavers)
Sointula Resource Centre Society
Parksville Garden and Parkland Society
The Port Theatre Society
Tidemark Theatre Society
Vancouver Island Arts Festivals Society
Vancouver Island Recreational Corridor Society
Vancouver Island Symphony
West Coast Bear Aware
Western Edge Theatre
2007 BC Senior Games in Nanaimo

Coastal Community Credit Union thanks all who applied to the 2006 Coastal Spirit Fund. Community Groups interested in applying to the 2007 Coastal Spirit Fund, or other sponsorship programs, are invited to visit Coastal's website at www.cccu.ca.

About Coastal Community Credit Union

Coastal Community Credit Union is the largest credit union based on Vancouver Island. From Victoria to Port Hardy, the Credit Union offers quality financial solutions and unsurpassed service through community branch, financial planning, business and insurance locations. Passionate about its communities, the Credit Union provides financial, in-kind and other resources to support charity and non-profit groups through its Community Investment program. Visit Coastal Community on the web at www.cccu.ca.

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