



## Coastal Community grant helps build "A Hat for the Hub"

**Thursday-February 08, 2018 – Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands:**

Coastal Community recently awarded \$11,000 through its Building Healthier Communities Fund (BHCF) to the Cowichan Station Area Association (CSAA). The funds will help the organization complete the transformation of The Hub into one of the most energy efficient community centres in the Cowichan Valley, using the clean and green GeoThermal heat system.

When the 100-year-old Cowichan Station School closed in 2007, the community quickly realized the potential to transform the heritage building into the hub of the region, offering community spaces for recreational classes, live music, fundraisers, small businesses—and especially free or affordable programming aimed improving the lives of rural youth and seniors.

From 2011 to 2017, community volunteers renovated the ground floor of the buildings, which now provide welcoming spaces for over 500 people weekly. The CSAA's new initiative is to provide "A Hat for the Hub," restoring two spacious heritage rooms on the upper floor and installing insulation to prevent the geothermal heat from leaking out the roof and walls.

"The HUB is a wonderful example of a community coming together to prevent isolation and create healthy opportunities for its residents," said Allyson Prescesky, Senior Manager, Community and Communications, with Coastal Community. "We're proud to support the CSAA's work to expand their usable space in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way."

"This historic schoolhouse has long been the 'hub' of Cowichan Station but the upper floor has been closed to the public since 2007 and we are really looking forward to changing that," said Jill Thompson, Fundraising Chair for the Cowichan Station Area Association. "Once restored these sunny rooms overlooking the fields and forests of Cowichan Station will be beautiful sustainable spaces serving the whole region. We are grateful for the generous financial support from Coastal Community Credit Union. The community is working hard to raise the remainder and welcomes people to get involved."

Since 2014, Coastal Community's BHCF has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in seed money to help dozens of local organizations fund long-term initiatives that contribute to building healthier Island communities. BHCF looks for projects that support a broad range of people, are sustainable and make a difference to a local community.

For more information on the Building Healthier Communities fund, please visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

###

### CONTACT:

Gerry Weaver, Communications Specialist  
gerry.weaver@cccu.ca | toll-free: 1.888.741.1010



COASTAL  
COMMUNITY

TOGETHER, LET'S DO  
GREAT THINGS



### **About The Cowichan Station Area Association**

The Cowichan Station Area Association is a charitable community organization established in 2007 to make the Cowichan Station area a more liveable and sustainable community. The CSAA is in the process of transforming the former Cowichan Station elementary school into *The HUB*: a vibrant community space for arts, culture and recreation. CSAA currently offers community-run activities for all ages at The HUB and also provides rental spaces where many other non-profits and small businesses offer classes, meetings, fitness, arts, music, events and more. Approximately 80% of the facility has been restored and re-opened for public use, with the most beautiful space, the upper floor of the schoolhouse, yet to come.

#### **For more information:**

Barry O'Riordan, Executive Director, Cowichan Station Area Association [250-732-1723](tel:250-732-1723) [info@cowichanstation.org](mailto:info@cowichanstation.org)

OR

Jill Thompson, Volunteer/Chair of Fundraising, Cowichan Station Area Association [250-748-4713](tel:250-748-4713) [jillothompson@gmail.com](mailto:jillothompson@gmail.com)

About  
COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

***Improving financial health, enriching lives, and building healthier communities...*** These are at the core of who we are and what we do at Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU). With these as our focus areas, we continued to grow our position as the largest financial services organization based on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, while remaining among the largest credit unions in Canada.

As a 100% Island-based business, we're committed to making meaningful differences in the places we call home. Our Building Healthier Communities Fund has provided hundreds of thousands in seed money to activate dozens of local community betterment initiatives. CCCU is also an award winning organization, having most recently been recognized as one of B.C.'s Top Employers.

Want to learn more? Visit [cccu.ca](http://cccu.ca) or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.