



### **\$140,000 Available in Coastal Community Credit Union's Coastal Spirit Fund!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chemainus, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo, Nanoose Bay, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Courtenay, Comox, Campbell River, Alert Bay, Sointula, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet - September 5, 2006:**

Attention registered charity and non-profit groups – Coastal Community Credit Union will be accepting grant applications for its Coastal Spirit Fund until October 30, 2006.

Coastal Community Credit Union implemented the Coastal Spirit Fund in April of this year as one of the ways to respond to the unique needs of the communities served by the Credit Union. The fund is earmarked to support initiatives requiring support in excess of \$1,000. Community groups interested in obtaining support from the Credit Union are encouraged to apply on line through Coastal Community's web site at [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca). Support for community groups will be distributed through Coastal Community Credit Union's trade area which stretches from Victoria to Port Hardy. Grant decision will be made in November and all groups that have submitted applications will be notified in early December.

The Coastal Spirit Fund is just one of many ways CCCU supports their communities. The Credit Union's Branch Investment Program assists grass roots neighbourhood initiatives whose funding requirements are under \$1,000. In addition to sponsorships, communities are further supported through: donations and gifts in-kind, employee volunteerism and fundraising matching, and youth education and scholarships. Together these programs form a comprehensive Community Investment Strategy that is the cornerstone of the Credit Union's corporate giving philosophy.

"Community associations, schools, youth, arts and cultural societies, can benefit from our wide-range of community investment programs," says Dean Rathwell, Coastal's Vice President of Community Investment. "These programs are all part of our vision to be the best choice for financial and community leadership. When our communities thrive, we thrive."

Registered charity and non-profit groups are encouraged to get their applications for Coastal Spirit Funding in at their earliest convenience. To fill out an application, or learn more about this or any of Coastal's community funding opportunities, visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca) or call 250.741.3200 and ask for Community Investment.

*Coastal Community Credit Union is the largest credit union based on Vancouver Island, with more than 80,000 members, 600-plus employees, and over \$1.3 billion in assets. From Victoria to Port Hardy, Coastal Community offers complete financial solutions through community branches, insurance offices, financial planning locations and business centres across Vancouver Island. 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.*

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