



TOGETHER, LET'S DO GREAT THINGS

Coastal Community Tool Library grant helps Gabriola build community

Thursday, July 19, 2018 – Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands: The Gabriola Tool Library Association (GTLA) is one step closer to helping Gabriola residents Reduce, Re-use and Recycle when they take on do-it-yourself projects and repairs. The association just received a \$3,650 Building Healthier Communities Fund grant from Coastal Community to help install electricity in a tool library building, create a covered space for the public to meet and exchange advice, and buy insurance for the tool library's first year of operation.

The GTLA drew on the support and advice of the tool libraries in Victoria and Vancouver to help develop the project. Fundraising began in November 2017, and close to 400 tools have been donated to date, with more expected as soon as the Tool Library opens its doors to the public in the next couple of months.

"The Gabriola community has been extremely supportive of our endeavour to create a tool lending library, donating tools, skills, and expertise to take this small step towards creating a resilient and sustainable society," said Patricia Ludwick, who serves on the GTLA's Board of Directors. "We are grateful to Coastal Community Credit Union, who have recently joined other community sponsors of the project, including the Gabriola Lions, Village Foods, Mid-Island Co-op and many individuals who have volunteered their time and energy to build and equip our lovely little shed. We hope, with this last leg up, we will soon be able to provide access to the tools donated to the community, and to promote opportunities to share expertise in the use of them."

The Gabriola Tool Library initiative began in the fall of 2016. Part of a wider movement rapidly growing across Canada, a tool library is an innovative approach to environmental sustainability. Members are able to check out donated tools for a wide variety of projects, keeping those tools out of landfills and reducing the need for individuals to own them. Located close to the heart of the village, the Gabriola Tool Library will have the added effect of building community, as members share expertise through workshops, mentorships and very popular Fix-It-Fairs, where neighbours help their fellow Islanders fix common household items for free.

"Tool libraries are a wonderful way to increase community involvement and cohesion," said Allyson Prescesky, Senior Manager, Community and Communications, with Coastal Community. "We're proud to support an initiative based on neighbours sharing resources and expertise to help their community thrive."

Since 2014, 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 our Building Healthier Communities fund, please visit www.cccu.ca.

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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 continue 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 British Columbia.

In order to help our members and clients improve their financial health, CCCU's family of companies offers a wide range of products, services and expertise in personal, business and commercial banking, general and commercial insurance* and wealth management**. Across the Islands, we operate 24 branches, 16 insurance offices, four regional business centres, one centralized contact centre (1.888.741.1010) with extended service hours, plus a team of mobile experts and a full range of online and mobile services. CCCU was the first to bring cutting-edge Interactive Teller Machine technology to the Island and continues to add new innovations to simplify finances—and life. By really listening and understanding, and then providing meaningful solutions, Coastal Community's 600-person-strong team is able to help our members and clients achieve their financial and life goals.

As a 100% Island-based business, we're committed to making meaningful differences in the places we call home. CCCU continues to help build healthier communities in part through donations, sponsorships, scholarship and fundraising efforts totaling over half-a-million dollars each year.

Want to learn more? Visit cccu.ca or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

*References to "insurance" in this article refer to the insurance services provided through Coastal Community Insurance Services (2007) Ltd., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union

**References to "wealth management" in this article refer to the financial planning and investment services provided through Coastal Community Private Wealth Group, a division of Coastal Community Financial Management, Inc. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union