

Quality of Life principles adopted by the Victoria Real Estate Board in July 2005 provide a framework for how Victoria area REALTORS® approach government relations, community outreach, and communications activities, helping to build influence credibility and trust in the community.

It's a balanced approach to accommodate growth and building better communities.



PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

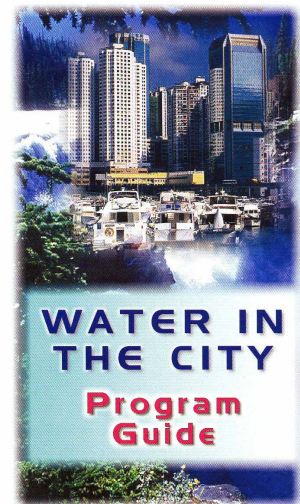
Preserving our environment means taking an active role in fighting climate change issues at the local community level. REALTORS® support clean air and water, parks and open space.

Here are some examples of how Victoria area REALTORS® have undertaken recent projects in keeping with this *Quality of Life* principle:

REALTORS® ATTEND LOCAL CONFERENCES ON 'SUSTAINABILITY' AND 'WATER-IN-THE-CITY'

Supporting projects that make for a healthy environment isn't totally new for REALTORS®, but fighting against the negative impact of global climate change certainly is, so recently some education has been in order.

Beginning in June 2006 with the first 'Gaining Ground Summit' on urban sustainability, continuing with the September 2006 'Water-in-the-City' Conference, and again in June 2007 with the second locally-sponsored 'Gaining Ground Summit II' REALTORS® have been noticeably present and learning from the experiences. In each case funding was also provided to the organizers by the Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

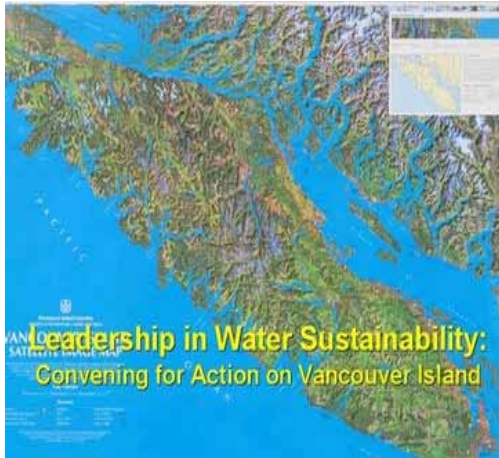


VICTORIA REAL ESTATE BOARD SUPPORTS LOCAL ECOLOGIST PROTECT COLQUITZ CREEK

Nature's Revenue Streams (NRS) is a three-year public-private pilot project, based in Saanich BC, that will link rainwater infrastructure to the restoration of stream and watershed function. The project will show how urban development can be used as an opportunity to improve watershed and stream health, build/restore aquatic habitat and reduce infrastructure costs for developers and the municipality while also addressing rainwater runoff.

The project is a partnership between the District of Saanich and Aqua-Tex Scientific (NRS) which has been working in the municipality for over 20 years. The VREB recently helped NRS and the District of Saanich obtain a \$75,000 grant for this work from the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

REALTORS® LEARNING ABOUT “WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN”



Released in 2004, the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia provides a partnership umbrella for on-the-ground initiatives that are promoting water stewardship across the province. The Action Plan comprises six inter-connected elements that demonstrate how to integrate water management with community planning and development. The goal is to influence choices and encourage action by individuals and organizations so that water resource stewardship will become an integral part of land use and daily living. The Action Plan builds on the foundation provided by A Water Conservation Strategy for British Columbia, published in 1998.

<http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/index.asp?sid=9&id=103&type=single>

A VREB workshop on the topic is planned for Fall 2007.

REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION FUNDING VANCOUVER ISLAND “GREEN VALUE”

Commitment to water sustainability is part of an overall Green Value strategy. The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia (REFBC) is pursuing a strategy to persuade local governments on Vancouver Island to adopt “**green value**” approaches to planning for and accommodating settlement growth. “Our goal is to have at least two local governments per year adopt a green value approach to approving development applications and project designs”, notes **Tim Pringle**, Foundation Executive Director.

Green Value

The REFBC uses the term “green value” as a generic reference to use and conservation of land and real estate that achieves social and economic goals while minimizing harmful effects on ecological assets.

“Healthy communities must be able to draw from the ecology around them resources such as potable water, fertile soil, surface water filtration and recharge, flood control, and so on. Green value pertains to all scales of reference to land and real estate”, explains **Tim Pringle**. “For example, the Agricultural Land Reserve Act is province-wide; a watershed, wetland or landscape may be regional or local; real estate development based on a green infrastructure approach may part of an area plan; and green buildings with geo-thermal heating and other technology are site-specific as are low-flow toilets in residences.”

REALTORS® HELP WITH RAIN GARDEN PROJECT AT VIC WEST SCHOOL

Through the VREB’s Community Relations Committee, local REALTORS® are contributing the cost of all the soil required for the new ‘urban rain garden’ at Vic West Elementary School. Rain gardens are specially designed gardens that reduce polluted runoff by collecting rain water from surrounding impervious surfaces and naturally filtering and cleaning the water. The VREB interest in **Project Urban Rain Garden** began earlier this year when an individual from the Leadership Victoria program approached the committee to help out with gathering supplies to make the project happen.

When completed, the project will reclaim the paved urban playground, creating a rain garden that will act as an outdoor classroom, community gathering area, and inspiration for other schools and communities. Donors and the School Board have offered tremendous support in developing this project.

