

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia River Greenways Alliance Unveils Dragonfly Interpretive Panels
Invermere - October 5, 2004

The Columbia River Greenways Alliance is pleased to announce the completion of the James Chabot Dragonfly Boardwalk at James Chabot Provincial Park, Invermere.

The tiny James Chabot wetland is home to twenty-six dragonfly species. Greenways' intention is that the Dragonfly Boardwalk will increase local awareness about the natural values of this particular wetland and of the region, while also providing a new recreational amenity for the community. The boardwalk was constructed in 2003 and the society completed the interpretive signage and bench this summer.

The colourful interpretive signs depicting dragonflies and wetlands were officially unveiled on Tuesday, October 5th. Marla Oliver, interpretive designer for the project, provided an educational children's program for the Invermere Home School Association.

Recycled wood from the dismantling of bridges over the Columbia River at Brisco was used to make the sign bases and a bench. Landscaped designer, Aina Cernenoks, facilitated reusing the local wood. "Recycled wood is not always the easiest wood to work with because of the dirt and spikes in it, but close grained, clear and aged – a bit spiritual if you can think of wood being that way!" The sign wood has been treated with a non-toxic water based preservative.

Construction of James Chabot Dragonfly Boardwalk project was enabled by sponsorship from Real Estate Foundation of BC, District of Invermere, and Kris Newman Contracting. Additional donations and help from many other local individuals and groups including BC Parks, Home Hardware, Osprey Communications, Mark Hendrickson, Peter Pankovitch, and the Columbia Basin Trust

Major sponsors for interpretive signs were: Tembec and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Many thanks also go to the talented local contractors that made the project happen:

- Meredith Hamstead – project coordination/fundraising
- Bill Swan, Osprey Communications – project coordination/planning
- Bruce Everett – construction management
- Aina Cernenoks – landscape & sign design and construction
- Marla Oliver – interpretive planning
- Time Structures – sign and bench construction
- Black Cat Graphics – artwork and design

The mission of the Columbia River Greenways Alliance is to develop a network of linear corridors of open natural spaces that maintain the wildlife habitat and recreational legacy of the region and enhance the ecological, economic, and community well being of the Upper Columbia Valley. Recent Greenways projects include: in-stream fisheries and riparian habitat restoration of a portion of Sinclair Creek in Radium Hot Springs; the Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens trail located adjacent to Kinsmen Beach, Invermere; an inventory of available ecological, jurisdictional, and cultural data from Donald to Invermere; and an interpretive strategy for the Invermere to Golden region. The Alliance is working with the Regional District of East Kootenay toward an official designation of the Old Coach Trail south of Radium Hot Springs and is developing an ecological restoration strategy for the Canal Flats to Donald area.

For further information on the Dragonfly Boardwalk contact Ross MacDonald at 342-5069.