



ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NEW EQUIPMENT IN NORTH ISLAND COMMUNITY GOLF COURSE

For Immediate Release – August 10, 2007. Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), and Mayor of the Town of Lake Cowichan, today announced funding approval by the Board of Directors of \$24,765 for the purchase of new equipment for the 7 Hills Golf and Country Club Course near the north Island communities of Port Hardy and Port McNeill.

“This modest contribution to a publicly owned golf course, which acts as an important regional attraction in the north part of Vancouver Island, will strengthen its role as a regional tourist attraction, providing challenging play for visitors, and supporting the region’s efforts to attract small conferences and retreats” stated Peake.

The purpose of the grant is to secure capital funding to replace two key pieces of equipment including a “Rough Mower” and a “Fairway Mower” for a total cost of \$45,000.

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board’s mandate is to makes strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. Information about the Trust can be found on www.islandcoastaltrust.ca.

For further information call:

Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake
Town of Lake Cowichan
250-749-6681

Al Baronas, CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
250-334-2427 Extension 223

Al Petrie
President, 7 Hills Golf & Country Club
250-949-9818

FACT SHEET

7 Hills Golf and Country Club is a nine hole, par 35, public golf course located on the Port Alice Highway (Hwy 30) 2 km west of the junction with Highway 19. It is centrally located between the three communities of Port Alice, Port Hardy and Port McNeill

Vancouver Island's most northern golf course, Seven Hills is a result of a co-operative effort between the communities of Port Alice, Port McNeill and Port Hardy. Professionally designed by American golf architect Bill Overdorf, the course was financed largely through private donations and built by local volunteers. It opened for play in 1982.

Seven Hills was constructed on rising terrain in the shadow of the beautiful North Island Mountains. Those who have played it, rate it as one of the more difficult 9 hole layouts in the province. It has broad, open fairways and large undulating greens. Excellent drainage throughout keeps the course playable after even the heaviest rains. Barring snow, the course is open year round.

Economic Development

The economic benefit of a sustainable and well-managed public golf and country club that serves the region includes:

- Improving the visual appearance and playability of the course that is important to attract and maintain both local and visiting golfers
- Contracted equipment repairs
- Employment – Course Manager, maintenance staff, summer students
- Business opportunities – Golf Pro, lessons, catering (food services), purchase of supplies and services locally
- Attraction of tourists and visitors to the North Island
- Attraction of new and existing industry for corporate functions and community events
- Attraction of conferences such as the recently held Tourism Vancouver Island AGM & Conference
- Provides large and small hall rental space for meetings, seminars, weddings, memorial services, etc.

For more information on 7 Hills golf course and the upcoming events visit www.7hillsgcc.com.