

# EDS takes trade mission

The Comox Valley Economic Development Society is making a trade mission to Seattle in support of increased trade and investment to Canada's largest trading partner, and inviting interested parties to join them.

If a business owner has assessed his or her export commitment and capability and is ready to take steps to expand business into the United States, this mission is for him or her.

Forestry, aquaculture, tourism, technology and manufacturing industries are encouraged to participate.

Receive a detailed briefing by Brian Parrott, Seattle Senior Trade Commissioner, on market prospects and action steps. Participate in a unique opportunity to showcase your company and products and network with targeted markets at the U.S. Consul's Executive Reception.

Learn more about the opportunities that exist through one-to-one meetings with local Seattle businesses, the consulate and staff.

Canada and the United States share the world's largest and most comprehensive trading relationship, which supports more than two million jobs in each country, according to an EDS spokesperson.

Two-way trade between Canada and the United States has more than doubled in value since 1994.

"We are each other's largest trading partner, with \$12 billion U.S. in trade now crossing the Canada-U.S. border every single day," the EDS says.

Almost all of Canada's exports and imports cross the Canada-U.S. border without incident, a remarkable achievement for a trading relationship worth over a billion dollars a day.

In 2002, B.C. exports to the United States were valued at \$19.53 billion and made up of over 68 per cent of total international exports.

The delegation will be

departing from the Comox airport on Thursday, March 27 at 9 a.m. and returning Friday, March 28 at 5 p.m.

There is a participation fee of \$485 for anyone who is wishing to join, which includes air transportation, accommodation and venues.

Registration is limited; phone the EDS at 334-2427 to find out if any seats are still available.

*Record Mar 19/03*