

Valley ambassadors proposed

A group called the Comox Valley Ambassadors is in the formative stages.

The Comox Valley Economic Development Society is seeking support from the valley's local governments to establish the group as a means of spurring on economic development in the region.

Economic development commissioner Norm McLaren told Comox town council Wednesday the society interviewed numerous organizations and individuals last year to determine what path the EDC should pursue.

"The results were very clear in that we needed to develop a support/advisor system that would enable us to represent all of the valley as well as broaden our base," he said.

McLaren says the society, in seeking individuals for the

group, looked for people who have a "good feel" for the valley and who have valuable experience.

"These volunteers have agreed that they will work for the valley with a non-political, non-parochial approach to opportunities presented," he said.

As it stands now, Courtenay Coun. Darlene Weir would be "chief of state" of the group, while the following individuals would be ambassadors at large: Russ Hammond, seniors spokesperson; George Cochrane,

former Courtenay mayor; Marty Douglas, real estate industry; Barry Van Dusen, former Comox councillor and head of Comox Nautical Days; Diane Cave, vice-president of the Cumberland chamber of commerce; Stan Hagen, former B.C. minister of advanced education and economic development; Bruce Kehler, owner of Comox Builders; Bill Moncrief, former Cumberland mayor; Ron Gallamore, manager of the local Canada Employment Centre; Col. Terry Rogers, commander of CFB Comox; and McLaren.

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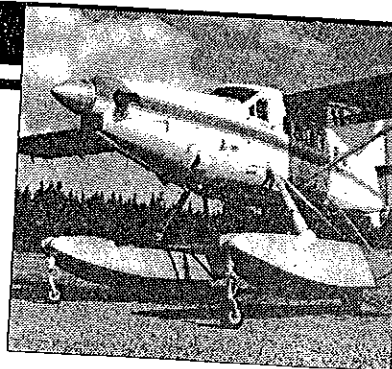
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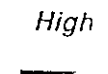
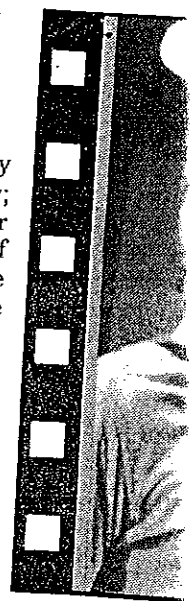
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