

COMOX VALLEY RECORD

## Young people could alter the future of water

By Colleen Dane - Comox Valley Record

Published: April 02, 2009 6:00 PM  
Updated: April 02, 2009 6:03 PM

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Young people are invited to be a part of the evolution of water planning, with a Comox Valley workshop targeted specifically for them.

Applications are now being accepted from people between 20 and 35 for the Community Engagement and Watershed Planning in the Comox Valley residential workshop, hosted by Waterlution and the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, based out of the University of Victoria.

"We want to help build a network of young, local people," said Susanne Porter-Bopp, organizer of the weekend event, scheduled for April 24 to 26.

The weekend workshop is hosted by the two groups who focus on water planning and



Young People aged 20 to 35 are invited to apply for a workshop on water planning in the Comox Valley. Last year's event was held in Victoria.

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protection, and this year is highlighting the Comox Valley because of the number of initiatives ongoing locally.

"This is such a hot spot for what's happening for water in British Columbia right now," said Porter-Bopp. "This is the scale that we need to be looking at our water-use decisions at."

The 72-hour workshop will feature speakers such as Comox Valley Land Trust's Jack Minard, Comox Valley Regional District's Michael Zbarsky and Amelia Loye, a senior advisor to the Ministry of Environment who's also worked on water projects in Australia.

It will also include a field tour, tracking the Comox Lake water system from "source to tap." The idea, said Porter-Bopp, is to educate and network young people already involved in water issues, as well as encourage intergenerational learning through a mentor program for the weekend.

Anyone working with water or interested in it, is welcome to apply. There are 20 spots maximum, and organizers hope that a fair number of those will be from the local area. The cost of the whole weekend is \$40 and participants will stay at the Riding Fool Hostel in Cumberland.

"We bring together people who normally wouldn't get to have these conversations," said Porter-Bopp.

Applications are due by April 9. For more information, call 250-472-4487, or e-mail [water@polisproject.org](mailto:water@polisproject.org).

For more information on previous workshops, visit [www.waterlution.org](http://www.waterlution.org). [reporter@](mailto:reporter@comoxvalleyrecord.com)

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