

Message From The Chair

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

SPRING APR - JUN 2018

- Community Leadership
- EIR Streamlined

SUMMER JUL - SEPT 2018

- Gabriola Plan Wins Big
- Welcome Brenda & Wendy

FALL OCT- DEC 2018

- Team Member Retires
- Awards Roll In

WINTER JAN-MAR 2019

- LEAP! Oceanside
- 2018-2019 Stats



Ed Poli, Chair

In preparation for the Community Futures Central Island's AGM and, as the end of my two years as chair and eight years on the board draws near, I reflect back on the year with great satisfaction. The board has worked diligently to keep focused on our strategic direction, with a focus on increasing communication with government and other organizations, reviewing the board and committee policies to ensure they meet the needs of our clients and our members, and streamlining our loans process to be able to serve more entrepreneurs and small - to medium- sized business owners in the central Vancouver Island region.

We have focused on providing specific targeted projects to build relationships, awareness, knowledge and support.

We introduced the Local Entrepreneur Accelerator Program (LEAP) and piloted LEAP Oceanside which was a successful venture, bringing together numerous organizations to educate, mentor and move forward the ideas of 13 entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneur in Residence Program fulfilled a noticed need for coaching for potential and existing business owners and was a good fit with owners who recognized the need to take time to work on their business.

A micro loan propelled the Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce through a strategic planning process to identify their economic development needs leveraging into two year project funded by regional and provincial governments.

We devoted considerable time ensuring that we have a strong and diverse board and committees to carry out our duties and responsibilities. We began a review of our skills matrix to see where the gaps were related to skills, experience, qualities, and diversity to confidently support ongoing refreshment and renewal.

I have been fortunate during my time as chair to have had a strong, competent board of committed and talented directors and I thank them for their support and numerous contributions.

Our Executive Director Jolynn Green and her team have been outstanding – their commitment, competence and wisdom have been an incredible asset for the board, the client and our community and, on behalf of the Board, I thank them sincerely.

It has been a privilege to have been a volunteer with this organization for seventeen years including the last eight as a member of the Board. I remain committed to the organization and I look forward to continuing my association with it in whatever capacity it can use me.



“Local Matters”

Community Futures is a non-profit organization that provides repayable funding to local, rural small- and medium-size businesses for working capital, equipment purchase or lease, and business purchase or expansion, with funding provided by Western Economic Diversification. The 267 offices across Canada often say "YES" when others say "NO!"

The board of directors, committee members and staff of Community Futures Central Island are dedicated to the development of initiatives that enhance and diversify our local economy. This year we aided in the development of strategic plans, delivery of entrepreneurial training pilots and continued to lend money, advice and expertise to grow our regional business community. Succession is a natural transition. We said "Bon Voyage" to a valued member of the CF family as they reached retirement, and welcomed two new members to our team.

It took two years of continuous work, but Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce's (GICC) strategic planning built capacity. CFCI Executive Director Jolynn Green and Gloria Hatfield, President of the GICC collaborated to facilitate a strategic plan for economic development, "The Strategy for Economic Prosperity on Gabriola", resulting in a three - year delivery agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo. After much planning and numerous proposals, they ended up with over \$200,000 from Island Coastal Economic Trust, Regional District of Nanaimo, and BC Rural Dividend Fund for economic development.

The CF Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EWD) is a business loans program that reduces the obstacles that people with disabilities or ongoing health issues may face when operating their businesses. In 2018-2019, two EWD were successful in obtaining grant money for a business coach to assist them get to the next level!

Successful partnerships are the key to our success. The Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program was made possible by our partnership with Region District of Nanaimo, Coastal Community Credit Union and Simon Fraser University sponsoring programming that grew the entrepreneurial capacity of our communities.



Photos from top to bottom: Ladysmith, Qualicum Beach, Parksville, French Creek, Nanaimo, Lantzville.



Community Leadership

We are an active member of Vancouver Island Coast Economic Developers Association. We have participated in both the Ladysmith and Lantzville Economic Development Strategies and continue to provide lecture and mentorship services to Vancouver Island University students and staff. We've now expanded to the Business Examiner newspaper where we share our wisdom on a monthly basis.

Read [Understanding Cash Flow Is King](#), page eight.



Entrepreneur in Residence Streamlined

With the success of our Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Program Pilot, we put our heads together and fine-tuned the EIR program. Community Futures understands that business drives our community so we will continue to offer business coaching for businesses that have launched, wish to expand or increase sales. Tom Lamb, our Entrepreneur in Residence has assisted 18 businesses and provided 298 hours of coaching. Find out more [here](#).



Gabriola Plan Wins Big

A conversation between Green and Hatfield, after the 2016 disbandment of Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation and Tourism Nanaimo, around how “we” should work together to address the challenges Gabriola faces for business growth and the resources CF brings to the table, moved to the formation of a Economic Development Advisory Group to navigate the changes to tourism and business development for Gabriola, Decourcy and Mudge Islands. With funding from Regional District of Nanaimo, Rural Dividend Fund, and Island Coastal Economic Trust, we are excited to see Julie Sperber, Community Economic Development Officer come on board.

Full [Gabriola Economic Development Plan](#) here

Welcome Brenda & Wendy

- Brenda Boyd (pictured) brings a background in financial services and marketing along with superior customer service, organization and problem solving skills to her role as Office & Loans Administrator. Her volunteer role on our marketing committee helped her to truly understand what Community Futures is about and its impact on the local, small business community.
- Wendy Pepperdine (not pictured) is a certified CPA and brings a host of experience to her Finance Administrator role. Her experience includes both private and non profit sector.





FALL OCT- DEC 2018



Team Member Retires

Wanda Zink retired in October after 40 years supporting our Community Futures Central Island office and central island small businesses. With four decades of dedicated service to community economic development, Wanda has evolved as has the organization. She has touched every aspect and person who has walked through the doors of our office.

Awards Roll In

We were so honoured when Community Futures Central Island's board member Adam Hawryluk and staff member Wanda Zink, as well as our CFCI office each won awards at the Community Futures BC Provincial Conference September 2018 in Merritt, BC.



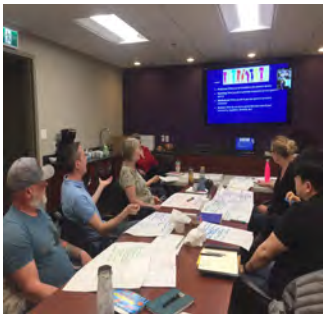
- Wanda Zink was presented with the Don McMillan Award
- Adam Hawryluk was presented with the Al McCracken Award
- CFCI office won the Investment Portfolio Award.



WINTER JAN-MAR 2019

LEAP! Oceanside

This year we initiated the Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (LEAP!) in the Oceanside region. The program was well received with 24 applicants. We then selected 13 people to participate in the program. As a result we aided seven new business to launch and one to expand in the Oceanside region.



Our 2018 - 2019 stats have been crunched...

- 56 community-based projects
- 5 strategic plans developed/updated
- 320 business training session participants
- 419 business advisory services
- 22 loans
- \$1,385,438 loans value
- 59 jobs created/maintained/expanded.

Community Futures Central Island

2018-2019

47 f/t & p/t
jobs created

\$3,114,250
dollars disbursed

#wehavealoanforthat