



**NEWS RELEASE - Embargoed for Release September 23, 2004 9:00 pm**

### **Revelstoke Wins 2004 Energy Aware Award**

Rural and urban communities were recognized for innovations in community energy initiatives at the September 23, 2004 annual Energy Aware Awards. The Awards are organized by the Community Energy Association, and co-sponsored this year by the Province of British Columbia. Award presentations were made at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention Banquet, by the Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

"The awards celebrate leadership and imagination of local governments engaging in energy efficiency and support for alternative energy," said Dan Rogers, Chair of the Community Energy Association and Councillor for City of Prince George. "This year there were a dozen excellent entries, from smaller communities including Montrose, Fort St. James, and Revelstoke; to larger centres including Kamloops, Kelowna, Burnaby, District of North Vancouver, Port Moody, Richmond, Vancouver and Saanich."

"The projects seen with the 2004 annual Energy Aware Awards will benefit our communities and environment while helping save taxpayer dollars," said Murray Coell, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. "Provincial sponsorship of the awards is part of our commitment to working with local government on building stronger communities and a stronger British Columbia."

**Revelstoke was the Energy Aware Award winner with its Community Energy Project.** The City created the Revelstoke Community Energy Corporation, which is working closely with the City's major sawmill owner to use a biomass boiler to produce heat for dry kilns and several large buildings - public and private - in the city core. "This is British Columbia's first wood-residue-based community energy system. Revelstoke was recognized for its long-term energy commitment and leadership, community partnership and its ability to overcome a number of barriers and challenges through innovation," said Rogers. **Mayor Mark McKee** received the **2004 Energy Aware Award** on behalf of the **City of Revelstoke**. "Revelstoke is honoured to receive this award. We are looking forward to the air quality benefits and financial savings that will result from this project," said Mayor McKee.

The Community Energy Association also presented two Honourable Mentions, one to the **City of Vancouver** for its **Corporate Climate Change Action Plan** - a comprehensive plan specifying strong greenhouse gas reduction targets and a range of actions to reduce emissions from all municipal operations. The other Honourable Mention went to the District of Fort St. James for **Geothermal Heating in Municipal Buildings** - using a heat pump system and natural underground heat, saving \$7000 annually in heating and cooling costs. "The judging panel considered this project to demonstrate strong Council leadership in a small community with limited resources," said Rogers.

- 30 -

#### **Contacts:**

Dan Rogers, Chair, Community Energy Association cell: 250-617-2528

Laura Porcher, Executive Director, Community Energy Association cell: 250-208-1248

Community Energy Association Office: 250-598-4034

