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## Connecting Communities 2008

From April 9-11, 2008 the Kelowna Region will host the *Connecting Communities 2008* conference.

Municipal officials, transit staff and other individuals interested in public transit will find this conference an excellent way to exchange ideas and make new contacts.

Check the [program page](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information about our conference line-up.

**Register** and [book your room at the Grand Okanagan](#) on or before March 13 for the chance to win an iPod.



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## **Transit Community Connections 2008 Program**

### **About our Green Conference**

*Transit Community Connections 2008* is a Green Conference, which means that we did everything possible to reduce the carbon footprint made by the conference. To find out how we 'greened' our conference, [visit the green conference page](#).

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Program last updated 7 March 2008.

### **Wednesday 9 April**

#### **Pre-Conference Sessions**

**08:00-12:00 Connecting on the Course**

Enjoy a round of golf while networking with colleagues on the Harvest Golf Course. Tee-times start at 08:15. The green fee is \$68.25 with tax for walking, \$86.17 including tax for cart. Shuttle leaves from the Grand Okanagan. To sign up, visit the [Activities page](#). If you have questions, contact [Steve Segal](#).

**08:00-17:00 Registration** at Grand Okanagan  
conference space foyer / coat check

**09:00-11:30 Marketing Roundtable**, Shuswap/Pennask  
Moderator: Robyn Quinn  
Robyn has worked in marketing and communications for over 20 years in government, not for profit and retail. She will lead three areas of information



sharing:

- *Media Relations 101* will detail spokespeople responsibilities and how to best work with your local media.
- *Recruiting for Public Transit* will explore province-wide marketing opportunities to attract staff to the transit industry in preparation for expansions and aging workforce.
- *The Roundtable* will explore various marketing initiatives and ideas raised by participants

**11:30-12:30 no scheduled activities**

**12:30-15:30 Conventional & Maintenance Roundtable,**  
Shuswap/Pennask  
Moderators: Matt Berry, Penticton Transit and Laura Kiteley, Regional District of Nanaimo  
The agenda for this workshop comes from topics raised by participants.

**13:00-16:15 City Tour,** leaving from the Grand Okanagan  
Discover the Heritage of Kelowna and Westside on this bus/walking tour:  
**Gellatly Heritage Regional Park and Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park**  
**Quail's Gate Wine Tasting,** featuring the Historic Allison House  
**Father Pandosy Mission**  
Knox Mountain Viewpoint and Park

**15:45-17:30 Labour Relations/Human Resources Roundtable,** Skeena/South Hall  
By invite only  
Adriana F. Wills, Harris and Company with Susanne Fossey, BC Transit and Rick Jones, BC Transit

**17:30-19:30 Opening Reception**  
The City of Kelowna welcomes you to the 2008 conference by inviting you to the Kelowna Art Gallery, where you will sample local wine and food while connecting with transit colleagues. *The Gallery is across the street from the Grand Okanagan.*

**19:30 Dine Around**  
We all know that Kelowna has great wine, and here's our chance to find out about their great food! **Visit the Tourism Kelowna website** for great ideas on where to dine this evening.

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## Thursday 10 April

**07:30-18:00 Trade Show, Pennask**

Exhibitors will be demonstrating products and services of interest to the transit industry. Drop by the Trade Show throughout the day and discover new technologies. Visit our [Sponsor Page](#) to learn more about the exhibitors.

**07:30-08:30 Breakfast Buffet, Pennask****07:45-08:30 Connecting with your Planner, Okanagan**

This is an opportunity to have an informal chat with your transit planner (in a group setting) over breakfast.

**08:30-09:45 Opening Session, Okanagan**

Welcome from City and Regional District  
Welcome from MLA  
Greetings from CUTA

**Connecting Communities**

Kevin Mahoney, BC Transit Chair

Mr Mahoney will provide an update on the future of public transit service in BC.

**Building Transit Connections**

Steve New, BC Transit

You will hear about our transit successes with new systems, ridership and performance and highlights of transit plans for the coming year

**09:45-10:15 Refreshment Break, Pennask****10:15-11:45 Labour Relations, Okanagan**

Adriana F. Wills, Harris & Company

Topics to include employee law, case studies and current labour relations issues.

**11:45-13:00 Your One Degree Difference, Okanagan**

Chris Gibson, Keynote Speaker

Drawing on a lifetime of high-impact high-energy careers on both sides of the microphone, Chris speaks from his unique vantage point about the needs of customers.

**13:00-13:45 Buffet Lunch, Pennask**

- 13:45-14:45 Intelligent Transportation Systems**, Okanagan  
Brendon Hemily, Toronto  
A broad overview of Transit Intelligent Transportation Systems and issues relating to these systems.
- 14:45-15:15 Refreshment Break**, Pennask
- 15:15-16:45 Connecting on the Bus**, Okanagan  
David Guthrie, John Palmer and Barry George, BC Transit  
This session explores the issue of problem passengers, de-escalating situations that may lead to driver assaults, how to refuse transportation for difficult customers and some other topical issues in this very complex field.
- 17:00-18:00 BC Regional CUTA Committee Reception**, Pennask
- 19:00-21:30 Dinner**  
You will enjoy a special evening at the **Summerhill Winery**  
*Buses leave from the Grand Okanagan at 18:30 and 18:45.*
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## Friday 11 April

- 07:30-08:15 Breakfast Buffet**, Skaha/Vaseaux/Kootenay
- 08:15-09:45 Technology Updates**, Skaha/Vaseaux/Kootenay  
Moderator: tba  
Presenters: Bruce Rothwell, Larry Proud, Allan Bell, Steve Harvard  
This panel will share information and answer questions about the Fuel Cell project; future of the provincial transit conventional and custom fleet; biodiesel; transit security into the future and the farebox technology project.
- 09:45-10:00 Refreshment Break**, Pennask
- 10:00-11:45 Municipal Roundtable**, Shuswap/Pennask  
Moderator: Emma DalSanto, Resort Municipality of Whistler  
Contributors: Steve New, Brendon Hemily and CUTA delegate  
This session will focus on a wide range of issues of

particular interest to municipal staff, including a discussion on the PTA funding.

**10:00-11:45 Custom Transit Roundtable**, Columbia  
Moderators: Bob Allen, Victoria and Brian Warner, Nanaimo.  
Contributor: Steve Segal, BC Transit.  
This session focuses on a wide range of issues of particular interest to custom transit operating company staff.

**11:45-12:00 Conference Wrap Up**

**Register on or before March 7** for a chance to win an iPod!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Room temperatures tend to fluctuate in meeting rooms. For your comfort, wear layered clothing.





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## About Our Host City: the small city that offers the world



Cradled within a glorious range of mountains, Kelowna is a sanctuary filled with pristine lakes, pine forests, abundant gardens, orchards and vineyards, sandy beaches and superb amenities. The city of Kelowna has a population of 107,000 and is the transportation, business and service hub of the Okanagan Valley.

The Kelowna International Airport, the 10th busiest in Canada, easily connects to major North American cities. With daily flights, it's just a 60-minute flight from Calgary or Vancouver and 70 minutes from Seattle. Daily direct flights to Toronto are also available.

Kelowna's growing cultural district covers a six-block downtown area, and features a concentration of galleries, museums, theatres, a casino, artists' studios, fine dining, unique shops and a vibrant cultural life all year long.

A trip to Kelowna would not be complete without taking the time to search for Ogopogo, the legendary lake monster that reputedly resides in Okanagan Lake. The myth dates back to the Interior Salish Native people who exchanged stories of a lake creature, or "N'ha-a-itk", over 100 years ago. The creature later became known as Ogopogo and purported sightings over the years continue to strengthen the legend. To "see" Ogopogo for yourself, be sure to visit the statue of the creature found on Bernard Avenue near Kelowna's City Park.

## Dining in Kelowna



Any place that celebrates wine, celebrates food . . . Enjoy lattes at street side cafés, appetizers on a rooftop patios or nightcaps by a marina under starry night sky. Menu choices range from popular pub-style or health-oriented juice/java bar fare to tantalizing ethnic selections. Many fine dining establishments offer elaborate wine lists

and wine pairing suggestions for visitors who are eager to indulge their palates. [Click here for a list of places to eat in Kelowna.](#)

### **Things to Do in Kelowna**

Any time, any day, any season, Kelowna, and the Okanagan Valley, offers a world of things to do. [Click here for a list of things to do in Kelowna.](#)







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## Sponsors

This Conference is possible thanks to the generous support of our Sponsors. Please consider these companies if you need products or services that they provide.

Watch this page in coming weeks to see our conference sponsors.

### Title Sponsor

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**Cummins Western Canada.** Cummins Western Canada is the distributor for Cummins Inc. and Onan generator sets for British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Manitoba as well as the area of Northern Ontario from the Manitoba/Ontario border through to Ignace, Ontario. Founded in 1986, Cummins Western Canada has more than 450 employees in 14 locations throughout their territory. They work in partnership with their suppliers and customers to provide the best possible diesel and natural gas engines, generator sets and service.



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**Cummins Westport Inc.** Cummins Westport Inc. is a joint venture between leading engine manufacturer Cummins Inc. and alternative fuels engine technology company Westport Innovations Inc. Cummins Westport today sells the world's widest range of low-emissions alternative fuel engines for commercial transportation applications such as trucks and buses. Cummins Westport is responsible for developing and marketing new alternative fuel engine products to be manufactured by Cummins. In Western Canada, Cummins Westport's products are sold and serviced by Cummins Western Canada.

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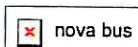
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## Keynote Sponsor

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For more information contact:

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## Silver



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