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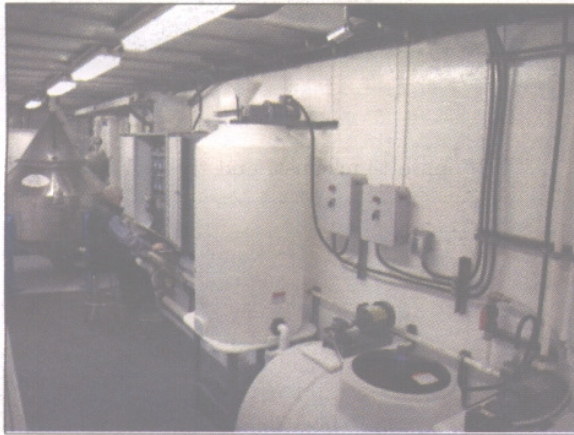
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CRD's entire output during a flood surge could be handled by 150 Boydel units for under \$150 million. "It's almost to our disadvantage to give so low a number. It makes us look crazy," admits Boyle. "We'd be more credible if we said \$900 million.

Big costs for conventional treatment come from the big holding

them. One of the plates slowly decomposes, releasing positive ions which attract negatively charged organic and inorganic contaminants such as metals and oils. At the same time the water itself is split into hydrogen and oxygen gases that bubble up to a clarifier carrying the contaminants with them, leaving clear water at the bottom.



INSIDE BOYDEL'S WATERMINER MODULE

tanks, and the land they occupy, where water is aerated so the bacteria in the sewage can break it down over a 24-hour period. If toxins in the sewage or other problems kill the bacteria, sewage plants can become quite smelly. As well, the conventional biological systems produces very high volumes of greenhouse gases, whereas Boydel's process doesn't.

The process as applied by Boydel passes the water between iron plates as an electric charge jumps across

The practical problem for high-volume use of the process has been the disintegration of the plate that gradually widens the gap and increases the strength of the electrical charge needed to bridge it. Boydel's design keeps the plates at the perfect distance as one erodes. This keeps the power consumption low: at a cost of just \$36 a day.

Boydel hopes to demonstrate their process using Duncan's wastewater, now going to aeration pond on the Cowichan reserve. **BE**

Sustainable cocktails

BY LINDA WEGNER

Contributor

Environmentally minded companies and their associates now have an additional tool in their quest to meld business success with ecological responsibility. Green Drinks, a global organization that began in Northern London in 1989, has reached Vancouver Island. With chapters in Victoria, Nanaimo and Duncan, business owners are tapping into the benefits of the grassroots movement while expanding their entrepreneurial network.

The idea for Green Drinks was conceived 20 years ago when a group of like-minded business colleagues met in the local pub for an evening pint. While there, they connected with a second group of business associates who also were discussing ways to address their environmental concerns. They moved their chairs together, pooled their ideas, and introduced a movement that now circles the globe.

According to Doug Markaroff, urban planner, president of Living Forest Communities and enthusiastic member of the Victoria chapter, the purpose of Green Drinks is all about providing support

for like-minded individuals and companies while generating ideas for reducing their environmental footprint.

Regular monthly meetings are held at local pubs with the format and content unique to each chapter. While business networking happens in the Nanaimo chapter, says Ian Gartshore, principal owner of Shore Energy Solutions and sustainable energy consultant, sharing of information is parAmount to its members.

"For example, our next speaker is an organic farmer who runs the farmers' market," he says.

On the other hand, Makaroff explains, attendees at the Victoria chapter bring more of a business-oriented tone to their meetings.

"It's a free and casual atmosphere but it's about helping with grants, funding, getting started. That's the essence of what Green Drinks is about."

When asked how his company had benefited, Markaroff listed several examples: it was at a Green Drinks he met the person who became the company's office manager; during conversation at a meeting he has garnered numerous and significant ideas for geo-thermal projects; he's received

"dozen of invitations to give presentations to potential investors."

Jessica Vreeswijk, a student working toward her MBA, hasn't yet attended a meeting, but she already feels connected to the organization.

"I've joined online and I watch for posting and online events. I intend to join [upon completion of my degree]," she told *Business Examiner*.

Both Markaroff and Gartshore are convinced of the value in being part of a local group, especially during difficult economic times.

"I've had countless conversations with people who might want to build a home or buy a lot on the property [Living Forest Communities]," says Markaroff. "We're constantly handing out cards and finding out what [other members] are doing."

"In one instance, a recent grad contributed time to a legitimate consulting company because he wanted help and he wanted the experience."

Gartshore hasn't yet reaped a lot of direct business from Green Drinks. But he's confident it will come as the movement picks up. "Green businesses that don't show up [at meetings] are missing out on sales." **BE**

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