



# The Edge

## Monthly Newsletter

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### Collaboration and Digital Literacy

Recently we attended the 2008 ICT Summit in Vancouver. The main focus of this summit was collaboration and digital literacy. Communities around the world are taking advantage of the Internet to improve people's lives. Strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) is helping create social and economic change in health, education, culture, and to increase civic engagement. But the benefits are not evenly distributed. "Digital divides" persist in urban and rural communities, among First Nations and others. As more communities gain access to broadband, the challenge is turning this IT capacity into community capital in the form of better educated citizens, more prosperous businesses, higher quality healthcare and better access to services.

Some of the highlights of the summit included the following workshops:

#### **1. Welcome to Equi-Pass Program: Strategic Solutions Consortium-with Julian Luke**

Equi-Pass is a new model for helping organizations deliver ICT skills to the community. Using online learning technologies, organizations learn how to engage their communities by promoting digital literacy and other ICT skills. This helps ensure that the community has an available supply of skilled workers. At the same time, Equi-Pass provides organizations with ways to achieve sustainability. Lastly, Equi-pass links learners with the job market, ensuring training outcomes match employer needs.



*Happy Easter*

#### **2. Role of communities in the SFU Broadband Study-with Ellen Godfrey**

This workshop described the Simon Fraser University study. The project looked at the impact of broadband on remote, rural and First Nations communities in BC. Preliminary results were shared. We talked about what we had learned from talking to many community champions and ISPs. We discussed the challenges and some possible solutions. We identified the missing data about our communities and why it matters. The study is looking for community-based research assistants, so the workshop also described the roles, responsibilities and rewards involved in joining the research team

The Edgewood Community Internet Society will be participating in this five year study. We have been given the opportunity to participate in this with an onsite research assistant and look forward to sharing this experience with all members of our community.

#### **NEW BOOKS AT THE IVRC:**

##### **NON-FICTION:**

##### 1. Night Sky (Collins Guide to)

The only Photographic field guide you can use in the wild by M.R. Chartrand

##### 2. History and Happenings in the Cariboo Chilcotin

Pioneer Memories by Irene Stangoe

##### 3. Ecoholic Your guide to the most environmentally friendly info, products and services in Canada by Adria Vasil

##### **FICTION**

##### 1. 44 Scotland Street

By Alexander McCall Smith

##### 2. The Company of Cheerful Ladies

By Alexander McCall Smith

##### 3. A Breath of Snow and Ashes

By Diana Gabaldon



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