

Canoe Pass riding high on tide

Cont'd From Second Cover

"What we needed was critical mass," Knight says. Knight and Peterson were founding members of the Ocean Renewable Energy Group (OREG) and Knight was its first chair for four years. The sector then captured the attention of the federal and provincial government.

Meanwhile, Knight and Peterson discovered the perfect place to set up their first tidal energy generating facility – in Canoe Pass between Quadra and Maude Islands.

Canoe Pass is one of two or three tidal projects that is being moved ahead in Canada. In fact, Canoe Pass is the most advanced on the West Coast.

Chris Campbell, executive director of OREG calls the Canoe Pass site particularly interesting. It is one of 10 sites on the West Coast that has been identified as suitable for generation of tidal power. It is easily accessible and directly below a hydro distribution line, making a connection to the grid quite simple. An assessment shows that the project will generate about five



Tidal energy project at Canoe Pass - before and after

Megawatts of energy, enough to power about 5,000 homes.

"That about equals the BC Hydro supply to the Discovery islands," Campbell says. "If that site was fully developed, you could conceivably cut the distribution line between Quadra Island and Vancouver Island and they might well be self sufficient."

The District of Campbell

River has also recently completed a feasibility study for a demonstration tidal project on the fishing pier. The idea, Campbell says, is to make it a visible part of Campbell River's green community initiative.

Tidal power is one of the better ideas for sustainable energy, Campbell says, noting that it is highly efficient and because tides are powered by gravity, there's no chance of running out of the power source.

It is also a dependable source of power. While it may have peaks and valleys, the amount of power derived from tidal energy can be accurately computed for at least 20 years into the future. Environmental assessment studies to date have not

found any negative impacts.

Now that implementation of the project is mere months away, Knight says he's pretty excited. He recalls that Chris Campbell called Campbell River "The Tidal Energy Capital of Canada" at an OREG conference two years ago. That may not be far off the mark, he says.

"Campbell River has all of the capacities necessary to realize that slogan. The potential in the tidal currents north and south of Campbell River are among the most significant and useable in the world."

Campbell River itself also has everything it takes to turn that potential into real energy.

"They have the marine engineering capacity," he says.

"They have the fabrication capacity and the marine services capacity and they've got a trained industrial workforce including all the men who used to work at the pulp mill."

He says that one of the exciting aspects of the project is the development of a uniquely British Columbian supply chain.

"Canada can do in ocean energy what it has done over the past 40 – 50 years in hydro. We can export solutions to the rest of the world."

Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Group is at 3075 Discovery Drive in Campbell River.

www.canoepasstidal.com

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Synopsis

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Result

Brodie will generate positive CDA balances that may be paid to him at no tax cost. He can also generate these capital gains by using conservative investments that ordinarily distribute only interest and other highest tax rate investment income.

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