

Coast VI Environmental cleaning up Island

By Goody Niosi

CHEMAINUS - Phenomenal growth are the only two words that can possibly describe the recent history of Coast VI Environmental Ltd. since the current owners purchased the company in 2001.

Coast is a 100 per cent locally owned and operated company, and has annual sales of over \$5 Million with its residential and commercial divisions of septic, portable toilets, and special waste, vacuum trucks for all wastewater services.

At one time, the company was known as Coast Septic and was in the business of installing, cleaning and repairing septic fields, and portable toilets. It was doing about \$1 Million in business annually.

Today, Coast VI Environmental is the largest company of its kind on Vancouver Island.

Coast's septic division offers all septic needs from septic pumpouts, installation, maintenance, video inspections, grease trap servicing, and sewer line flushing and clearing.

The Portable Toilet Division features a fleet of 1,500 units servicing events and construction sites from Victoria to Campbell River and surrounding areas. They offer a selection of regular units, flushing units, hand wash units, holding tanks, and they can service the smallest to the largest events on Vancouver Island.

The Special Waste Division features pumping out, disposal of oil/water solids, contaminated fuels, marine bilge water, catch basins, car wash basins and storm drains.

Coast VI Environmental is a complete waste water company. Its business is sewage, grease, contaminated products, oil, water, septic systems, portable toilets and more.

"If anything is contaminated, we have tank trucks - vacuum trucks that pump the product and dispose of it at the proper disposal sites," Blair Nicholson explains.

The company's hydro excavating trucks are used extensively to dig in the vicinity of



Some of the team at Coast VI Environmental Ltd.: (from left) Janice Mageean, office manager and accounts receivable; Christine Kalisch, septic and contaminated waste disposal; Howard Walker, driver; Susan Kimball, North Island portable toilet coordinator; Dana Kloosterman, South Island portable toilet coordinator; and Blair Nicholson, Operations Manager

hydro and gas lines. Instead of using a backhoe, the trucks literally vacuum the earth up. The company is licensed to transport a variety of special waste; the staff is certified and the trucks are coded to haul the special waste.

The company still installs and maintains septic systems and is often called on to inspect the systems prior to people purchasing a home. A remote camera can reveal problems in the structure that might cost homeowners thousands of dollars.

Special events are another area of the company's expertise. With their fleet of portable toilets, Coast VI Environmental supplies events and construction sites from Victoria to Campbell River.

The company is immensely

diversified, Nicholson says.

The company cleans catch basins and storm drains in parking with vacuum trucks.

The company also performs line flushing on streets and highways under the jurisdiction of various regional districts.

The company hasn't just grown in dollars, Nicholson says, it has also grown with an excellent team of people that is now 50 strong.

The environment is a primary concern of everyone on staff, he adds. In fact the company is extremely proud of its environmental record and involvement.

"We've changed this to an environmental company - a complete waste water and special waste disposal company. It's an environmentally friendly

poses of all materials.

Nicholson notes that as environmental concerns grow and the bylaws and practice methods change, the company will grow.

"Everybody is worried about the environment. As a company we have to keep up with that, and take responsibility to keep monitoring the situation," he says.

Nicholson calls Coast VI Environmental part of a cost effective solution.

"We do things the way they should be done," he says.

As for the future, Nicholson says the sky's the limit. While they won't take on more than they can handle, they definitely want to expand with the growing concerns of environmental issues.

Environmental issues are everyone's concern, he says, and when it comes to cleaning up, Coast VI Environmental wants to be involved. With more and more people moving to Vancouver Island, liquid waste will inevitably grow and it will need to be disposed of safely. More and more boaters are also coming to Vancouver Island and Coast VI Environmental services marinas and barges.

Phenomenal growth is just the beginning of the Coast VI Environmental story - but it's one part of the story that Nicholson predicts will keep on being told year after year. Their website is www.coastenvironmental.ca.

company. That's our niche," he says.

The company regularly responds to emergency spills 24 hours a day and properly dis-

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