A Shared Community Vision

More than two years of public input have shaped the Area A Official Community Plan Review, now heading into its final stages. The second draft of the updated OCP is under revision, and a third draft will be presented this winter to the Regional District Board to begin the adoption process. The revised OCP provides direction on all land-uses in the communities of South Wellington, Cassidy, Cedar, and Yellowpoint, and is intended to replace the 2001 Area A OCP.

Everyone who has shared their ideas and concerns related to the OCP Review over the past two years has played an important role in getting to the final draft of the document, titled A Shared Community Vision. Residents from all communities in Area A have participated in OCP Review Citizen’s Committee meetings, open houses, community forums, workshops, mapping sessions, and numerous other community events. Residents also developed a set of nine sustainability principles, such as “Maintain Local History, Culture, and Rural Character,” to guide the revised OCP and future Board decisions. In September the RDN hosted its most recent series of open houses to collect input on the second draft of the revised OCP.

Sustainability principles, community goals, and a shared community vision are all part of the revised OCP. The updated document also expands on a variety of topics from the original 2001 plan, such as local food production, groundwater protection, transportation, economic diversity, and recreation. Additional projects supporting the Review have included an Active Transportation Plan, Community Sewer Servicing Study, and a Groundwater Assessment.

The draft OCP has also been amended to accommodate a separate public consultation process on the Nanaimo Airport, located in Cassidy. The consultations will involve residents throughout the community as well as other stakeholders in providing input on a number of topics of community interest, including future uses of airport lands.

The draft OCP is available on the project website at www.asharedcommunityvision.ca, and hard copies may be requested by contacting the RDN at 250-390-6510.

Toilet Rebate Program

The Regional District’s Toilet Replacement Rebate Program was very successful this year. The program ended in late August after all 2010 funding was allocated due to high demand. Rebates provided this year for 500 low-flow toilets will reduce water consumption by approximately 12 million litres annually in RDN Electoral Areas. If you live in an RDN Electoral Area, and are thinking of replacing your toilet with a new water-efficient model, remember to check back next year for more incentive opportunities. Applications for toilet rebates received after August 25, 2010 will be held on a first-come first-serve basis for processing in 2011, pending approval of a new program by the RDN Board.

Area A Recreation

The Fall 2010 Community Leisure Calendar is available online, and at various locations in Cedar, South Wellington, and Cassidy. Programs offered by the RDN in Area A this fall include Zumba, Co-Ed Cardio & Core Boot Camp, Little Kickers Preschool Soccer and Soccer Tots, as well as Leader in Training workshops and volunteer opportunities. For a complete list of fall activities in Area A please visit rdn.bc.ca > Recreation & Parks Information > Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Winter Emergency Preparedness

Flooding, snowstorms and power outages can happen during the colder months in our communities, and just a couple hours of preparation will make a big difference during an emergency. The Regional District Emergency Planning Department is ready to provide assistance. In October staff delivered flood preparedness packages to many rural homes. The kits include the RDN’s Personal

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area A. Overlapping postal routes could result in some City of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.
Emergency Preparedness Guide

Book, tips for preparing all aspects of your household for a flood, and general information from Public Safety Canada on Floods and Power Outages. Residents can also request a kit anytime for delivery or pickup. A grab and go bag is an important item to have ready for any evacuation, packed with essential items such as (but not limited to) a battery flashlight or radio, personal medication, a basic first aid kit, non-perishable foods, and emergency blankets.

More information and resources are available at rdn.bc.ca > Development > Emergency Planning, or by emailing emergencyplanning@rdn.bc.ca, or calling 250-390-6510, 250-954-3792, or toll free 1-877-607-4111.

The Green Bin Program

Local households are starting to send less waste to the landfill with the region-wide Green Bin Program now underway. The Regional District thanks all residents for making the transition to the new program, and your patience as new green bins, collection schedules, and Curbside Collection Guides have been delivered to more than 32,000 single family homes in all seven Electoral Areas, Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Lantzville, and Nanaimo. If your home now has a green bin and weekly food waste collection you may have seen that it can help reduce garbage disposal by about half.

All single family homes in Electoral Areas starting the Green Bin Program have new 15 month curbside collection schedules for food waste collection, garbage, and recycling. Comprehensive information on the Green Bin Program, such as acceptable materials for disposal, and tips for green bin storage, is included in your Curbside Collection Guide. You can also find the latest information on RDN garbage and recycling in the Guide.

More details on curbside collection, as well as recent changes to the recycling program, is also available at www.beyondcomposting.ca and www.rdn.bc.ca, or by calling 250-390-6560, 250-954-3792, or toll free 1-877-607-4111.

Recycling Program Changes

With the introduction of the Green Bin Program and the use of new split-packer collection vehicles, there are two additional changes for recycling. Glass will no longer be accepted for recycling in blue bins at the curb, but you may dispose of it in your garbage, return it for a deposit if refundable, or recycle it if non-refundable at drop-off locations throughout the region, including Church Road Transfer Station, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Gabriola Island Recycling Organization, the Regional Landfill, and the Parksville Bottle Depot. It is also no longer necessary to separate mixed paper and newspaper because all recyclables are now collected in a single vehicle compartment and mechanically separated at the processing facility.

Cedar Sewer Service

The Cedar Sewer collection system has been operational for about a year. Three major properties in the village centre have or will be connected by the end of 2010. These include the shopping centre, the Wheatsheaf Inn and the sports field. The system provides capacity for 533 residents, and is connected to the Duke Point sewage treatment plant. The collector system was built by a local developer, and cost shared by 27 property owners in the village centre area.

Building Inspection Service Expansion

In June the Regional District Board approved the expansion of Building Inspection into parts of Areas A, C, F, and H not previously within the service. Phase one of the expansion took effect October 1 for new construction within the following land use designations: Village Centres; Urban Containment Boundaries; Rural Separation Boundaries (Area F only); Commercial, Industrial, Conservation, Public Management, Forestry, Agriculture, Industrial Mixed Use, Salvage & Wrecking, Institutional/Community, and Water Use lands; Comprehensive Development not specific to single family; and all newly subdivided lands regardless of zoning designation.

The final phase of the service expansion on April 1, 2011 will include new construction on all remaining properties, including land zoned for single family and duplex use.

The primary goal of Building Inspection is to ensure the health, safety, and protection of persons and property by ensuring that new construction and installations generally conform to relevant bylaws, the BC Building Code, and other applicable standards and regulations. Building Inspection also enables current and prospective owners to access records on construction history of their property, helps ensure consumer protection through warranty coverage, and confirms that all new construction meets applicable environmental standards and development permit regulations.

More information on Building Inspection services, and when to apply for a Building Permit, is available at www.rdn.bc.ca.