Official Community Plan Review

The Draft Electoral Area A Official Community Plan is now available for public review. This first draft is a working document and represents the combined efforts of the community and the Electoral Area A Citizen’s Committee over the last year and a half. Based on a series of sustainability principles developed by the community, the plan is titled *A Shared Community Vision* and details the goals and objectives residents have for our community.

Electoral Area A includes the neighbourhoods of Cedar, Cassidy, South Wellington, Yellow Point, and adjacent unincorporated rural areas within the RDN. Since 2008, community members have been contributing to the development of *A Shared Community Vision* by providing suggestions on topics such as growth management, agriculture, environmental protection, transit, recreation, and community diversity and affordability. The intent of the Official Community Plan Review is to replace the current Electoral Area A OCP, which was adopted in 2001, with a new Official Community Plan based on sustainability principles.

Throughout the spring of 2009, a Citizens’ Committee Speakers’ Series with a corresponding set of workbooks gave residents the opportunity to consider various policy options consistent with our sustainability principles and community vision. On June 15, 2009, a community development forum brought residents, developers, and others with an interest in the area together to share information and discuss proposed and ongoing development projects within Area A.

To obtain a copy of the Draft OCP or to find out how you can keep informed about the review process, visit [www.asharedcommunityvision.ca](http://www.asharedcommunityvision.ca) or contact RDN Senior Planner Greg Keller at areaaocpreview@rdn.bc.ca or at 250-390–6510.

Recreation and Culture Update

Since the summer of 2009, Electoral Area A Recreation Programmer Kelly Fryer has been working to help the RDN Recreation and Parks Department fulfill its mandate of providing recreation and culture services to this area.

Kelly’s work within our communities is based on recommendations approved in the 2007 RDN Recreation and Culture Master Plan. Using the plan as a guiding document, she is working with other Regional District staff and the Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Commission to enhance recreation and culture services in Cedar, South Wellington, Cassidy and the parts of Yellow Point located within the RDN. To do so she is collaborating with organizations already providing services as well as planning and implementing recreation and culture programs that meet residents’ needs.

Kelly previously lived in the Cedar area. She has worked for the City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Harewood Family of Community Schools, and looks forward to working with the community to build upon the services currently provided.
Kelly’s office is located in the old Cedar Fire Hall on Cedar Road next to the Cedar General Store. To contact her call 250-722-0123 / 250-713-3667 or email: kfryer@rdn.bc.ca.

Toilet Rebate Incentive Program
Property owners in the Electoral Areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo are now eligible for a new toilet rebate incentive program offered through the RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. The idea behind the incentive is to help property owners protect community water supplies for the future and reduce stress on septic systems and wastewater treatment systems.

Low flow toilets use just six litres of water per flush, and ultra low flow models use either six or three litres. Older toilets can use 13 litres or more per flush, so by taking advantage of the toilet rebate program a property owner could save up to 80,000 litres per year.

To qualify for the rebate, property owners must be within the Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, or H. Eligible property owners can apply for up to two rebates per property. Low flow toilet upgrades are eligible for a $50 rebate, and dual flush upgrades are eligible for a $75 rebate. The low flow toilet sales receipt must be dated after October 28, 2009, and applicants must be replacing a toilet with a flushing capacity of 13 litres or more with a CSA Approved low flow or dual flush model. The toilet flush volume is usually printed on the inside of the tank, on the tank label, on the back of the bowl, or on the flush valve.

Application forms are available at the Regional District of Nanaimo office at 6300 Hammond Bay Road, or at www.rdnrebate.ca. Applications must include a sales receipt for new low flow toilets and a recycling receipt for the old toilet (From either the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange or the Church Road Transfer Station)

For more information about the application process, contact RDN Water Services at 250-390-6560 or 250-954-3792 or email watersmart@rdn.bc.ca.

Water Re-use Technology
This past August more than 70 people crowded into the Gabriola Island Agricultural Hall for a water re-use technology workshop hosted by the RDN’s Team Watersmart Program. This event was the first water re-use technology workshop that Team WaterSmart has presented, and there is a strong likelihood that we will be hosting a similar workshop in Electoral Area A in 2010. By promoting awareness and supporting use of this technology, the RDN has the opportunity to be leaders in BC in terms of water conservation.

For more information about water re-use technology, visit www.teamwatersmart.ca or contact Team WaterSmart at 250-390-6560 or 1-877-607-4111.

Cedar Skateboard Park
It is exciting to be moving ahead with the Cedar Skateboard Park project. In April 2009 a consulting team from New Line Skateparks Inc. presented their final report for a 930 square metre skateboard park to the Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

The Regional District of Nanaimo has committed to funding up to $139,000—or one-third of the Cedar Skate Park’s $417,000 project costs—from the Electoral Area A Community Parks operational reserve fund. The remaining funds will be raised by the Cedar Skateboard Park Association through donations, in-kind contributions, and applicable government and community grant.

Lighting the Way
On Saturday October 31 Electoral Area A was the first RDN Electoral Area to welcome the Olympic Flame. A large crowd gathered at the Wheatsheaf ball field for a community celebration including free refreshments and entertainment and a Halloween costume parade for the children. Welcoming the Olympic Flame was a true privilege and we were extremely proud to be selected as a Route Community for the Olympic Torch Relay.

The 106-day, 45,000 kilometre 2010 Olympic Torch Relay began on Oct. 30, and will be the longest domestic Torch Relay in Olympic history. By the time the Olympic Games begin in Vancouver, the Olympic Flame will have been welcomed in over 1,000 communities and will have passed within a one-hour drive of more than 90 per cent of the entire Canadian population.

Cedar Sewer Servicing Initiative
Construction continues as the Cedar Sewer Servicing Initiative moves closer to completion. A total of 27 properties are signed up, including eight commercial properties, 18 residential properties, the high school, the Cedar Heritage Center and the sports field across from the Wheatsheaf Inn. The system also accommodates the Cedar Estates development which has up to 157 residential units.

The system has capacity for the equivalent of 533 people, and has now reached that capacity. Total development costs for this service were in the range of $3.5 million, with the subscribing properties contributing about $1.5 million, and the developer contributing about $2 million or 71 per cent of the total cost.