Extension Miners Community Park

Nearly 100 years to the day after 32 coal miners died in the October 5, 1909 Extension mining disaster, Extension residents—including several relatives of those who lost their lives—gathered by the hundreds to celebrate the opening of Extension Miners Community Park on October 4, 2009. Located at the end of Extension Road, this new park is a tribute to those 32 lost miners, and to all 109 miners who lost their lives at Extension mine during its years of operation between 1898 and 1931. The park also recognizes the mining heritage of our community.

Many families in this area were forever changed as a result of the lives lost in the Extension Mine, and this new park is an important place of remembrance for the descendants of those miners. I would like to thank the Extension Heritage Committee and RDN staff members who collaborated to make this park a reality. The actual physical work on this project began in mid-March, 2008 and was completed in mid-September, 2009, but many of the people key to this project’s success have been involved for much longer than that. The overwhelming community turnout at the opening celebrations demonstrates the value of this historic space to the people of Extension.

Extension Miners Community Park has been a personal priority of mine for many years, and I am pleased that residents and visitors to our area can now walk its trails, visit the entrance to Extension Mine No. 1 and learn more about the busy town that once existed here due to the mining industry. I encourage all residents of Electoral Area C and the surrounding Region to visit this park, view the memorial kiosk and enjoy a walk through the new network of trails. Hopefully generations of residents will be able to enjoy this beautiful gathering place and continue to honour the memory of the lost miners and their families.
Meadow Drive Community Park Update

Development work continues at Meadow Drive Community Park. The park was hydro seeded with a drought tolerant and slow-growing grass seed mixture in September and a multi-use, accessible, wooden play structure for ages two to 12 was installed in October.

The Recreation and Parks Department also worked with Iverson Forest Management to develop a design for a future forest trail system in the park, including an environmental assessment report and cost estimate. Other work completed to date includes grading, addition of soil, path development, weeding and hazard tree removal.

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, 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.

Team WaterSmart

Team WaterSmart expanded region-wide in 2009 as part of Drinking Water and Watershed Protection, a new service in the RDN’s seven electoral areas.

We are fortunate to have this program available in all areas of the RDN. Approved by referendum on November 15, 2008, Drinking Water and Watershed Protection is aimed at sustaining the regional water supply and protecting surface and groundwater sources. The RDN’s Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Coordinator is currently developing a working plan for 2010 with the RDN Water Services Department and the Drinking Water / Watershed Protection Advisory Committee.