Madrona and Wall Beach Sewer Service Petition Process

Madrona and Wall Beach residents will not be receiving sewer collection service from the Regional District of Nanaimo. In a fall 2009 petition process to establish a sewer service area, residents were asked to support the borrowing of funds to install sewers in the area at an estimated financed cost of $1685 per property per year, plus an estimated annual operating cost of $500 per property per year. The cost of the project in 2009 dollars was estimated at $5,049,432, or approximately $15,930 per property. The RDN initiated the process after the Northwest Nanoose Residents Association asked for the RDN to review and update the project costs for sewer service.

The petition process followed public information meetings where costs were presented to residents and a June 15 open house where attendees received project information, including costs, financing options and details on the petitioning procedures.

Of the 320 properties petitioned, only 65 valid petitions were returned. One hundred sixty-one petitions were necessary to support the sewer service initiative. Given the current lack of support for sewer service in Madrona/Wall Beach, there is no merit in pursuing this matter any further until such time as grant opportunities may reduce the per property costs for residents.

NanOOSE BAY Elementary School Playground

I am pleased that the Regional District of Nanaimo was able to assist with the construction of the new NanOOSE Bay Elementary School playground. The RDN put $25,000 toward the construction, joining several other community groups in supporting the $90,000 project undertaken by the NanOOSE Bay Elementary School Parent Advisory Council.

For several years, the NanOOSE Bay Elementary community noted the deterioration of the school’s playgrounds, particularly in the Kindergarten area. The school grounds are used regularly by students, homeschoolors, daycares, and children with various special needs, both mental and physical. The Parent Advisory Council planned the construction of the new playground—from the teardown of the old structures to the assembly of the new play areas. I would like to congratulate the PAC on the excellent job they did with this project.

The accessible new playground design offers something for everyone and encourages social, creative, dynamic, dramatic, team and physical types of play. The RDN Electoral Area E Community Parks contribution of $25,000 allowed the purchase of a large unit deck with climbers and slides, and a four-child saucer-style Biggo swing, as well as extra tiling for accessibility.

Other contributors include the Rick Hansen Foundation ($30,355), BC Housing and Development ($20,000), Coastal Community Credit Union ($7,000), District 69 Recreation Commission ($2,500) Nanoose Bay Lions Club ($500), Nanoose Place Floor Curlers ($100) and the NBES PAC ($5,000). Other contributions include materials such as crush base and sand, trucking, and items relating to the playground installation.
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.

Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area

In response to water quality concerns from parts of the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service area the RDN Water Services Department is developing a treatment strategy to improve water quality. While water quality is generally good there are areas within the Nanoose Bay Peninsula WSA that have increased levels of iron and manganese in their drinking water that results in significant discolouration. These areas include West Bay, Arbutus Estates and the Fairwinds areas.

Last summer a number of changes were made to address these issues on a temporary basis. Additional low-level manganese and iron water was delivered to these areas via the Englishman River water supply and via a new well in the Madrona area. Sprinkling regulations were also modified to reduce flows and the disruption of in line sediments.

In addition Fairwinds wells #2 and #3 which are high in iron and manganese were taken out of service when possible during the summer.

The RDN has initiated on the previously approved well sequencing project to reduce overall levels of iron and manganese, and continues to pursue VIHA approval of a temporary operating permit for the new well on Claudet Road. Once that supply is in place this will provide a further opportunity to improve water quality.

For more information, visit www.nanoosewater.ca or call the Water Services Department at 250-390-6560 or 250-954-3792.

Lighting the Way

Nanoose Bay welcomed the Olympic Flame on the morning of November 1 with local music and entertainment and a free pancake breakfast at Nanoose Place. We were 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.

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