

Whiskey Creek Water Service

In September the Whiskey Creek Water District made a request to the RDN Board to convert the water district from a community-run system to a Regional District of Nanaimo Water Service Area. The Board supported the request and asked RDN staff to prepare a report outlining the feasibility of taking over this system.

The Whiskey Creek Water District is currently having an engineering asset study done on the water system. When the study is finalized, RDN Water Services staff will work with the water district to determine what upgrades are required for the RDN to take over management of the service.

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.

Arrowsmith Activity Hall

Our community gained a new multi-use space to hold events with the completion of the Arrowsmith Activity Hall in the summer of 2009. Situated on the Coombs Fairgrounds, this facility includes a 6,000-square-foot hall with...
a 25-foot ceiling to facilitate ball and racquet sports, and a further 2000 square feet on the west side of the building to contain office and meeting space, storage facilities and washrooms. This hall is tremendously important to our community, and provides recreational, special event and project space for the entire Regional District. The Arrowsmith Activity Hall is built to BC Building Code post-disaster structural standard and is fitted with emergency power to provide a community relief centre in the event of a local emergency. Primary funding for construction was provided by the BC Gaming Commission and Farm Credit Corporation. Volunteers and local contractors provided excavation, foundations, plumbing and electrical services as well as completion of the interior finishing.

For more information about the hall contact the Coombs Fair Board at www.coombsfair.com.

**Meadowood Fire Hall Update**

After years of hard work the Meadowood Fire Hall is now complete. Since June, 2009 the facility has operated as the Dashwood Fire Department’s #2 fire hall, serving approximately 445 properties over 110 square kilometres. The Meadowood area includes properties in Electoral Area F (Meadowood), and Electoral Areas G and H (Dashwood). Dashwood Fire Department has provided fire protection in the Meadowood area since Canada Day, 2008, but having the new fire hall allows for improved fire protection ratings which is resulting in lower home insurance premiums for residents.

For more information on the Dashwood Fire Department and the Meadowood service area, visit www.Dashwoodvfd.org.

**Lighting the Way**

Electoral Area F residents welcomed the Olympic Flame on November 1 with a free pancake breakfast and a series of community events at the Arrowsmith Activity Hall and the Coombs Fairground. 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.

**Harris Crescent Community Park**

A new concrete pad, seating bench, trail and signage are installed at Harris Crescent Community Park, and a large volume of illegally dumped debris was removed from the area in the fall. Hazard tree and pruning work and sowing of wild flower seed mix has also been completed.

**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.

The popular Team WaterSmart program provides residents with information on water conservation in the home and garden, and is now available to residents whose water comes from private community water services or from private wells that are not part of a public water service.

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.

| contacts |
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| Regional District of Nanaimo Website | www.rdn.bc.ca | 250-390-4111 | 1 877 607 4111 (Toll-free access to all departments) |