Municipal Finance Authority

In March 2009 I was honoured to be elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia. The Municipal Finance Authority is one of the rocks of financial management in BC, and is especially important for communities now in these uncertain economic times. As a trustee I am able to provide input to help support essential local government initiatives that rely on MFA financing, such as new fire halls and recreation centres.

The 38-member MFA lends money and provides investment services for municipalities, regional districts, and public institutions in BC. It is comprised of elected officials from all 28 regional districts in the Province. Trustees oversee MFA policy, strategy, and business, and approve the selection of the MFA secretary, treasurer, and external auditors.

The MFA was created in 1970 to finance borrowing by local governments in BC. Each year it borrows as much as $1 billion at low interest rates, then passes the savings on to local governments and public institutions, which use MFA financing for community initiatives and capital projects. The MFA also manages a $1.8 billion investment pool on behalf of municipalities, regional governments, and public institutions. In 2008 the RDN secured $1,789,200 loan from the MFA to finance a new fire hall, vehicles, and equipment in Meadowood, in Electoral Area F. The fire hall was completed in the summer of 2009 and is operated by the Dashwood Fire Department. Last year the RDN also entered into a $325,000 lease with the MFA for a new fire truck and equipment in Cassidy, now in use by the Cranberry Fire Department.

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.

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area G. Overlapping postal routes could result in some municipal and adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.
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.

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.

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

The Regional District of Nanaimo Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program is made up of individuals and neighbours working in partnership towards emergency preparedness. After a disaster, it may take three days or more for emergency personnel to reach many neighbourhoods. In areas that are isolated or have limited access, it can take up to one week.

Electoral Area G residents wishing to book a NEPP workshop can contact the RDN Emergency Program at 250-390-6526. Workshops can be booked for a minimum of 10 people. Participants will learn how to:

• Minimize existing hazards around the home
• Store emergency supplies
• Act quickly and appropriately when any emergency strikes
• Be prepared to evacuate the home or neighbourhood
• Feel more confident because they are prepared and self-sufficient

In addition to NEPP training, the RDN Emergency Program can offer follow-up training opportunities for established groups, including Rapid Damage Assessment, Light Urban Search and Rescue or basic First Aid.

For more emergency preparedness information, visit www.rdn.bc.ca.

Dashwood Community Park

Children in Dashwood have a new place to play thanks to the generous donations community members made toward three new pieces of playground equipment for Dashwood Community Park. In July, RDN staff and members of the Dashwood Recreation Commission determined the placement of the equipment, which was installed in November. In other park news, the community hall at Dashwood Community Park is now fitted with new emergency lighting and safer, more energy efficient overhead light fixtures.

Contact:

Electoral Area Director | Joe Stanhope
250 248.6401 | Fax 250 248.6403 | jstanhope@shaw.ca
Regional District of Nanaimo Website | www.rdn.bc.ca
1 877 607 4111 (Toll-free access to all departments)