Draft Regional Growth Strategy
The Regional District of Nanaimo wants to hear what residents think about the new policies on food security, water conservation, transportation, economic development, affordable housing and climate change included in its Draft Regional Growth Strategy. To view the Draft RGS and learn more about how it will encourage sustainability in the region, visit www.ShapingOurFuture.ca. Hard copies can be viewed at the RDN Administration Building, all regional libraries, and municipal offices in the RDN. A survey is also available on the site, and those who complete it by May 27 will be entered to win $400 towards food from a grocery store of their choice. Other prizes include transit and recreation passes. In addition to the survey, residents can provide feedback by sending an e-mail or writing a letter.

The RGS was adopted in 1997 and was last reviewed in 2003. It represents the RDN Board’s commitment to shaping a more sustainable pattern of population growth and development in the region’s rural Electoral Areas and four municipalities over a 25-year period.

For more information, email growthmanagement@rdn.bc.ca or call 250-390-6510.

Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Update
The RDN’s Drinking Water Watershed Protection Program is learning more about water in the Region through collaboration with local environmental groups, government agencies and residents. The work done through this important program is assisting the RDN Board in making well-informed land use decisions that protect our environment. Recent projects include the ongoing Observation Well Program and the Watershed Snapshot Report.

Observation Well Program
The Drinking Water Watershed Protection Program identified the need for an expansion of the groundwater observation well network, so the RDN and the Ministry of Environment developed a plan to expand the network of 14 wells to include at least 10 more wells. We are converting six existing wells to observation wells and four new wells have already been added—one in Area H, two in Area E and one in Area A. A second phase of the expansion will begin later in 2011 and will see even more observation wells added to the network. The DWWP Advisory Committee’s technical working group will be identifying sites for these wells and working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and, where possible, the Geological Survey of Canada. The Ministry of Environment will be responsible for the long-term monitoring of the observation wells.

The Towns for Tomorrow program provided $150,000 in support funding for the Observation Well Program.

Watershed Snapshot Report
The DWWPP will present the Watershed Snapshot Report to the RDN Board in May. This report was carried out to determine the state of water resources in the RDN, and involved extensive consultation with the public, hydrogeologists, biologists, well drillers, planners, and local and provincial government representatives. A web-accessible WaterMap and report database is available now at www.rdn.bc.ca and includes reports from a variety of sources associated with water resources, and all of the information gathered as part of the Watershed Snapshot Report process. This is the most comprehensive source of water resource information available in the Region.

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

highlights
* Draft Regional Growth Strategy
* Drinking Water Watershed Protection Update
* Meadow Drive Community Park Update

This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Meadow Drive Community Park Update

With the first phase of the Meadow Drive Community Park Plan completed, the RDN Parks Department is moving ahead with the second phase in 2011. We will be adding on to the existing playground in the coming months to include a two-bay swing set with two tot swings and two swings for older children.

Summer Fire Safety

As fire season approaches, take some time to assess your family’s level of risk and, where necessary, to make changes around your home and property to reduce that risk. It is a good idea to prepare an emergency fire and evacuation plan and review it with your family. Other important steps include maintaining your chimney, keeping propane tanks and other fuel at least 10 metres from your home or other buildings on your property, and making sure that the entrance to your property is clear so that emergency vehicles will have access if need be. Another important consideration is to have your address or lot number displayed prominently so that emergency vehicles can find your property as quickly as possible.

There are many precautions people in rural areas must take that might not occur to a more urban resident. For example, farm owners should prepare a fire evacuation plan for their livestock. If animals cannot be moved into a safe area on your property, make and confirm livestock transportation and feeding arrangements in case of fire.

The Emergency Planning section of the RDN website (www.rdn.bc.ca) provides links to the RDN’s community wildfire protection plans, which identify areas of concern and rank the level of interface fire risk in each area. The website also contains information about home and property fire prevention and fire response, as well as a link to the Home Owner’s Fire Smart Manual put out by the Wildfire Management Branch of the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Residents can access the fire hazard rating for specific areas by using the RDNMap, an interactive property map located on the RDN website. The RDNMap has a variety of lookup tools to help you locate addresses, roads and properties. To learn how to find your Fire Hazard Rating, go to www.rdn.bc.ca and click on Emergency Planning to access the instructions.

Moorecroft Regional Park Update

The Regional District of Nanaimo will be celebrating the official opening of its newest Regional Park with a family picnic-themed celebration from noon until 3pm on Saturday, June 18. Everyone is welcome to attend this community celebration. Securing Moorecroft Regional Park is a tremendous achievement for the Regional District as a whole, and the RDN Board is proud to be able to preserve this property as an ecologically protected public space.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia was a key part of our success in securing Moorecroft as a Regional Park. As part of the purchase agreement with the RDN, this organization has committed to fundraise up to $500,000 toward the purchase price of $4.8 million. This fundraising effort supports the purchase and will also assist in the restoration work needed to preserve important facilities at Moorecroft including Kennedy Hall, Stringer Hall, Miss Moore’s cabin and the nature trail infrastructure.

Donations to Moorecroft Regional Park can be made online at www.naturetrustbc.ca, by cash or by credit card. For more information, contact The Nature Trust of BC at 1-866-288-7878.

Moorecroft Regional Park