

H

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'H' | SHAW HILL | QUALICUM BAY | BOWSER | DEEP BAY

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Electoral Area H Transit Feasibility Study

BC Transit and the Regional District of Nanaimo have recently completed



Director
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a study on the feasibility of implementing transit service in Area H. The feasibility study assesses the number of people, general service expectations and ridership potential for the Area passenger

market for transit. This includes people with disabilities, seniors, school students/youth, young adults/college students, and adults.

The study outlines a number of transit service concepts that are used when forming the service options. The transit service concepts include:

- Taxi supplement - uses a private carrier and private vehicles (usually those of a taxi company) to deliver scheduled service on routes or door-to-door services on an as-needed basis;
- Taxi Saver - provides people with a disability who are registered with the RDN Transit System, a 50 per cent subsidy towards the cost of taxi rides; and,
- Paratransit - uses a transit vehicle

or vehicles, normally a smaller minibus in smaller towns or more rural setting, to provide service. Paratransit services can include everything from door-to-door service for people with disabilities to buses serving stops on fixed routes and schedules.

- Conventional Transit- uses standard sized buses in more urban settings to service fixed routes and schedules.

Prior to transit service being implemented, Regional District of Nanaimo staff would work with BC Transit staff to rank the implementation of the feasibility study against the requests for other service expansions within the RDN and amend the RDN Transit Business Plan as required. In addition BC Transit would have to rank the expansion against other communities throughout BC.

To view the Area H Transit Feasibility Studies please visit the RDN website at www.rdn.bc.ca.

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.

Rural Village Centres are the key to preserving rural quality of life and preventing urban sprawl. To that end, servicing of village centres with sewer systems and transportation are key. Your comments on the proposed Bowser Village Centre sewer system and BC Transit transportation proposals are extremely important to the future of this Village Centre.

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 >

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area H. 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

- * Transit Feasibility Study
- * Draft Regional Growth Strategy
- * Drinking Water Watershed Protection Update

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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.

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.

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. 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 find the Fire Hazard Rating for your area, go to www.rdn.bc.ca and click on Emergency Planning to access the instructions.

Henry Morgan Park Plan Update

RDN Parks staff have been working with future park users to identify how they would like to use Henry Morgan Community Park once it is

developed. When we have heard from the community, a concept plan will be presented to the Area H Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee. We hope to finalize the design over the next few months and break ground by the end of 2011. The RDN is working with Area H Students from Ballenas, KSS and Bowser Schools to develop a park concept that is functional for all ages.

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.



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