Cedar Skatepark Update

New Line Skateparks is hard at work at the Cedar Skatepark site, with construction expected to continue for the next few weeks. When completed, this 3,100 square-metre facility will be an important community hub, particularly for youth in the area. Having a skateboard and bike park in our community has been a longtime goal for many residents, and I am looking forward to seeing this park in use in the coming months.

The Regional District received a $439,410 grant from the Province's Community Recreation Program to fund 70 per cent of the total cost of the Cedar Skatepark. The community is funding 7.5 per cent of the cost of the park, or $46,590, through donations and the final 22.5 per cent will be covered by the RDN.

We will be having a grand opening in the Spring of 2014, so watch for more information in the community and at www.rdn.bc.ca/parks.

Cedar Main Street Village Plan Adopted

Following a comprehensive community engagement process, the Regional District of Nanaimo Board adopted the Cedar Main Street Village Plan at its regular meeting held September 24, 2013. The Plan was adopted as an amendment to the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan and generally applies to an area of land located on both sides of Cedar Road between MacMillan and Hemer Roads. The Plan is the principal guiding document used to provide direction to the Regional District Board, developers, property owners, and other agencies for planning and land use matters within the Cedar Main Street area. It includes policies and guidelines applicable to land use, community design, transportation and mobility, parks and recreation, and servicing. The Plan also identifies desirable improvements within the community. Many of the policies and guidelines included in the plan are based on a set of 14 design ideas which were the result of a four-day community design charrette.

The RDN wishes to thank the members of the Citizens’ and Technical Advisory Groups for their hard work and devotion to the project. The RDN also wishes to thank all who participated in the project and contributed to its success.

For more information on the Cedar Main Street Village Plan, please contact Greg Keller, Senior Planner at (250) 390-6510 or email to cedarmainstreet@rdn.bc.ca.

Emergency Social Services Volunteers

There is an ongoing need for Emergency Social Services volunteers in Electoral Area A. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in a volunteering opportunity to contact BeReady@rdn.bc.ca or call RDN Program Development Coordinator Fiona MacInnes at (250) 390-6541 to obtain an application and to learn more.

Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment Process

The RDN’s Liquid Waste Management Plan is a 20-year plan created in 1997 and approved by the Ministry of Environment in 1999. Its purpose is to support sustainable wastewater management throughout the Region. As the Ministry requires local governments to review their plans every five to 10 years, the RDN launched a region-wide Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment public consultation process in the summer of 2013.

From August through October, the RDN held public meetings in every Electoral Area and municipality to discuss the LWMP and what the amendment process will mean for the various communities that make up the Regional District. Residents also had the opportunity to complete a survey about the process.

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area A. Overlapping postal routes could result in some City of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.
and to share their opinions with RDN Wastewater Services staff by email, phone or in person. I would like to thank all of the residents of this Electoral Area who took the time to participate in this important process.

In early 2014, the RDN intends to submit the final draft of the plan to the Ministry for approval, and to post the document on the RDN website for members of the public to access.

For more information about the plan or the process, visit rdnwmp.ca or call Wastewater Services at (250) 390-6560 or (250) 954-3792.

RDN Secondary Suites Project Update

Following a Board resolution to proceed with public consultation on secondary suites, RDN staff members have spent the summer and fall months attending public events, meeting with community groups, and hosting information sessions. The purpose of the secondary suites consultation is to gauge the level of community support for secondary suites in the RDN Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G, and H and to gain an understanding of the opportunities and concerns relating to secondary suites as a form of affordable housing in the region. Community input has been focused around an online survey geared towards both homeowners and renters in the applicable Electoral Areas.

Preliminary results indicate strong support to allow both attached and detached secondary suites throughout the region. Housing affordability, the ability to age in place and/or care for a family member, and housing choice were some of the reasons for supporting secondary suites.

Many survey respondents want to ensure that the impacts of secondary suites are minimized by ensuring issues like parking and servicing are addressed. In general, many survey respondents support the idea of recognizing existing secondary suites.

Staff are in the process of reviewing and analyzing the public input and will draft a report and recommendations for the Board’s consideration later this fall.

For more information on the RDN Secondary Suites Project, please contact Greg Keller, Senior Planner at (250) 390-6510 or from District 69 (250) 954-3798 or email to planning@rdn.bc.ca.

Cedar Library Branch Proposal

At the August 27 2013 RDN Board meeting, the Board voted to send a letter to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board showing support for a library branch in the Cedar Rural Village Centre. The preferred location for this library branch would be the 49th Parallel Mall, although there may be other options presented for consideration should VIrL support this request.

In the letter sent on behalf of the Regional District, RDN Chair Joe Stanhope emphasized the many benefits of having a library branch that is central to this area. In addition to providing an important service to the community, libraries also contribute towards a high quality of life through both community education and personal well-being.

From a policy perspective, the Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy, Electoral Area ‘A’ Official Community Plan, and Cedar Main Street Village Plan encourage the creation of vibrant community spaces, particularly on lands located within the Growth Containment Boundary as in the case of the Cedar Rural Village. The establishment of a community library in Cedar is consistent with a number of Regional Growth Strategy Goals and Official Community Plan and Village Plan Policies. I am hopeful that VIrL will be able to locate a branch here in the future, to make it easier for residents of this area to take out books and access other library services without the need to travel out of the community. I will keep the community updated on the progress of this request.

Search and Rescue

Nanaimo Search and Rescue and Arrowsmith Search and Rescue have both teamed up with Project Lifesaver International, a group that provides timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer’s, autism, and other related conditions or disorders. This partnership was undertaken in direct response to our increasing elderly population and the frequency of searches related to individuals with cognitive issues. Participating clients are fitted with wristwatch-sized transmitters with unique frequencies to help Search and Rescue personnel locate them quickly if they wander. This program is of great assistance to Search and Rescue volunteers and also supports aging in place.

Cranberry and North Cedar Volunteer Fire Departments

The Cranberry and North Cedar Volunteer Fire Departments would like to remind everyone that wood-burning appliances and chimneys need to be inspected and cleaned for the upcoming winter season. As the fall approaches, many residents will start to use wood burning appliances to heat their homes and having your chimney cleaned and inspected will not only promote better heating efficiency, it will also reduce the risk of a chimney fire. Please also ensure that your smoke alarms have new batteries and are working properly. Another important safety measure is to ensure that you have a working fire extinguisher and that all members of your household, as well as babysitters, are familiar with its location and operation. Having a fire escape plan for your home and family is also a great idea.

Both fire departments would be more than happy to provide residents with more information on home fire safety, fire extinguishers and emergency preparedness.

For more information contact Cranberry Fire Chief Ron Gueulette at (250) 753-4040, or North Cedar Fire Chief, Percy Tipping at (250) 722-4786.