



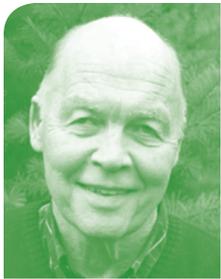
ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'A' | CASSIDY | CEDAR | YELLOWPOINT | SOUTH WELLINGTON

ISSUE 15 • SPRING 2013

Animal Control

Recent incidents in Electoral Area 'B' have raised community concerns that the current bylaw requirements to leash vicious dogs while in public do not go far enough to protect people or other animals against lunging or escaped dogs that have been declared vicious. At the regular meeting held May 22, 2012, the RDN Board directed staff to prepare a report for the Board's



Director
Alec McPherson

consideration to amend the current Animal Control Regulatory Bylaw to add a requirement for muzzling of dogs that have been declared vicious.

In March 2013 the Board approved an amendment Bylaw for Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C' that requires dog owners to muzzle any dangerous dog when such a dog is in public. Provincial legislation relating to the regulation of animals has been considerably amended since the RDN's animal control bylaws were adopted in the mid-1990s, so the amendment Bylaw also updates the bylaw language to align with the *Community Charter*. These updates include replacing the old term

"vicious dog" with "dangerous dog" and setting out the powers of the animal control officer with respect to dangerous dogs, including the power to apply to the provincial court for a destruction order. This authority has replaced the now repealed *Livestock Protection Act*.

The Board is also implementing similar changes for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' this spring.

Nanaimo River Regional Park—Harvesting for Research

Last month, forest scientists began to harvest about eight per cent of a stand of Douglas-fir research trees that were planted at Nanaimo River Regional Park in 1979 when the lands were privately owned. The research plantation makes up the northwest corner of the park, and is managed by the Forest Genetics section of the Tree Improvement Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Canadian Forest Service and Yellow Point Propagation. Its purpose is to study the characteristics of special crosses of Douglas-fir and ultimately create a higher value wood for planting in coastal BC.

Scientists are harvesting a total of 96 trees under the Ministry's supervision, with particular effort to minimize soil disturbance.

For more information about the project, members of the public may contact Parks and Trails Coordinator Joan Michel at 250-248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069.



Regional Growth Strategy Update

On November 22, 2011, the RDN Board adopted an updated Regional Growth Strategy following the completion of the second major review since the strategy was first adopted in 1997. The RGS represents a commitment by the RDN and its member municipalities to take a series of actions to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the region. The goals set out in the RGS work towards achieving a collective vision of regional sustainability.

The *2012 Annual Report: Regional Growth Strategy Implementation and Progress* is now complete and is available on the RDN Website in the Long Range Planning Section. This report outlines the RGS-related projects and studies that the RDN has undertaken over the past year. These include the RDN's first-ever Agricultural Area Plan, a strategy and policy framework to guide agricultural-related decision making, the Cedar Main Street Design Project, which helps implement the RGS by supporting the development of a compact, mixed-use community within the Growth Containment Boundary in Electoral Area 'A', the Fairwinds Development Process ongoing in Electoral Area 'E', and the RDN economic development functions initiated in the northern and southern service areas. The report also outlines several studies initiated as a result of the RGS, including the now-completed Alternative Forms of Rural Development Study and the Rural Village Centres Study, and the Industrial Land Supply and Demand Study which is nearing completion. Updates are also >

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.

highlights

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provided on the RDN's relationships with other levels of government, including First Nations, and on commitments to service delivery in the areas of climate change and energy efficiency, transportation services, parks planning, recreation programs and facilities, emergency services and drinking water and watershed protection.

For more information about the 2012 Annual Report: Regional Growth Strategy Implementation and Progress please contact the RDN Long Range Planning Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798 (District 69).

Rural Village Centre Study

The Rural Village Centre Study is now complete and was presented to the RDN Board of Directors in March. After receiving the study, the Board referred it to the RDN's Electoral Area Directors for further discussion.

This study fulfills a directive in the updated 2011 Regional Growth Strategy to identify Rural Village Centres with the greatest potential to evolve into complete, compact, mixed-use centres.

While both the Regional Growth Strategy and the Official Community Plans for the study areas support higher density development in RVCs, it is clear from the study that most areas will not be able to develop into complete, compact communities without significant investment. Lack of service provision (water and sewer infrastructure), transit, commercial and community amenities, and availability of relatively cheap land with development potential for single family residential outside of RVCs all play a role in limiting the successful development of some RVCs.

The RVC Study will not directly result in any land use changes. Its purpose is to enable the RDN Board to make informed decisions about future land use and infrastructure provision that impact local communities and the region as a whole. The study is intended as a tool to provide the RDN Board with a better understanding of the long-term

implications of land use decisions on achieving the regional vision it has endorsed in both the Regional Growth Strategy and Board Strategic Plan.

If the RDN Board were to consider changes to Rural Village Centre boundaries in its Official Community Plans and in the RGS, this would require consultation opportunities for the residents in the whole region as well as specific electoral area communities.

Cedar Main Street Village Plan

The second Draft of the Cedar Main Street Village Plan is now available for public review, and public consultation opportunities will be advertised in the community. Earlier this year, the RDN completed the first Draft and made it available to the public. The second Draft incorporates changes suggested by the Citizens Advisory Group, the Technical Advisory Group and the community.

The intent of the Cedar Main Street is to support a broad range of uses which are oriented towards Cedar Road and create a vibrant place where local residents can go to shop, access services, work, socialize, and participate in recreational activities.

For more information about the Draft Plan or the Cedar Main Street Design Project process, visit www.cedarmainstreetconcepts.ca, email cedarmainstreet@rdn.bc.ca or contact Greg Keller, Senior Planner at (250) 390-6510.



Friends of Morden Mine

The Friends of Morden Mine, a local non-profit society, is working hard to raise funds to preserve the concrete remains of the Morden Mine head frame and



tipple located in Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park in South Wellington. Repairs are urgently needed to these structures, the most complete above-ground coal mine remains existing on Vancouver Island.

RDN Parks staff met with BC Parks in April to inform them of the RDN Board's interest in seeing the tipple restored and the RDN's willingness to explore possible partnership funding opportunities with the Province of BC and the Friends of Morden Mine. RDN staff are now waiting for the latest engineering report from BC Parks and cost estimate for the tipple's restoration. Once the information is received, the RDN will continue to monitor applicable grant programs that may provide funding assistance for the restoration of this regionally significant historical structure which is located at a trail staging area for a portion of the Morden Colliery Regional Trail.

The group's website, www.mordenmine.com, provides information on the preservation efforts to date, as well as a listing of upcoming events and a section on how community members can help out. *Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to email the Society at info@mordenmine.com.*

contacts

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