



Rural Area Signage Project

Effective signage is important to the local economy, is a public safety factor and can strengthen community identity and pride. The RDN is working to better understand barriers to effective signage in rural areas and launched an online survey and held open houses throughout April and May. It is anticipated that the results will be



Director
Alec McPherson

presented to the Board in July.

For more information, visit www.rdn.bc.ca/ruralsignage

Sport Court

Last summer, the Board approved a contribution agreement with the Snuneymuxw First Nation to upgrade the Sport Court off MacMillan Road on Snuneymuxw territory, near the Nanaimo River. Up to \$300,000 was provided in exchange for community use.



Construction began in early May with placement and compacting of crushed rock as the base.

Details on an official opening will be posted to www.rdn.bc.ca

Cedar Plaza

Construction work at Cedar Plaza (the trailhead to the northern segment of the Morden Colliery Regional Trail) was completed in early April with the installation of two wood structures designed to resemble the coal-mining tippie at Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park. The intention of both structures is to provide shelter for visitors (with a roof and seating) and information on the Morden Colliery Regional Trail. Signage will be designed and installed later in the year and new landscaping was completed in May.

Plum Creek Wetland Restoration

This small wetland on private property between Holden Lake and York Lake has the potential to improve water quality and provide important ecosystem values. A small local stewardship group, the Cedar Wetland Stewards, under the umbrella of the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, have successfully applied for the RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program's stewardship seed funding. Their work will monitor water levels and flows, sample water quality, help support efforts to remove invasive species, and plant native riparian species. This project is underway and will continue into the fall.

For more information, or if you are interested in helping out, please contact: waterprotection@rdn.bc.ca

Call for Private Well Monitoring Volunteers in Priority Locations

The Phase 1 Water Budget study for the region identified Cedar-Yellowpoint as a priority area for further data collection on groundwater and surface water. In 2016, a water monitoring program was developed to guide where more monitoring should take place to fill crucial data gaps in this area.

In 2017 the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program is moving to implement many of the recommended water monitoring sites, in partnership with other agencies and volunteers. Groundwater monitoring in the region is proposed to be expanded by including private well owners who volunteer their wells for water level monitoring. A limited number of volunteers will be selected based on location and well characteristics. Data logger installation is targeted to take place this summer.

If you are interested in volunteering your well, please call the program coordinator at 250-390-6586 or email jpisani@rdn.bc.ca as soon as possible.



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

- * Rural Area Signage Project
- * Plum Creek Wetland Restoration
- * Building Statistics

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER.



Area 'A' Building Statistics

Electoral Area Building Permits for 2016

Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
A	81	9.5	23

Electoral Area Building Permits for Jan-Mar 2017

Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
A	19	2.3	6

Solid Waste Management Plan

The Regional District of Nanaimo is currently undergoing an update of the 2004 Solid Waste Management Plan. A Solid Waste Management Plan reflects a long term vision of how the regional district manages its solid waste, including diversion and disposal.

If you would like more information on the Solid Waste Management Plan process visit: www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp or email zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca to receive updates and notifications on upcoming information sessions.



Region-Wide Parks and Trails Mapping Now Available!

Multiple Formats: Online Interactive Map and Downloadable PDFs

New parks and trails mapping is now available! Our interactive RDN Parks and Trails Finder map provides searchable information for Regional and Community Parks and recreation trails throughout the RDN, and is compatible with most mobile devices.

Hiking without cell service?

Geo-referenced PDF maps are also available for download – these can be printed or used with various mobile mapping applications. Maps are currently available for Mount Benson, Englishman River and Moorecroft Regional Parks, 707 Community Park, as well as Big Qualicum River Regional Trail with surrounding Hatchery Trails. Keep checking back as more PDF maps will be added on an ongoing basis.

Access our mapping at www.rdnmap.ca or www.rdn.bc.ca/gis.



We Are Now Mapping Trails on Crown Land!

Interested in trails outside of the RDN's Regional and Community Parks?

We have started to map recreation trails on Crown Land. This ongoing project has started in Areas 'H' and 'B,' and will expand into the remaining Electoral Areas as we make progress. Maps of trails on Crown Land at Nile Creek – McColl Road and Big Qualicum Hatchery are available now with more to come.

Check for updates at www.rdnmap.ca or www.rdn.bc.ca/gis.

Rebates

NEW! WaterSmart Garden Incentive – for residential soil augmentation and irrigation efficiency upgrades – up to \$750 available.



If you haven't heard about the RDN's popular Team WaterSmart program yet, visit www.teamwatersmart.ca

Oil to Heat Pump Rebate is available in RDN Electoral Areas. This program encourages the transition from oil heating to heat pumps and is an additional \$250 incentive from the RDN for those who complete the upgrade and are eligible for the provincial Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program administered by City Green Solutions.

The popular **RDN Septic Maintenance Rebate** program is back for a fourth year. To date, the RDN has provided more than \$90,000 in rebates to help RDN homeowners maintain their septic systems. This year, up to \$1,000 is available for RDN homeowners to a) obtain a Performance Assessment report, b) install Risers, c) install an Effluent Filter and/or d) replace a malfunctioning system. Apply for preapproval soon to reserve funds before they run out. Visit www.SepticSmart.ca for full program details.

Rainwater Harvesting Incentive – for residents installing a minimum of 1000 imperial gallons of rainwater storage – up to \$750 available.

Rural Water Quality Stewardship Incentive – for one-time 50% off well water testing, and various wellhead protection upgrades.

For a complete list of rebates and eligibility, visit www.RDNrebates.ca or call 250-390-6560

contacts

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