REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA B | GABRIOLA & SURROUNDING ISLANDS

ISSUE 20 • SUMMER 2017

Village Way Project

I continue to work with RDN staff and the Province on design and development of the Village Way Trail. After the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure rejected a design including curb and catch-basin, a second design involving asphalt extension was developed and costed. The second design is not considered worth pursuing, and renewed effort is being made to work with the Ministry on achieving the original design.

Director Howard Houle

Huxley Skate Park Upgrades

A workshop was held earlier this year to find out what the community would like to see in the concept design for Huxley Park. A design and costing plan will be presented to the community in the fall. The RDN has applied for grants in the hopes of resurfacing the tennis courts and upgrading the sports court. We will hear results on those applications in the summer.

2017 Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

The RDN is once again working with Coastal Wildfire and the local Fire Department to carry out fire hazard reduction in our parks system. This year, that work is taking place on Gabriola. The RDN receives tremendous value from the hazard reduction work completed which this year included brushing out the main trails in 707 Park to improve fire department access and conducting fire prevention (fuel reduction) in Cox Community Park.

Commercial Rainwater Harvesting

RDN staff continue to work with the Province to establish standards for harvesting rainwater. This would help areas like Gabriola – that have low groundwater levels – to utilize rainwater as a safe and reliable additional potable water source. The Province is currently waiting for a final report from the International Code Council and the Canadian Safety Association on rain water harvesting standards. Once that is released, the Ministry will be in a position to move forward with developing and adopting standards that would apply to Gabriola.

Southern Community Economic Development

With the dissolution of the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation (NEDC), the RDN has begun working with the Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce to provide tourism services for a six month period. The funding for this service comes from the 2017 tax requisition which would have gone to the NEDC. The RDN is also funding an economic strategic plan workshop to build upon work undertaken by the NEDC.

Area 'B' Building Statistics

Electoral Area Building Permits for 2016			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value ($M)	New Housing Units
B	71	7.3	20

Electoral Area Building Permits for Jan-Mar 2017			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value ($M)	New Housing Units
B	15	1.9	5

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.*

highlights

* **Community Rainwater Harvesting**
* **Southern Community Economic Development**
* **Rebates**

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

RDN Area B Electoral Area Update

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

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

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

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.

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

Home Energy Assessments

A $150 to $200 incentive is available to residents who have an initial Home Energy Assessment conducted by a certified energy advisor. An additional rebate is available if the follow-up assessment shows an increase in your home's EnerGuide rating.

Woodstove Exchange Program

Receive $250 by replacing an old wood-burning appliance with an EPA-certified wood burning, pellet, or gas stove insert.

Renewable Energy Systems

A $250-$650 rebate is available to residents who purchase and install an eligible renewable energy system.

Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Residents who install an eligible Level 2 EV Charging Station can apply for this $250 rebate.

Sustainable Development Checklist

Receive between $500 and $1000 for achieving a high Checklist score when building an efficient home.

Graded Site-Cut Timber Incentive

Up to $250 for homeowners who provide documentation confirming the use of site-cut timber for a structure requiring a building permit.

ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Incentive

Residents who purchase an eligible ENERGY STAR® clothes washer from May 1 can access a $100 - $200 rebate from BC Hydro.

contacts

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Regional District of Nanaimo