

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'C' | EXTENSION | ARROWSMITH-BENSON | EAST WELLINGTON-PLEASANT VALLEY

ISSUE 15 • SPRING 2013

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park Management Plan

In February, 2013, the RDN Board approved the terms of reference for the



Director
Maureen Young

Benson Creek Falls Management Plan and issued a request for proposals for a project consultant to guide the development of the Plan. The Management Plan will confirm the long-term vision for the Regional

Park, identify short-term management policies and actions, and guide the operations, development and stewardship of the property. The plan is to be reviewed after five years (in 2019) and will be updated formally at 10-year intervals.

The Board has appointed me, along with Lantzville Director Brian Dempsey, to participate on the Advisory Committee for the Benson Creek Falls Regional Park Management Plan.

RDN Transit Update

As part of the recent RDN Transit expansion, the #15A bus route operating between Vancouver Island University and Woodgrove Centre now offers weekday service along Jingle Pot Road, between the intersection of East Wellington Road/Jingle Pot Road and the Jingle Pot Road/Nanaimo City boundary. Passengers can

catch the bus by standing at one of the new stops, or simply by flagging the bus down at any point as it travels along the route.

The cost to take the bus is \$2.50 for adults and \$2.25 for students and seniors. Children aged five and younger ride for free. Bus tickets and monthly passes are also available. Bus schedules are available aboard the buses or on the RDN website (just search "Transit Schedules" or click on Services, then Regional Transit).

Anders-Dorritt Community Park

The East Wellington Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee is planning an open house this summer to introduce the concept plan for Anders – Dorritt Community Park. The date for the open house will be announced shortly and public input is welcome.

This East Wellington property was donated to the RDN by Anders and Dorritt Olesen for use as a community park. Before Anders Olesen passed away, he sat down with RDN staff to draft the concept plan for this park, so the plan represents his vision for the property.

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 provided on the RDN's relationships with other levels of government, including First Nations, and on commitments to service delivery.

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). >

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area C. 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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THIS NEWSLETTER IS
PRINTED ON 100%
POST-CONSUMER
RECYCLED PAPER.



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. It measures how close each of 15 study areas is to achieving performance levels that show progress towards being a complete, compact and mixed-use centre.

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.

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.

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.

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

Volunteer Fire Departments

Fifteen fire departments operate 23 fire halls throughout the RDN, providing fire protection for all four municipalities and most unincorporated areas. Nine of these fire departments, including the East Wellington Volunteer Fire Department, are administered and financed by municipalities and improvement districts, and operate independently of the RDN. The remaining six fire departments, including the Extension Volunteer Fire Department, are volunteer fire department societies. These societies provide fire protection and emergency response services in Electoral Areas 'C', 'E', 'F', portions of Electoral Area 'G' and portions of Electoral Area 'H'.

Volunteer Fire Departments need volunteers on a regular basis. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter to contact their local Fire Department.

For more information about fire protection in the RDN, including contact information for all Fire Departments, visit www.rdn.bc.ca and click on Services/Fire Protection.

House Number Visibility

- To assist your local Volunteer Fire Department, the British Columbia Ambulance Service and RCMP, please make sure that your house number is clearly marked and visible from the roadside. This will ensure that emergency responders can locate your property if you need help.

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 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.

contacts

Electoral Area Director | Maureen Young
maureen_young@shaw.ca

Regional District of Nanaimo Website | www.rdn.bc.ca

250-390-4111 1-877-607-4111 (Toll-free access to all departments)