

C

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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

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Anders and Dorrit's Community Park

Anders and Dorrit's Community Park is located in East Wellington at 3734 Jinglepot Road, across the street from the



Director Maureen Young

GP Cottonwood Stables. The park property is 2.55 hectares (6.3 acres) in size and is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve. The property is bordered by Jingle Pot Road on the northwest side and by farms

on the southwest and east. Half of the property is forested and the other half consists of open fields and a house with its surrounding residential gardens. An informal trail leads down to the Millstone River which runs through the southern part of the property.

When the park officially opened on Sept. 5, 2013, the RDN held an open house to encourage community members to share their ideas about the space. Over 60 community members came to the open house to provide their input on these three questions:

- 1 Are there other amenities that could be incorporated in the park?
- 2 Should the house be removed or kept & renovated for community use?
- 3 Which design concept for the park do you prefer?

The information and questionnaire provided at the open house were available online between Sept. 5, 2013 and Jan. 10, 2014, and 49 people responded during that time period. The questionnaire results and concept plans for the park are now available online at rdn.bc.ca.

This community park formerly belonged to Anders and Dorrit Olesen, who purchased the property over 30 years ago and set about building a house and farming the land where they raised cattle, sheep and chickens. Anders and Dorrit were avid travelers as well as gardeners and over the years they established an interesting collection of ornamental trees on the property.

In 2007 the RDN received a letter from Dorrit and Anders Olesen asking if the Regional District was interested in their property for park purposes. Before he passed away, Anders Olesen sat down with RDN parks staff and developed concept plans for a community park which closely follows the Olesen's wishes.

The property was transferred to the RDN following Anders' death in May 2011. He was 86 years old.

Morden Colliery Tipple

The RDN Board has approved up to \$15,000 in funding to assist the Friends of the Morden Mine with obtaining a detailed engineering study of the Morden Colliery head frame and adjacent tipple. Located in Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park in South Wellington, the head frame and tipple are recognized as the most complete above-ground remains



of an historic coal mine on Vancouver Island and the earliest-built of two such reinforced concrete structures in North America.

The Friends of the Morden Mine is a registered non-profit society dedicated to the preservation of the head frame and tipple. The \$15,000 in funding provided by the RDN is contingent on the society obtaining the remainder of the engineering study funding from other sources.

For more information about the Friends of the Morden Mine, visit www.mordenmine.com or email info@mordenmine.com.

RDN Rebates

The Green Building Incentive Program celebrated its most successful year in 2013, and the RDN will continue to support residents in Electoral Areas and the District of Lantzville in taking action to improve their built environment.

Green Building Incentives help homeowners invest in reducing household energy and emissions. In 2013, over \$50,000 was distributed to residents in RDN Electoral Areas and Lantzville, helping residents upgrade their homes >

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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and save money over the long term while generating local economic benefits for the region. For example, for every dollar the RDN invests in the woodstove exchange program, residents put \$6.50 back into the local economy. For home energy retrofits, the ratio can be as high as ten dollars for each dollar invested by the RDN.

For 2014, the RDN has made adjustments to the Program to reflect changes at the provincial and federal levels. In response to the end of the popular provincial LiveSmart BC program, the RDN will now rebate half the cost of an initial home energy assessment, up to \$150. With no confirmed provincial funding for the Woodstove Exchange program for 2014 RDN incentives will be offered again starting in October.



At the federal level, the EnerGuide rating system for home energy efficiency is evolving. Once released, the new rating systems will be incorporated into the RDN's Home Energy Assessment and Sustainable Development Checklist Incentives.

In addition to the RDN's Green Building Incentives, Rainwater Harvesting and Rural Water Quality Protection Rebates continue to be available region-wide through the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. These include:

up to \$750 for residential rainwater harvesting systems with 1000 imperial gallons of storage or more;

cost-sharing for various well protection upgrades, \$50 - \$500 available;

50 per cent off full-spectrum water quality tests for private well owners.

See www.rdnrebates.ca for details and pre-approval application forms. For more information about the Rainwater Harvesting and Rural Water Quality Protection Rebates, email watersmart@rdn.bc.ca or call (250) 390-6560. For more information about all incentives offered through the RDN, visit rdnrebates.ca or call (250) 390-6510 or (250) 954-3798. The RDN will continue to publicize new incentives as they become available.

Secondary Suites

At the April, 22 2014 RDN Board meeting, the RDN Board gave third reading to zoning bylaw amendments that will, when adopted, allow secondary suites in Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G and H. To address issues related to the recognition of existing suites, bylaw enforcement and building inspection,

the Board also adopted a secondary suites policy that will take effect following adoption of the two amendment bylaws.

The RDN Board embarked on the Secondary Suites Project to make things easier for homeowners and renters in the Region. Residents showed strong support for secondary suites throughout the 2013 consultation process. Community members listed

housing affordability, the ability to age in place and/or care for a family member, and housing choice as some of their reasons for supporting secondary suites.

Jingle Pot Road Pedestrian Connection

RDN parks staff and residents in the Jingle Pot Road area recently met to discuss options for improving pedestrian access along sections of Jingle Pot road. The RDN has received federal Community Works funding to assist with this program. Projects within the region's Electoral Areas that will improve public infrastructure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions are eligible to receive these funds. Watch for updates as this project progresses.

Extension Miners' Bridge

The RDN has received a \$5,000 community donation toward the construction of a covered bridge over the creek in Extension Miners Community Park. The RDN has been working with the community on the design for a bridge that reflects the coal mining history of the area, and the design has now been submitted for a building permit. Community Works funding will also be used to complete this project.

Parking for Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

In an effort to improve parking for users of Benson Creek Falls Regional Park, the RDN has slightly expanded the parking area at Creekside Community Park. This solution is in line with the Management Plan for Benson Creek Falls Regional Park, and the RDN will be monitoring the situation to see if the changes are effective.

