



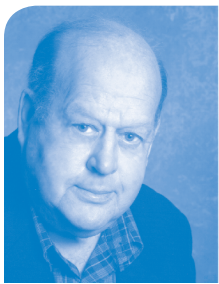
ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'E' | NANOOSE BAY

ISSUE 14 • FALL 2012

Nanoose Bay Fire Hall Renewal Project

The Nanoose Bay Fire Hall is now complete. Residents of Nanoose Bay supported the construction of this facility in a March 26, 2011 referendum, authorizing the RDN to borrow up to \$3.2 million to demolish the existing hall and construct a new one. The need for a new fire hall became evident following a seismic review of the previous structure in



Director
George Holme

2008/09. The new fire hall is constructed to the post-disaster seismic requirements of the BC Building Code, and uses locally-sourced wood as a structural element. It features improved health and safety amenities for the volunteer firefighters, a rainwater collection system for vehicle filling, washing and landscape



THE NANOOSE BAY FIRE HALL AS IT NEARED COMPLETION IN OCTOBER 2012.

maintenance, energy-efficient heat pumps and a water source heat exchange system, improved air quality, improved spaces for training, and in-floor heating in the vehicle bays for drying wet vehicles and equipment.

Fairwinds Update

The Regional District of Nanaimo received two rezoning applications in the summer of 2012 from Fairwinds for the Lakes District and Schooner Cove neighborhoods in Nanoose. The rezoning proposals are based on the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighborhood Plans which were adopted by the RDN Board in October 2011. The plans and proposals envision long term, phased development in each of the plan areas.

The RDN is currently conducting a preliminary review of the application submissions to determine if any further information is required to process the applications. Upon receiving all of the information identified as outstanding in the preliminary review, a more detailed technical review will be completed and a public engagement process will be determined for the rezoning applications. For more information about the adopted neighborhood plans please visit our web site at rdn.bc.ca and search "Fairwinds Development".

Moorecroft Regional Park Update

The Management Plan for Moorecroft Regional Park is nearly complete, and is scheduled to be presented to the RDN Board in January, 2013. The Nanoose

First Nation, The Nature Trust of BC, The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the RDN have all worked together on this plan to ensure that we take into account all aspects of park management and protection. This process has also benefitted from significant input from the broader community and the guidance of the advisory committee. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has played a part in shaping this long-term management plan.

The Management Plan centres on keeping Moorecroft Regional Park as natural as possible. As most of you know, Moorecroft was a United Church Camp before it became a Regional Park, and as a condition of sale by the United Church, a conservation covenant has been developed with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to ensure that the natural habitat and ecosystems at Moorecroft Regional Park will continue to be protected. In keeping with that covenant, the decision has been made to keep dogs on-leash at all times in the park to protect the natural environment.

For more information about Moorecroft Regional Park or the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan, please call the RDN Parks department at 250-248-3252, or visit rdn.bc.ca and click on **Services/Parks/Regional Parks and Trails**.

Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook

This October the RDN published a valuable resource for residents who wish to learn more about the benefits and opportunities of rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook is an information source specific to the RDN's location and



highlights

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climate, and a practical tool for RDN residents interested in building their own rainwater harvesting systems or working with professionals to do so.

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is the collection and storage of rainwater for potable and nonpotable uses. With proper controls in place, harvested rainwater can be used for irrigation, outdoor cleaning, flushing toilets, washing clothes, and even drinking water. Replacing municipally-treated water or groundwater with rainwater for these uses takes pressure off of



regional aquifers and sensitive ecosystems, and reduces demands on municipal infrastructure. Stored rainwater provides an ideal source of water, particularly during long dry summers or in locations experiencing declining groundwater levels. In regions serviced by community water systems, RWH systems can complement existing infrastructure. Capturing, storing, and using rainwater where it falls can slow down or eliminate storm water runoff, reduce energy consumption compared to wells, and at large enough scales, delay the need for water utility expansions.

The 2007 RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Plan and RDN Watershed Snapshot Report 2010 identify increased population, dropping groundwater levels in certain areas,

and stressed ecosystems as reasons to promote rainwater harvesting in the region. In response to this need, the *Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook* encourages the responsible use of rainwater as a safe, sustainable water source for private residences.

RWH systems are capable of producing clean, high quality water, provided they are correctly designed, constructed, and maintained. **It is important to remember that residents should always consult professionals when planning and constructing their RWH systems, especially for potable RWH systems.**

Presently, no single set of Provincial or Federal regulations addresses the collection, storage, purification and disinfection of rainwater. The *Guidebook* is a best practices resource for those interested in building a RWH system. After reading the *Guidebook*, residents and

professional practitioners will better understand how different RWH systems are put together, how they function, and the effort required to maintain them.

The *Guidebook* is intended as the first in a series of annual green building guidebooks. Check the RDN website often to learn more about this and other green building initiatives.

For more information, to receive a copy of the *Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook*, or to suggest topics for future green building guidebooks, please call the RDN Energy and Sustainability Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798, or email sustainability@rdn.bc.ca.

The *Guidebook* is also available at rdn.bc.ca under **Services/Energy and Sustainability**.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Regional District of Nanaimo, in partnership with the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and the District of Lantzville has been awarded a provincial planning grant from the Community Charging Infrastructure Fund and the Fraser Basin Council. The funding will be used to identify ideal locations for Level II Electric Vehicle Charging Stations across the region. This allows each of the local government partners to identify appropriate locations for charging infrastructure within their boundaries, to work with prospective charging station hosts to prioritize 12 sites over the fall of 2012, and to install charging stations at each of those sites, ready for use by March 31, 2013. With an appropriate location and willing station host, additional funding will be available to cover up to 75 per cent of the cost to purchase and install an electric vehicle charging station in this Electoral Area.

Level II charging stations are capable of fully charging electric drive vehicles in three to eight hours. The RDN is looking for charging station locations that are accessible to residents and visitors, and where vehicles are usually parked for three or more hours.

The provincial government funding provided through the Community Charging Infrastructure Fund has enabled the RDN to start planning for a future that includes electric vehicle use by residents and visitors to the Region, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Province and the Fraser Basin Council on this important initiative. The RDN is a transportation hub and a tourism destination, and by providing charging infrastructure, the RDN aims to encourage a more sustainable travel option within our communities.

For more information about this initiative, you may contact the RDN Energy and Sustainability Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798. In addition, the Province has provided an online Electric Vehicle Toolkit, available here: <http://www.livesmartbc.ca/incentives/transportation/EV-toolkit.html>



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

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