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ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA G | SAN PAREIL | FRENCH CREEK | SURFSIDE | DASHWOOD

ISSUE 16 • FALL 2013

Englishman River Water Service Update

As requested by French Creek residents, the removal of the French Creek Bulk Water Service Area from the Englishman



Director Joe Stanhope

River Water Service joint venture agreement is underway. The process will officially be completed by early 2014, but the change is already reflected in tax requisitions for 2013. French

Creek's removal from the joint venture agreement allows the Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area to increase its share to 26 per cent. The City of Parksville holds the remaining 74 per cent.

Under the ERWS agreement, the two parties, the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo (Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area), hold the water allocations and are responsible for capital and operational costs associated with the new intake on the Englishman River, water treatment plant and associated piping.

While the French Creek Bulk Water Service Area is no longer part of the ERWS joint venture agreement, it remains within the original Arrowsmith Water Service agreement along with Parksville, Qualicum Beach, and the Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area. Under the AWS agreement, the French Creek Bulk

Water Service Area is responsible for its allocation percentage for Arrowsmith dam debt, maintenance, ongoing operations and any future improvements.

Free Family Day Admission to RDN Recreation Facilities

Starting on Feb. 10, 2014, admission to Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre will be free for everyone on provincial Family Day holidays. Quality Foods has generously partnered with the RDN to keep each recreation facility open for four hours on the holiday. The facilities will be open at offsetting times so residents can make use of both if they wish to. Exact operating times will be available closer to the holiday.

Quality Foods and the RDN already have a long-standing community recreation partnership through the Rec Bucks program, where Quality Foods shoppers can redeem their Quality Foods points for Rec Bucks. Rec Bucks can then be used to purchase swim and skate passes, program registration, RDN camping fees and facility rentals. The RDN Board is pleased to be partnering with Quality Foods again to make the Family Day holiday more fun for everyone.

Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment Process

The RDN's Liquid Waste Management Plan is a 20-year plan created in 1997 and approved by the Ministry of Environment in 1999. Its purpose is to support sustainable wastewater management

throughout the Region. As the Ministry requires local governments to review their plans every five to 10 years, the RDN launched a region-wide Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment public consultation process in the summer of 2013.

The RDN needs a plan for managing liquid waste because laws regulating municipal wastewater management require that municipal wastewater treatment facilities provide a minimum of

secondary treatment. These laws also recognize that it will take time for some treatment facilities to be able to provide secondary treatment. Our plan gives the RDN the authority to find community-driven and cost-effective solutions to protect public health and

achieve a standard level of wastewater treatment over a reasonable timeframe.

From August through October, the RDN held public meetings in every Electoral Area and municipality to discuss the LWMP and what the amendment process will mean for the various communities that make up the Regional District. Residents also had the opportunity to complete a survey about the process, and to share their opinions with RDN Wastewater Services staff by email, phone or in person. I would like to thank all of the residents of this Electoral Area who took the time to participate in this important process. >



LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

highlights

- * Englishman River Water Service Update
- * Free Family Day Admission to RDN Recreation Facilities
- * Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment Process

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



RDN AREA G ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

In early 2014, the RDN intends to submit the final draft of the plan to the Ministry for approval, and to post the document on the RDN website for members of the public to access.

For more information about the plan or the process, visit rdnlwmp.ca or call Wastewater Services at (250) 390-6560 or (250) 954-3792.

Rebates in Your Area

The Regional District of Nanaimo continues to offer rebates and incentives to residents who protect local water resources by purchasing rainwater harvesting systems or invest in energy efficiency, emission reductions and green building practices. Incentives in the RDN are now available for a range of improvements that conserve water, reduce energy use, or increase the use of renewable materials in the home.

These rebate programs have produced impressive environmental and economic results. Although the toilet rebate program is ending in 2013, across the region, almost 1,500 conventional toilets have been replaced with dual flush or high efficiency alternatives. This translates into almost 50 million litres in water savings per year. For rainwater harvesting systems, 66 systems have been installed across the region since 2012, providing storage for over 700,000 litres of water.

For green building incentives, 247 old inefficient woodstoves have been replaced since 2010, 232 home energy assessments have been completed, and the number of green buildings in the region continues to grow.

From an economic perspective, each rebate represents a direct financial investment in the community, but also generates spin-off benefits as residents purchase whole systems from nearby businesses, and hire local tradespeople to complete work. As an example, for rainwater harvesting systems, \$18,000 in rebates in 2013 has contributed to over \$95,100 in total investment.

Residents of Electoral Area G have embraced the water conservation and green building rebate programs, accessing 287 toilet replacement since 2009, more woodstove exchanges than any other area in 2013 and a quarter of all the rebates for home energy assessments this year. Even still, there are several other rebates for Area G residents to consider:

Home Energy Assessments	\$60-200
Woodstove Exchange Program	\$250
Sustainable Building Checklist Incentives	\$500-\$1,000
Renewable Energy Systems	\$250
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	\$250

Graded Site Cut Timber	Up to \$250
Toilet Replacement (ending in 2013)	\$50
Rainwater Harvesting System	Up to \$750

Now is a great time to invest in sustainability and conservation for your homes. Thanks to all who have participated in the program. Contact sustainability@rdn.bc.ca for more details.

Secondary Suites Project Update

Following a Board resolution to proceed with public consultation on secondary suites, RDN staff members have spent the summer and fall months attending public events, meeting with community groups, and hosting information sessions. The purpose of the secondary suites consultation is to gauge the level of community support for secondary suites in the RDN Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G, and H and to gain an understanding of the opportunities and concerns relating to secondary suites as a form of affordable housing in the region. Community input has been focused around an online survey geared towards both homeowners and renters in the applicable Electoral Areas.

Preliminary results indicate strong support to allow both attached and detached secondary suites throughout the region. Housing affordability, the ability to age in place and/or care for a family member, and housing choice were some of the reasons for supporting secondary suites. Many survey respondents want to ensure that the impacts of secondary suites are minimized by ensuring issues like parking and servicing are addressed. In general, many survey respondents support the idea of recognizing existing secondary suites.

Staff are in the process of reviewing and analyzing the public input and will draft a report and recommendations for the Board's consideration later this fall.

For more information on the RDN Secondary Suites Project, please contact Greg Keller, Senior Planner at (250) 390-6510 or from District 69 (250) 954-3798 or email to planning@rdn.bc.ca.

Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department

The Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents of that area to have all wood-burning appliances and chimney pipes cleaned and inspected for the upcoming winter season. Residents are also reminded to make sure that their smoke alarms are working—anyone who lives in the Dashwood Fire Protection Area can pick up free smoke alarm batteries from the fire department.



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