REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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

ISSUE 20 • FALL 2016

City of Parksville Water Intake and Treatment Plant Construction Project

The Board has consented to borrowing $5.6 million from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia over a 25-year period to fund the construction of the City of Parksville's water intake and treatment plant.

Director Joe Stanhope

Crown Land GPS Trail Data Collection

New parks and trails mapping is now available! The interactive RDN Parks and Trails Finder map provides searchable information for parks and recreation trails throughout the RDN, and is compatible with most mobile devices.

Geo-referenced PDF mapping is also available for download – these can be printed or used with various mobile mapping applications. Maps are currently available for 707 Community Park (Area B), as well as Big Qualicum River Regional Trail and surrounding Hatchery Trails (Area H). Keep checking back as more PDF maps will be added on an ongoing basis.

Visit **www.rdnmap.ca** *and* **www.rdn.bc.ca/gis** *to find out more.*

Coombs To Parksville Rail Trail

Work to develop the 7 km Rail Trail between Station Rd in Coombs and Springwood Community Park in Parksville got underway this spring. The trail has been cleared, culverts installed and initial work has begun on the Romney Creek retaining wall. Pedestrian crossings of the Alberni and Victoria lines of the E&N and work within Springwood Community Park will be carried out in the fall. Construction is on schedule and the Rail Trail should be open for use in December – a great Christmas present for all who want the opportunity to get around without using a car.

Stanhope Road Connector Trail

Design work of Phase 1 of the Stanhope Road Connector Trail, linking Ackerman Road with the Wally's Way cul-de-sac, has begun. This connector will formalize the rough footpath that now exists and will provide a short but valuable off-road link towards Wembley Mall and Oceanside Place from neighborhoods to the west. Construction should occur in early 2017. Plans for Phase 2, linking this trail through to Wembley Road opposite Crystal Court, will be reviewed in the future.

Wetland Monitoring – Research Partnership with Vancouver Island University

The RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program has partnered with VIU to develop an updated inventory of wetlands in the region. Through mapping exercises, wetlands have been identified and are now being "ground-truthed" via field monitoring by student researchers. The French Creek water region is the first focal area for the field work, which will confirm wetland locations and characteristics, with a lens to identifying wetlands that are connected to groundwater recharge and discharge. The ultimate goal is that a better inventory and understanding of wetland dynamics will assist with regional land use planning to protect important groundwater recharge areas.

Agriculture and Bylaw update

The Agriculture Bylaw and Policy Updates Project is now complete with the adoption of Bylaws "500.402, 2016" and "1285.26, 2016" on June 28, 2016. The bylaws include new or amended agriculture zones for land in the Agricultural Land Reserve and general regulations related to agriculture, farm use and the keeping of animals. The project involved amendments to RDN zoning bylaws to better support farming and improve consistency with provincial regulations and marks a significant milestone in the implementation of the Agricultural Area Plan.

The RDN has also recently completed a Rural Areas Guide to raise awareness of the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act and Agricultural Land Reserve and inform residents of what to expect when living near farms.

To learn more about the new bylaw amendments, Rural Areas Guide or other agriculture related initiatives, **visit www.growingourfuture.ca.**

RDN's new Chief Administrative Officer

The Board is pleased to introduce Phyllis Carlyle as the new Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Carlyle was selected by the Board after a cross-Canada search and brings over 26 years of municipal experience to her new role including the past 12 years as General Manager of Law and Community Safety at the City of Richmond. Ms. Carlyle joined the RDN on October 11, 2016.

This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area G. Overlapping postal routes could result in some adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.

highlights

- **Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail**
- **Wetland Monitoring – Research Partnership with VIU**
- **District 69 Transit Expansion**

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

RDN Area G Electoral Area Update

Water Update

Following a record warm and dry spring, summer of 2016 was much closer to normal in terms of temperature and precipitation. Most community water supply systems in the region maintained Stage 2 (even and odd day) watering restrictions. Some systems chose not to implement any restrictions at all or to stay at Stage 1 all summer. This was due to rainy conditions in June and July that kept reservoirs topped up, kept groundwater levels stable and kept water demand at bay. The Regional District of Nanaimo would like to thank all residents for doing their part to be efficient with outdoor water this summer.

More information including a map of all community water systems is available at **www.teamwatersmart.ca**.

San Pareil Water Treatment System Upgrades

On September 30, 2016, the federal and provincial governments announced grant funding of up to $697,200, towards the San Pareil water treatment system upgrades that are required by Island Health. Under the grant, the federal government will contribute up to 50% of the project cost, and the provincial government will contribute up to 33%.

District 69 Transit Expansion

The Transit Select Committee voted in favour of a transit expansion that will enhance service to Areas G, H and the Town of Qualicum Beach. Service will include a community bus within Qualicum Beach, more frequent service for the #99 Deep Bay (five days a week) and improvements to the #91 Intercity.

Standing Committee

Established for Electoral Areas

We now have a Standing Committee dedicated to the Electoral Areas. This initiative was identified as a priority in our Strategic Planning sessions and the Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) will now replace the Electoral Area Planning Committee. It includes additional area-specific topics such as community parks, emergency preparedness, fire protection, bylaw enforcement and building inspection. The inaugural meeting was held on September 13th. Meetings are normally scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

Visit **www.rdn.bc.ca** *for the schedule.*

Put Your Name Forward for 2017!

We appreciate our volunteers

We have openings on several of our advisory bodies including Parks and Open Space, Grants-in-Aid, Liquid Waste, Solid Waste and Board of Variance.

To find out how you can get involved, visit **www.rdn.bc.ca/boardappointments** *to obtain an application form and to see a full list of positions. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016.*

Have Your Say!

The public is invited to attend budget discussions on **November 8th and 15th. Meetings will begin at 3:00 p.m.** in the Board Chambers at 6300 Hammond Bay Road.

RDN Strategic Priorities

Focus:

- Governance
- Service and Organizational Excellence
- Relationships
- Economic Health
- the Environment

To read the RDN's Strategic Plan, visit **www.rdn.bc.ca/strategicplan**

RDN Board members were proud to attend the installation of the **Witness Blanket at Vancouver Island University on October 6th**. The contemporary art installation recognizes the impacts of Canada's Residential School era and will be on display at the Nanaimo Campus from **October 6 - November 30**. The RDN contributed $5,500 to help bring the art installation to the region.

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