



# ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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

ISSUE 13 • SPRING 2012

## RDN Rebates and Incentives

Through the **Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program** and the **Green Building Incentive Program** the RDN offers a variety of rebates to encourage home owners and owner-builders in the region to protect our watersheds by conserving water, reduce emissions by improving home energy efficiency, and invest in green building, renewable energy systems and low-impact development.



Director  
Joe Stanhope

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The Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program is providing up to a \$750 rebate to homeowners who purchase a 1,000 gallon (3,785 litre) cistern or larger for use in a rainwater harvesting system. For residents interested in learning more about rainwater harvesting, the RDN will be completing a Green Building Best Practices Guide on Rainwater Harvesting for homeowners later this year.

The Toilet Replacement program will continue this year, with the RDN providing up to two \$50 rebates to households in the region's Electoral Areas that replace a conventional toilet with a high efficiency or dual flush alternative.

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ACTION INCENTIVES	
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Woodstove Exchange	\$250
Home Energy Assessment	\$60 to \$200
Graded Site-Cut Timber	Up to \$250
Toilet Replacement	\$50 (Electoral Areas only)
Solar Hot Water System	\$250
Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station	\$250
Rainwater Cistern	Up to \$750

CHECKLIST INCENTIVES	
Score	Incentive
55-74	\$500
75-89	\$750
90+	\$1,000

The Green Building incentives that were available last year will remain, including the popular \$250 woodstove exchange incentive and the \$60 rebate for a home energy assessment. Incentives of up to \$200 will now be available to residents who complete a follow-up assessment that shows an improvement in home energy efficiency. Also new is a \$250 rebate for up to five home owners who install an electric vehicle charging station.

In addition to action-specific incentives, the RDN Sustainable Development Checklist and Guide serve as a valuable resource to homeowners and owner-builders interested in optimizing the

performance of their building, while minimizing its impact on the natural environment. The Checklist provides a comprehensive rating system for development projects, while the Guide offers information on green building practices. Residents who meet with the RDN's Sustainability Coordinator to review the Checklist and submit the completed Checklist with a Permit application are eligible for a \$50 incentive. Residents who achieve a high score on the Checklist are eligible for an additional incentive from \$500 to \$1000.

*All rebates and incentives are limited and provided on a first come, first served basis. For details on any of the RDN incentives, call 1-877-607-4111, or email [sustainability@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:sustainability@rdn.bc.ca).*

If you own or operate a business that provides products or services eligible for incentives, contact the RDN for assistance in getting the information you need.

If you are a resident with ideas for incentives that will conserve energy, reduce emissions, or result in greener, more sustainable homes in the region, let us know. We will consider your ideas as the program evolves in the future.



*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

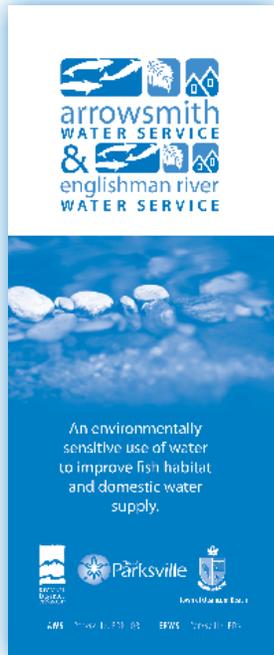
- \* RDN Rebates and Incentives
- \* Arrowsmith Water Service
- \* Englishman River Water Service

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## Arrowsmith Water Service/Englishman River Water Service Update

The Arrowsmith Water Service Joint Venture was established by agreement in 1996, to secure a bulk water supply from the Englishman River for the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and portions of the Regional District of Nanaimo. In 2011, the three AWS partners began investigating the second phase of the AWS joint venture—the construction of a new water intake, water treatment plant, water transmission system, and the investigation and construction of aquifer storage and recovery wells to support water supply for the future. The Town of Qualicum Beach has no short term need for bulk water, so has opted not to participate in the proposed new water intake, treatment facility and aquifer storage and recovery wells. As a result, the RDN and the City of Parksville have formed the Englishman River Water Service Joint Venture to move forward with these capital works.



For the Englishman River Water Service, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) would involve the storage of river water in a suitable aquifer during the winter high river flow period and recovery

of the same water later on when it is needed. Incorporating ASR into the ERWS system would create additional water storage capacity for the ERWS, and allow the ERWS greater flexibility in managing the water resources. ASR can reduce peak flows to the new treatment plant and thereby reduce plant size requirements. ASR storage will also reduce the quantity of water extracted from the Englishman River during the summer months during river low flow periods.

In order to determine if ASR is feasible, further investigation is required. In December 2011, the ERWS received more than \$1.3 million from Canada's Gas Tax Fund to research this innovative project.



## New Bus Shelters

Five new bus shelters are now installed in RDN Electoral Areas, thanks to Community Works grant funding allocated to the Regional District. Two of the shelters are located in French Creek, two in Nanoose Bay, and one in Cedar. The shelters, which include lighting and wheelchair-accessible pads, were locally built by Inter-Kraft Contracting Ltd., an Extension-area business (in Electoral Area C) specializing in custom design and fabrication.



*Detailed information about the Englishman River Water Service, the Arrowsmith Water Service and Aquifer Storage and Recovery is available at [arrowsmithwaterservice.ca](http://arrowsmithwaterservice.ca).*



## contacts

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