



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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

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Vancouver Island Rail Trail

Over the remainder of 2014, the RDN will be working with Koers & Associates Engineering Ltd., to design our first



Director
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section of Rail Trail within the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway corridor. With \$2.6 million in funding support through the Federal Government's Gas Tax Fund, the first sections of trail will total

approximately 10km and will connect the City of Parksville with Coombs and French Creek.

The E&N Trail is fast growing across the island as other regional districts and municipalities complete sections piece by piece. To date, the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District, City of Courtenay, City of Nanaimo, and District of Lantzville have all completed some rail with trail.



In 2009, the RDN undertook an E&N Rail-with-Trail feasibility study to assess potential trail development along the rail corridor within Electoral Areas A, E, F, G, and H and the municipalities of Lantzville, Parksville and Qualicum Beach; the City of Nanaimo was not addressed as it had completed a separate study.

The study assessed the degree of difficulty to develop trail and identified a cost per metre for development. Overall, about 83 kilometres of feasible rail trail corridor was identified in the RDN, not including Nanaimo, at an estimated total cost to develop of approximately \$28.7 million. Around the same time, the RDN partnered with the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Comox Valley Regional District, the Island Corridor Foundation and Southern Railway to develop Rail-with-Trail design guidelines. The guidelines address all aspects of trail development and establish rural, suburban and urban design guidelines. The guidelines were adopted by all parties in June 2009.

Trail planning and design may take up to a year, wrapping up in January 2015. A phased construction process for the trail will follow, likely beginning in the spring/summer of 2015. A public open house will be scheduled for the fall of 2014, once preliminary design work has taken place.

Throughout the project, RDN Parks staff are available to answer questions and may be reached at (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069.

Odour from Herring Spawn

Our coastline received a significant deposit of herring roe in the third week of March, and now tonnes of this material are naturally decomposing on the beach next to the French Creek Marina. The rotting eggs produce hydrogen sulfide, and when the wind direction is onshore,

it carries the odour towards the Island Highway and the French Creek Pollution Control Centre.

I have lived near the beach for more than 70 years, so I am extremely familiar with this annual occurrence. At this time of year, the smell in the air is from the decomposing eggs.

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.

Averaging of Funding Agreements for Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Oceanside Place

The RDN has amended the apportionment formulas in the service bylaws for Oceanside Place Arena and Ravensong Aquatic Centre in order to consider



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

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facility usage by municipal and Electoral Area residents in District 69. A facility usage survey completed in 2010 has enabled the RDN to introduce a 50 per cent assessment, 50 per cent usage based formula to allocate costs to the participating areas.

The RDN is phasing in the new apportionment formula over a five-year period. This will bring usage in at 10 per cent per year until the new formula is completed for the 2018 tax year.



There will be no expansion of the participation in the Ravensong Aquatic Centre service to include Electoral Area E. The change to the formula means that for Electoral Area G residents, the cost for the services per \$100,000 assessed will increase from \$48.30 to \$49.10, an additional 80 cents per \$100,000.

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 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.

Spring & Summer Water Restrictions

From May to August RDN water systems will be on Level 2 watering restrictions. During this time you may use any type



of sprinkler, soaker hose, underground system, or twirlybird ONLY during your watering time and date (even numbered-houses on even-numbered calendar days between 6-10 am and 6-10 pm, and odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered calendar days between 6-10 am and 6-10 pm,

for a maximum of two hours only).

You can water your garden, trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables on days other than your watering day if you use a hand-held container or hose with a shut-off nozzle.

You can use drip-irrigation at any time to water trees, shrubs, flowers or vegetables (not soaker hoses- they're actually quite wasteful).

You can wash your car or patio any time using a hose with a shut-off nozzle, unless dry conditions this summer cause us to move into Level 4 restrictions. You will be notified by a combination of radio ads, newspaper ads, roadside signage, flyers, and website notices if the water conservation level moves to Level 3 or Level 4.

Please contact RDN Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111 if you require further information.



contacts

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