



# ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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

ISSUE 18 • SPRING 2015

## Wembley Road Safety Upgrades

On March 17, the Province announced it will fund \$250,000 in improvements to



Director Joe Stanhope

Wembley Road to increase safety for motorists and pedestrians, including children travelling to and from school. The work will be completed as part of BC on the Move, the Province's 10-year transportation plan.

The RDN Board wrote to Transportation Minister Todd Stone in November, 2014 to request these important safety upgrades, and I am extremely pleased to see this work moving forward.

The project includes 1.2 kilometres of shoulder widening on the west side of Wembley Road from the City of Parksville boundary to Wright Road, a new crosswalk with lighting at the Robertson Boulevard intersection, and widening of the existing bus pull-outs. Work is expected to be completed by November, 2015.

## Transit Update

RDN Transit is moving toward the goal of relocating its transit stops from Wembley Mall to the area along the highway in front of the mall. This would affect both the # 88 Parksville route and the # 90 Intercity route. The RDN is currently working with the City of Parksville and the Wembley Mall developer to put the necessary infrastructure in place for this change.

## Green Building Zoning Amendments

In February, the RDN Board approved amendments to Zoning Bylaws 500 and 1285 to make it easier to incorporate green building features and renewable energy systems on homes and businesses within the RDN Electoral Areas.

The amendments to Bylaw 500 (affecting Electoral Area G, as well as Areas A, C, E and H) include a revision to the definition of floor area and exemptions from the maximum permitted height for buildings for solar and wind energy systems. The new definition of floor area excludes exterior walls and overhangs. This can encourage passive design features such as thicker walls with added insulation and passive solar shading with overhangs. Solar systems can now exceed the maximum permitted building height by 0.6m, and one 'micro' wind turbine (1kW capacity or less) per parcel can be up to twice the maximum permitted building height, with a minimum setback equal to the height of the system.



For more information on these zoning bylaw amendments, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on Services/ Energy and Sustainability/Green Bylaw Amendments.

## RDN Rebates

The RDN is offering new rebates in Spring 2015.



### DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION REBATES

The Rainwater Harvesting Incentive provides up to \$750 to install a cistern (min. 1000 imperial gallons) and other rainwater harvesting system components.

### RURAL WATER QUALITY STEWARDSHIP REBATES

**Water Quality Testing:** 50 per cent of the cost of comprehensive water quality tests for private well owners.

### Wellhead Protection Upgrades:

\$50 to \$500 for upgrades to existing well construction to improve groundwater protection, including upgrades to well cap, well casing stick-up, surface seal or well closure.

*These rebates are available to all RDN residents. Applications may be submitted beginning on April 1, 2015.*

### SEPTIC MAINTENANCE REBATE

Starting in June 2015, RDN residents may claim up to \$600 to help maintain their onsite (septic) system. The RDN will provide 75 per cent of the costs, up to a maximum of \$200 each for:

- A Custom Maintenance Plan
- Installing an Effluent Filter
- Installing a Riser

To qualify for the rebate, maintenance must be performed by an authorized person (a registered onsite wastewater practitioner or a professional engineer or geoscientist) between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2015.



*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

- \* Wembley Road Safety Upgrades
- \* Area G Transit Update
- \* Zoning Amendments

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# RDN AREA G ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

The RDN is offering free SepticSmart workshops in May and June to review septic care and maintenance tips. Rebates are limited in number, and some are reserved for SepticSmart participants.

*If you would like to attend, please pre-register by calling (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069.*

## GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

### Home Energy Assessments (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners who complete a home energy assessment can receive a \$150 to \$200 rebate. An additional rebate is available if the follow-up assessment shows an increase in your home's EnerGuide rating.

### Woodstove Exchange Program

Homeowners can receive \$250 by replacing an old wood-burning appliance with an EPA-certified wood burning, pellet, or gas stove or insert.

### Graded Site-Cut Timber

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners who have site-cut timber graded for use in a structure requiring a building permit can receive a rebate up to \$250.

### Renewable Energy Systems

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

A \$250 rebate is available to residents who purchase and install an eligible renewable energy system.



### Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Residents who install an eligible Level 2 EV Charging Station can apply for this \$250 rebate.

### Sustainable Development Checklist

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners and owner-builders can receive between \$500 and \$1000 for achieving a high Checklist score when building an efficient home.

## NEW IN 2015

### ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Incentive (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Residents who purchase an eligible ENERGY STAR® clothes washer in May and June 2015 can access a \$100 - \$200 rebate from BC Hydro.

### Oil Furnace Replacement Incentive

The Province is developing a program to encourage residents to exchange oil furnaces for electric heat pumps. Watch the RDN website for more information.

See [www.rdnrebates.ca](http://www.rdnrebates.ca) for details on how to claim your rebates. Rebates are first-come first-served until funds are exhausted.

## Upcoming SepticSmart Workshop

Free SepticSmart workshops are available this spring through the RDN's Wastewater Services department. The workshops offer septic system care and maintenance tips, information about the RDN's Septic Maintenance Rebates, and the opportunity to ask questions of industry experts. The Electoral Area G workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, from 6-8 pm at the St. Columba Church Hall at 921 Wembley Road. *If you would like to attend, please pre-register by calling (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069. For more information visit [www.septicmart.ca](http://www.septicmart.ca).*

## Changes to Septage Fees

The RDN is transitioning to a user-pay system for septage disposal as of July 1, 2015.

Septage, which is the sewage from septic tanks, is taken to RDN wastewater facilities for treatment and disposal. The RDN currently recovers the treatment and disposal costs through both user-fees and a property tax; it costs 23 cents per gallon to treat septage, but users pay 18 cents per gallon, and the five-cent per gallon difference is recovered through taxes. Once the transition to a fully user-pay system takes effect, the tax will be eliminated and septage costs will be recovered entirely from user-fees.

## Road Maintenance

Electoral Area G is located so close to our neighbouring municipalities that the question of road maintenance can be confusing for residents. Electoral Area roads, ditches and sidewalks are the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Ministry is also responsible for setting speed limits for RDN Electoral Areas.

Ditch clearing, grass mowing along frontage, snow removal and removal of dead animals from Electoral Area roads is carried out by Emcon, the highway contractor for this area. *The local phone number for Emcon is (250) 248-6212, extension 115. To reach the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, call (250) 751-3246 or toll-free 1-800-663-7867.*

## Curbside Collection App

Simplify your life with the RDN curbside collection reminder feature and mobile app! In November, 2014, the RDN launched this new feature to help our curbside collection customers remember their specific collection day and which bins to put out.

*Check out the app on our Facebook page or visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the Curbside Collection image at the top right side of the page.*



If you haven't heard about the RDN's popular Team WaterSmart program yet, visit [www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca) for this spring's free workshop series, tips on water conservation and water quality protection and the Team WaterSmart KidsZone.

## contacts

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