



# ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'H' | SHAW HILL | QUALICUM BAY | BOWSER | DEEP BAY

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## Affordable Housing

To make it easier to learn about the various types of housing resources within RDN municipalities and electoral areas, the RDN recently revamped the affordable housing section of its website by separating the webpage into housing categories. Visitors to the site can easily learn about housing for youth, seniors, renters and homeowners, as well as supportive housing and emergency shelter options, by clicking on photographs related to the topics. The site also includes information on incentives to create affordable housing, a regional housing resource list, and a link to the Vancouver Island Crisis Society's Community Resource Database. This is an excellent resource for anyone needing to learn about the various housing options available in the Region. Ideally, affordable, appropriate and adequate housing should be available for people of all abilities, incomes, lifestyles and household sizes. Achieving this goal requires an integrated, collaborative approach involving RDN member municipalities, non-profits working to address housing issues in the RDN, and other levels of government (Federal, Provincial and First Nations). To view the affordable housing website, or to learn more about affordable housing in



Director Bill Veenhof

the RDN, visit [www.rdnhousing.ca](http://www.rdnhousing.ca). These web pages are a work in progress and will be updated as new information and ideas come forward. The RDN's Long Range Planning Department will continue to coordinate with other agencies, including the Vancouver Island Crisis Society, the Society of Organized Services and the City of Nanaimo to ensure that residents have access to the most up-to-date information available.

## Volunteer Fire Departments

Fifteen fire departments operate 23 fire halls throughout the RDN, providing fire protection for all four municipalities and most unincorporated areas. Nine of these fire departments, including the Deep Bay Volunteer Fire Department, are administered and financed by municipalities and improvement districts, and operate independently of the RDN. The remaining six fire departments are volunteer fire department societies. These societies provide fire protection and emergency response services in Electoral Areas 'C', 'E', 'F', portions of Electoral Area 'G' and portions of Electoral Area 'H'.

The RDN collects property taxes for these fire departments, and provides financing for their operations and capital expenses. Volunteer fire department societies are responsible for day-to-day management of their fire departments, and operational guidance to their volunteers. They also

advise the RDN of their capital improvement requirements.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter is encouraged to contact their local Fire Department. RDN Volunteer Fire Department Societies include Bow Horn Bay, Coombs-Hilliers, Dashwood, Errington, Extension and Nanoose.

To assist your local volunteer fire department, the RCMP and the British Columbia Ambulance Service, it is extremely important to make sure that your house number is clearly marked and visible from the roadside. This will ensure that emergency responders are able to locate you if you call for help.

*For more information about fire protection in the RDN, including contact information for all Fire Departments, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on Services/Fire Protection.*



## Preparing for Wildfire Season

Wildland urban interface is defined as areas where structures and other human development meet with wildland areas containing trees, bushes and grasses. A fire in this type of area is called an interface fire. In the RDN many areas have a medium to high interface fire hazard rating, and in the hot summer months, wildland urban interface fire remains our > most significant threat.

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

## highlights

- \* Affordable Housing
- \* Volunteer Fire Departments
- \* Preparing for Wildfire Season

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In BC, fire records show that the wildfire season has been increasing in length by one to two days a year since at least 1980 (Climate Change and Fire Management Research Strategy, February 2009). Wildland urban interface fire threatens about 20 communities and 70,000 people annually in Canada, and fire management costs about \$700 million a year. As both the area burned by wildfire and the costs associated with fire management continue to rise, local authorities are adapting how to prepare for and adjust to unavoidable climate change and its impacts on the intensity and frequency of wildland urban interface fire.

In the RDN Electoral Areas, Community Wildfire Protection Plans for each fire department's protection area define the risk areas for interface fires; identify ways to reduce risk; and outline ways to improve fire protection and prevention in the interface zone. To view the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Electoral Area 'H' fire protection areas, visit the Emergency Planning section of the RDN website at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca).

Residents play a key role in protecting public forests and range lands. The RDN encourages anyone who sees potentially harmful smoke or flame, or suspicious fire activity, to report it as soon as possible. Fires can be reported to 1-800-663-5555, or \*5555 on mobile devices; suspicious and destructive fire activity can be reported by calling 911.

## Report Fires

1-800-663-5555

Mobile\*5555

911 Suspicious/Destructive

*Keep these numbers handy*

## Henry Morgan Park Update

Construction on Phase 1 improvements to Henry Morgan Community Park began on March 8, when Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon, RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope and members of the community joined me to participate in a ceremonial sod-turning. Funding for this community project was achieved through \$100,000 in reserve funds from the Electoral



Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon, RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope and Electoral Area 'H' Director Bill Veenhof turn the sod at Henry Morgan Park.

Area 'H' Community Parks budget and a grant in the amount of \$85,000 from the Province of British Columbia's Community Recreation Program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Province for supporting these improvements, and for recognizing the importance of Henry Morgan Park to the people of this area.

*Completion of construction is anticipated for June 2013, weather permitting. For more information about the design plan or the construction process visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or contact Dave Palidwor, Superintendent, Parks Planning and Development at 250-947-2569.*



## Baynes Sound Application Update

On October 4, 2011 the RDN Board considered an application from Baynes Sound Investments Ltd. for a development that includes a mix of 386 single and multi-family residential units, 6,975 m<sup>2</sup> of commercial land and 292 Recreational Vehicle spaces. In order to proceed, this development application requires amendments to the Area 'H' OCP and Regional Growth Strategy to allow a new Rural Village Centre in Deep Bay. A new Rural Village Centre is necessary to allow the increase in density and more intensive use of land in the proposed resort community on 76 hectares of land. The RDN Board directed staff to include the proposal for a new Rural Village Centre in Deep Bay in a planned region-wide study of Rural Village Centres and put the application on hold pending the completion of that study.

With the recent completion of the Rural Village Centres study, the RDN is now able to re-consider the Baynes Sound application. The Electoral Area Planning Committee, a Board committee made up of the RDN's Electoral Area Directors, has made the recommendation to support the application proceeding through a review process. The RDN Board has approved this recommendation.

To date, the Area 'H' Community and the wider RDN regional community have not had an opportunity to fully discuss and understand the implications of the proposed changes put forward in the application. A public consultation process will now occur. As per the statutory requirements for proposed RGS amendments, the Board must approve a public consultation plan. This plan will identify meaningful opportunities for the public to speak to the proposed amendments in relation to the regional sustainability goals of the RGS. I will recommend to the RDN Board that a survey engaging the community is included in the approved consultation plan.