



## VOLUNTEER WEEK



Director  
Alec McPherson

In April, we celebrated National Volunteer Week at the RDN. Thank you to our volunteers who help generously by providing their time and energy, such as maintaining our parks & trails, shaping regional

growth, assisting local community groups, protecting our water supply and those that help during emergencies. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated in the RDN.



## Signage Strategy for Community Parks & Trails

The Signage Strategy for Community Parks and Trails is a standardized system of signs, typefaces and graphics to welcome and communicate information to visitors of RDN parks and trails. The goals are to develop a Signage Strategy to create signs that identify a site as a RDN Community Park or Trail site, to be visible and legible upon approach to the site and along a trail, to be contemporary and aesthetically pleasing, and to be cost effective in fabrication and installation. Developing a new signage program after the launch of the RDN's new graphic standards is an opportunity to align Parks Services with corporate branding. Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will receive an overview of the signage types and an opportunity to provide comment on the aesthetic and the content. A pilot park will be chosen for your EA by the PRCC.

## Regional Growth Strategy

A limited review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) will be starting later this year by the RDN. The review will focus on a few policies related to sewer and water services that have proven to be unclear or that potentially conflict with other RGS policies. Also included in the review will be an update of population and development forecasts.

For more information on the RGS please see the web page at [www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy).

## Gathering Events in the ALR

In 2016, the Agricultural Land Commission introduced a new use in the Agricultural Land Reserve called gathering for events. The intent is to allow farmers to hold events, such as weddings and parties, to supplement their farm income. Due to concerns brought forth by some members of the agricultural community, the RDN has adopted zoning regulations for the siting and parking for these events. The RDN will also be producing information for farmers who hold events and for their neighbours. >



*This update is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area A. Overlapping postal routes could result in some City of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.*

## highlights

- \* South Nanaimo Transit Local Area Plan
- \* Gathering Events in the ALR
- \* Signage Strategy for Community Parks & Trails

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The RDN will also be considering the use of a permitting system to ensure that events are carried out with consideration for the environment and neighbours.

For further information, please visit the RDN's Get Involved web page at [www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/ALR](http://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/ALR).

## Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness

Our Emergency Services department is working on **simplifying the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP)** to align more with the PreparedBC program. The revised NEPP program is designed to encourage residents to first ensure they have their personal and household preparedness plans in place, and then to reach out to their neighbours and work together to broaden their resilience in the event of an emergency. **The NEPP program will include online information, networking opportunities, and peer-to-peer support as well as handouts and workshops delivered by the regional emergency services team.** Get prepared and consider starting or joining a neighbourhood program!

Watch for the new Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness project to launch later this month on [www.getinvolved.rdn.ca](http://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca). Register and get involved!

## South Nanaimo Transit Local Area Plan

The Regional District of Nanaimo and BC Transit are developing a **Local Area Transit Plan for the South Nanaimo area**. The Plan will include routes 5 - Fairview, 6 - Harewood, 7 - Cinnabar/Cedar/Downtown and 30 - NRGH. The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Review current or expanded handyDART service in area C
- Realign routes to provide more direct service between key destinations and neighbourhood centres
- Provide more frequent service and longer service hours on the Local Transit Network
- Provide better service information e.g. real time, online schedules and information
- Provide better bus stop amenities e.g. benches, shelters, and bike racks
- Introduce Transit Priority measures such as transit signal priority or queue jumper lanes

The Plan will define interim improvements for transit service and infrastructure over the next 7 years.

To get involved in the process, please email [NanaimoPlanning@BCtransit.com](mailto:NanaimoPlanning@BCtransit.com).

## Electoral Area A Building Statistics

Electoral Area Building Permits for 2017			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
A	109	14.8	24

  

Electoral Area Building Permits for Jan-Mar 2018			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
A	16	1.9	6

## Get Involved RDN!

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Starting this month, look for our monthly RDN Updates in the Nanaimo News Bulletin, the Parksville Qualicum Beach News and the Gabriola Sounder to find out about upcoming events, projects and community meetings.

You can also keep up-to-date by following us on Facebook and Twitter, visiting our website homepage & calendar and by signing up to Get Involved RDN at [www.getinvolved.rdn.ca](http://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca).



## contacts

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