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ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA B | GABRIOLA & SURROUNDING ISLANDS

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GERTIE Update

By all accounts, Gabriola's Environmentally-Responsible Trans-Island Express is a giant success. At press time, statistics showed that since the



Director
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new bus service started rolling in June, 2013, GERTIE drivers have transported more than 3500 passengers. The RDN has supported this three-year pilot project through an agreement with

the Island Futures Society that transferred Electoral Area B Community Works funding to the Society for the purpose of purchasing the GERTIE buses.

Thank you to all of the providers of this service for your hard work and dedication. I encourage anyone interested in getting involved with GERTIE to visit gabriolacommunitybus.com and check out the volunteers and sponsors section. Schedules and contact information are available on the website as well.

Huxley Community Park Master Plan Update

Ideas suggested by Gabriolans are now being used to inform the development of concept options for Huxley Community Park. The park was donated to the Regional District of Nanaimo as a Community Park in 2010, and the RDN is now in the process of asking Gabriolans to take another look at their park with fresh eyes and to consider how they would like this downtown park to be improved and

managed over the next 10 years.

Island residents have contributed to this process through attending an open house on July 13, and through participation in an online open house that was available on the RDN website between July 31 and Sept. 7. Both open houses invited residents to outline their vision for the park as well as their concerns about the park.

A survey summary is now available on the RDN website. For more information about this planning and design process, please visit www.rdn.bc.ca/parks or contact the Parks Department at 1-888-828-2069.

Emergency Social Services

There is an ongoing need for Emergency Social Services volunteers in Electoral Area B. Emergency Social Services (ESS) is an integral part of the Regional District of Nanaimo's Emergency Program and provides short term assistance to people affected by an emergency or a disaster. If this opportunity interests you, I encourage you to visit www.essgabriola.com to learn more about this organization. To obtain a volunteer application, email essgabriola@gmail.com.



RDN Rebates in Your Area

The Regional District of Nanaimo continues to offer rebates and incentives to residents who protect local water resources by purchasing rainwater harvesting systems or invest in energy efficiency, emission reductions and green building practices. Incentives in the RDN are now available for a range of improvements that conserve water, reduce energy use, or increase the use of renewable materials in the home.



These rebate programs have produced impressive environmental and economic results. Although the toilet rebate program is ending in 2013, across the region, almost 1,500 conventional toilets have been replaced with dual flush or high efficiency alternatives. This translates into almost 50 million litres in water savings per year. For rainwater harvesting systems, 66 systems have been installed across the region since 2012, providing storage for over 700,000 litres of water.

For green building incentives, 247 old inefficient woodstoves have been replaced since 2010, 232 home energy assessments have been completed, >

highlights

- * GERTIE Update
- * Huxley Community Park Master Plan Update
- * RDN Rebates

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and the number of green buildings in the region continues to grow.

From an economic perspective, each rebate represents a direct financial investment in the community, but also generates spin-off benefits as residents purchase whole systems from nearby businesses, and hire local tradespeople to complete work. As an example, for rainwater harvesting systems, \$18,000 in rebates in 2013 has contributed to over \$95,100 in total investment.

Residents of Gabriola and surrounding islands have embraced the water conservation and green building rebate programs this year, accounting for 18 of the 25 rainwater harvesting rebates provided in 2013, and a total of 42 woodstove exchanges since January. While it's great that these two rebates are popular in Area B, it's also worth highlighting all RDN rebates available:

Home Energy Assessments	\$60-200
Woodstove Exchange Program	\$250
Sustainable Building Checklist Incentives	\$500-\$1,000
Renewable Energy Systems	\$250
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	\$250
Graded Site Cut Timber	Up to \$250
Toilet Replacement (ending in 2013)	\$50
Rainwater Harvesting System	Up to \$750

Now is a great time to invest in sustainability and conservation for your homes. Thanks to all who have participated in the program.

Contact sustainability@rdn.bc.ca for more details.



Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment Process

The RDN's Liquid Waste Management Plan is a 20-year plan created in 1997 and approved by the Ministry of Environment in 1999. Its purpose is to support sustainable wastewater management throughout the Region. As the Ministry requires local governments to review their plans every five to 10 years, the RDN launched a region-wide Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment public consultation process in the summer of 2013.



LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The RDN needs a plan for managing liquid waste because laws regulating municipal wastewater management require that municipal wastewater treatment facilities provide a minimum of secondary treatment. These laws also recognize that it will take time for some treatment facilities to be able to provide secondary treatment. Our plan gives the RDN the authority to find community-driven and cost-effective solutions to protect public health and achieve a standard level of wastewater treatment over a reasonable timeframe.

From August through October, the RDN held public meetings in every Electoral Area and municipality to discuss the LWMP and what the amendment process will mean for the various communities that make up the Regional District. Residents also had the opportunity to complete a survey about the process, and to share their opinions with RDN Wastewater Services staff by email, phone or in person. I would like to thank all of the residents of this Electoral Area who took the time to participate in this important process.

Early in 2014, the RDN intends to submit the final draft of the plan to the Ministry for approval, and to post the document on the RDN website for members of the public to access.

For more information about the plan or the process, visit rdnlwmp.ca or call Wastewater Services at (250) 390-6560 or (250) 954-3792.

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