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ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'C' | EXTENSION | ARROWSMITH-BENSON | EAST WELLINGTON-PLEASANT VALLEY

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Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail

The Province has given official recognition to a public recreational trail in the Vancouver Island University Woodlot



Director Maureen Young

between the City of Nanaimo's Witchcraft Lake lands and the RDN's Mount Benson Regional Park. This Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail will provide authorized access to the Regional Park for hikers

of Nanaimo's favourite mountain. The Regional Trail represents an excellent working arrangement between the City, the Province, VIU, the RDN and the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust which

assists the RDN in the operation of Mount Benson Regional Park. The RDN Board is very pleased to have secured this important trail.

The Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail starts from a lakeside parking lot and floating boardwalk at the end of Benson View Rd (off Kilpatrick Rd, off Jingle Pot Rd, off Hwy 19).

The RDN is in the process of adding a kiosk to the trailhead parking lot, and is working with the City, VIU and NALT to install directional and interpretive signage along the trail up to the Regional Park. Users are reminded that while in the woodlot portion of the route up to Mount Benson, they are passing through working forest, so harvesting activities may be in evidence from time to time. The Regional Trail itself will not be logged over and a buffer on each side will help maintain the

woodland trail experience.

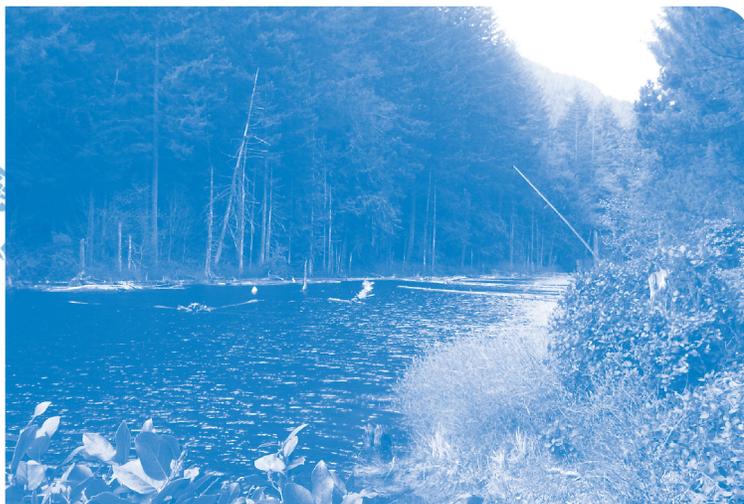
Mount Benson Regional Park features 212 hectares of rough mountainous terrain below the twin peaks of Mount Benson. A return trip to the summit takes five to seven hours for most people. Hikers are reminded to wear appropriate footwear, carry food and water, be prepared for inclement weather, and let a friend or family member know of your route plans and estimated return time. In the winter months, the Regional Park is a great place to snowshoe and cross-country ski.

For more information about Mount Benson Regional Park or the Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail, call 1-888-828-2069 or visit rdn.bc.ca and click on Services, then Parks, then Regional Parks and Trails.

Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook

This October the RDN published a valuable resource for residents who wish to learn more about the benefits and opportunities of rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook is an information source specific to the RDN's location and climate, and a practical tool for RDN residents interested in building their own rainwater harvesting systems or working with professionals to do so.

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is the collection and storage of rainwater for potable and nonpotable uses. With proper controls in place, harvested rainwater can be used for irrigation, outdoor cleaning, flushing toilets, washing clothes, and >



This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area C. 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

- * Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail
- * Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook
- * Anders Dorrit Community Park

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER.

even drinking water. Replacing municipally-treated water or groundwater with rainwater for these uses takes pressure off of regional aquifers and sensitive ecosystems, and reduces demands on municipal infrastructure. Stored rainwater provides an ideal source of water, particularly during long dry summers or in locations experiencing declining groundwater levels. In regions serviced by community water systems, RWH systems can complement existing infrastructure.



Capturing, storing, and using rainwater where it falls can slow down or eliminate storm water runoff, reduce energy consumption compared to wells, and at large enough scales, delay the need for water utility expansions.

The 2007 *RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Plan* and *RDN Watershed Snapshot Report 2010* identify increased population, dropping groundwater

levels in certain areas, and stressed ecosystems as reasons to promote rainwater harvesting in the region. In response to this need, the *Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook* encourages the responsible use of rainwater as a safe, sustainable water source for private residences.



RWH systems are capable of producing clean, high quality water, provided they are correctly designed, constructed, and maintained.

It is important to remember that residents should always consult professionals when

planning and constructing their RWH systems, especially for potable RWH systems.

Presently, no single set of Provincial or Federal regulations addresses the collection, storage, purification and disinfection of rainwater.

The *Guidebook* is a best practices resource for those interested in building a RWH system. After reading the *Guidebook*, residents and professional practitioners will better understand how different RWH systems are put together, how they function, and the effort required to maintain them.

The *Guidebook* is intended as the first in a series of annual green building guidebooks. Check the RDN website often to learn more about this and other green building initiatives.

For more information, to receive a copy of the *Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook*, or to suggest topics for future green building guidebooks, please call the RDN Energy and Sustainability Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798, or email sustainability@rdn.bc.ca. The *Guidebook* is also available at rdn.bc.ca under **Services/ Energy and Sustainability**.



ANDERS DORRIT COMMUNITY PARK

I am pleased to announce that there will be a special ceremony in 2013 to introduce the concept plan for Anders Dorrit Community Park. This East Wellington property was donated to the RDN by Anders and Dorrit Olesen, and as part of their estate it has recently been given to the Regional District for use as a community park. Currently RDN Parks staff are working on the property to ensure that it is safe for public use.

Before Anders Olesen passed away, he sat down with RDN staff to draft the concept plan for this park, so the plan represents his exact wishes for the property. Once the date for the ceremony is finalized we will let the community know.



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Regional District of Nanaimo Website | www.rdn.bc.ca

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