



# ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA E | NANOOSE BAY

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## ERWS and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Update

Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area residents rely on a combination



Director  
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of groundwater and Englishman River water. The Englishman River Water Service is a joint venture between the RDN (26 per cent) and the City of Parksville (74 per cent) for the supply of water from the Englishman River.

The ERWS system is required to improve supply reliability, and to provide additional treatment by 2016 as mandated by Island Health.

In Nanoose Bay, up to 40 per cent of current summer water demand is supplied from the Englishman River. **Conservation is a cornerstone of our planning, but managing demand alone will not be enough to ensure reliable water supplies as Nanoose grows into the future.** The ERWS is planning for the next 50 years, and capacity will be added in phases to reduce capital costs and optimize overall lifecycle costs.

Planning and development of a long term water supply to provide drinking water and improved habitat for fish was set in motion with a successful referendum in 1996. The first phase of the project was construction of the Arrowsmith Dam in 2000. Following this, a trunk main was built from Parksville to Nanoose

(Red Gap). More recently, planning and design has been carried out to determine the intake location and design, and best treatment technology. Information shared in public meetings and open houses, along with input from the community working group has guided this process every step of the way.



## englishman river WATER SERVICE

The ERWS has been investigating the feasibility of utilizing Aquifer Storage and Recovery to reduce project costs. With this approach, water from the Englishman River would be treated and stored in a suitable aquifer during the winter months, when water is plentiful, to be delivered to residents in the summer to reduce peak demand and required treatment capacity. The ASR work is currently on hold, to allow staff to focus on the successful completion of the intake.

The goal of completing the intake, treatment, and distribution capital works by December 2016 faces a possible delay. In a recent development, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans wrote to the

ERWS Board expressing concern that the installation of the water intake structure on the river would pose a threat to fish, and that a review would be necessary. This review process could take several months.

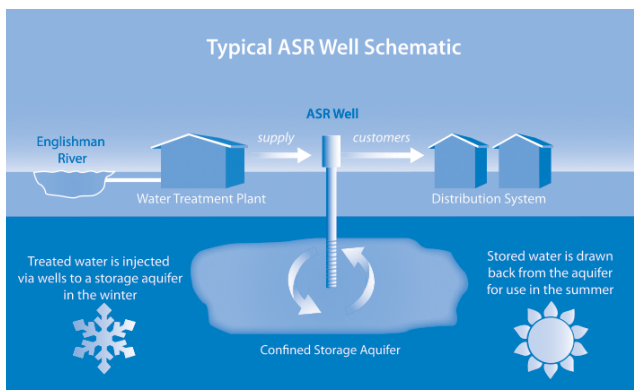
*More information will be provided to residents as this process moves forward. Residents are encouraged to attend a Water Services Open House on Wednesday, May 20, at 7 pm at Nanoose Place.*

## Fairwinds Lakes District Regional Park Management Plan 2015-2025

The RDN is hosting a public open house for the Fairwinds Lakes District Regional Park Management Plan on Wednesday, May 13, from 5 pm to 7:30 pm at Nanoose Place. Public participation is vital to the process of creating this long-term management plan. I would like to thank all of the residents who attended the first open house in November, 2014, as well as all residents who completed the public survey.

The long-term management plan for this Regional Park will look at future management issues and lay out the obligations in the Phased Development Agreement between the RDN and Fairwinds. It will incorporate recommendations from the public survey and public Open Houses, as well as recommendations from the Enos Lake Protection and Monitoring Program and the Garry Oak Meadows Management Plan.

*For more information about the 10-year management plan for Fairwinds Lakes District Regional Park, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on Services/Parks/Regional Parks.*



## highlights

- \* ERWS and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Update
- \* Fairwinds Lakes District Regional Park Management Plan
- \* Community Works Funding

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## Community Works Fund

The Community Works Fund is a program under the New Building Canada Fund where Gas Taxes collected are returned to local governments to support local priorities. The fund is based on a per capita formula and the program is administered for Canada by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The RDN executed an agreement with the UBCM for the 2014 to 2024 period in order to obtain this ongoing annual funding, and the RDN is able to make choices about which eligible projects to fund under the program. Funding is available for a broad range of categories of projects within a specified set of criteria. Categories include recreational, cultural, tourism, water, sewer and disaster mitigation infrastructure.

For Electoral Area E, approximately \$680,000 has been saved in our CWF allocation over the last few years. The following projects are either underway or being reviewed for eligibility under the CWF in 2015: groundwater & surface water monitoring program; Claudet Community Park trail development; Nanoose Bay community signage plan, and emergency water storage for non-water system supplied urban interface areas.

## Nanoose Water Monitoring

The Nanoose Water Monitoring Program is now underway. To better understand water in Area E, the RDN is working to collect more data and better information on local groundwater and surface water. This will enable trends to be observed and management practices to be based on the state of the water resource.

Phase 1 of this long-term monitoring program is taking place in the Parker Road area, in the area where a proposed community well is located. The objective of this phase is to understand long-term

capacity of the aquifer and determine sustainable operating parameters for the subject well. Phase 1 monitoring will be used as a pre-cursor for a monitoring program for all of Electoral Area E, to be developed and implemented over the next two to three years.

## Fire Truck Purchase

On March 24, the RDN Board voted to purchase a Spartan Metro Star LFD engine-rescue truck for the Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department, at a quoted cost of \$560,000. The primary purpose of this new vehicle is to be a first responder and to attend in the event of structural and brush fires.



Hub Fire Engines of Abbotsford is building the truck, as well as a new truck the Board has purchased for the Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department. It will take several months for the trucks to be built, with ongoing consultation between the two fire departments and Hub Fire Engines.

## Change 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.

## Blueback Community Park Update

Staff is currently modifying the draft Blueback Community Park plan based on feedback from the Electoral Area E Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee. This includes investigating the best method to remove and manage the extensive blackberry growth. The blackberries will be mowed down in June and site clearing will follow later in the summer. **The next Area E POSAC meeting is Wednesday, May 27 at Nanoose Place.**



## Claudet Road Water Tower Reservoir

The Claudet Road water tower reservoir is a 6.4m diameter, 17.1m high, 120,000 imperial gallon bolted steel reservoir.

A 2012-2013 structural review and coating inspections of the reservoir determined that the structural integrity of the roof does not meet standards and requires replacement.

A May, 2013 review of all the reservoirs within the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area recommended that this reservoir be removed, and that additional reservoir storage be constructed at a different location in the future. As such, the RDN is planning on having the reservoir removed this coming summer.

## RDN Rebates and Incentives

If you haven't heard about the RDN's rebates and incentives program yet, visit [www.rdnrebates.ca](http://www.rdnrebates.ca) to learn more! You may be eligible for funding to help make your property more environmentally friendly.

