



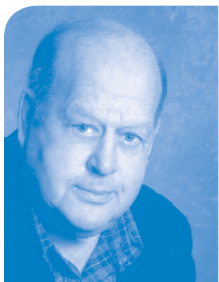
ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA E | NANOOSE BAY

ISSUE 16 • FALL 2013

Englishman River Water Service Update

As requested by French Creek residents, the removal of the French Creek Bulk



Director
George Holme

Water Service Area from the Englishman River Water Service joint venture agreement is underway. The process will officially be completed by early 2014, but the change is already reflected in tax requisitions

for 2013. French Creek's removal from the joint venture agreement allows the Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area to increase its share to 26 per cent. The City of Parksville holds the remaining 74 per cent.

Under the ERWS agreement, the two parties, the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo (Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area), hold the water allocations and are responsible for capital and operational costs associated with the new intake on the Englishman River, water treatment plant and associated piping.

While the French Creek Bulk Water Service Area is no longer part of the ERWS joint venture agreement, it remains within the original Arrowsmith Water Service agreement along with Parksville, Qualicum Beach, and the Nanoose Bay Bulk Water Service Area. Under the AWS agreement, the French Creek Bulk Water Service Area is responsible for its allocation percentage for Arrowsmith dam debt, maintenance, ongoing operations and any future improvements.

Lakes District & Schooner Cove Update

Fairwinds hosted a well-attended Public Open House on June 26, 2013 and presented general information about the rezoning proposals for Lakes District and Schooner Cove. Following this, the RDN facilitated a public information meeting on September 23, 2013 where people had an opportunity to view the application materials in detail and to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed phased developments. Substantial progress has been made on these development applications and the RDN is working closely with the applicant to finalize the zoning amendment bylaws and legal documents ahead of Board consideration. As highlighted in a recent staff report to the Board, the RDN is committed to Board consideration of these important development applications with introduction of the proposed amendment bylaws in November 2013.

On a related matter, in response to the RDN Board's request, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has advised that the Ministry has assumed responsibility for the existing 9.4 km of sidewalks within the Fairwinds community. The Ministry has also advised that it is committed to issuing permits and assuming responsibility for future sidewalks within the Lakes District and Schooner Cove. The Ministry's commitment is great news for existing Fairwinds community residents and also provides certainty that the Ministry is committed to allowing the pedestrian improvements that are a key component of the vision expressed through the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plans.

Secondary Suites Project Update

Following a Board resolution to proceed with public consultation on secondary suites, RDN staff members have spent the summer and fall months attending public events, meeting with community groups, and hosting information sessions. The purpose of the secondary suites consultation is to gauge the level of community support for secondary suites in the RDN Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G, and H and to gain an understanding of the opportunities and concerns relating to secondary suites as a form of affordable housing in the region. Community input has been focused around an online survey geared towards both homeowners and renters in the applicable Electoral Areas.

Preliminary results indicate strong support to allow both attached and detached secondary suites throughout the region. Housing affordability, the ability to age in place and/or care for a family member, and housing choice were some of the reasons for supporting secondary suites. Many survey respondents want to ensure that the impacts of secondary suites are minimized by ensuring issues like parking and servicing are addressed. In general, many survey respondents support the idea of recognizing existing secondary suites.

Staff are in the process of reviewing and analyzing the public input and will draft a report and recommendations for the Board's consideration later this fall.

For more information on the RDN Secondary Suites Project, please contact Greg Keller, Senior Planner at (250) 390-6510 or from District 69 (250) 954-3798 or email to planning@rdn.bc.ca.



highlights

- * Englishman River Water Service Update
- * Lakes District and Schooner Cove Update
- * Secondary Suites Project Update

THIS NEWSLETTER IS
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RECYCLED PAPER.



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.

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.



LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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.

Free Family Day Admission to RDN Recreation Facilities

Starting on Feb. 10, 2014, admission to Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre will be free for everyone on provincial Family Day holidays. Quality Foods has generously partnered with the RDN to keep each recreation facility open for four hours on the holiday. The facilities will be open at offsetting times so residents can make use of both if they wish to. Exact operating times will be available closer to the holiday.

Quality Foods and the RDN already have a long-standing community recreation partnership through the Rec Bucks program, where Quality Foods shoppers can redeem their Quality Foods points for Rec Bucks. Rec Bucks can then be used to purchase swim and skate passes, program registration, RDN camping fees and facility rentals. The RDN Board is pleased to be partnering with Quality Foods again to make the Family Day holiday more fun for everyone.

Rebates in Your Area

Residents of Nanoose Bay have embraced the RDN green building rebate program, accounting for 35 per cent of the region's home energy assessment incentives and 41 woodstove exchanges in 2013.



While supporting conservation efforts, these rebates also represent direct economic investment in our communities and strengthen the region as a hub for innovation.

There are several other incentives for residents of Area E to consider, including up to \$750 for rainwater harvesting systems, and \$250 each for renewable energy systems and electric vehicle charging stations.

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.

Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department

The Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind everyone that it's time to have all wood-burning appliances and chimney pipes cleaned and inspected for the upcoming winter season.

The Fire Department is now taking applications for the next group of volunteer members to begin in January 2014.

Anyone interested may contact Fire Chief Doug Penny at (250) 468-7141.

