



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA 'E' | NANOOSE BAY

ISSUE 13 • SPRING 2012

Nanoose Bay Water Treatment Plant

Construction on the new \$2 million Nanoose Bay Water Treatment Plant is nearly complete. The plant, which is located at the corner of Northwest Bay Road and Nanoose Road, will begin producing treated water for Nanoose Bay residents in Summer 2012. Testing, commissioning and staff training



Director
George Holme

is scheduled to occur in May and June of 2012.

The purpose of this new facility is to treat the four RDN wells located in the Red Gap area, as these four wells have the highest impact on water quality in the Nanoose Bay system. In recent years, residents have expressed concern about discolouration due to elevated iron and manganese levels in the water. While there is no health risk associated with these elevated levels of iron and manganese, residents are concerned about issues such as coloured water, staining of appliances and staining of clothing during the wash cycle.

The RDN anticipates that treatment of these wells will result in a significant reduction in iron and manganese concentrations in the water.

For more information about the water treatment plant, visit nanoosewater.ca or call the Water Services Department at 250 390 6560.

Fire Hall Update

Nanoose Bay Fire Hall construction is progressing well and despite some weather-related delay in January, the hall is expected to be operational by early August. The building is now almost completely enclosed and interior work is underway.

The previous Nanoose Bay fire hall was built in 1973 with additions added in 1975 and 1991. Following a seismic review of the building in 2008/09, the RDN Board approved a project to rebuild the hall. On March 26, 2011, a majority of Nanoose Bay residents who voted in a referendum supported constructing a new fire hall built to the post-disaster seismic requirements of the BC Building Code.

Construction on the fire hall began in September 2011 and since then the Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department has operated from a temporary hall just behind the construction site. The community has had continuous fire protection service throughout this time, with the fire hall logging 178 calls between August 1, 2011 and March 22, 2012. I would like to congratulate the Fire Department on the excellent job they do in providing fire protection for Nanoose Bay.



RDN TRANSIT HAS FIVE NEW BUS SHELTERS WHICH INCLUDE LIGHTING AND WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE PADS.

New Bus Shelters

Five new bus shelters are now installed in RDN Electoral Areas, thanks to Community Works grant funding allocated to the Regional District. Two of the shelters are located in French Creek, two in Nanoose Bay, and one in Cedar.

RDN Rebates and Incentives

Through the **Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program** and the **Green Building Incentive Program** the RDN offers a variety of rebates to encourage home owners and owner-builders in the region to protect our watersheds by conserving water, reduce emissions by improving home energy efficiency, and invest in green building, renewable energy systems and low-impact development.

The Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program is providing up to a \$750 rebate to homeowners who purchase a 1,000 gallon (3,785 litre) cistern or larger for use in a rainwater harvesting system. For residents interested in learning more about rainwater harvesting, the RDN will be completing a Green Building Best Practices Guide on Rainwater Harvesting for homeowners later this year.

The Toilet Replacement program will continue this year, with the RDN providing up to two \$50 rebates to households in the region's Electoral Areas that replace a conventional toilet with a high efficiency or dual flush alternative.

The Green Building incentives that were available last year will remain, including the popular \$250 woodstove exchange incentive and the \$60 rebate for a home energy assessment. Incentives of up to

highlights

- * Nanoose Bay Water Treatment Plant
- * Fire Hall Update
- * RDN Rebates and Incentives

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ACTION INCENTIVES	
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Woodstove Exchange	\$250
Home Energy Assessment	\$60 to \$200
Graded Site-Cut Timber	Up to \$250
Toilet Replacement	\$50 (Electoral Areas only)
Solar Hot Water System	\$250
Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station	\$250
Rainwater Cistern	Up to \$750

CHECKLIST INCENTIVES	
Score	Incentive
55-74	\$500
75-89	\$750
90+	\$1,000

\$200 will now be available to residents who complete a follow-up assessment that shows an improvement in home energy efficiency. Also new is a \$250 rebate for up to five home owners who install an electric vehicle charging station.

In addition to action-specific incentives, the RDN Sustainable Development Checklist and Guide serve as a valuable resource to homeowners and owner-builders interested in optimizing the performance of their building, while minimizing its impact on the natural environment. The Checklist provides a comprehensive rating system for development projects, while the Guide offers information on green building practices. Residents who meet with the RDN's Sustainability Coordinator to review the Checklist and submit the completed Checklist with a Permit application are eligible for a \$50 incentive. Residents who achieve a high score on the Checklist are eligible for an additional incentive from \$500 to \$1000

All rebates and incentives are limited and provided on a first come, first served basis. For details on any of the RDN

incentives, call 1-877-607-4111, or email sustainability@rdn.bc.ca.

If you own or operate a business that provides products or services eligible for incentives, contact the RDN for assistance in getting the information you need.

If you are a resident with ideas for incentives that will conserve energy, reduce emissions, or result in greener, more sustainable homes in the region, let us know. We will consider your ideas as the program evolves in the future.

Watering Restrictions

With the summer season approaching the Regional District of Nanaimo is now enforcing its yearly watering restrictions for those properties connected to RDN water systems. Level 1 restrictions took effect on April 1, allowing those who live in even numbered-houses to water on even-numbered calendar days, while residents of odd-numbered houses may water on odd-numbered calendar days.

On June 1, Level 2 restrictions will come into effect. The same watering dates will apply, but watering will only be permitted for two hours at a time between the hours of 6-10 am and 6-10 pm.

Please contact RDN Water & Utility Services Department at 1-877-607-4111 if you require further information.

The Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plans

On October 25, 2011 the RDN Board of Directors adopted Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaws No. 1400.03, 2011 (The Lakes District) and 1400.04, 2011 (Schooner Cove) to incorporate the Lakes District and Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plans into the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan. To view the neighbourhood plans please visit rdn.bc.ca.

The two plans provide policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management and service requirements for all lands lying within the boundaries of each neighbourhood plan area.

Arrowsmith Water Service/ Englishman River Water Service Update

The Arrowsmith Water Service Joint Venture was established by agreement in 1996, to secure a bulk water supply from the Englishman River for the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and portions of the Regional District of Nanaimo. In 2011, the three AWS partners began investigating the second phase of the AWS joint venture—the construction of a new water intake, water treatment plant, water transmission system, and the investigation and construction of aquifer storage and recovery wells to support water supply for the future. The Town of Qualicum Beach has no short term need for bulk water, so has opted not to participate in the proposed new water intake, treatment facility and aquifer storage and recovery wells. As a result, the RDN and the City of Parksville have formed the Englishman River Water Service Joint Venture to move forward with these capital works.

For the Englishman River Water Service, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) would involve the storage of river water in a suitable aquifer during the winter high river flow period and recovery of the same water later on when it is needed. Incorporating ASR into the ERWS system would create additional water storage capacity for the ERWS, and allow the ERWS greater flexibility in managing the water resources. ASR can reduce peak flows to the new treatment plant and thereby reduce plant size requirements. ASR storage will also reduce the quantity of water extracted from the Englishman River during the summer months during river low flow periods.

In order to determine if ASR is feasible, further investigation is required. In December 2011, the ERWS received more than \$1.3 million from Canada's Gas Tax Fund to research this innovative project.

Detailed information about the Englishman River Water Service, the Arrowsmith Water Service and Aquifer Storage and Recovery is available at www.arrowsmithwaterservice.ca.