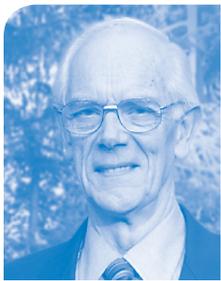




Miller Road Bank Stabilization and Fisheries Rehabilitation Project

On August 20, the RDN began work on a project to stabilize a section of eroding creek bank in Miller Road Community Park.



Director Joe Stanhope

The erosion was causing siltation and undermining the large trees along the bank of French Creek. By "armouring" this area of the creek with boulders and

large tree rootwads that are cabled into the rock, we have been able to stabilize the bank, prevent the trees along the bank from washing away, and improve fish habitat in this area.

In order to do this work the stream needed to be redirected along a

temporary channel to create a dry working area. Juvenile fish in this section were removed with a net and relocated both upstream and downstream of the work area. Approximately 1,000 coho and trout fry were moved, which shows that the stream is healthy and is benefitting from the good work that Fisheries and the local streamkeepers are undertaking.

Fisheries benefits as a result of this project include large woody debris additions to provide cover for juvenile and adult fish, hydraulic variability (resting areas) for fish, increased shade, increased food source (invertebrates), and general protection from predators. Three large woody debris structures located at the upstream end of the project provide bank protection, and can create scour pools resulting in increased depth and holding areas for fish. Studies on Vancouver Island have found that these structures can increase the local density of juvenile trout by up to four times during the winter.

This project will reduce bank erosion as well as reducing the amount of silt entering the creek at the site. It has been shown in the Cowichan River that decreased silt can increase egg-to-fry survivals in salmonids.

Many partners have been involved with this important project. NHC Engineering developed a remediation plan for the RDN, using 'soft engineering' to protect the bank while providing habitat for the salmon and trout. A general contractor, BC Conservation Foundation, oversaw the works, acquired permits, and arranged for equipment, labor and materials. These local consultants and contractors all have extensive experience, which contributed to the completion of this project on time and within budget.

The project will conclude this fall with the planting of trees and shrubs along the bank. Over the next two years, RDN staff will be working with the project partners to monitor the engineering and biological improvements. >



LEFT: THE MILLER ROAD PROJECT PRIOR TO BANK STABILIZATION.

RIGHT: THE COMPLETED MILLER ROAD BANK STABILIZATION AND FISHERIES REHABILITATION PROJECT.



This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area G. Overlapping postal routes could result in some adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.

highlights

- * Miller Road Bank Stabilization and Fisheries Rehabilitation Project
- * Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook
- * Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

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



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 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**.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Regional District of Nanaimo, in partnership with the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and the District of Lantzville has been awarded a provincial planning grant from the Community Charging Infrastructure Fund and the Fraser Basin Council. The funding will be used to identify ideal locations for Level II Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

across the region.

This allows each of the local government partners to identify appropriate locations for charging infrastructure within their boundaries, to work with prospective charging station hosts to prioritize 12 sites over the fall of 2012, and to install charging stations at each of those sites, ready for use by March 31, 2013. With an appropriate location and willing station host, additional funding will be available to cover up to 75 per cent of the cost to purchase and install an electric vehicle charging station in this Electoral Area.

Level II charging stations are capable of fully charging electric drive vehicles in three to eight hours. The RDN is looking for charging station locations that are accessible to residents and visitors, and where vehicles are usually parked for three or more hours.

The provincial government funding provided through the Community Charging Infrastructure Fund has enabled the RDN to start planning for a future that includes electric vehicle use by residents and visitors to the Region, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Province and the Fraser Basin Council on this important initiative. The RDN is a transportation hub and a tourism destination, and by providing charging infrastructure, the RDN aims to encourage a more sustainable travel option within our communities.

For more information about this initiative, you may contact the RDN Energy and Sustainability Department at 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798. In addition, the Province has provided an online Electric Vehicle Toolkit, available here: <http://www.livesmartbc.ca/incentives/transportation/EV-toolkit.html>



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