



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA H | SHAW HILL | QUALICUM BAY | BOWSER | DEEP BAY

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Seaweed Harvesting Near Bowser

Along with other local governments, the RDN began to express concerns in early 2013 about the way licenses are issued



Director
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to harvest beach-cast seaweed in the vicinity of Deep Bay and Baynes Sound. In particular, the RDN Board is concerned about the lack of public consultation involved, monitoring and enforcement, and

the potential ecological and social impacts.

The location in question contains many sections of shoreline with high ecological sensitivity, and is adjacent to the most valuable area in the province for shellfish aquaculture. It is also a well-used recreational and commercial fishing spot and is extremely important to the community as a natural space providing opportunities for relaxation and recreation.

In the location of Baynes Sound, seaweed supplies nutrients for shellfish and provides food for organisms that are used for food by fish, birds and mammals. Seaweed harvesting, including the use of the beach by motor vehicles, may affect the development of herring, surf smelt and other forage fish that spawn in the intertidal zone.

The RDN had requested that the Ministry of Agriculture not issue any new licenses



RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT THE HENRY MORGAN COMMUNITY PARK GRAND OPENING OCT 3.

until after a meeting between the RDN and the Ministry to discuss the ecological and social concerns associated with shellfish harvesting. However, the Ministry did issue new licenses for harvesting prior to a Sept. 17 meeting between RDN Directors and the Minister of Agriculture at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference. On Sept. 24, Ministry of Agriculture staff made a presentation to the RDN Board on the harvesting licence. The Ministry has approved a reduced number of licenses over a smaller area for 2014, however the RDN has reaffirmed its request to the Ministry to not issue any new licenses until the community and other stakeholders are consulted; a thorough evaluation of the effects of seaweed harvesting has been undertaken to better understand the impacts of harvesting on coastal ecosystems; and, a clearly articulated monitoring and enforcement program is in place.

Bowser Seniors Housing Update

The Bowser Seniors Housing Society is a non-profit society committed to the concept of affordable housing for seniors within the Bowser community. The society is working to turn its vision of affordable seniors housing in Bowser into reality on land behind the Bowser library, which the Regional District of Nanaimo has leased from the Province.

The Bowser Seniors project aligns well with the RDN Board's strategic goals and actions, which include increasing affordable, adaptable housing to support all members of a community. The Society has secured seed funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and has hired an architect to advance the project design. The Society has also engaged the services of a land surveyor and geotechnical engineer to evaluate the feasibility and constraints of the site and to more precisely determine the costs of the project.

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

highlights

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The Society kick-started its fundraising campaign this summer and has received generous support from the community.

For more information about the Bowser Seniors housing project, to get involved, or to stay current on the Society's events, please visit the Bowser Senior Housing Society webpage at www.bsbs.ca.

Baynes Sound Investments Application

At the regular Board meeting on October 22, 2013, the RDN Board moved to withdraw support for the Baynes Sound Investments Ltd application to amend the Official Community Plan and Regional Growth Strategy to create a new Rural Village Centre in Deep Bay.

The applicant did not provide all the necessary information for consultation by the deadline date of July 31, 2013.

A second September 19, 2013 deadline established by the RDN Board was also missed. The Board has directed staff to discuss options with the applicant about developing the site consistent with RGS and OCP direction.

Route #99 Deep Bay Transit Update

In the spring of 2012 the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Services began providing commuter bus service one day a week in Electoral Area H. The #99 - Deep Bay route started operating on Mondays (except statutory holidays) and serviced the area between Woodgrove Centre in Nanaimo and Chrome Point road in Deep Bay, including the communities of Shaw Hill, Qualicum Bay and Bowser.

In the fall of 2012 RDN Transit changed the #99's service day from Monday to Tuesday in an effort to better serve all residents.

Between August 2012 and September 2013, the #99 - Deep Bay carried a total of 740 passengers, averaging 10.8 passengers per week. Ridership on the #99 has not increased dramatically since its launch but has grown steadily. RDN Transit staff is continually monitoring

the #99 Deep Bay's ridership to ensure efficiency and sustainability of this valuable service.

The cost for a one way trip on the #99 is \$2.50 per adult and/or \$2.25 for students and seniors.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the RDN Transit system and the #99 - Deep Bay please call (250) 390-4531 or visit www.rdn.bc.ca.

Rebates in Your Area



The Regional District of Nanaimo continues to offer rebates and incentives to residents who protect local water resources by purchasing rainwater harvesting systems or invest in energy efficiency, emission reductions and green building practices. Incentives in the RDN are now available for a range of improvements that conserve water, reduce energy use, or increase the use of renewable materials in the home.

These rebate programs have produced impressive environmental and economic results. Although the toilet rebate program is ending in 2013, across the region, almost 1,500 conventional toilets have been replaced with dual flush or high efficiency alternatives. This translates into almost 50 million litres in water savings per year. For rainwater harvesting systems, 66 systems have been installed across the region since 2012, providing storage for over 700,000 litres of water.

For green building incentives, 247 old inefficient woodstoves have been replaced since 2010, 232 home energy assessments have been completed, and the number of green buildings in the region continues to grow.

From an economic perspective, each rebate represents a direct financial

investment in the community, but also generates spin-off benefits as residents purchase whole systems from nearby businesses, and hire local tradespeople to complete work. As an example, for rainwater harvesting systems, \$18,000 in rebates in 2013 has contributed to over \$95,100 in total investment.

Residents of Electoral Area H have responded well to the rebate programs, accessing 105 toilet replacement rebates since 2009, and a total of 33 woodstove exchanges since 2010, but it would be great to see more rebates coming to our community. We know there is a high level of interest in efficiency and conservation in Area H, so consider these rebates when improving your home:

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.*

Home Energy Assessments	\$60-200
Woodstove Exchange Program	\$250
Sustainable Building Checklist Incentives	\$500-\$1,000
Renewable Energy Systems	\$250
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	\$250
Graded Site Cut Timber	Up to \$250
Toilet Replacement (ending in 2013)	\$50
Rainwater Harvesting System	Up to \$750

Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department

The Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents to have all wood-burning appliances and chimney pipes cleaned and inspected for the upcoming winter season. Residents are also reminded to replace their smoke alarm batteries and test their alarms to be sure that they are still working.

contacts

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

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