



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA H

ISSUE 17 • SPRING 2014

Bowser Village Sewer Servicing Study

The RDN is dedicating \$300,000 from the federal Gas Tax Fund transfer to complete a Sewer Servicing Study for Bowser



Director Bill Veenhof

Village. The study will build upon the work completed for the Bowser Village Plan and earlier studies that identified treatment options for the area. Residents, stakeholders, and First Nations will

have opportunities to provide their input to the study.

The study will produce a tender-ready detailed design and cost estimate for the construction of sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities for the Bowser Village that can be used to apply for any available grant funding. The study represents a significant step forward in the realization of adequate sewer servicing and the development of Bowser Village. Study completion is targeted at December 2015. I am exceptionally pleased with the RDN staff's hard work and vision that led to these outcomes.

RDN Rebates

The Green Building Incentive Program celebrated its most successful year in 2013, and the RDN will continue to support residents in Electoral Areas and the District of Lantzville in taking action to improve their built environment.



Green Building Incentives help homeowners invest in reducing household energy and emissions. In 2013, over \$50,000 was distributed to residents in RDN Electoral Areas and Lantzville, helping residents upgrade their homes and save money over the long term while generating local economic benefits for the region. For example, for every dollar the RDN invests in the woodstove exchange program, residents put \$6.50 back into the local economy. For home energy retrofits, the ratio can be as high as ten dollars for each dollar invested by the RDN.

For 2014, the RDN has made adjustments to the Program to reflect changes at the provincial and federal levels. In response to the end of the popular provincial LiveSmart BC program, the RDN will now rebate half the cost of an initial home energy assessment, up to \$150.

With no confirmed provincial funding for the Woodstove Exchange program for 2014, RDN incentives will be offered again starting in October.

At the federal level, the EnerGuide rating system for home energy efficiency is evolving. Once released, the new rating systems will be incorporated into the RDN's Home Energy Assessment and Sustainable Development Checklist Incentives.

In addition to the RDN's Green Building Incentives, Rainwater Harvesting and Rural Water Quality Protection Rebates continue to be available region-wide through the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. These include:

up to \$750 for residential rainwater harvesting systems with 1000 imperial gallons of storage or more;

cost-sharing for various well protection upgrades, \$50 - \$500 available;

50 per cent off full-spectrum water quality tests for private well owners.



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

- * Bowser Village Sewer Servicing Study
- * RDN Rebates
- * Secondary Suites

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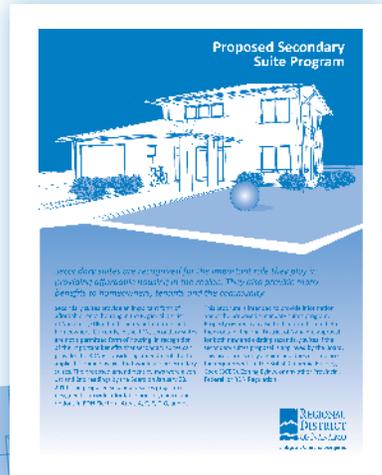


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See www.rdnrebates.ca for details and pre-approval application forms. For more information about the Rainwater Harvesting and Rural Water Quality Protection Rebates, email watersmart@rdn.bc.ca or call (250) 390-6560. For more information about all incentives offered through the RDN, visit rdnrebates.ca or call (250) 390-6510 or (250) 954-3798. The RDN will continue to publicize new incentives as they become available.

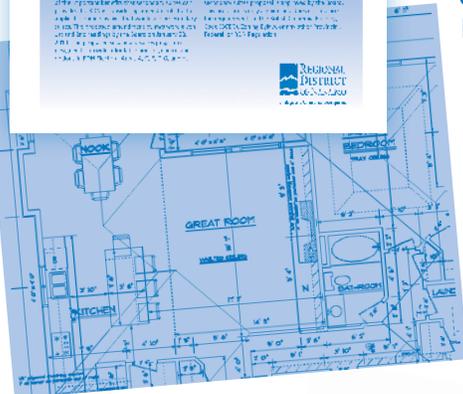
Secondary Suites

By the end of June 2014, the RDN Board will have given final approval to zoning bylaw amendments that will allow secondary suites in Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G and H. To address issues related to the recognition of existing suites, bylaw enforcement and building inspection, the Board also adopted a secondary suites policy that will take effect following adoption of the two amendment bylaws.



The RDN Board embarked on the Secondary Suites Project to make things easier for homeowners and renters in the Region. Residents showed strong support for secondary suites throughout the 2013 consultation process.

Community members listed housing affordability, the ability to age in place and/or care for a family member, and housing choice as some of their reasons for supporting secondary suites.



Averaging of Funding Agreements for Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Oceanside Place

The RDN has amended the apportionment formulas in the service bylaws for Oceanside Place Arena and Ravensong Aquatic Centre in order to consider facility usage by municipal and Electoral Area residents in District 69. A facility usage survey completed in 2010 has enabled the RDN to introduce a 50 per cent assessment, 50 per cent usage based formula to allocate costs to the participating areas. The RDN is phasing in the new apportionment formula over a five-year period. This will bring usage in at 10 per cent per year until the new formula is completed for the 2018 tax year. There will be no expansion of the participation in the Ravensong Aquatic Centre service to include Electoral Area E. The change means that for Electoral Area H residents the cost for the services per \$100,000 assessed will decrease from \$48.30 to \$46.10, a reduction of \$2.20 per \$100,000.

Community Updates – Trails, Signage, Rest Stop

I recently met with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss options for trail improvements, transportation alternatives and signage, as well as the possibility of a rest stop at the intersection of Horne Lake Road and Highway 19. These ideas for improvement all came from community members and I appreciate your interest and your assistance in developing these ideas. I am very pleased with the support of the Ministry to date, and I have had some excellent feedback on these topics from residents and from members of our local business community. If you have suggestions regarding any of these issues I encourage you to contact me.

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