

Electoral Area A Community Update

February 2021
Issue 4

WELCOME - BAYNES SOUND - DENMAN/ HORNBY ISLANDS

A belated Happy New Year to you all! We're glad to share this first 2021 issue of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area A Community Update with you. This newsletter was started in 2019 to help keep residents in the rural areas informed about CVRD services and programs. If you have questions about the topics below – or any other CVRD business – please reach out. I would be happy to hear from you.



Area A Director
Daniel Arbour



Union Bay Improvement District conversion proceeds

In November 2020, residents in Union Bay voted 72 per cent in favour of converting its water, fire protection and street lighting services to the CVRD. The conversion date has been set for July 1, 2021, pending provincial approval.

The CVRD and Union Bay Improvement District are now working together to plan the transition ahead. An advisory group has been established, including representatives from the Union Bay Improvement District and CVRD boards, staff and ratepayers, and the provincial government to undertake the formal legal process to convert the services.

We will provide updates to Union Bay residents in the months ahead, via newsletters and an open house in the spring. For more information, visit:

- Union Bay Improvement District: www.union-bay.ca
- CVRD/Union Bay Improvement District Conversion webpage: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/ubid

Sewer extension update expected in spring

The CVRD team is continuing assessment work on the possible extension of sewer service to Royston/Union Bay while we await an update on a grant application made in 2020. This information will better outline estimated costs for residents – and once in hand, the CVRD remains committed to consulting the community. This proposed service would not move forward without direction from the residents and homeowners.

We had expected to start engagement sooner – but COVID-19 has delayed processes. We hope to come to the community with more information in the spring.

Making it easier to weigh in

A new once-a-year Alternate Approval Process (AAP) for the CVRD has been approved to increase transparency and make it easier for the public to provide input.

An AAP is available to local governments to seek community approval on certain initiatives. It requires those who are opposed to the proposal to submit a form indicating their opposition. In fall 2020, it was proposed that grouping together multiple AAPs once a year could improve efficiencies, reduce costs, and make it easier for the community to keep track of AAPs that are ongoing.

With the proposed approach approved, the directors will move forward with one singular AAP this spring. Expected to be included in the first one is:

- Electoral Areas Community Hall Service Establishment
- Saratoga Pest Management Service Establishment

The AAP will be promoted with advertising as normal. Watch the CVRD's website for more info this spring.



Spring updates on roadside garbage/recycling proposal



Residents in rural areas will hear more this spring about the proposed roadside garbage and recycling program that communities showed general support for last year.

In 2020, residents were asked to weigh in on a possible roadside collection program and the CVRD received more than 3,000 submissions from the community indicating support in the majority of areas discussed.

The project team is now working out the details about how the program can be delivered in the 11 communities that expressed interest. Another round of public outreach will happen this spring when residents receive more detailed information about boundaries, service levels and possible exemptions to the service.

Watch for more updates on the Rural Roadside Garbage and Recycling Collection Service's online engagement page at www.connectcvr.ca/ruralroadside

Park upgrades continue across the region

Community parks are some of our most valuable assets – here are updates about some of the recent work done to care for and improve them:

Denman Island:

- Kirk Road stairs, connecting pedestrians from the Denman West ferry terminal to the downtown core, are now open
- Morning Beach stairs are currently closed after damage from a tree fall this winter. Morning Beach stairs should be reopened by end of February

Hornby Island:

- New washroom and improved access at Sandpiper Beach Park
- New trail has been constructed along the unopened Gull Road dedication, with finishing improvements expected this spring

Fanny Bay:

- Plans underway for a new playground at the Fanny Bay Community Hall



The Kirk Road stairs on Denman Island are now open.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

While COVID-19 has prevented us from meeting in person – we're still eager to connect with you directly. Here are two ways to connect with us online this winter:



ConnectCVRD: A new page at the CVRD's online engagement hub to keep you updated. To get the latest information and share your questions and comments visit

www.connectcvr.ca/electoralareas



Online Community Open House: On Feb. 24, from 12-1 pm, we'll host an online community update on Zoom. We will share updates and will be ready for your questions. Link to register is at

www.connectcvr.ca/electoralareas

Other Opportunities for Input:



Get active with active transportation: The CVRD is launching its first ever Active Transportation Network Plan. The plan will identify priority areas and routes for investment in infrastructure for active transportation (walking/cycling/rolling) - helping us to MOVE like a Region! The planning team is hosting virtual open houses in February and March. Visit the online project page at www.connectcvr.ca/activetransportation to learn more and sign up to join an online session.



Your two cents on spending: The CVRD Board is working through their critical, annual budget exercise – assessing each service and considering the five-year plan ahead, with an eye on COVID-19 recovery, outlined in the Rethink Comox Valley plan.

The public has until March 11 to share their feedback on the financial planning process – and the board welcomes presentations, comments, questions and feedback. To learn more, visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget



Did you know?

Roads in the CVRD's electoral areas are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, not the regional district. We know there are often questions/comments about road maintenance – particularly in the winter time.

Questions can be directed to:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure: **1-800-550-4997**
- Mainroad North Island: **1-877-215-7122 (24-hour hotline)**

Questions?

Phone: 250-650-8480

Email: reachme@danielarbour.ca

