

# Electoral Area A Community Update

June 2021  
Issue 5

## WELCOME - BAYNES SOUND - DENMAN/ HORNBY ISLANDS

Thank you for taking a look at our second Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area A Community Update for 2021. We shared our last update in February this year, and we're glad to be able to provide more information about progress in the last four months.

If you have questions about the topics below – or any other CVRD business – please call or email. We're happy to answer any questions. Our next Community Update will be distributed this fall.



Area A Director  
Daniel Arbour



## Keep in Touch

Have you visited our online engagement hub? ConnectCVRD is a great place to follow along on projects that are in-progress, share your feedback and ask questions. We have a page there for Electoral Area Updates too!

Visit [www.connectcvrld.ca](http://www.connectcvrld.ca)

You can sign up for Emergency/Urgent notifications as well through ConnectRocket. Sign up, and select what you would like to be updated on, and choose how you want to be notified by visiting: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified)

And always, feel free to reach out about other questions you have:

**250-650-8480**

[reachme@danielarbour.ca](mailto:reachme@danielarbour.ca)

## Have your say with Unified Alternative Approval Process

This year, the CVRD has introduced a new, streamlined opportunity to get direction from residents about initiatives that require their approval. Rather than a series of Alternative Approval Processes (AAPs) – known to some as counter-petitions – spread throughout the year, one unified AAP will be held in 2021 and it's underway now. The goal is to make it easier for the public to keep track of the proposals, and when/how to participate.

### Here's what you need to know:

- The AAP is open from June 3-July 5, 2021.
- If you support the services being proposed, you don't need to do anything.
- If you're opposed – you need to submit an elector response form. These can be downloaded at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/aap](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/aap)
- If 10 per cent of eligible electors submit forms in opposition, the board may choose to not proceed with the proposal at all, or may choose to hold a referendum to obtain voter support.

### This year, there are a few key initiatives underway that will be of interest to Area A residents:



**Roadside Garbage and Recycling Collection:** A service for garbage and recycling pickup is being proposed for rural neighbourhoods, in particular, Union Bay and Fanny Bay which currently don't have a regional service (though some subscribe to private pick up). You can learn more about this proposed service at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/roadsidecollection](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/roadsidecollection)



**Community Facilities Support:** The CVRD is seeking elector approval to start a service that will support community halls on an ongoing basis. Currently, halls such as Royston, Fallen Alders, Union Bay, Fanny Bay and Ships Point are required to submit an annual grant application for operational funding. This service would provide consistent and reliable funding to these public facilities.

## Community Grants

Community grants are an important way to support programs and facilities throughout the CVRD. In April, Electoral Area Directors approved over \$165,000 in grant funds to non-profit organizations throughout the region.

Among the regional initiatives that received grant funding from all electoral areas are:

- **LUSH Valley Food Action Society: \$15,000**  
To facilitate the 2021/2022 activities of the Comox Valley Food Policy Council.
- **Comox Valley Land Trust: \$10,000**  
To build local climate resiliency by protecting, restoring and connecting sensitive ecosystems in the watershed.
- **Youth and Ecological Restoration Program: \$5,300**  
To assist training at-risk youth in ecological inventory techniques within the CVRD area.

In total, 25 grants were awarded from the Electoral Area A funds, including:

- **Denman Island Education Society: \$1,500**
- **Hornby Island Community Radio: \$2,500**
- **Royston Community Club: \$2,500**

To learn more about available grants visit:

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/communitygrants](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/communitygrants)

## Union Bay conversion work underway

On July 1, 2021, the Union Bay Improvement District's services (water, streetlighting and fire protection) will officially convert to the CVRD. The move is the result of the November 2020 referendum, where residents in Union Bay voted 72 percent in favour of converting these services to the regional district and dissolving the UBID.

The transition work includes a formal legal process, as well as significant practical planning for the switchover of operations. The CVRD and UBID are working together to ensure the smooth transition. While Union Bay residents won't notice much change in services, they will now receive bills from the CVRD for those services, and payment will go to the CVRD. The UBID offices will close June 30, 2021.

An online open house was held by the CVRD and UBID on May 18. The video is available for viewing at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/ubid](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/ubid) and [www.union-bay.ca](http://www.union-bay.ca)



## AREA A BRIEFS

### NOTICE: Changes to Bylaw Service

Changes are being made to bylaw enforcement services in order to streamline delivery in the CVRD. Here's what you need to know:

- Currently, bylaw enforcement is delivered through five different services (each requiring different administration requirements).
- Staff has proposed reorganizing into two services – one for Areas A, B and C, and one for Denman and Hornby Island.
- The change was proposed as part of the COVID Response and Renewal program review undertaken in fall 2020, where each CVRD department reviewed services to look for efficiencies and to re-focus on community priorities.

This update will not change any of the regulations, and will have no cost impact for taxpayers.

Learn more about this update at

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawrestructure](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawrestructure)

### Do your part – be FireSmart

While forest fires may be a natural part of our ecosystem, with some additional information and effort residents can reduce the risk of losing buildings and properties in a wildfire event. The FireSmart program provides techniques to protect your property from burning, steps that can be done with little expense.

The CVRD, K'ómoks First Nation and four CVRD fire departments are working together to raise awareness of the FireSmart program and to encourage neighbourhoods to get involved.

There's a short FireSmart101 program available online for anyone who would like to learn more.

Get more information at

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart)



## Kirk Road Stairs Complete

A critical link in the Denman Cross Island Trail is now complete. The new Kirk Road stairs connect the Denman West Ferry Terminal and commercial core of Denman Island. Here, Andrew Pringle and Laura Pope (Denman Island Residents' Association) officially mark the stairs' opening with Area A Director Daniel Arbour (centre).

## Questions?

Phone: 250-650-8480

Email: [reachme@danielarbour.ca](mailto:reachme@danielarbour.ca)