

# Electoral Area C Community Update

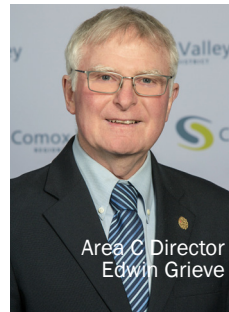
June 2021

Issue 5

## WELCOME - PUNTLEDGE - BLACK CREEK

Thank you for taking a look at our second Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area C 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 C Director  
Edwin Grieve



## 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:  
**250-218-1385**  
[edwingrieve@shaw.ca](mailto:edwingrieve@shaw.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 C residents:



**Roadside Garbage and Recycling Collection:** A service for garbage and recycling pickup is being proposed for rural neighbourhoods. 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 amend a service that currently supports the Black Creek Community, to provide operational funding support to other community halls in Area B and C. This service would consist of consistent and reliable funding to these public facilities.



**Saratoga Beach Mosquito Management:** In order to manage the ongoing issues of mosquitos in the Saratoga and Miracle Beach areas, a service is proposed to fund the ongoing management and assessment. For more information, visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mosquitocontrol](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mosquitocontrol)

## DETOUR NOTICE

Traffic disruptions on the Fifth Street Bridge are increasing traffic on Condorsory Road. A reminder to all – please slow down when travelling this narrow country road.



## 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, there were 21 grants awarded from the Electoral Area C fund, including the contributions below:

- **Merville Community Association:** \$9,000
- **Mountainnaire Avian Rescue Society:** \$8,000
- **Oyster River Enhancement Society:** \$10,000

To learn more about available grants visit:

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

## Fire department work continues

Two fire services in Electoral Area C continue to move forward towards development, though timelines have been amended based on COVID-19-related delays. Here's an update on the two important programs:

### Merville Fire Service

Work is underway to get the Merville Fire Hall ready for construction. The project team is assessing design based on current materials costs to ensure the build can move forward within the allocated budget. The tender for construction is now out, with construction to begin in the fall.

### Mount Washington Fire Service

A conceptual plan for a new firehall on Mount Washington is complete and an updated cost estimate is in process. The CVRD expects that the revised cost will likely need residents' approval because of the change since last approvals. Timing for that public input will be confirmed once all the required information is confirmed. Once that timeline is in place, the CVRD will be able to update the community on proposed timing for future construction of the fire hall.



Merville fire hall design

## AREA C BRIEFS

### Watutco Water Service Transition

The CVRD remains committed to working with the owners of the Watutco Water Service in the Black Creek/Oyster Bay area to identify options for transferring the service to the CVRD. Following a request by the private owner to transition this service, the CVRD reviewed the governance and approved a proposed transition, and is now looking to see if terms for an agreement can be reached. Those terms would inform final cost estimates for the transition - the CVRD will host an open house for residents in the area when more information is available.

### 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 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)

## Questions?

Phone: 250-218-1385

Email: [edwingrieve@shaw.ca](mailto:edwingrieve@shaw.ca)