

Electoral Area C Community Update

October 2021

Issue 6

WELCOME - PUNTLEDGE - BLACK CREEK

Thank you for reading our sixth Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area C Community Update. This is our final issue for 2021.

JOIN US for an online update Wednesday, Oct. 13 (12-1 PM) to hear more about these initiatives and ask questions of your Directors. Reserve your spot at www.connectcvr.ca/electoralareas



Area C Director
Edwin Grieve



Photo left to right: Pearl McKenzie (MARS), Electoral Area C Director Edwin Grieve, Electoral Area B Director Arzeena Hamir and Warren Warttig (MARS)



The CVRD Water Committee celebrates the new water treatment facility completion.

Comox Valley Water Treatment Project Celebrates Completion

Fresh, filtered and fully disinfected drinking water is now flowing to 50,000 residents in the Comox Valley. The new treatment plant meets Provincial water treatment standards, removing the need for turbidity-related boil water notices. This project was the CVRD's largest infrastructure project to date. The \$126-million system includes a new water intake in Comox Lake, lakeshore pump station, transmission lines and treatment plant. The project was funded by a combination of reserves, Federal and Provincial grants and loans. The project contractor, AECOM Water Infrastructure, created many new job opportunities and apprenticeships for the duration of this project which began in 2019. The completion ceremony was held on September 21 and the facility is now fully operational. Only properties that are connected to the Comox Valley Water System contribute to the costs of building and operating the new facilities.



Visit the website for more information about this project:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment

Merville Firehall Work Begins

After many years of planning, the physical work of building a new fire hall in Merville is now underway! The contractor, Kinetic Construction is working on the foundation and framing for the new hall, which is being constructed on the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society site on Williams Beach Road. The new auxiliary fire hall will include a new fire truck and tanker – expected to be delivered in January 2022. This new service will mean better fire protection and quicker response times for first responders to parts of Area B and C. It's expected to be completed by Spring 2022

OTHER UPDATES FROM FIRE SERVICES

- **Volunteers Invited!** The new Merville and Mount Washington Fire Departments are welcoming new recruits to their volunteer team. Interested? Call Fire Services at 250-334-6000
- **Mount Washington Fire Hall:** Design plans are almost complete and community input about financing will be sought this fall/winter. Watch for more at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mtwashingtonfireproject

Get Prepared this Fall

While the heat and dryness of the summer season is now passed, there's always more to know when it comes to emergency preparedness year-round!



Now that fall is upon us, residents should prepare for potential disruptions to phone, sewer, gas, or power service during the upcoming severe weather season (intense rain, wind and/or snow events). It's important to have an easy-to-follow home emergency plan and make sure you have supplies on hand for members of your household and pets too! Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getprepared for more information about what to stock in your emergency kits.



Fire season isn't over. Emergency volunteer firefighters need your help- homeowners are advised to review the tips from the FireSmart program to keep homes and properties safe. Help our local firefighters reduce the risk of fires in our communities by following simple fire safety tips. Visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart to learn more.



Thank you to our local firefighters who volunteered to support wildfire management elsewhere in the province this summer. Your commitment is truly remarkable.



Did you know?

You can sign up to receive local emergency notifications at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified or call the CVRD at 250-334-6000 to register to receive local emergency notifications by text message and voice calls.

Bates Road Parking Improvements set to begin

Construction at the Bates Road parking lot in Seal Bay Park will commence in late October, and is expected to take six weeks, depending on weather. Here's what you need to know about the work underway:

- The project will require the closure of the existing Bates Road parking area during project construction for public safety. During construction, park users may access Seal Bay Park's ocean side trails through either the Seabank Road or Seacliff Road park entrances.
- The improvements will make both visitor parking and access to the trails safer. The current parking area is inadequate and unsafe given the amount of use it receives. Given the nearby blind corner and amount of traffic on Bates Road the current layout is dangerous for vehicles to enter and exit as well as for park users wanting to cross Bates Road. The new design will have a single entry/exit point for vehicles and provide park users a single crossing area at the most northern end of the existing parking lot.
- The parking will increase from the existing 35 stalls to 71 including five designated accessible stalls. Other improvements include a new outhouse, bike rack, garbage and recycling bins.

Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/batesparking to sign up for email updates or to learn more about the parking lot expansion.

AREA C BRIEFS

Vancouver Island Visitor Centre transfers to CVRD

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has entered an agreement to transfer ownership of the Vancouver Island Visitor Centre from the Comox Valley Economic Development Society (CVEDS). The CVRD will continue the contract with Tourism Vancouver Island promoting destination tourism in the Comox Valley. Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/ecdev to learn more about economic development within the region.

2022 Budget Planning: How to Get Involved

A new year means a new start to the annual budget process for the CVRD. In January 2022, we will begin the next annual public presentation phase and encourage everyone to get involved. Learn more at

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/finance.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Watch CVRD meetings live at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/livestream or watch recorded sessions at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/minutes
- Submit comments or questions to www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/budgetinquiries
- Present to the Board or local committees through a formal delegation
- Directly contact a CVRD board member
- Call 250-334-6000 to share comments/questions.

Mosquito Control Program sees Successful Start

The first year of mosquito control program in Saratoga Beach area has shown some early success. Following first applications, dip net surveys in the area showed mosquito larvae counts that are much lower than previous years. Safe mosquito treatment was approved by the community through the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) held this past summer. Work is now complete for the season and will start again in the Spring of 2022.