

Electoral Area A Community Update

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Issue 7



WELCOME - BAYNES SOUND - DENMAN/ HORNBY ISLANDS

Welcome to the first Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area A Community Update of 2022. Our last update was in October, and since then we have a variety of new plans and projects to share with you. Feel free to contact us regarding any questions or comments about CVRD services. Public input is always welcomed.



Area A Director
Daniel Arbour



Denman/Hornby High Speed Internet proceeds

Close to 1,200 residents voted in favour of the new high-speed internet service to Denman and Hornby Island residents and businesses in a referendum held on November 27. With the successful referendum, planning to implement the new services is underway.

2022 is the first year for taxing properties on Hornby and Denman Island for the high-speed internet service. It is proposed that a property assessed at \$600,000 would be requisitioned \$40 in 2022.

CityWest is currently finalizing its construction schedules and timelines with an aim to begin installing the infrastructure in 2022. As further details are provided on the milestones, CityWest will be engaging with residents. The CVRD and City West will work together to finalize the contribution agreement which will return 20 per cent of revenue to the CVRD for grants and other community benefits.

Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandsinternet to learn more.

Free guided nature walks for Comox Valley families

With winter behind us it's time to get outside and walk in nature with the Comox Valley Regional District's free guided walks and interpretive talks held in nearby community parks and shorelines.



Two programs are beginning this month: Family Trails (meet ups for family walks on CVRD trails) and Guided Naturalist Park walks, learning about local flora and fauna with monthly guided interpretative walk. Join us for these free programs: Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothes for changing weather conditions and check age suggestions (5-14) before attending. Length of programs may vary, from 1-2.5 hours. No pets allowed at this time. BC COVID-19 outdoor sport standards will be in place.

Family Trails:

Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, 10 AM
Royston Seaside Trail

Guided Naturalist Walk:

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 10 AM
Tsolum River (meet at curling rink)

Check out www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/natureprograms for more information.

New bylaw dispute system in place

On December 31, the CVRD launched a new streamlined bylaw adjudication system with the goal of taking the bylaw process out of the Provincial court system and managing disputes directly by local government. Bylaw violations such as minor zoning, building violations, animal control and other issues will be dealt with closer to home, avoiding costly legal council and unnecessary attendance of witnesses.

Bylaw infractions resulting in fines can be paid within 14 days, or a dispute can be registered with the CVRD office. Disputes will be overseen by a provincially appointed and independent adjudicator to determine if an offence occurred.

To learn more about the new bylaw dispute system, visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawcomplaints.



Community sewer service update in Union Bay

The CVRD has submitted a new grant application for funding to support the construction of a community sewer service in Union Bay and Royston. This Sewer Extension South Project proposes to connect lands south of Courtenay into the Comox Valley Sewer Service, avoiding a treatment plant in the south or an outfall in Baynes Sound. This project would be delivered in phases, beginning with Union Bay and parts of Royston and would include a financing partnership with K'ómoks First Nation and Union Bay Estates. If successful, the grant would provide provincial and federal dollars towards the first phase of the project, immediately addressing high risk areas while establishing the backbone for future infrastructure that would service growth in the south.

Electoral approval could potentially occur via referendum in 2022 to confirm community support. Our goal is to come back to the community with the most cost-effective long-term solution for consideration.

The CVRD is committed to keeping the community informed about the project in the coming months. If you are interested in more information visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerextension.



An open house held in December 2021 provided information to residents.

AREA A BRIEFS

It's an election year!

Mark your calendar: Local General Elections will be held on October 15, 2022. The CVRD will share more information about running for office, voter registration and voting in the coming months. Watch for more information through the spring and summer.

New burning bylaws improve safety

Two new burning bylaws approved in January will provide consistency in rules for the CVRD's electoral areas, and provide fire departments with authority to manage burning in Black Creek, Merville, Mount Washington and Union Bay. The bylaws make burning rules the same throughout the electoral areas (outside of the municipal boundaries) and give Fire Chiefs authority to put on fire bans and control other burns. Residents will also need permits for fires over 50 cm in diameter.

Snow/ice road maintenance Comox Valley

Road problems? Mainroad North Island Contracting at 1-877-215-7122 is the company in charge of all road maintenance and snow plowing for the roads and highways outside municipal boundaries in the Comox Valley. Call 1-877 215-7122 to report any problems. These calls are monitored 24/7.

BC Safe Restart grant funds awarded

Community halls, emergency preparation programs and food security initiatives were among the successful recipients of the CVRD's second grant funding installment from the BC Safe Restart grant fund. The province provided \$402,000 to support volunteer and CVRD programs in response to economic and social issues that arose as a result of the pandemic. To date, CVRD has received over \$1,125,000 million in COVID-19 safe restart grant money.

Water treatment upgrades coming to Denman Island



The Graham Lake water treatment plant will be able to receive required upgrades in 2023/2024 thanks to a successful grant funding application awarded in December.

Upgrades are required for the treatment facility to meet drinking water standards set by Island Health. In order to access grant funding opportunities, the Graham Lake Improvement District agreed to convert to a CVRD service – that transition will also happen over the coming year.

The Denman Island Water Treatment Project was awarded \$1.4 million in federal and provincial funds via the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure Stream.

Have your say: CVRD's budget planning open to public



The public is encouraged to get involved with the CVRD's budget planning process which is now underway. The CVRD currently provides over 90 services including parks, arts and culture and core services like fire and water. There are many ways to have your say before the March 31 deadline:

- Submit comments online
- Present as a delegation
- Directly contact a CVRD board member
- Call 250-334-6000 for comments/questions

Did you know? All budget presentations are open to the public and are posted on the CVRD website at

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget

Questions?

Phone: 250-650-8480

Email: reachme@danielarbour.ca