

Electoral Area A Community Update

May 2022
Issue 8

WELCOME - BAYNES SOUND - DENMAN/ HORNBY ISLANDS

Welcome to the second Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area A Community Update of 2022. Our last update was in February, and since then we have updates on projects and services to share. This will be our last newsletter update before the municipal election in October. Thank you for staying informed!



Planning together for the future of Comox Valley recreation

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is working to ensure recreation programs and facilities are keeping up with community need. Three key initiatives are underway in 2022, to inform and engage the public on long-term planning for recreation services in a valley that is growing and diversifying with each new season.



Work will be completed by mid-2022, with the goal of providing accessible and inclusive recreation facilities and programs to support the pursuit of healthy active lifestyles for all ages and abilities in the areas of:

Aquatics – With support from the City of Courtenay, the CVRD is drafting an Aquatics Strategy on swimming, reviewing programs and facilities to help guide decision-making in the years to come. A draft strategy will be ready in summer 2022. Get the details at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/aquaticstrategy

Adult Ice Use – Input received over the winter/early spring about the use of district ice facilities by adult users is now being collected in a summary report with results to be incorporated into future planning. More details available at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/adultice

Sports fields – The CVRD will be collecting feedback from residents on sports field use in the valley, to help optimize field time and ensure diverse programming opportunities are available for all ages and interests. Get involved by visiting www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/fielduse



For more information on all the CVRD news, hear from Directors in our upcoming community update!

Areas A, B & C – Online Community Update – ZOOM
Thursday, May 26, 2022 from 12 PM – 1 PM

Register at www.connectcvr.com



HIRRA Update on Waste Services, Parks and Trails Management

With the realignment of the Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) liability insurance policy in February, residents may be wondering how this change will effect them. The good news is that it won't:

Waste management - residents will not see changes to waste management services at this time with HIRRA insured to manage services in the short term as the CVRD works collaboratively to seek out long-term insurance coverage.

Parks and trails - Management and maintenance is now being provided by the CVRD. Hornby Island residents and visitors are encouraged to continue to enjoy the parks and trails on the Island, especially now that the sun's on its way out!



Sewer Planning in Royston/Union Bay

In December 2021, the CVRD introduced the proposed option of bringing sewer service to Royston/Union Bay by connecting to the Comox Valley Sewer Service. We had largely positive feedback from residents, but also heard there were many questions about the path forward.

Since then, the CVRD has continued to analyze the proposed plans to provide this information. Royston/Union Bay residents will receive a letter in the mail soon with an update for this project.

To follow along for future project updates, visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerextension



AREA A BRIEFS

Airshed roundtable update

This spring, the CVRD Board of Directors will receive a presentation on the Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy, as part of the Airshed Roundtable that was developed in 2021 as a collaborative approach to explore ways to improve air quality in the Comox Valley. The Roundtable is made up of over 30 local members who provide diverse representation for our community. Follow the webpage for updates at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/airshedroundtable

Financial plan approved

Did you know the CVRD delivers over 100 services to residents? On March 29, the CVRD board adopted its 2022-2026 financial plan. This includes a 2022 total consolidated budget of \$189.8 million: \$86.2M for operating costs, \$103.6M for capital projects. This year's financial plan results in an average increase of 3.78% in property taxes from 2021 and includes new services like Denman-Hornby high-speed internet, Saratoga Beach mosquito management, and the new community facilities support service. Details at: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget

Did you know about these home energy rebates and grants?

With spring cleaning can come house repairs and upgrades. If you're looking at ways to increase your home's energy efficiency this year, take a look at the grants and rebates available to help you make improvements and save money:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rebates

It's election year!

It's a local government election year – which means that the CVRD along with all local governments will be holding elections for local representatives. Electoral Areas A, B and C residents will all vote for the Director they would like to see represent their area for the coming four years. In order to leave room for the campaign period this will be the last newsletter until after the election on October 15, 2022. Watch for more information online and in the newspaper in coming months including candidate details, advance voting dates and voter eligibility.

Agriculture Plan News

The CVRD is starting the process of updating and modernizing the now- 20-year-old Comox Valley Agricultural Plan. This work will be led by Upland Agricultural Consulting and will begin this summer. The CVRD has also hired an Agricultural Coordinator, Niki Whittaker, who is engaging with the farming community and agricultural stakeholders to help prepare for the next steps for this important plan for our community.

Interested in local food production?

Get Involved!

Learn more about the Food Hub project and how to get involved by visiting www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/foodhub

Questions?

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