

# Electoral Area B Community Update

February 2020  
Issue 2

## WELCOME

Welcome to the second issue of your Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area B Community Update. This newsletter offers updates on topics of interest for your community and the CVRD. This issue will be posted to the webpage for your electoral area, along with other ongoing updates throughout the year.

Watch [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/electoralareab](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/electoralareab) for more info.



Area B Director  
Arzeena Hamir

## YOUR COMMUNITY'S UPDATES

### Director Hamir re-elected as vice-chair of the CVRD board

In November 2019, the CVRD board held its annual inaugural meeting, bringing together the elected representatives who will serve on the board for 2020. At that meeting, Director Hamir was elected as Vice-Chair, to support Chair Jesse Ketler (Cumberland). This is the second year Director Hamir has served in this position. The board also voted to reaffirm their four strategic drivers at the meeting – fiscal responsibility, climate crisis/environmental stewardship and protection, community partnerships and Indigenous relations.

### Policy for sewage commission role approved

The CVRD's Sewage Commission has adopted a policy that will see Electoral Area B representation at their commission table during discussions about infrastructure in the rural area.

While Director Hamir has been invited to the table in the past to share information about the concerns or questions of her constituents, commission members agreed they would like to formalize these opportunities for communication with the area where some wastewater infrastructure, such as the treatment plant, is located. The policy does not give the director voting rights which will remain with the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and Department of National Defence.

### Merville Fire Hall Update

This year will see significant progress in the creation of the Merville Auxiliary fire hall. Electoral area directors have agreed on next steps for 2020, which will include preconstruction work (such as project coordination and refined cost estimates), and an electoral assent process to seek community support to borrow funds for construction of the facility. A tentative lease arrangement has been reached with the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, for the hall to be constructed at their property on Williams Beach Rd. If electoral assent is received, construction is targeted to begin in summer/fall this year. Recruitment of volunteers continues, with the first recruit class nearing completion of Firefighter Level 1 Certification.

If you wish to volunteer to be a Merville firefighter, please contact the Oyster River Fire Rescue department at 250-337-8221 or email [chief@oysterriverfire.ca](mailto:chief@oysterriverfire.ca) to learn more.

## Area B Open House

You're Invited: Join us for an update with Director Hamir (Area B) and Director Grieve (Area C) at the CVRD's Civic Room in their new office at 770 Harmston Ave. Courtenay (see info about this move on Pg. 2). The event will have time for drop in chats with directors and staff, and a Q&A with directors.

**Join Us: Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020:**

**5–5:30 pm** – Drop-in Meet & Greet

**5:30 pm–6:30 pm** – Q&A with  
Director Hamir & Director Grieve

**6:30 pm–7 pm** – Meet & Greet

## Follow me!

Interested in the latest from Director Hamir? Follow me on Facebook! Just search Arzeena Hamir, Director Comox Valley Area B.



Arzeena Hamir, Director Comox Valley Area B

January 10 at 8:03 PM · 🌐

This is such great news for the Comox Valley. To see that SPARC BC recognizes that we have so much momentum here in the valley around Farm to School is fantastic!

Looking forward to hearing about all the new initiatives that come from this energy.



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REGIONAL DISTRICT

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## Roadside Recycling and Garbage Pick-Up Service Under Consideration

Later this year, residents in some electoral area communities will be asked whether they'd like to see roadside recycling and garbage pick-up service at their homes.

Electoral area directors have been hearing from residents who are interested in having the CVRD provide roadside garbage and recycling pick-up in the rural areas. While this service is available to municipal residents and funded by municipal taxes, rural residents must hire a private company if they wish to have this service provided.

CVRD staff are currently working to assess whether neighbourhoods within the rural areas meet new criteria being developed by Recycle BC. Once identified, those communities will be consulted to assess their level of interest and to identify any barriers. If roadside pick up appears to have support, a formal assent process will be planned, giving communities the chance to vote on adding the new service.

More information will be shared in the coming months – watch for news updates this summer/fall.

**WE'VE MOVED**

The Comox Valley Regional District has now moved into its new office at 770 Harmston Ave. Courtenay. This new building redirects expensive lease payments to a debt repayment and community-owned asset, and relocates critical services, including emergency operations, out of a floodplain. Watch for info about an opening celebration this spring. Visit the website for more info: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/regionaloffice](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/regionaloffice)

## Questions?

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## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Deck Chat in the fall. There were lots of great questions from residents who attended our event at the Courtenay Country Market – and we hope we were able to share some information on topics of interest to you too. Hope to see you at our next update event.

## Planning for our future

The services and programs delivered by the Comox Valley Regional District are paid for by the people who use them – and making sure those services have enough money for both short and long-term plans while recognizing the impacts of rising costs on ratepayers, is a constant challenge for CVRD directors and staff.

This is why the Comox Valley Regional District is formalizing their approach to be able to deliver services sustainably, for the long-term.

Decision makers have to weigh the level of service being provided, with the risks we take on and the cost to current and future tax payers. To make those difficult decisions as responsible and transparent as possible, local governments are using the process of Asset Management to put systems in place that collect, analyze, and communicate the information we need to make informed decisions.

To start the work of implementing these processes staff will be working together to build up a program framework to move the organization towards Sustainable Service Delivery.

While this is largely work happening within the organization at this time, the results of analysis and planning will help to ensure a sustainable service delivery model for years to come.

