

Electoral Area C Community Update

February 2020
Issue 2

WELCOME

Welcome to the second issue of your Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area C 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/electoralareac for more info.



Area C Director
Edwin Grieve

YOUR COMMUNITY'S UPDATES

Construction set to start in 2020 on Merville fire hall

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 to learn more

Further assessment for Mount Washington fire service

The CVRD is working towards the construction of a fire services building on Mount Washington, with the building work targeted to begin in 2021. Geotechnical challenges with the designated site have required a revised cost estimate and delay in construction.

On the advice of the steering group for this service, the CVRD plans to seek electoral assent to increase the maximum tax levy and the maximum funds permitted to be borrowed for the construction.

More information will be shared with each property owner in the area as 2020 moves forward.

Area C 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

New septic care sessions being planned for spring/fall

On-site septic systems can provide effective, long-term wastewater treatment in rural areas. Regular maintenance and proper care can have a significant impact on how well a system works and how long it lasts.

The CVRD is working to help inform residents about how to care for their septic system with a series of workshops and online resources. This spring's workshop will be held in Dove Creek and in the fall, another will be hosted in Black Creek. Dates and locations are to be confirmed, but watch for updates in your mailbox or on the CVRD's website.

Can't wait to learn more?

Visit the CVRD's septic education website www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/septic for more information.



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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

Questions?

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Email: edwingrieve@shaw.ca



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Thank you to everyone who came out to talk with us at community events last year – including our open house in Merville and booth at the Comox Valley Farmers' Market. Getting a chance to talk with residents one-on-one helps make sure we understand what is important to you. We hope to see you at our events planned for this coming year.

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.

