

WELCOME - LAZO NORTH AREA

Thank you for taking a look at our second Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area B Community Update for 2021. We shared our last update in February this year, and we're glad to be able to provide more information about progress in the last four months.

If you have questions about the topics below - or any other CVRD business – please call or email. We're happy to answer any questions. Our next Community Update will be distributed this fall.



Have your say with Unified Alternative Approval Process

This year, the CVRD has introduced a new, streamlined opportunity to get direction from residents about initiatives that require their approval. Rather than a series of Alternative Approval Processes (AAPs) - known to some as counter-petitions - spread throughout the year, one unified AAP will be held in 2021 and it's underway now. The goal is to make it easier for the public to keep track of the proposals, and when/how to participate.

Here's what you need to know:

- The AAP is open from June 3-July 5, 2021.
- If you support the services being proposed, you don't need to do anything.
- If you're opposed you need to submit an elector response form. These can be downloaded at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/aap
- If 10 per cent of eligible electors submit forms in opposition, the board may choose to not proceed with the proposal at all, or may choose to hold a referendum to obtain voter support.

This year, there are a few key initiatives underway that will be of interest to Area B residents:



Roadside Garbage and Recycling Collection: A service for garbage and recycling pickup is being proposed for rural neighbourhoods. You can learn more about this proposed service at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/roadsidecollection



Sewer System Conveyance Project: Residents in Area B are not members of the Comox Valley Sewer Service and therefore do not participate in this AAP - however, we know the outcome of this will be of interest to residents in the Lazo area who will see construction work resulting from its outcome. The CVRD remains committed to keeping residents in the area informed about the process moving forward - you can check in at www.connectcvrd.ca/lwmp



Community Facilities Support: The CVRD is seeking elector approval to update the Black Creek Community Centre Service to include the other community halls in Areas B and C, including Halbe, Dove Creek and Merville. These halls are required to submit an annual grant application for operational funding. This service would provide consistent and reliable funding to these public facilities.



Keep in Touch

Have you visited our online engagement hub? ConnectCVRD is a great place to follow along on projects that are in-progress, share your feedback and ask questions. We have a page there for Electoral Area Updates too! Visit www.connectcvrd.ca

You can sign up for Emergency/ Urgent notifications as well through ConnectRocket. Sign up, and select what you would like to be updated on, and choose how you want to be notified by visiting: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified

And always, feel free to reach out about other questions you have: 250-702-5657

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Community Grants

Community grants are an important way to support programs and facilities throughout the CVRD. In April, Electoral Area Directors approved over \$165,000 in grant funds to non-profit organizations throughout the region.

Among the regional initiatives that received grant funding from all electoral areas are:

- LUSH Valley Food Action Society: \$15,000 To facilitate the 2021/2022 activities of the Comox Valley Food Policy Council.
- Comox Valley Land Trust: \$10,000 To build local climate resiliency by protecting, restoring and connecting sensitive ecosystems in the watershed.
- Youth and Ecological Restoration Program: \$5,300 To assist training at-risk youth in ecological inventory techniques within the CVRD area.

In total, there were 17 grants awarded from the Electoral Area B fund, including the contributions below:

- Little River Enhancement Society: \$6,000
- Anderton Therapeutic Gardens Society: \$2,000
- Tsolum River Restoration Society: \$3,000

To learn more about available grants visit: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/communitygrants

AREA B BRIEFS

NOTICE: Changes to Bylaw Service

Changes are being made to bylaw enforcement services in order to streamline delivery in the CVRD. Here's what you need to know:

- · Currently, bylaw enforcement is delivered through five different services (each requiring different administration requirements).
- Staff has proposed reorganizing into two services - one for Areas A, B and C, and one for Denman and Hornby Island.
- The change was proposed as part of the COVID Response and Renewal program review undertaken in fall 2020, where each CVRD department reviewed services to look for efficiencies and to refocus on community priorities.

This update will not change any of the regulations, and will have no cost impact for taxpayers.

Learn more about this update at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawrestructure

Do your part - be FireSmart

While forest fires may be a natural part of our ecosystem, with some additional information and effort residents can reduce the risk of losing buildings and properties in a wildfire event. The FireSmart program provides techniques to protect your property from burning, steps that can be done with little expense.

The CVRD, K'ómoks First Nation and four CVRD fire departments are working together to raise awareness of the FireSmart program and to encourage neighbourhoods to get involved. There's a short FireSmart101 program available online for anyone who would like to learn more.

Get more information at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart



Merville Fire Hall Planning Continues

Work is underway to get the Merville Fire Hall ready for construction. The project team is assessing design based on current materials costs to ensure the build can move forward within the allocated budget. The tender for construction is now out, with construction to begin in the fall.

Questions?

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