

# Electoral Area C Community Update

May 2022

Issue 8

## WELCOME - PUNTLEDGE - BLACK CREEK

Welcome to the second Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area C 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/fielduse)

## Mount Washington Fire Hall Moving Forward

Approval has been given for the construction of a fire hall at Mount Washington. The Alternative Approval Process (APP) ran from March 10 – April 11, with seven elector response forms submitted in opposition.

This means the borrowing of funds to finance the project received majority approval and the CVRD board will now proceed with final adoption of a loan authorization bylaw. Watch for updates at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mountwashingtonfire](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mountwashingtonfire)



## Mosquito Control: the plan for 2022

In March 2022, the CVRD Board approved the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan for the Saratoga Beach Community Mosquito Management Service. This allowed for planning of next steps around mosquito management in April/ May 2022. Duka Environmental is performing the management work, including larval surveillance, site mapping updates and cataloguing observations on the mosquito populations

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Residents can assist with mosquito control by ensuring their property drains properly (watch for long-standing puddles), removing water-holding containers, replacing water in bird baths and animal troughs regularly and clearing clogged gutters, drains and ditches.

## Black Creek-Oyster Bay (BCOB) water service news

The CVRD is continuing to make plans for long-term water supply in the Black Creek/Oyster Bay area, following a pause on connections implemented in 2021 based on current supply issues. We understand many residents are interested in next steps for BCOB Local Service Area, what the CVRD is doing to resolve water supply capacity. Here's what you need to know:

- Since the suspension in 2021, with water supply impacted by climate change, drought and population growth in the area, further exploratory and hydrogeological assessment work has been undertaken by the CVRD
- Two potential solutions to groundwater capacity issues have been identified on properties neighbouring the Oyster River Nature Park
- The CVRD is currently working through agreements and planning in the hopes of drilling a new well this summer.

Should all proceed smoothly, the earliest possible timing for removing the suspension of connections is September 2022, however we will keep the public informed on any changes to the timeline as we move forward.

## Merville Fire Hall is nearly complete.



The new auxiliary fire hall, located at the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society property at Williams Beach Road is nearly complete. The CVRD is planning the grand opening for this summer.



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.ca/electoralareas](http://www.connectcvr.ca/electoralareas)

## AREA C 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](http://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](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget)



### 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](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/foodhub)

## Questions?

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