



2010 Annual Report

2010 Annual Report

CVRD TEAM

FINANCIALS

PARTNERSHIP

CVRD TEAM

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PHOTO: Comox Valley rose in November

PHOTOGRAPHER: Patty Rose

COVER PHOTO: Courtenay River estuary

PHOTOGRAPHER: Scott Northrup



Message from the chair

On behalf of my colleagues on the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors, I am pleased to introduce the annual report for the year ending December 31, 2010.

The theme of this annual report is “partnership”, and I think that is very fitting, given that over the past year the Comox Valley local governments – both municipal and regional – worked together to adopt the sustainability strategy, moved forward on the regional growth strategy, and took a lead role in addressing homelessness in our area by purchasing land for an emergency shelter/supportive housing facility.

The CVRD board comes together every month to oversee the work of delivering critical services, such as water and sewer, to residents of the Comox Valley. The board also makes decisions around issues regarding parks, recreation services, and transit, and participates as members of the boards of the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District and regional solid waste management.

As you look through this report, I think you may be quite amazed at the range of initiatives that the CVRD was involved in during these 12 months. Whether it was renovating the sports centre, building a whole new water reservoir, creating a rebate program for low-flow toilets as part of the water efficiency strategy, or offering “Movies under the stars” for free to thousands of our citizens, the partnership of government, business and community was evident.

I am pleased to have been chair of the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors, and want to thank my fellow directors, the staff of the CVRD, and the other Comox Valley local governments and members of the public for their dedication, hard work and creativity. I am very much looking forward to what the next year has in store!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Phelps'.

Greg Phelps,
Chair



Message from the CAO

It's my pleasure to write this message as the third year of the Comox Valley Regional District's operation comes to a close, and what an active year it was!

This annual report's theme is "partnership" and when I look back on so many of the initiatives that occurred in 2010, it's easy to see why.

The CVRD partnered with the other Comox Valley local governments and the K'ómoks First Nation to sign the protocol agreement of shared understanding of common interests; we partnered with local businesses to bring the "TazzyTotes" reusable produce bag to consumers; we partnered with the community to create and complete the Barbara Road greenway; we partnered with special user groups to complete the portable stables at the CVRD's Comox Valley exhibition grounds.

We partnered with the federal and provincial governments in grant projects that resulted in the completion of the east Courtenay reservoir, enhancements to the most popular of the CVRD parks, Goose Spit, and the water sampling program for Comox Lake.

We partnered with BC Hydro to host a "media tour" of our water facilities to improve understanding of the complexity of bringing safe drinking water to approximately 40,000 people, and we partnered with business and with media on rebate programs aimed at improving understanding of the need to conserve that precious water resource.

We partnered with interested stakeholders on the review and development of the Courtenay River estuary management and action plans moving towards achieving the board's goal of protecting "the long-term environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits of the Courtenay River estuary."

And while all this was going on, we shepherded the Comox Valley sustainability strategy through to completion and acceptance by the board, moved the regional growth strategy to the last stages of its development, and we got the solid waste management plan review underway.

Midway through the year, we wrapped up the contract for support in the area of finance which we had been providing to the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) since its inception in 2008; we continued to provide electronic mapping (GIS) support to the SRD through the rest of the year, and into 2011.

The organization took a big step forward in the world of two-way communication, with the implementation of corporate Facebook and Twitter pages, which have both grown rapidly since we launched them in August. We added these tools to the many ways we communicate with our residents, with the media and with those even beyond our boundaries.

Overall, 2010 represented a year of moving forward with a great sense of accomplishment. As we go into 2011, I am looking forward to working with the directors, staff, and members of the community as we focus on strategic and operational processes to complete the goals of the board.

Debra Oakman, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer



2010 Comox Valley Regional District board of directors

BACK ROW, L to R: Jim Gillis, Lazo North - Area 'B'; Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands - Area 'A'; Edwin Grieve (CVRD vice chair), Puntledge-Black Creek - Area 'C'

FRONT ROW, L to R: Paul Ives (CSRHD vice-chair), Town of Comox; Patti Fletcher, Town of Comox; Leslie Baird, Village of Cumberland; Greg Phelps (CVRD chair), City of Courtenay

MISSING: Larry Jangula and Murray Presley - both City of Courtenay



2010 Comox Valley Regional District executive management team

BACK ROW, L to R: Gaya Laflamme, executive manager human resources; Leigh Carter, general manager public affairs & information systems; Debra Oakman, chief administrative officer; Beth Dunlop, corporate financial officer; Teresa Warnes, executive assistant

FRONT ROW, L to R: Geoff Garbutt, executive manager of strategic and long range planning; James Warren, corporate legislative officer; Kevin Lorette, general manager property services; Ian Smith, general manager community services



PHOTO: Comox Marina

PHOTOGRAPHER: Hans Peter Meyer



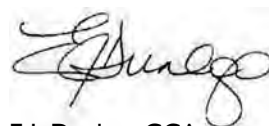
Management's responsibility for financial reporting

These summarized consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management from the complete consolidated financial statements for inclusion in this annual report. They provide a brief overview of the regional district's financial position at December 31, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Management maintains a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are authorized, recorded and reported properly. Management also maintains a program of proper business compliance.

The board of directors is responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements and for ensuring that management fulfils its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP, Chartered Accountants, the regional district's independent auditors, have conducted an examination of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and have expressed their opinion in their report which accompanies the complete audited financial statements available at the regional district office or online at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca.



E.J. Dunlop, CGA

Officer responsible for financial administration,
pursuant to Section 199 of the Local Government Act
Comox Valley Regional District



MEYERS NORRIS PENNY LLP

Auditors' report

To the Board of Directors of the Comox Valley Regional District:

The accompanying summarized consolidated statement of financial position and statement of operations are derived from the complete financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District as at December 21, 2010 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated March 29, 2011. The fair summarization of the complete consolidated financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guidelines of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Statement of Financial Position

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these summarized consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these summarized consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require

that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete consolidated financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting standards. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Regional District's financial position, results of operations, changes in net financial assets and cash flows, readers are invited to obtain a full set of audited financial statements from the Regional District office or online at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca.

Chartered Accountants
Campbell River, British Columbia
March 29, 2011

Summarized consolidated statement of financial position

as at December 31, 2010 (audited)

	2010	2009
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 57,461,066	\$ 51,863,037
Receivables and inventory for resale	3,317,082	6,045,926
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	20,933,861	21,852,261
Total Financial Assets	81,712,009	79,761,224
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	5,009,429	4,330,964
Short-term debt	300,000	1,890,000
Long-term debt	54,786,815	55,992,009
Deferred revenue	10,702,485	8,307,351
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	4,401,077	3,377,235
Total Liabilities	75,199,806	73,897,559
Net Financial Assets	6,512,203	5,863,665
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	58,580	75,066
Inventory of supplies	76,517	77,604
Tangible capital assets	92,917,153	87,463,085
Total Non-Financial Assets	93,052,250	87,615,755
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 99,564,453	\$ 93,479,420

Summarized consolidated statement of operations

year ended December 31, 2010 (audited)

	2010 Actual	2010 Budget (Unaudited)	2009 Actual
Revenue			
Frontage and parcel taxes	\$ 417,280	\$ 416,077	\$ 181,464
Grants in lieu of taxes	424,736	291,174	400,436
Tax requisitions - electoral area and municipal	18,367,222	18,367,222	17,299,119
Transfers from other governments	1,459,470	3,079,809	3,310,343
Sales of services and other revenue sources	15,348,673	14,627,122	14,931,209
Capital contributions from others	408,361	-	1,353,820
Investment income and actuarial adjustment	1,294,018	-	1,496,947
Total revenue	37,719,760	36,781,404	38,973,338
Expenses			
General government services	3,575,879	4,508,858	3,452,036
Protective services	2,597,218	2,685,208	2,553,266
Transportation services	2,003,671	2,268,702	1,767,979
Environmental health services	15,420,012	14,495,000	11,376,783
Public health and welfare services	131,944	226,671	66,352
Environmental development services	2,508,051	3,521,912	3,304,546
Recreation and cultural services	7,834,411	7,958,563	7,726,572
Total expenses	34,071,186	35,664,914	30,247,534
Annual surplus	3,648,574	1,116,490	8,725,804
Acquisition of equity from Royston Improvement District	2,436,459	-	-
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	93,479,420	93,479,420	84,753,616
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 99,564,453	\$ 94,595,910	\$ 93,479,420



PHOTO: Looking over Smith's Farm (Puntledge-Black Creek -- Area 'C')

PHOTOGRAPHER: Hans Peter Meyer





PHOTO: CVRD's compost education centre, Campbell River

PHOTOGRAPHER: Elaine Jansen

A bloomin' great event

In 2009 the CVRD received provincial funds to support the Trees for Tomorrow project at the regional district's compost education centre in Campbell River. Untold numbers of community volunteer hours worked to turn those funds into expansion of the facility, with the result that, in June 2010, the City of Campbell River's "Communities in Bloom" committee selected the site as a natural place to showcase and further enhance a waterwise garden. Later that summer the national Communities in Bloom judges were the first to step into the waterwise garden as they made a special visit to the compost education centre.

The waterwise garden was a partnership between the CVRD's solid waste management service, the province's Trees for Tomorrow program, the City of Campbell River, the Communities in Bloom organization and St. Peter's Church.

All abooooooard! The Comox Valley regional growth strategy picks up steam in 2010

The Comox Valley regional growth strategy, mandated by the provincial government when it created the CVRD in 2008, took several significant steps in 2010. A regional growth strategy bylaw was drafted, received technical and legal reviews and, in early May, was presented to the Comox Valley elected officials.

In June the draft regional growth strategy bylaw was presented to the CVRD committee of the whole and consultation was held through public open houses, meetings with K'ómoks First Nation, intergovernmental advisory committees and local government staff.

Following amendments to the bylaw by the Comox Valley elected officials, the Comox Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw 120, 2010 was forwarded to the CVRD board for first and second readings, followed by a public hearing in early August.

At the August 31 board meeting, the bylaw was further amended and a public information meeting, followed by a public hearing, was held in September. At its September 21 meeting, the board of directors referred Bylaw No. 120 to affected local governments and adjacent regional districts for acceptance in accordance with part 25 of the Local Government Act and requested they respond within 60 days. A meeting was also held with the province to discuss concerns raised by the K'ómoks First Nation.

On November 30 the regional board was advised that, although the bylaw had been accepted by the affected regional districts, the affected member municipalities had not accepted it. The province directed the CVRD to proceed with a non-binding mediated process and on December 13 consensus on the amendments was reached by the participants.

The report from the mediated session, the proposed amendments to the bylaw, and the responses from the Comox Valley local governments will be brought to the January 25, 2011 board meeting where the board may approve the recommended changes to the bylaw, and pursuant to the Act, or forward the bylaw again to the affected local governments for acceptance for a further 60 days. It is anticipated that the regional growth strategy bylaw will be adopted in March 2011.

And on another “regional strategy” front in 2010, in February the Comox Valley sustainability strategy was received and supported by board, which agreed to use it as a guide to consider sustainability in future actions. The sustainability strategy has been incorporated into the board’s strategic plan as well as into CVRD operational procedures/processes.

Banking on a free swim Canadian Western Bank free Saturday swims

July 3 through August 21, the CVRD received a sponsorship from the Canadian Western Bank to provide free Saturday swimming at the CVRD's aquatic centre, which was a great opportunity to promote healthy living, wellness, accessibility and community spirit.

Build it and they will come

In 2010, significant planning went into improving transit service in the Comox Valley. Planning came from BC Transit, which owns the system, and from the CVRD through its sustainability and regional growth strategies, which include policies aimed at increasing density in core settlement areas around transit corridors and increasing transit mode share – the “buzz word” for getting more people to take transit than to use their cars.

And the planning paid off! The first phase of schedule expansion and improvements added approximately 1,300 hours of service to the bus schedule. In 2010, ridership was estimated to be approximately 534,400 which was up six percent from the year before, and was the highest annual ridership since the transit service was established.

A vacant CVRD staff position was filled and made responsible for management of the transit service, and a transit management advisory committee was re-established late in 2010. The staff person and the committee will help support the partnership between BC Transit, the CVRD, member municipalities and the contractor for operating the buses, Watson & Ash.

Building water efficient communities

Building water efficient communities reflects the goals of the water efficiency plan adopted by the CVRD and includes public education as well as other initiatives to help residents use water more efficiently.

In 2010, the CVRD used a combination of education, enforcement and incentives to encourage wise water use. From the “art on a rain barrel” contest through rebates on toilets and cisterns, the initiatives used public participation, community relationships, and local government support to enhance the awareness of the need to work together to reduce water system costs and to ensure a sustainable water future.



PHOTO: Members of the public are keen to find out about water-saving methods – from cisterns to low-flow shower heads, at one of the many public events the CVRD “education trailer” attended.

PHOTO: In September, Don Castleden, chair of the Project Watershed board, presented a painting to the CVRD board in recognition of the leadership role the directors played with respect to protection of the Courtenay River estuary.

L to R: Don Castleden, Tom Knight (CVRD manager of planning services), Kent Leontowich (CVRD planner), Jim Gillis (CVRD director – Lazo North (Area 'B'))

PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Beebe



Working together to protect the Courtenay River estuary

In 2010, the CVRD board made protection of the Courtenay River estuary one of its strategic priorities, and in February, the CVRD's property services branch led the revision of the draft Courtenay River estuary management plan (CREMP).

The CREMP's primary focus was on providing direction on the maintenance and enhancement of the estuary's environmental values through integrated management and coordinated decision-making among all governments. In recognition of this, the CVRD established a steering committee and terms of reference for the review process.

The CVRD hosted 11 separate meetings with participation from local, provincial and federal government agencies, the K'ómoks First Nation (which is participating on a government-to-government basis) as well as special interest groups. These meetings have resulted in the update and revision of the vision

statement, purpose, goals, principles, objectives and action programs. Still to come is a draft implementation agreement for consideration. The effective implementation of the updated CREMP will require an administrative body specifically tasked to bring the plan into being.

This initiative is particularly timely given the number of changes since the CREMP was first drafted in 2000 but never adopted. New provincial statutes, plans, regulatory documents and policies have come into effect since that time. New scientific data has also been received on issues ranging from health of resident fish and water quality to archaeological history. The Comox Valley has experienced continued population growth, and industrial development around the estuary has changed with the removal of the Lafarge Cement silo, Field sawmill and log booms in the Royston area. The revision and update of the CREMP is expected to be completed in early 2011 and is to be tied closely with the regional growth strategy (RGS).

PHOTO: East Courtenay water facility – new reservoir on the right

PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Beebe

Federal, provincial and local governments expand water system



A major project to increase water storage capacity in the Comox Valley was fully completed in April 2010, approximately two years after it got underway.

The Comox Valley water system contains six large water storage reservoirs located throughout Courtenay, Comox and the CVRD which serve the community by providing water for residential use and required fire fighting flows. In 2008 the CVRD identified the need for additional water storage in order to match demand from the community. This need required the construction of a new 20 metre

diameter by 26 metre high – 7.5 million litre water storage reservoir -- at a cost of 3.5 million dollars.

The CVRD applied to the Canadian/British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and was awarded a grant to cover two thirds of the project costs. The engineering work was awarded to Associated Engineering (BC) Ltd. and construction to D. Robinson Contracting Ltd.

The design utilized a unique concrete construction technique known as 'slip forming' where concrete is poured into a continuously moving form that slips

up the tower as it is constructed. The concrete pour associated with the new reservoir went on for seven days, 24 hours a day. The new reservoir contains over 164,000 kilograms of reinforcing steel and cable and 2,560,000 kilograms of concrete.

In addition to construction of the new reservoir, water level monitoring and alarms were tied into the CVRD's main reservoir control systems, a de-chlorination chamber was constructed for the reservoir drain, and on-site utility upgrades were completed.



PHOTO: CVRD's portable stalls

PHOTOGRAPHER: John Goodwin

Exhibition grounds get portable stables

The local equestrian community partnered with the CVRD on the purchase, assembly and installation of two sets of portable stalls at the CVRD's exhibition grounds. The Vancouver Island Quarter Horse Association (North) and the North Vancouver Island Horse Association contributed from their Comox Valley equestrian building fund and received a donation of in-kind materials and site preparation from Wacor Holdings Ltd. to bring this long planned project to fruition in 2010.



PHOTO: The Barbara Road greenway gang. Front three people from left to right: CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B') Jim Gillis, MP for Vancouver Island North John Duncan, CVRD parks planner Karin Albert

PHOTOGRAPHER: Sheila Van Nus

Grant partnerships get work done

BARBARA ROAD GREENWAY

A Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) grant enabled the CVRD to provide an improved and formalized trail that offers year-round pedestrian access to Huband elementary school and a link to Seal Bay nature park. Teachers and the principal at Huband Park Elementary school were a driving force behind this initiative. The RInC program provided \$36,220 of the \$73,000 project, with the remainder provided by the CVRD. These funds were used to construct 155 metres of elevated boardwalk and bridge to provide a year round walking surface, as well as to allow continued normal water drainage patterns in the area.

CVRD SPORTS CENTRE RENOVATION

Thanks to a grant from RInC, the majority of the work for the CVRD's sports centre renovation was completed in 2010. The arena dressing rooms were generously enlarged and the accessibility greatly improved with the addition of an accessible family washroom in the front lobby, an accessible washroom in the men's and women's pool change rooms and a new accessible family shower in the pool area. The RInC grant provided \$437,723 of the total renovation cost of \$1.7 million.

Grant partnerships get work done *cont'd...*

GOOSE SPIT PARK ENHANCEMENTS

A RInC grant enabled the CVRD to upgrade Goose Spit park by increasing the use of trails, improving accessibility and parking, adding and upgrading park facilities and undertaking ecosystem restorations. The grant provided \$98,160 of the \$294,500 project, with the remainder provided by the CVRD. Facility upgrades will include the addition of 10 access trails to the beach, a trail and stairway to connect the park to an upland neighbourhood, and wheelchair accessible parking stalls.

Other project work included parking lot repairs, upgrades to the washroom area, a lost and found box and storage space for park maintenance equipment, a new park entrance with signage, a visitor information kiosk and interpretative signs, a wheelchair accessible picnic area, a trail head for a pedestrian walkway, a new sand dune ecosystem restoration area, including interpretive signs, and additional park benches and picnic tables.



PHOTO: Visitor to Goose Spit parks find the new interpretive signs interesting

PHOTOGRAPHER: Karin Albert

Communication goes two-way with the community

In the summer of 2010, the CVRD stepped into the world of social media in order to broaden its communication with residents and the public at large. The CVRD created its own Facebook and Twitter pages, and YouTube site, as tools to get information out quickly, and to engage in a two-way conversation on items of interest to those who signed on to “follow” and “like”.

The social media sites joined the regional district’s website, print material and education programs as additional means of communicating to a wide variety of audiences.

Among the many advantages of social media communications tools is the ability for non-IT people to post information quickly, to respond to questions online in real time, and to reach people in a different way – even via their mobile devices. The value of social media was demonstrated shortly after it was launched, when the CVRD issued a boil water notice. The “traffic” on the CVRD’s social media pages was immediate and sustained during the advisory, with the number of followers going up by over 300 on Facebook and 100 on Twitter. The numbers continued to climb as the year came to a close, and the pages became a normal “go to” place for information going into 2011.





If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise!

Members of the Comox Valley naturalist society installed 600 native plants to help restore the natural ecosystem area along Wilkinson road, giving a helping hand to the CVRD's work to turn the property into the Little River nature park. The Little River enhancement society has also been active in aiding the restoration process, by stocking the ponds with sea-run cutthroat trout. To help provide shading for the ponds and ensure lower water temperatures needed for trout survival, native species planting will continue in the spring of 2011 along the pond edges.



The Denman Island residents association's parks committee developed an interpretive loop trail and nature walk at the CVRD's Stanehill Park. Committee chair Dr Peter Karsten prepared a brochure for the nature walk which has approximately 80 identified species. Prior to the work of these volunteers, this CVRD park was inactive.

TOP PHOTO: Local naturalist volunteers Karen Franzen and Murray Little working in the Little River nature park

PHOTOGRAPHER: Krista Kaptein

BOTTOM PHOTO: L to R: Denman Island resident volunteers for Stanehill Park project: Frances Honsinger, Galen Malthouse, Ocea White, Chenoa Honsinger, and Autumn White holding her son Miles. Behind the sign – committee chair and sign maker Peter Karsten, Guinevere Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHER: Brian Allaert

If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise! cont'd...

The parks committee of the Hornby Island residents and ratepayers association put in many hours to improve the facilities at the Sandpiper Beach Park. The improvements include a new trail to the beach, a new parking area, seeding of the old muddy parking lot into lawn, and clearing of brush. Sandpiper is a Ministry of Transportation beach access which the CVRD took over managing in 2009.



TOP PHOTO: Sandpiper beach park after the improvements

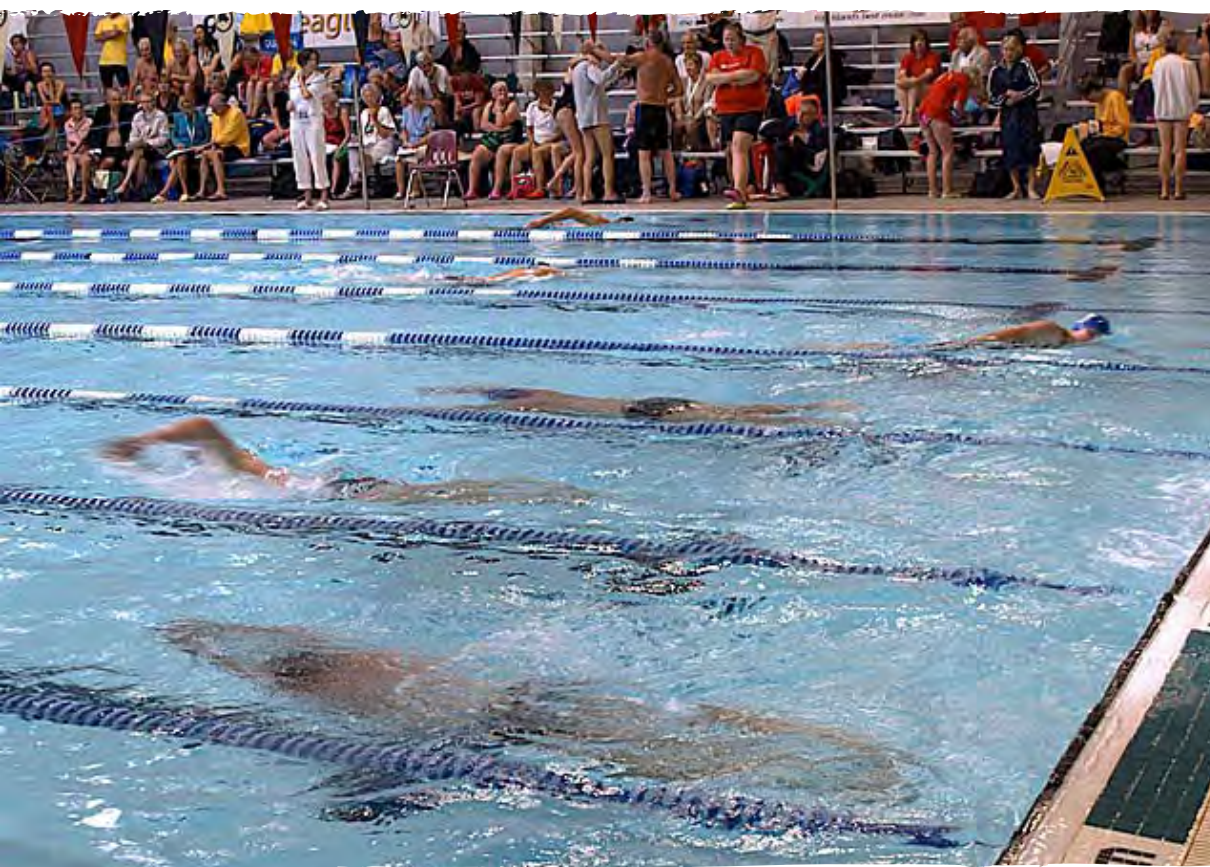


PHOTO: Swimming event at the CVRD's aquatic centre

Let the games begin!

BC SENIOR GAMES

In September, the Comox Valley and the City of Campbell River were hosts to the 2010 BC Seniors Games. With the support of the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts, the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox, the Village of Cumberland and the City of Campbell River, over 3,300 participants competed in 28 different events. With over 1,700 volunteers giving of their time, we shared the “Spirit of the Island”.

CHINA VS. SWEDEN WOMEN’S HOCKEY GAME

In February, in partnership with the Comox Valley Economic Development Society, the Spirit of BC and Comox Valley minor hockey, the CVRD’s sports centre played host to a pre-Olympic practice and exhibition game. The Chinese and Swedish women’s hockey teams delighted the sold out crowd and enabled those who couldn’t get to Vancouver to attend an Olympic event to have a taste of the real thing, right here in the Comox Valley.



Media tour

On July 28, the CVRD hosted a media tour of its water system: Comox Lake, the dam, reservoirs, the treatment facility, and the generating station. The system is complex and the subject of water is always top-of-mind, so the tour was designed to give reporters an in-depth look at how water gets from the lake to the tap, and why it is crucial to protect such a vital resource.

In this photo, CVRD's manager of water services, Kerry Mayo, highlights features of the dam to some of the newspaper and radio reporters on the tour.

The CVRD and First Insurance partner to deliver Movies Under the Stars

The First Insurance Agency (FIA) and the CVRD joined forces to bring a series of “Movies under the Stars” to the community: one at the Comox marina park, one at the Comox Valley exhibition grounds and one at Campbell River’s Willow Point park. The movie night is a community spirited, big screen celebration of outdoor summer fun that the CVRD has presented since 2007. These free events feature a different family-oriented movie each night, with accompanying information on healthy communities, sustainability, water efficiency and waste reduction. FIA pre-purchased concession supplies, and then a group of eco-team volunteers recruited by the JET FM “Easy Green Team” sold the merchandise at the events with all proceeds going to support the Comox Valley and Campbell River high school eco-teams. These funds will help the students do more within their schools to promote conservation and sustainability.



PHOTO: Left to Right: Robyn Nicholson and Lynn Slater of 98.9 JET FM, Judy Berkeley of Highland Secondary, Maye Davis and Annie Harker of G.P. Vanier Secondary, Charlene Reinisch representing First Insurance Agencies and Paul Ives, chair of the Comox Valley water committee.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Beebe

PHOTO: Steve Russell, CVRD waterworks technician, taking samples from Comox Lake

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kerry Bird

Working together to address climate change impacts on water quality in Comox Lake



In the spring of 2010, an initial analysis completed as part of the regional water supply strategy confirmed that water quality in Comox Lake could be affected by potential climate change scenarios. The Comox Valley Regional District engaged in a partnership with the Water and Aquatic Sciences Program at the University of Victoria (UVIC) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to model the effects of climate change on Comox Lake.

Extreme weather associated with a changing climate may contribute to an increase in waterborne disease outbreaks. It is believed that weather patterns, such as heavy rainfall and warmer temperatures, may negatively impact drinking water quality by affecting the pathogen load in water sources. Together, UVIC, NSERC and the CVRD are working to detect, assess and model risks and vulnerability to waterborne disease outbreaks in Comox Lake. This will allow

the CVRD to address such climate-related risks and to develop an adaptation plan to attend to public health concerns in the Comox Valley water supply. It could also assist the CVRD in determining how to meet new water quality standards required by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

Work on the project began in August of 2010 and will involve five years of water quality monitoring in Comox Lake. The data collected in Comox Lake will then be compared and validated against modeling and data being gathered by four other BC communities participating in this project. It is expected that the tools and approaches developed through this partnership will be modified for broader use, enabling other communities to assess risk, develop adaptation strategies, and make informed decisions that will help to mitigate risks to public health in a changing climate.



PHOTO: L to r: Edwin Grieve - CVRD director (Puntledge-Black Creek - Area 'C'), Paul Ives - CVRD director and Mayor, Town of Comox, Greg Phelps - CVRD director and Mayor, City of Courtenay, Ernie Hardy - Chief, K'ómoks First Nation, Fred Bates - Mayor, Village of Cumberland

Sharing an understanding:

Comox Valley local governments and KFN sign protocol agreement

In June, the CVRD, City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and the K'ómoks First Nation signed a protocol agreement which laid out a shared understanding of key interests, a basis for establishing a positive government-to-government relationship in the Comox Valley.

Initial principles had been identified the year before, a series of "reconciliation and recognition" workshops had been hosted by KFN and attended by elected and non-elected officials from the Comox Valley, and several follow up meetings had been held to work on a shared understanding of key interests.

The final protocol agreement was intended to serve as a beginning for more productive and detailed conversations regarding, among other things, culture, heritage and environmental protection, joint economic development, emergency preparedness, consultation and land use planning and management. The agreement was seen as a high level commitment to work together and share information, and as some of the topics are addressed, action plans will be developed to find solutions to the issues.

The CVRD and the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce

The CVRD sponsored the Environmental Initiative award at the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce annual community awards in January. The award acknowledges a business, organization or person who supports the need to be environmentally conscious and has demonstrated that in the development or implementation of an environmentally sensitive program. Jack Minard was the recipient of the award, and he thanked the CVRD for its sponsorship and the Comox Valley business community for recognizing the importance of the environment in all aspects of our lives.

Later in the year – in July – the CVRD and the Chamber again came together in a “sustainable setting”. The CVRD’s Comox Valley compost education centre was the setting for a Chamber “mixer” where the regional district and the JET FM Easy Green Team showcased initiatives that revolve around the importance of local food production, sustainability, water efficiency and waste reduction. It was an opportunity for the business community to learn more about programs that could assist with their business’s “green” messaging or product.



PHOTO: CVRD contract educator Gayle Bates and Jack Minard

PHOTO: Stakeholder roundtable on homelessness
- September 2010

PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Beebe

The region joins forces to help the homeless

In 2010, land acquisition for an emergency shelter/supportive housing was named a CVRD strategic plan objective.

BC Housing expects that local governments will provide suitable property before it will consider building a structure that would be used for shelters or supporting housing, so in early 2010, the CVRD issued a public call for interest from property owners who had land to sell that met the criteria for a site for that type of housing. In October, the CVRD board approved the purchase of property at 865, 877 and 889 Cliffe Avenue in Courtenay at a price of \$470,000 plus HST, to be the site

of an emergency shelter and supportive housing facility in the Comox Valley. This was accomplished under the land acquisition service, which is a true partnership, in that all three municipalities and all three electoral areas participate.

Also, in 2010, the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) awarded the CVRD a \$50,000 “capacity building grant” to address homelessness in the Comox Valley. Consultants were hired in the summer to work with the CVRD’s housing and homelessness standing committee which has a mandate to, among other things, identify opportunities for non-profits to convert buildings

for affordable housing purposes, create and strengthen links to the non-profit sector in the community (as the sector that ultimately builds and operates housing units), recommend methods to promote a sustainable model for addressing housing and homelessness in the Comox Valley, develop community understanding and support for secondary suites and other forms of supportive and affordable housing, meet with organizations to identify barriers to increasing options for affordable housing, and recommend to the CVRD the best way to address homelessness in the region.





PHOTO: From left to right - Rick Gaiga, manager of Comox Valley Thrifty Foods and Lisa Rahn, principal of Tazzy Totes, present a \$2,000 cheque in support of zero waste education to Gayle Bates, CSWM contract educator and Greg Phelps, chair of the Comox Valley Regional District's greater solid waste board, which covers the CVRD and the Strathcona Regional Districts

PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Beebe

Waste? Not!

RE-USABLE PRODUCE BAG INITIATIVE

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service brought local entrepreneur company TazzyTotes together with Thrifty Foods with the goal of getting closer to zero waste through the use of reusable produce/bulk food bags. As a result, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, the Thrifty Foods stores in the Comox Valley and Campbell River started offering a new line of reusable produce/bulk food bags developed by TazzyTotes. The introduction of these bags into the stores was the “next generation” in the continuum of removing single-use grocery bags from the waste stream.

For every package sold, one dollar went back into the CSWM public education programs focused on behavior change regarding waste reduction through rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling.

Waste? Not! cont'd...

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

In 2010, the CSWM hosted household hazardous waste drop off days in both the Comox Valley and Campbell River. The events were held on Saturday, May 29th in the parking lot of the Driftwood Mall in Courtenay and then the following weekend in the parking lot behind Campbell River Common.

GOLD RIVER MARKET DAY

The CSWM educators, Gayle Bates and Zac Whyte, visit many schools and community events each year, engaging people in the message of “The Power of R” – rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle. This photo was taken at the Gold River market day on June 25, and is just one example of the outreach and interaction Gayle and Zac are involved in throughout the region. In addition to 40 schools in districts 71 and 72, some of the community events in which the CSWM educators participated were the Quadra Island quilt and garden tour, the Campbell River garden and art tour, the Big Day Up on Mountain Washington, the Denman Island farmers market, the Comox Valley farmers market, the Black Creek fall fair and the Haig Brown festival.



PHOTO: Gold River Mayor Craig Anderson helps market organizer Christine O'Neil set up.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Gayle Bates