



Annual Report 2012<-----

Snow sentinels looking down on the Comox Valley from the top of Mount Washington
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Paul Ives

FRONT COVER: Haying time in the Comox Valley PHOTOGRAPHER: Hans Peter Meyer

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--> 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, 2012.

The theme of this annual report is “getting it done”. It’s an apt theme for the past 12 months, as they have been filled with implementation and conclusion. It doesn’t mean that there is no work left in front of us, but it does mean that some very large, complex and time-consuming initiatives were completed. A big one, of course, was the completion of the updated solid waste management plan, and adoption of the plan by the board.

The public consultation around the solid waste management plan – which is mandated by the Ministry of Environment for all regional districts – was extensive. The consultation process included 14 public open houses and presentations held throughout the region to provide everyone with an opportunity to learn more about solid waste management and to provide input on options for future programs and services. Approximately 700 feedback forms were completed at the open houses or online. As well, a statistically-representative telephone survey was conducted. The board of the Comox Strathcona waste management service, which is a function of the CVRD and includes elected officials from member municipalities and rural areas of the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts, adopted the plan at

its September meeting. The plan provides the direction on how we will manage all aspects of our waste –compostable, recyclable and disposable.

Other notable “completions” in 2012 included the renovations to the Fanny Bay fire hall, the improvements to the Comox Valley transit system, the cross-island trail on Denman Island and the awarding of the CVRD bursary to grade 12 students at Highland, Vanier and Mark Isfeld secondary schools.

I would also like to give special acknowledgement to the federal government’s gas tax financing, allocated to the local government Community Works Fund, for assistance on projects including the Denman Island Parnell water system upgrade, upgrades to the Don Apps and Hawkins trails, ‘share the road’ signs for cycling, and stormwater management. In all, CVRD projects benefited from over \$220,000 in Community Works funding.

I am pleased to have been chair of the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors for the past year, and I am very much looking forward to 2013, and to working with my colleagues on the board, with CVRD staff and with our residents over the next 12 months – and beyond!

Edwin Grieve,
Chair



-----> Message from the CAO



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

We have chosen "Getting it done" as the theme for the 2012 report, and it's fitting, in that we did get many things done which will enable us to move forward on a number of fronts to even better serve our residents.

In May, the CVRD signed an agreement with the Union Bay Improvement District for the transfer of water supply assets owned by the improvement district. That agreement paved

the way for the Kensington Island Properties development in Union Bay to move forward with applying for building permits and also constructing a water treatment plant, which will ultimately serve residents of the new and existing properties in the area. It was so satisfying to see the long process of dialogue and negotiation culminate in such a cooperative agreement.

We were also successful in securing a \$325,000 grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's Community Recreation Program to help fund the CVRD's Royston waterfront trail project.

The CVRD administers the solid waste service for residents who live in both the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts, and in June, the new transfer station and recycling area was completed at the waste management centre in Campbell River.

We continued to enhance the 'transit experience' with improved routes and schedules, and also some innovative initiatives such as the summer weekend bus to Goose Spit and a Courtenay-to-Comox express bus.

And, as the CVRD board of directors also participate as members of the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District, it was most gratifying to see the north island hospitals project move even further along, with the provincial commitment given to funding 60 per cent of the estimated cost of up to \$600 million for the two new hospitals which will benefit patients and their families in our region, and in the surrounding communities.

I want to take this moment to thank the board of directors, our staff and the Comox Valley residents for the support and hard work over the past year; we did indeed 'get it done'!

Debra Oakman, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer



--> 2012 CVRD board of directors

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Edwin Grieve (chair), Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'); Manno Theos, City of Courtenay; Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound - Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Tom Grant, Town of Comox; Jon Ambler, City of Courtenay; Jim Gillis, Lazo North (Area 'B')

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Starr Winchester, City of Courtenay; Patti Fletcher (vice-chair), Town of Comox; Gwyn Sproule, Village of Cumberland





2012 CVRD executive management team < - - -

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Beth Dunlop, corporate financial officer; Leigh Carter, general manager – public affairs & information systems; Debra Oakman, chief administrative officer; Teresa Warnes, executive assistant

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Geoff Garbutt, executive manager – strategic & long range planning; Kevin Lorette, general manager – property services; Ian Smith, general manager – community services; James Warren, corporate legislative officer; Will Hwang, executive manager – human resources.



--> Management's responsibility for financial reporting

These summarized financial statements have been prepared for management from the complete financial statements for inclusion in this annual report. They provide a brief financial overview of the regional district's financial position at December 31, 2012 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2012.

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.

BDO Canada LLP, Chartered Accountants, the regional district's independent auditor, has conducted an examination of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and has expressed an opinion in the auditor's report which accompanies the complete 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



— — —> Auditor's report



To the Board of Directors Comox Valley Regional District

The accompanying summary financial statements which comprise the Summary Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2012, the Summary Statement of Operations, Changes in Net Debt and Cash Flows for the year then-ended. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 26, 2013. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary of the audited financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District for the year ended December 31, 2012 are a fair summary of those financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BDO Canada LLP".

Chartered Accountants

Vancouver, British Columbia
March 26, 2013



--> Summarized statement of financial position as at December 31, 2012 (audited)

	2012	2011
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 65,070,143	\$ 61,614,705
Receivables and inventory for resale	2,689,113	3,321,943
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	25,942,863	22,051,692
Total Financial Assets	93,702,119	86,988,340
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	4,995,385	4,335,900
Short-term debt	1,353,100	1,564,800
Long-term debt	54,963,417	53,544,139
Restricted revenue	13,097,068	12,134,162
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	20,442,794	15,831,783
Total Liabilities	94,851,764	87,410,784
Net Debt	(1,149,645)	(422,444)
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	113,465	119,954
Inventory of supplies	72,240	69,110
Tangible capital assets	97,520,791	95,024,066
Total Non-Financial Assets	97,706,496	95,213,130
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 96,556,851	\$ 94,790,686

-> Summarized statement of operations

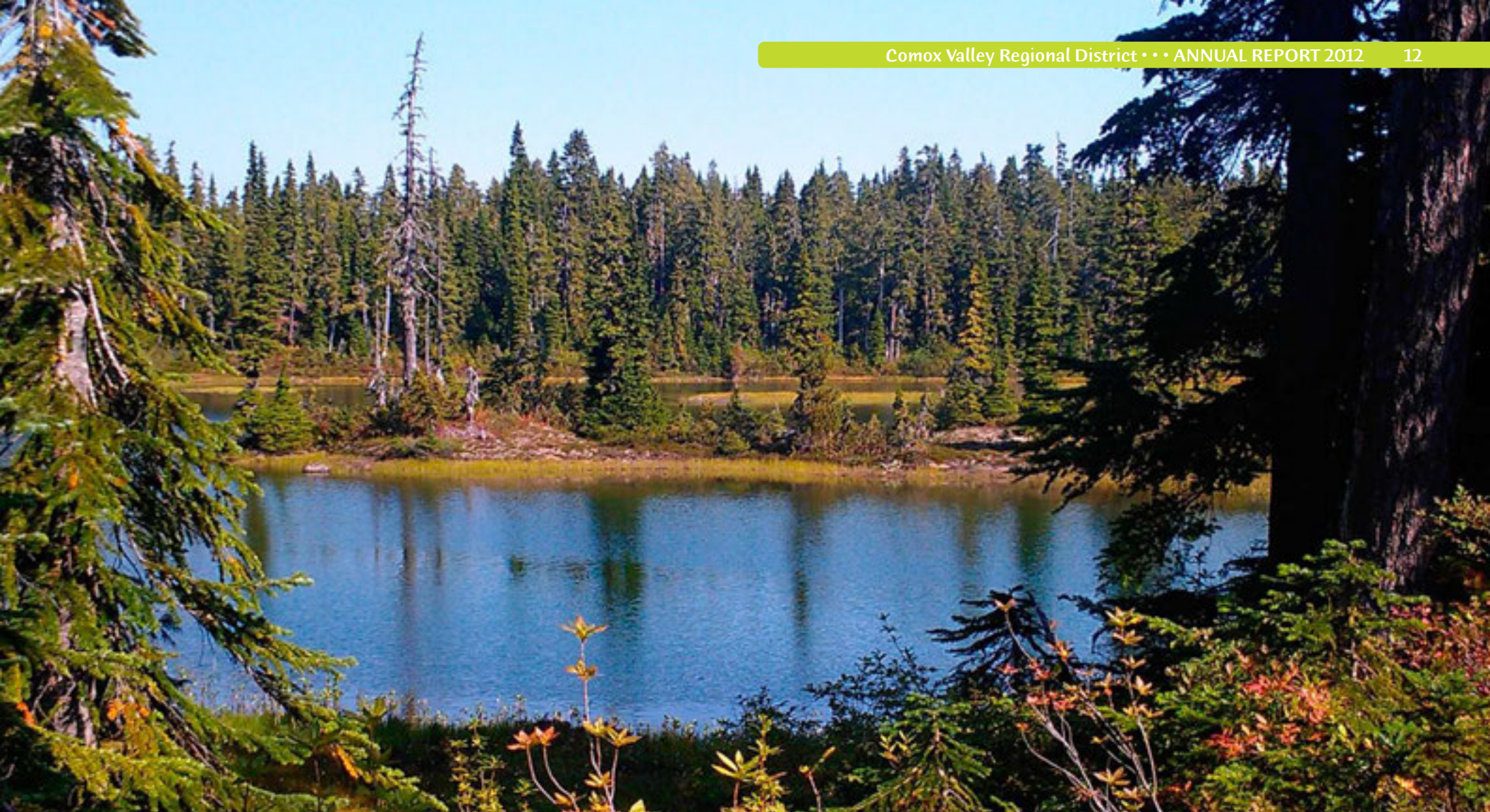
year ended December 31, 2012 (audited)

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2011 Actual
Revenue			
Frontage and parcel taxes	\$ 418,453	\$ 418,653	\$ 419,180
Grants in lieu of taxes	184,524	382,964	446,925
Tax requisitions - electoral area and municipal	19,767,322	19,767,322	19,294,665
Transfers from other governments	3,888,669	1,108,107	1,127,125
Sales of services and other revenue sources	15,656,027	16,086,044	14,379,499
Capital contributions from others	-	771,883	397,892
Investment income	70,000	766,871	945,408
Total Revenue	<u>39,984,995</u>	<u>39,301,844</u>	<u>37,010,694</u>
Expenses			
General government services	6,316,968	3,508,744	3,959,999
Protective services	2,900,484	2,876,852	2,837,957
Transportation services	2,562,260	2,185,633	2,036,458
Environmental health services	14,046,657	18,348,532	23,750,840
Public health and welfare services	116,797	62,976	49,967
Environmental development services	3,132,514	2,515,196	2,396,153
Recreation and cultural services	8,634,176	8,037,746	7,782,526
Total Expenses	<u>37,709,856</u>	<u>37,535,679</u>	<u>42,813,900</u>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	2,275,139	1,766,165	(5,803,206)
Acquisition of equity (deficit) from improvement district	-	-	(33,410)
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	94,790,686	94,790,686	100,627,302
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 97,065,825</u>	<u>\$ 96,556,851</u>	<u>\$ 94,790,686</u>

Summarized statement of cash flows

Year ended December 31, 2012 (audited)

	2012	2011
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,766,165	\$ (5,803,206)
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	3,359	(53,967)
Receivables	624,100	10,274
Inventory for resale	8,730	(15,135)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	659,485	(224,341)
Restricted revenue	962,906	1,982,328
Items not utilizing cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,228,702	3,108,889
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(28,738)	10,029
Landfill closure and post closure allowance	4,611,011	11,430,706
Actuarial adjustments and other items	(901,943)	(823,966)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	10,933,777	9,621,611
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(5,727,298)	(5,174,610)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	30,610	11,789
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(5,696,688)	(5,162,821)
Financing Transactions		
Long and short-term debt issued	-	1,519,800
Long and short-term debt repayments	(1,781,651)	(1,824,951)
Cash Applied to Financing Transactions	(1,781,651)	(305,151)
Change in Cash and Temporary Investments	3,455,438	4,153,639
Cash and Temporary Investments, beginning of year	61,614,705	57,461,066
Cash and Temporary Investments, end of year	\$ 65,070,143	\$ 61,614,705



Lake on Mount Washington, which is in Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C')

PHOTOGRAPHER: Teresa Warnes

--> Campbell River composting challenge and rebate program ... supported

A video compost challenge and a composter rebate program was offered to the residents of Campbell River through a grant sponsored by the Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service.

The video compost challenge involved selecting six families and for 30 days these families videotaped their experiences starting up and implementing a household composting program. The families also received hands-on education and support from Elaine Jansen, CSWM compost educator based in Campbell River. A panel of judges evaluated their progress and after the competition, the Revoy family was awarded the grand prize - \$500 in groceries – for demonstrating that composting is easy and for their extra creativity in developing a rap song about their household composting program.

Accompanying the compost challenge, and thanks to the CSWM grant, Campbell River also offered a limited-time-only \$50 rebate towards the purchase of a Green Cone or backyard composter. Over the summer, 105 rebates were given out for the purchase of a composter and 45 rebates were given out towards the purchase of a Green Cone.

The goal of these programs was to get more residents in Campbell River involved in backyard composting in an effort to divert organics from the landfill.

PHOTO: Amanda Taylor of the City of Campbell River presents cheque to the Revoy family, winner of the video compost challenge.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Gayle Bates





Campbell River waste management centre ... completed

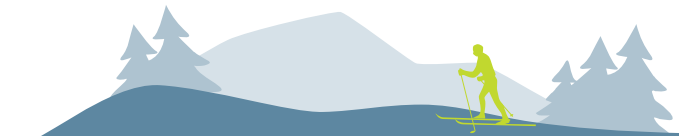
In June the Comox Strathcona waste management service celebrated the completion of the new transfer station and recycling area.

The six-month construction project was in response to the requirements of the Ministry of the Environment when landfills reach permanent capacity. The Campbell River waste management centre is almost at capacity so the project involved reconfiguring the tipping area and constructing a transfer station. The transfer station hosts two large bays for receiving all non-recyclable household waste, residential roofing material, clean wood waste and yard waste in bio-degradable bags. The recycling area was upgraded and equipped with bins for the return of cardboard, mixed paper, recyclable plastics, tires, propane tanks, household and automotive batteries, appliances, scrap metal, used oil, electronic items and household hazardous waste.

TOP PHOTO: Campbell River waste management centre transfer station

BOTTOM PHOTO: Reconfigured tipping scale

PHOTOGRAPHER: Beverly Nelson



--> Comox Valley exhibition grounds ... revitalized

The \$1.3 million CVRD exhibition grounds revitalization project was completed in the first quarter of 2012. Enhancements included installation of new water and electrical lines throughout the exhibition grounds including the Rotary Bowl, Kin Hut Field, and the upper and lower fields. 'Dark Sky' lighting was installed in the parking lots and main roads.

The improvements help boost economic stimulus to the region via increased tourism opportunities from exhibition grounds activities and events.

PHOTO: Hay ride at the exhibition grounds
LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruce Jolliffe (Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands – Area 'A'), Patti Fletcher (Town of Comox), Edwin Grieve (Puntledge-Black Creek – Area 'C'), Jim Gillis (Lazo North – Area 'B'), Gwyn Sproule (Village of Cumberland), Manno Theos (City of Courtenay), Tom Grant (Town of Comox)
PHOTOGRAPHER: Koreen Gurak



Corporate climate action <— — — ... acted upon

The CVRD purchased a Nissan Leaf electric vehicle to add to its fleet to reduce fuel consumption, costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

PHOTO: Nissan Leaf and CVRD directors, left to right: Jim Gillis, Lazo North (Area 'B'); Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound - Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Edwin Grieve, Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C')

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky



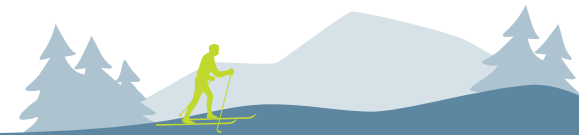


— — — —> Denman Island watermain extension . . . extended

In May the CVRD completed the Denman Island water service watermain extension project which connected the Graham Lake Improvement District (GLID) with the CVRD's Denman Island water system. This interconnection allows source water from the GLID to be purchased by the CVRD for redistribution to residents in the Denman Island local water service area. The completion of this project allowed the Vancouver Island Health Authority to remove a boil water advisory that had been in place for many years.

PHOTO: Baynes Sound - Denman-Hornby Islands (Area 'A') director Bruce Jolliffe at open house on Denman Island celebrating the project completion

PHOTOGRAPHER: Marc Rutten



→ Lifetime recreation membership to champion runner ... awarded

Long-distance running phenomenon and former Black Creek resident Cam Levins was inducted into the Walk of Achievement by the organizing committee's representatives, Jackie Green and Erik Eriksson, at a late November committee of the whole meeting. On behalf of the regional district, Manno Theos, chair of the Comox Valley sports centre commission, presented Olympian Levins with a lifetime membership to use the facilities of the Comox Valley sports and aquatic centres to help ensure he stays in top shape. Levins said he would make good use of this gift as part of his ongoing training when he is in the valley.

PHOTO: Left to right – Erik Eriksson, Edwin Grieve (CVRD board chair), Manno Theos (Chair, Comox Valley sports centre commission), Jackie Green, Cam Levins

PHOTOGRAPHER: Beverly Nelson



--> Fanny Bay fire hall ... improved

The Fanny Bay fire department held an open house in July to showcase the improvements to the hall. The CVRD had worked with the Fanny Bay fire department and the community to fund improvements to the fire hall, which included raising the building above the floodplain, constructing a new office for the fire chief and building a turnout gear locker room.

PHOTO: Fanny Bay fire hall open house showcasing improvements
PHOTOGRAPHER: Brigitta Bast





Fire services skills ... enhanced <--

In July, members from seven Comox Valley fire departments, and other emergency personnel, practiced their skills at the Oyster River fire hall in Black Creek. The drill was a major auto-extrication simulation, involving a full-size school bus and other vehicles. The school bus had 15 to 20 children on board and was on a 45-degree angle after a simulated collision with other vehicles.

The CVRD operates four volunteer fire departments – Oyster River, Fanny Bay, Denman Island and Hornby Island - and has working agreements with member municipalities and improvement districts within the regional district to provide fire protection.

PHOTO: School bus and vehicle collision
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Niels Holbek, Oyster River fire chief





--> Household hazardous waste events ... cleaned up

The Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service hosted three rural household hazardous waste events in 2012 – Village of Zeballos in April and on Hornby and Denman Islands in June.

This was the first time that hazardous waste events were offered in these areas. It was an opportunity for residents to dispose of chemicals, pesticides, batteries, cleaners, fertilizers, gasoline and other unidentified hazardous wastes.

Among many other hazardous waste items collected, avoiding potential environmentally unsound dumping, were 1411 kilograms of lead acid batteries, 1360 kilograms of oil-based paint, 35 propane cylinders, 84 oil drums, and 500 feet of fluorescent tubes.



TOP PHOTO: Hornby Island hazardous waste drop off

MIDDLE PHOTO: Denman Island hazardous waste drop off

PHOTOGRAPHER: Gayle Bates

BOTTOM PHOTO: Village of Zeballos hazardous waste drop off

LEFT TO RIGHT: CSWM contract waste reduction educator, Gayle Bates; CSWM area director for Zeballos, Ted Lewis; Chris Mitchell from Tervita environmental services

PHOTOGRAPHER: Erica Ellefsen, Tervita environmental services

--> Household hazardous waste year-round drop-off in Comox Valley and Campbell River ... accomplished

Starting in November, Comox Valley and Campbell River residents could take their household hazardous waste to their local waste management centre for proper disposal. These year-round facilities were set up in the recycling areas at both the Campbell River and Comox Valley waste management centres.

Household hazardous waste is any waste from the home that residents consider to be dangerous or of which they are unsure. It includes leftover household products that are marked flammable, corrosive or poison, or are a compressed gas (such as aerosols, butane, lighters). The CSWM service encourages residents drop off "Product Care" items such as paint, pesticides and flammable liquids to a local Return-It depot.

PHOTO: Permanent household hazardous waste drop-off services now at waste management centres

PHOTOGRAPHER: Jennifer Salutari



Master composter training <----- program ... mastered

As part of the region's commitment to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill, the Comox Valley waste management centre offered a master composter training program. This program was geared towards people who wanted to raise awareness of the benefits of composting, to encourage more people to compost at home and to support those already composting to ensure they continued to be successful in maintaining their composting activities.

At the end of the program in September, 12 candidates graduated – each with a master composter's certificate. Each one of these candidates also volunteered a minimum of five hours at the compost education centre gaining hands-on experience.

PHOTO: Graduating class – master composter training program

PHOTOGRAPHER: Koreen Gurak



--> New electoral area fire services model . . . created

In November, the board of directors approved a new fire services administration model for the electoral areas that will see the chiefs of the fire protection services for Hornby Island, Denman Island, Fanny Bay and Black Creek-Oyster Bay becoming employees of the regional district, reporting to the manager of fire services.

The fire chiefs and fire department members actively participated in the administration model review, and the fire departments and their associations support the new model.

The implementation of the new fire service administration model does not directly affect the operational delivery of the service, and the long-term outcome is the recognition and protection of the volunteer firefighters, a more efficient fire service able to meet the increasing demands of the public being served, as well as the increasing requirement for regional district oversight and risk management.





→ Oyster River enhancement society licence . . . renewed

The CVRD and the Oyster River Enhancement Society (ORES) signed a licence renewal agreement to operate the fish hatchery in Bear Creek nature park in Black Creek. On December 4, CVRD electoral area directors and staff, ORES executive members and volunteers, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans representatives were onsite to share in the celebration that took place at the hatchery building at Bear Creek nature park.

The renewed agreement, which is in effect for five years, outlines the terms of ORES contributions to enhance, restore and protect the valuable fish, waterfowl and wildlife habitat of the Oyster River watershed. ORES membership has grown significantly to include members from all over the regional district and beyond who have contributed thousands of volunteer hours.

PHOTO: Signing license renewal agreement
 LEFT TO RIGHT: ORES Past President Jim Loring, CVRD Board Chair Edwin Grieve, CVRD Corporate Legislative Officer James Warren, and ORES President Rick Janzen.
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Robyn Butler



Parks and trails . . . protected and perfected <-

With the assistance of its maintenance crews, the CVRD ensures trail surfaces and footbridges are in good repair, parking lots are graded, trails are regularly cleared of fallen branches and trees, litter is picked up, outhouses are cleaned regularly and directional and information signs are up to date. A lot of work goes on to ensure our parks are clean and safe.

Little River area

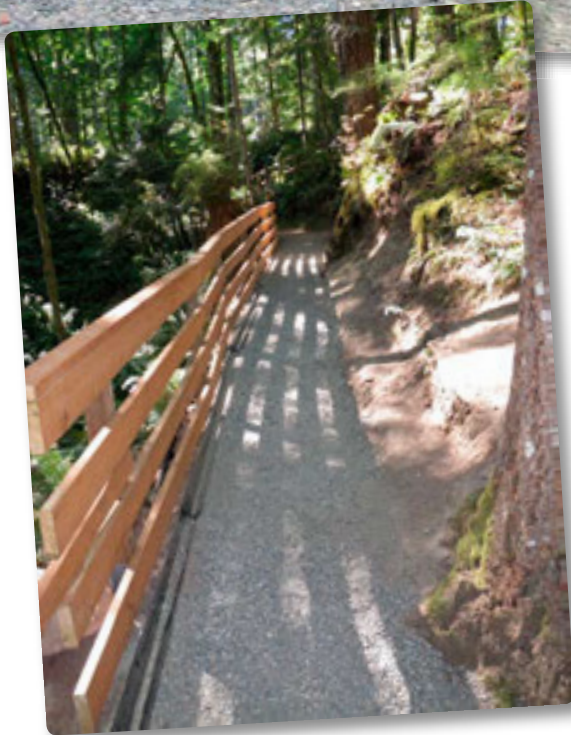
Based on consultations with Little River neighbours during a walking tour of all the beach accesses in February, beach access signage was installed from Kilmorey Road, north to King Coho Greenway. The new signs assist pedestrians in locating public access over opened and unopened public roads. Access is identifiable by the “Shore Access” signs.

PHOTO: CVRD staff reviewing beach access signage with Little River neighbours
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Karin Albert

Seal Bay

The popular Don Apps trail that takes hikers down to the waters of Seal Bay was improved in September. Geosynthetic reinforced soil walls, which have a life span of 50-plus years, and new wood railings replaced rotting wooden landscape ties along 41 metres of the trail, making the trail more secure for park visitors young and old. This project was supported by the Gas Tax Agreement funding from the Government of Canada, administered through the Community Works Fund.

PHOTO: Seal Bay path/walkway
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Brian Allaert



--> Parks and trails . . . continued

Goose Spit park

In addition to improvements to trails leading to “the Spit”, Goose Spit park annual maintenance for beach protection was completed in the spring and again in late fall.

This erosion protection work originated in the 1990s as part of an overall program to minimize storm damage to the complex coastal environment found at Goose Spit. Log placement work has helped to stabilize the berm and has protected the road from being washed out. Using driftwood from the beach, along with several hundred imported poles, made it possible to create a lower impact approach to shoreline protection than lining the road with rock, which would be a harsh solution for such a sensitive ecosystem.

During a December 2012 winter storm the wall proved successful in protecting the roadway. With the high tide, heavy rain and high winds, water at least two feet deep behind the wall actually appeared higher than the road surface. Not one single section failed and there was no significant damage to the wall integrity.

PHOTO: Goose Spit log placement protects against winter storm
PHOTOGRAPHER: Brian Allaert



--> Permanent parkland . . . acquired

The CVRD has taken the long term view to establish a system of parks and greenways that will protect natural areas and provide recreational opportunities for current and future generations to enjoy.

In late fall, the CVRD acquired two properties in the electoral area of Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'). Both the One Spot Trail extension north and the Nymph Falls park addition - the latter is part of the proposed Puntledge-Browns River Triangle corridor - were identified as priorities for acquisition in the rural Comox Valley parks and greenways strategic plan. Residents have long used these previously private properties for a variety of recreational activities—walking, jogging, mountain biking and horseback riding. The acquisition of the two properties ensures that public access is maintained into the future.

The addition to Nymph Falls park is 5.5 hectares in size and includes an existing 435-metre trail that runs along the Puntledge River and is used by pedestrians and mountain bikers. The newly-acquired parkland connects to trails within Nymph Falls Park and also to trails on Crown land to the west.

The other property is a four kilometre section of the former Comox logging railway grade, in Black Creek, and is part of the proposed north extension to the One Spot Trail. It is accessible from Macaulay Road, 100 metres north of the CVRD's Macaulay Heights park. The long-term vision is to establish a continuous trail from the City of Courtenay at the Condensory Bridge to Bear Creek nature park on the Oyster River.



--> Regional solid waste management plan ... finished

In spring 2012, the Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service began public consultation on the update of the region's solid waste management plan (SWMP) – a plan that will guide decisions about future waste and recycling programs for the next 20 years.

Fourteen open houses and presentations were held across the region, asking for feedback on options to create much-needed landfill space, to manage yard waste and food scraps and to improve recycling for homes, apartments and businesses.

The public input from the open houses and online and telephone surveys assisted with a draft solid waste management plan which was approved by the CSWM board at its September meeting.

The SWMP, along with letters of support from the participating local government jurisdictions and first nations communities, was forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment before year end for its approval.



Royston waterfront trail <----- ... conceptualized

In March, the CVRD received a grant from the province to assist in the funding of trail construction along the Royston waterfront on a former railway grade. During the summer, a consultant team assessed foreshore and marine habitat as well as foreshore erosion protection options. Conceptual design drawings were presented for comment at a public open house in October – over 100 local residents attended to hear what was proposed and to provide their input.

The Royston waterfront trail project includes construction of a two-metre wide gravel trail, improvements to a parking area, and the addition of benches and signs. The project will use a green shores approach to erosion control. This involves anchoring big logs and boulders along the foreshore and vegetating the upland area to stabilize the land. The new trail will offer residents a peaceful walking experience through areas of tall mature trees and with views over the Comox harbour. Construction is slated to start in fall 2013.

PHOTO: Waterfront trail
PHOTOGRAPHER: Richard Avedon-Savage of ISL Engineering (project engineer)

PHOTO: Cheque presentation, left to right: Michael Nihls, CVRD parks manager; Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B'); Pieter Rutgers and Kate Brown, Haas Road residents; Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley; Karin Albert, CVRD parks planner; Dave Lacelle, chair, Comox Valley Environmental Council
PHOTOGRAPHER: Sheila Van Nus



--> Sustainability strategy ... sustained

The implementation of the Comox Valley sustainability strategy was manifested in several ways in 2012.

In July, a free information session on green buildings was held, to give residents knowledge, inspiration and money-saving ways to help them plan for their green renovation and construction. Attendees heard about solar power for home installation, and other energy efficiency initiatives, including the CVRD's home energy incentive program.

PHOTO: Green building session

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky



According to the provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) for the CVRD electoral areas, buildings represent approximately 22 per cent of the areas' greenhouse gas emissions. So, in July, the CVRD launched its energy rebate program for those living in the three electoral areas of the region. Sessions were held to explain the energy assessment process and to provide information on how residents could get rebates for those assessments on existing homes, new home construction and major renovations. Approximately \$9,000 in rebates was claimed by homeowners participating in green renovation and construction, which will improve the comfort of their home, reduce energy costs, add value to their property and help to achieve the goals and targets contained within the Comox Valley sustainability strategy.

In late 2012, renewable energy systems were installed at the Royston water building and at the Oyster River fire hall. These are aimed at reducing energy usage and costs as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

PHOTO: Oyster River fire hall with solar panels

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky

And to help further support transportation alternatives to single vehicles in the Comox Valley, the CVRD partnered with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to install "share the road" and "bike route" signs on key bike routes in the rural areas including Lazo, Clarkson, Royston, Cumberland and Dyke Roads.

PHOTO: Share the road sign

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky



→ Transit involvement in the community ... delivered

There is no question that Comox Valley transit was 'happening' all through 2012. It started early in the year when the CVRD and BC Transit announced expanded and improved service for the Comox Valley transit system with the addition of 1700 service hours for increased frequency on many routes and the addition of a Courtenay-to-Comox express bus.

PHOTO: Comox mayor Paul Ives, Courtenay mayor Larry Jangula, CVRD chair Edwin Grieve at the Courtenay exchange.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Beverly Nelson

Buses came alive with the sound of music in May, when Comox Valley transit partnered with "Elevate the Arts", a day-long arts and culture celebration in downtown Courtenay. Residents were encouraged to ride the bus to enjoy the performances, and also to use transit when heading downtown to attend performances at other venues.

PHOTO: Passengers enjoy music and fun on the bus during "Elevate the Arts"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Camille Douglas

The summer saw the innovative addition of the "beach bus", a special weekend-only service to Goose Spit.

PHOTO: Beach bus

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky



Transit involvement . . . continued <-----

In August, residents from Area 'A' who ride the bus – or who have been thinking about riding the bus – got the opportunity to learn all about it at two rural transit information sessions in Union Bay.

PHOTO: Baynes Sound - Denman Hornby (Area 'A') director Bruce Jolliffe talks transit with residents

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky

In October, the CVRD took part in the Comox Valley seniors fair, held in the Native Sons hall and the Filberg Centre, promoting the accessibility and ease of using the conventional transit service. Seniors are a significant portion of Comox Valley transit ridership and the fair was a great opportunity to talk about how easy it is to use the bus, how little it costs and how it can be a great alternative to getting around by car.

PHOTO: CVRD manager of transit and sustainability Mike Zbarsky talks with attendees at information station at the seniors fair.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Artur Ciatkowski, Comox Valley Echo newspaper





---> Transit involvement... continued

In November, taking Comox Valley transit paid off, big-time, for three local people during the "Moonlight and Magic" weekend in downtown Courtenay. For the first time, the CVRD partnered with the Downtown Business Association to raise awareness of the ease of taking transit downtown, and of the great shopping to be found when you get there. Tim Joice won a \$500 Ski Tak Hut gift certificate and a six month free bus pass, Carol Cumming (not pictured) won a \$300 gift certificate to Roots Salon and a three month free bus pass, and Barb Carter won a \$200 Butcher Block gift certificate and a one month free bus pass.

TOP PHOTO: Barb Carter and Tim Joice with their prizes

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky

In late 2012, the site preparation work was all done and pads readied for four bus shelters, which were then built and erected at stops in Buckley Bay, Union Bay, Royston and Black Creek.

MIDDLE PHOTO: Black Creek bus shelter

BOTTOM PHOTO: Union Bay bus shelter

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michael Zbarsky



--> Conservation efforts at Tsolum River ... honoured

In September, a large salmon sculpture was presented to the Comox Valley Regional District to celebrate its work in conserving the forest and exhibition grounds alongside the Tsolum River. The sculpture was a gift from Tsolum River Restoration whose executive director, Jack Minard, said the work done by the regional district over the years at the exhibition grounds has benefited all residents and visitors.

PHOTO: Tsolum River restoration society (TSRR) dedicates salmon statue to CVRD

LEFT TO RIGHT: Stewart Duncan, past president, TSRR; Jon Ambler, CVRD director (Courtenay); Wayne White, president, TSRR; Jack Minard, executive director, TSRR; Jim Gillis, CVRD director (Lazo North – Area 'B'); Jill Carr-Hilton, sculpture artist; Patti Fletcher, CVRD director (Comox)

PHOTOGRAPHER: Hans Peter Meyer





→ Water licence agreement... reached

In May, the CVRD and the Union Bay Improvement District (UBID) signed an agreement for the transfer of water supply assets, and approved the UBID water infrastructure agreement with the Kensington Island Properties development. The agreement between the CVRD and UBID sets out the provisions and requirements related to a possible future transfer of water supply assets.

Both of these agreements were requirements in the master development agreement with Kensington Island Properties and with these in place the development can proceed.



TOP PHOTO: UBID and CVRD reps toast signing of water agreement – with water!

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruce Livesey, UBID trustee; Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound/Denman-Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Alan Webb, UBID trustee; Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair; Carol Molstad, UBID board chair; Anne Alcock, UBID trustee; Cleve Godswain, UBID trustee

BOTTOM PHOTO: UBID and CVRD reps sign water agreement

LEFT TO RIGHT: Debra Oakman, CVRD chief administrative officer; Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair; Carol Molstad, UBID board chair; Ruth Sauder, UBID administrator

PHOTOGRAPHER: Philip Round, Comox Valley Echo newspaper





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PHOTOGRAPHER: Leigh Carter

Moonrise over Beaufort Mountain Range