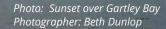


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On behalf of my colleagues on the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors, I am pleased to introduce the annual report for the year ending December 31, 2013.

The theme of this annual report is "Taking care of today. Planning for tomorrow", and that is exactly what we have been doing for the past 12 months

In 2012, the board adopted the solid waste management plan and early in 2013 the provincial government approved it, which means we have clear direction on what we need to do to manage the region's solid waste – a monumental task, as it includes enhanced waste and organics reduction, reuse and recycling, and after full implementation, is projected to achieve a waste diversion rate for this region of over 70 per cent.

We entered into a 20 year 'host community agreement' with the Village of Cumberland to resolve issues around the expansion of the Comox Valley waste management centre, and we embarked on the first phase of the daunting task of curbing the dangerous and environmentally-unsound practice of illegal dumping.

And still on the subject of solid waste, we undertook a major exercise in public information and consultation around the idea of providing roadside collection of garbage

and recycling in the rural areas of the CVRD. In the end, the electors voted not to proceed with that service, and we have now returned to the drawing board to look for alternative ways to meet our diversion goals.

We received great news early in the year, in the form of a \$15 million grant from the federal Gas Tax Fund for the first phase of the south sewer project. By the end of the year, the CVRD -- working with the K'ómoks First Nation and the Village of Cumberland — had a project team in place to guide the initiative that will result in safe, reliable, and costeffective sewer treatment for communities and properties in and around Royston, Union Bay and potentially the Village of Cumberland. Early estimates show this phase of the project – expected to cost about \$42 million – would be completed in 2018.

Other notable efforts that "took care of today and planned for tomorrow" included our providing a very well-attended free information



session on the new BC Building Code, improving transit trips for commuters to 19 Wing CFB Comox, and – with \$250,000 from federal Gas Tax transfer funding -- completing the pedestrian and bicycle Hawkins Road Greenway which provides a year-round safe transportation route, connecting Goose Spit park to the surrounding neighbourhood and to the Town of Comox.

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 working with my colleagues on the board, with CVRD staff, and with our residents over the next 12 months – and beyond!

This year, the theme of our annual report is "Taking care of today. Planning for tomorrow.", which ties in with the theme of our financial plan. It's an apt theme, as the majority of the CVRD's work is exactly that: looking after our residents' needs in various large and small-scale ways, and always keeping an eye on the horizon so that we can be prepared for long-term and emergent requirements.

Whether it's the services and programs budgeting process itself, or rebate initiatives to help residents conserve water through low-flow toilets and "smart" irrigation systems, or supporting efforts to control invasive plants – our focus is always on what we can do now to benefit the environment, the economy and the lives of our residents in future

The CVRD administration delivers 92 services through a combination of staff and third party contracts. I am proud of the administration staff team and its professional excellence. We focus on the recruitment, development

and retention of professional, educated and experienced staff. Our organization has an internal culture of continuous improvement with a focus on customer service. We learn about, and discuss, current issues and future trends through educational forums and with our peer groups. We research new regulations and industry standards to understand their impact on local government activities. We ask residents, through independent, quantitative surveys, a myriad of public meetings, and our two-way social media, for their opinions. All of this is to better prepare the organization and our community in planning for tomorrow.

We don't always get it 'absolutely right', but we always strive for an administrative culture that is not afraid to take a risk in presenting new ideas, concepts and services that address changing environments. Solid waste and recycling collection in the electoral areas was an example of recognizing industry changes and identifying an opportunity for economies of scale by providing roadside collection for



residents. We brought that proposal to the public for a vote. Although the answer was 'no', it was an important question on which to seek public direction.

In 2013, the CVRD administration began reviewing and developing a business continuity plan for each department to be able to respond to the needs of our residents and to provide services in the event of an emergency. We will continue to work with staff in this important area through training exercises and ongoing reviews of emergency procedures.



Other corporate initiatives this year included training on the new (November 2013) WCB regulations regarding workplace bullying and harassment so that, today and tomorrow, our workplace remains one in which people can do business and work in a respectful environment.

We have provided corporate-wide training in ethics to our staff. As public servants, we understand that, as a taxpayer-funded organization, we have an even greater level of accountability than an average citizen. In order to manage a large organization, feedback is important, and I welcome both positive and negative feedback on how we may do things better.

And on a personal and professional note, I believe all staff need to continue to learn and grow and, as a local government leader, I am no exception. In April 2013 I received from the Province of BC, the Local Government Executive Management Certificate, having fulfilled the course studies, and report and presentation requirements pursuant to the Local Government Act. That was a gratifying moment for me in 2013, along with the ongoing pleasure of working with our board of directors, our staff and the Comox Valley residents as we move steadily into the future.



2013 CVRD board of directors

Back row, left to right: Jon Ambler (vice-chair), City of Courtenay; Starr Winchester, City of Courtenay; Bill Anglin, City of Courtenay; Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound - Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Tom Grant, Town of Comox; Jim Gillis, Lazo North (Area 'B')

Front row, left to right: Gwyn Sproule, Village of Cumberland; Edwin Grieve (chair), Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'); Patti Fletcher, Town of Comox; Manno Theos, City of Courtenay





2013 CVRD executive management team

Back row, left to right: Kevin Lorette, general manager – property services; Ian Smith, general manager – community services; James Warren, corporate legislative officer; Will Hwang, executive manager – human resources.

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



CVRD ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Taking care of today. Planning for tomorrow.

Management's responsibility for financial reporting

These summarized financial statements have been prepared by 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, 2013 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2013.

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 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

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

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, 2013 and the Summary Statements of Operations, Changes in Net Debt and Cash Flows for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District for the year ended December 31, 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 20, 2014. 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, 2013 are a fair summary of those financial statements

BDS Canada LLP

Chartered Accountants Vancouver, British Columbia March 20, 2014



Summarized statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013 (audited)

	2013	2012
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 67,008,602	\$ 65,070,143
Receivables and inventory for resale	3,137,634	2,689,113
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	23,706,038	25,942,863
Total Financial Assets	93,852,274	93,702,119
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	5,487,964	4,995,385
Short-term debt	987,555	1,353,100
Long-term debt	50,138,105	54,963,417
Restricted revenue	9,173,061	8,471,144
Deferred government transfers	5,191,080	4,625,924
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	23,513,377	20,442,794
Total Liabilities	94,491,142_	94,851,764
Net Debt	(638,868)	(1,149,645)
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	132,369	113,465
Inventory of supplies	56,186	72,240
Tangible capital assets	98,330,326	97,520,791
Total Non-Financial Assets	98,518,881	97,706,496
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 97,880,013	\$ 96,556,851

Gungo

E.J. Dunlop, CGA Officer responsible for Financial Administration oursuant to Section 199 of the Local Government Act Qd. G.

E. Grieve Chair of the board

Sum marized statement of operations year ended December 31, 2013 (audited)

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2012 Actual
Revenue			
Frontage and parcel taxes	\$ 420,648	\$ 420,438	\$ 418,653
Grants in lieu of taxes	184,524	387,055	382,964
Tax requisitions - electoral area and municipal	21,154,191	21,153,880	19,767,322
Government transfers	3,799,587	1,076,486	1,108,107
Sales of services and other revenue sources	16,713,747	16,208,819	16,313,084
Capital contributions from others	-	682,655	766,965
Investment income	70,000	702,157	766,871
Total Revenue	42,342,697	40,631,490	39,523,966
Expenses			
General government services	7,035,102	3,777,756	3,508,744
Protective services	3,049,809	2,923,268	2,876,852
Transportation services	2,575,043	2,198,242	2,185,633
Environmental health services	18,099,234	18,193,447	18,570,654
Public health and welfare services	185,022	697,801	62,976
Environmental development services	3,208,262	2,600,572	2,515,196
Recreation and cultural services	8,805,320	8,917,242	8,037,746
Total Expenses	42,957,792	39,308,328	37,757,801
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(615,095)	1,323,162	1,766,165
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	96,556,851	96,556,851	94,790,686
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	\$ 95,941,756	\$ 97,880,013	\$ 96,556,851

Summarized statement of cash flows Year ended December 31, 2013 (audited)

	2013	2012
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,323,162	\$ 1,766,165
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	(2,850)	3,359
Receivables	(454,927)	624,100
Inventory for resale	6,405	8,730
Accounts payable and other liabilities	492,579	659,485
Restricted revenue	701,917	184,497
Deferred government transfers	565,156	778,409
Items not utilizing cash		0.000 700
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,486,694	3,228,702
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	285,803	(28,738)
Transfer of tangible capital assets to other local government	563,435	- 4,611,011
Landfill closure and post closure allowance Actuarial adjustments and other items	3,070,583 (1,018,535)	(901,943)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	9,019,422	10,933,777
		10,555,777
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(5,222,714)	(5,727,298)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	77,247	30,610
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(5,145,467)	(5,696,688)
Financing Transactions		
Long and short-term debt repayments	(1,935,496)	(1,781,651)
Cash Applied to Financing Transactions	(1,935,496)	(1,781,651)
Change in Cash and Temporary Investments	1,938,459	3,455,438
Cash and Temporary Investments, beginning of year	65,070,143	61,614,705
Cash and Temporary Investments, end of year	\$ 67,008,602	\$ 65,070,143

Agreeing on a way forward

A 20-year host community agreement was signed in May, between the Village of Cumberland and the CVRD, to allow for an expanded engineered landfill at the Comox Valley waste management centre. Across Canada and in other BC communities. the concept of a host community benefit agreement is to balance the impacts a local community, such as Cumberland, may experience in hosting a waste management facility against the advantages received by that community. With the expansion of the landfill at the regional waste management centre in the Comox Valley, improvements to a shared resource like a roadway to the landfill can be a "win" for both the host community and the other communities in the regional district.

Agriculture and aquaculture policy vision

This policy review has a vision to protect land designated agricultural land reserve (ALR), to enhance future food security of the Comox Valley, and to promote sustainable practices of the agriculture and aquaculture sectors as important industries in the Comox Valley.

The policies were developed with extensive industry input and participation and will be appended to the rural Comox Valley official community plan.

Anticipating bad events a good idea

As part of emergency disaster planning, a GIS (mapping) study was completed in October to determine possible sites for emergency mass livestock carcass disposal in the Comox Valley Regional District. Funding for this project was made available by the Investment Agricultural Foundation of British Columbia.



Building a good foundation with new information

In February, a near full-house was in session to hear CVRD's building services manager, Doug McPherson, deliver a workshop about the 800+ changes to the BC Building Code that took effect in 2013. It was the largest wholesale change to the Code's building and plumbing permit requirements. The CVRD worked with the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and Village of Cumberland with the goal of providing uniform delivery of the Code in the Comox Valley, and to help prepare property owners, contractors and developers apply for permits under the new rules.

Photographer: Beverly Nelson

Curbside collection question - asked and answered

The weekly collection of roadside garbage and recycling in the CVRD's electoral areas A, B, and C was taken to referendum on November 16, 2013. There were two main reasons that the service was being considered: it supported the solid waste management plan's goal of diverting 70 per cent of the region's waste away from landfills, and it was also in response to indications of growing public support. The proposed service was actively debated in the community, and ultimately the majority of electoral area voters opposed the plan. The official result of the referendum was 3,139 against and 1,153 in favour.

CVRD area directors Bruce Jolliffe and Edwin Grieve with sign about referendum for curbside collection of garbage and recycling in the electoral areas

Photo supplied by Comox Valley Echo



Filtration deferral for the Comox Valley water system part of bigger plan

Back in 2007, the Island Health (then known as the Vancouver Island Health Authority) introduced a new drinking water treatment policy aimed at ensuring consistent minimum standards for all surface water supply systems on Vancouver Island.

In addition to criteria for disinfection/removal of viruses and bacteria, one of the main water quality criteria is a maximum of 1-nephalometric turbidity unit (NTU) turbidity in finished water. For many surface water systems, the 1-NTU turbidity requirement is difficult to achieve without the installation of a costly water filtration plant.

The Island Health policy includes a provision termed "filtration deferral", for water systems with access to high quality source water, whereby a system may be permitted to operate without filtration provided certain requirements can be met. These requirements include meeting source water criteria for turbidity and E. coli, as well as the development and implementation of a watershed protection plan.

In November 2011 the CVRD began continuous water quality sampling from a potential deep water intake location on Comox Lake to determine if the turbidity and E. coli criteria for filtration deferral could be met. After one year, the data revealed that water quality for the deep water location came close to meeting Island Health's filtration deferral criteria. During a meeting to present the results of the turbidity monitoring to Island Health, the City of Courtenay, and the Town of Comox, VIHA indicated to CVRD staff that the CVRD should apply for filtration deferral for the Comox Valley water system.

On September 20, 2013, Island Health approved the CVRD's application for filtration deferral, revised the operating permit and provided a new timeline for the CVRD to meet Island Health's 4-3-2-1 criteria.





Fire fighting future bright

In the spring of 2013, the CVRD acquired a new quick response fire truck for the Denman Island fire rescue department. This truck assists the volunteers in serving the citizens of Denman Island.

Photo supplied by Rocky Mountain Phoenix Emergency Vehicles, Equipment and Service

In March, the Honourable John Duncan, MP for Vancouver Island North, announced funds for upgrades to the Oyster River volunteer fire rescue training facility under the federal government's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund. The fire rescue association was able to purchase new doors, windows, insulation and locks for the fire hall, to paint the structure, and to upgrade the plumbing, wiring and culverts.

Left to right: Black Creek Oyster Bay firefighters Ross Squire and Dave Carmichael; Strathcona Regional District director Brenda Leigh, representing Black Creek Oyster Bay fire protection service; Black Creek Oyster Bay firefighter Blair Eely and fire chief Niels Holbek; Vancouver Island North MP John Duncan

Photo supplied by office of John Duncan





The Hawkins greenway in Comox officially opened at the end of June. It provides a year-round active transportation route, connecting Goose Spit park to the surrounding neighbourhood and to the Town of Comox. Officials and members of the public were on-site to commemorate the opening of the trail. This project was supported by the Gas Tax Agreement funding from the Government of Canada, administered through the Community Works Fund.

Left to right: Comox mayor Paul Ives; Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B'); Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, John Duncan; CVRD chair Edwin Grieve; Bruce Joliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands.

Photographer: Robyn Butler

In August, Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair, Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands, and Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North, celebrated the completion of the Vivian Way beach access staircase in Fanny Bay. Vivian Way is one of 124 beach accesses located in the electoral areas of the Comox Valley.

Vivian Way ribbon cutting. Left to right: CVRD directors Edwin Grieve, Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'); Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Jim Gillis, Lazo North (Area 'B')

Photographer: Robyn Butler

Happy trails continued . . .

The Brazier trail in Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C') officially opened in December. As a priority of the rural Comox Valley parks and greenways strategic plan, this significant connector now allows for loops and longer outings, and is proving very popular with equestrians and walkers. The improvements along an old logging road have created a 640-metre surfaced trail connecting the One Spot Trail with the Wildwood Interpretive Forest.

The Back Country Horsemen provided yeoman volunteer efforts to replace the One Spot Trail bridge in the late fall. They provided input on the design of the railing and surfacing, and provided volunteers to assist with construction. The new bridge will benefit current and future generations of trail users.

At the One Spot Trail bridge, CVRD directors Bruce Jolliffe, Edwin Grieve and Jim Gillis with members of the Back Country Horsemen

Photographer: Robyn Butler





Here today, gone for tomorrow: tackling invasive species

In late August, a regional program was begun, aimed at eradicating invasive knotweed species from the Comox Valley, in partnership with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee (Coastal ISC). As part of a pilot project, with funding from the province, a brochure was produced and the public was asked to report sightings of knotweed. The program was created to verify and map all knotweed reports received and to bring in professionals to conduct treatment on priority sites at no cost to the landowner. Of the 135 knotweed reports received, 71 were located within the rural electoral areas. Eighteen of these sites received treatment in 2013. Knotweed reports received in the municipal jurisdictions of Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland were documented and shared with the respective municipalities. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

Knotweed – one of the invasive species tackled in the pilot program

Photo courtesy of the Coastal Invasive Species Committee



Moving forward organically

In June, the Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service started collecting organics from the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland as part of a pilot program of curbside pick-up for the region. The one-year pilot project will provide the CSWM service an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the collection and the processing system, and to strategize ways to refine the program if needed. Approximately 6,000 households were eligible to participate in the weekly collection that is composted at the Comox Valley waste management centre, using the "Gore Cover System", which converts organic material to high quality compost while minimizing odour.

Left to right: Jesse Lee, assistant manager of Strathcona waste services; Jon Isfeld, assistant manager of Comox Valley waste services; Leslie Baird, mayor of Village of Cumberland; Vince Van Tongeren, CVRD's engineering analyst; Paul Ives, mayor of the Town of Comox

Photographer: Koreen Gurak



New track surface running ahead of the curve

The Vanier track underwent a resurfacing in the summer of 2013, an improvement welcomed by track users from the school district and other community groups. The CVRD and School District 71 shared 50/50 the project budget of \$992,000, with a \$1,000 contribution from the Comox Valley Road Runners. A grant for \$30,000 from Tire Stewardship BC was awarded for this project, for the use of recycled rubber tires in the track surface material, ensuring low maintenance and all-weather use.

Roslyn Smith, President of the Comox Valley Road Runners, along with her fellow running mates, presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Tom Weber, Chair, School District 71.

Photographer: Robyn Butler

Plan sets future of solid waste management

In May, the provincial government officially gave approval to the Comox Strathcona waste management service for the solid waste management plan (SWMP). The plan that had been submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval was the combined effort of 22 representatives who committed their time to the regional solid waste management committee. They included community groups, local politicians, First Nations, local businesses, environment groups, and industry professionals. In addition, there had been a region-wide public consultation process in the spring of the year before. The SWMP is a guiding document that identifies how the region will manage waste now and into the future. After full implementation, the SWMP is projected to target a waste diversion rate of over 70 per cent in the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts.

Celebrating the SWMP achievement.

Left to right: Tom Boatman, CVRD senior manager of solid waste services; Edwin Grieve, chair of CVRD/CSWM board of directors; Jon Ambler, CVRD vice-chair and director, City of Courtenay; Debra Oakman, CVRD chief administrative officer; Ian Smith, CVRD general manager of community services

Photographer: Koreen Gurak





Recycling takes interim steps

The Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service worked out an agreement with CFB Comox - to host an interim recycling depot behind the Canex store in Comox. After a short construction period, that involved paving, lighting and fencing the depot, the new facility opened in August. The opening gave the CSWM service a temporary location for residents to drop off recyclables until more was known about the impact of the new provincial product stewardship plan through Multi-Material BC.

Left to right: Edwin Grieve, chair of the CVRD/CSWM board; Major Mark Kierstead, 19 Wing construction engineer; Patti Fletcher, CSWM director, Town of Comox; Vince Van Tongeren, CVRD engineering analyst; Jim Gillis, CSWM director, Lazo North (Area 'B')

Photographer: Beverly Nelson

Regional growth strategy lays groundwork

Immediately before and following enactment of official community plan (OCP) and zoning bylaw amendments to the minimum lot area requirements for subdivision, the CVRD received subdivision referrals for approximately 70 proposed lots within the settlement expansion areas. These referrals triggered development permit requirements, park dedication and, in some instances, reports to the board requesting removal from a water local service area. This RGS implementation work will continue through February 2014.

Planning staff also worked hard to prepare proposed amendments to DPA #1 (Aquatic) and Bylaw #3 (Planning Procedures and Fees Bylaw). Work has also included site-specific OCP and zoning bylaw amendments, as well as over 50 development permit and variance applications.

Surveying sets sight lines for knowledge

In June, we conducted our fourth quantitative survey of residents, to gauge their awareness and opinions of CVRD programs and services. Survey results help us shape our approaches to program and service delivery, and in the past have allowed us to recognize concerns in specific areas and make adjustments to those areas resulting in a positive shift in opinion by the next survey.

Some of the key points of interest in the survey showed that two-thirds of CVRD residents had a favourable opinion of the regional district, an upward move over 2011. There was a 76 per cent satisfaction rating with those residents who had contacted the CVRD, either in person or on the phone.

Awareness of CVRD services had grown steadily since 2009. Residents still said they looked first to print versions of local newspapers for information about CVRD services, with the regional district's website showing as an important secondary source of information.



Sewer planning takes a big step forward

In March, the federal government announced funding of \$15 million for the south sewer project. That money made a reality the first phase of the project, which is a joint initiative between the CVRD, the Village of Cumberland and K'ómoks First Nation, working toward the common goal of providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective sewer treatment as these communities grow.

The plan is to establish a sewer collection and treatment system to address failing septic systems in Royston and Union Bay along with addressing wastewater treatment issues in Cumberland.

The funds were awarded by the Union of BC Municipalities as part of the federal Gas Tax funding program, and are allocated to the first stage of the project. The CVRD added an additional \$2 million from its Gas Tax allocation to bring total grant funding to \$17 million. The south sewer project partners are currently working at the political and staff level to move the project forward.

Left to right: Kevin Lorette, CVRD GM property services; Debra Oakman, CVRD CAO; Joe Stanhope, Regional District of Nanaimo chair/rep from UBCM which administers the federal Gas Tax Funds; Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Robert Everson, Chief, K'omóks First Nation; Leslie Baird, Village of Cumberland mayor; Sundance Topham, Village of Cumberland CAO; Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair/director Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'); Marc Rutten, CVRD senior manager engineering services; Melinda Knox, CEO and band manager, K'omóks First Nation; Darry Monteith, CVRD engineering analyst; John Duncan, MP Vancouver Island North.

Photographer: Beverly Nelson

The future looks green - green with energy!

SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRES

In the summer of 2013, energy and cost-saving measures were implemented in the CVRD's sports and aquatic centres. In both arenas, 126 lighting fixtures were installed that use less energy and have bulbs with a 10 year life span to reduce maintenance costs. Also in the arenas, a variable frequency drive (VFD) was installed to slow the brine pump motor down. Motors coupled with VFDs are pre-programmed to reduce the speed of the motor during low usage times, reducing energy costs. VFDs have also been purchased for the aquatic centre's main pool circulation pump and air handling unit.

Arena 1 with energy-saving lighting Photographer: Robyn Butler

SMART-CONTROL IRRIGATION REBATES

In May, the CVRD launched a rebate program for the installation of smart irrigation controllers for commercial and residential property owners connected to the Comox Valley water system. Property owners were eligible for up to a \$300 rebate on the

purchase of a qualifying smart irrigation controller. The addition of smart control to an irrigation system helps residents use water more efficiently. These controllers provide irrigation only when required, according to the weather and other environmental conditions, thereby reducing water use. Over 175 people installed the smart irrigation controllers and got the rebate.

HOME ENERGY REBATES

This program, which ended in March, saw 44 people take advantage of the free energy assessment and the \$300 rebate for undertaking energy retrofits to an existing home. Four homes got a free assessment and a \$100 rebate for committing to improving their energy performance on a new home by achieving EnerGuide 80+ ratings.





The future looks green continued . . .

SOLAR POWER DEMO

As part of the Comox Valley sustainability strategy implementation in the electoral areas, the CVRD contracted Terratek Energy Solutions to install solar photovoltaic energy (PV) systems on four different CVRD facilities: Oyster River fire hall, Little River water services site, Fanny Bay fire hall and south sewer project office (former Royston water service office). In July, approximately 120 people came out to see the power of the sun in action at the fire hall and in August at the Little River water services building. As well, a solar-powered street light was erected in Royston.

Funding for these projects was provided through the federal Gas Tax Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities..

Top: Comox Valley Little River water services facility solar-powered voltaic system Bottom: Solar LED streetlight in Royston

Photographer: Michael Zbarsky

FREE WORKSHOPS

The CVRD hosted four free workshops over the summer aimed at helping electoral area residents and businesses save money through reduced energy costs, and save the environment a bit of stress in the process. The first workshop focused on "future-proofing" a home through decreased yard maintenance and improved energy and water use. The second workshop, for local developers, builders and designers, focused on cost-effective and energy-efficient new home construction. The third workshop was about getting around without a car and featured a local carpool website plus information on cycling and the transit system, and the final workshop was on green building techniques, energy incentives and rebates, and hydronic heating, and featured local resident and speaker Paul Witt who built his own energy-efficient home.

Thinking ahead - and up!

The adoption of the regional growth strategy (RGS) changed the future of Mt. Washington, by identifying it as one of three settlement nodes in the Comox Valley. Being a settlement node, Mt. Washington has the ability to grow as a diversified four season destination with a broad range of land uses. Further to the growth management principles of the RGS, an integrated resort community plan (IRCP) was completed for Mt. Washington. The plan provides for a range of residential and commercial development in accordance with the capacity of the privately owned and operated system to provide water and sewer services.

In 2013 the draft plan was completed and processed as OCP amendment bylaw 215, received third reading, and in December was submitted to the Minister of Community, Sports and Cultural Development for review. Once the the ministry signs off on the bylaw, the CVRD board would consider its adoption and the Mt. Washington integrated resort community plan would become part of the rural Comox Valley official community plan. We anticipate receiving ministerial approval in the spring of 2014.



Trans<mark>it drives ahead</mark>

There were several transit-related moments of significance in 2013, all of which helped further chart the course for the future of transit in the Comox Valley.

BC Transit kicked off its transit future information-gathering with public consultation on a vision, goals and network plan for the region. The 'transit future bus' was a feature at various locations in July. Over 1,750 people and 30 stakeholder groups were engaged as part of this interaction.

1 & 2 The public checks out the transit future bus – inside and out Photographer: Sarah Phillips

In May, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and BC Transit introduced changes to improve commuter trips to 19 Wing Canadian Forces Base Comox, one of the largest employers in the Comox Valley with more than 1,200 military and civilian staff.

3 Left to right: Darren Richards, general manager of Watson & Ash Transportation, the local contractor that provides public bus and Handydart service on behalf of BC Transit for the Comox Valley; Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair; Colonel Jim Benninger, 19 Wing base commander; Michael Zbarsky, CVRD manager of transit & sustainability

Photo courtesy of CFB Comox.















Transit drives ahead continued . . .

A special transit offer was put in place on May 20th, July 1st, and August 5th. For just one dollar per ride, people could leave their driving and parking worries at home while celebrating Comox's Nautical Days, Canada's 146th birthday or the 125th anniversary of Cumberland's Empire Days. Approximately 1,100 riders took the bus on those event days. As well, there were 7,000 riders who opted to use the special free bus service to get to the air show at CFB Comox in August.

1 Free bus to the base during the 2013 air show Left to right: Aaron Lamb, BC Transit executive director asset management; CVRD chair Edwin Grieve; Colonel Jim Benninger, 19 Wing base commander

Photographer: Meribeth Burton, BC Transit

The "beach bus" ran seven days a week during the summer, taking 937 people to and from Goose Spit.

2 Goose Spit beach shuttle bus

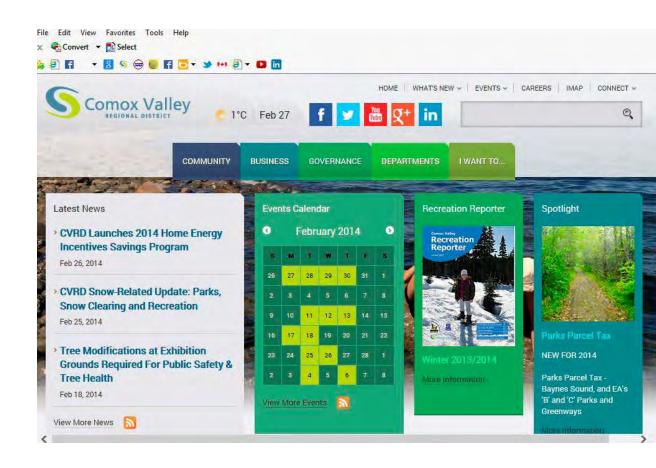
And throughout 2013, we put transit 'on the road' in innovative ways to continue to raise awareness of the buses and the bus system.

- 3 Rudoph the red-nosed transit bus in the Cumberland "big truck" parade Photographer: Michael Zbarsky
- 4 The "Zambus" takes to the ice Photo courtesy of BC Transit

Website updates and upgrades

In June, the new CVRD website was launched, presenting a cleaner, more user-friendly way for people to find information on just about anything involving the CVRD. The re-design and new search engine were contracted to Atomic Crayon of Victoria, but the thousands and thousands of pages of content were "migrated" by CVRD staff from the old site to the new one. The hard work paid off, and the site was up and running June 17. As our resident surveys consistently tell us, the website is the secondary – after newspaper – source of information about CVRD programs and services, and the number citing it as the primary source is growing every year.

Screen capture of website's home page





Watershed protection signs point to healthy future

As part of the public education initiatives outlined in the draft watershed protection plan, the Comox Valley Regional District installed 11 new signs around the Comox Lake watershed in the late fall. The key message on the sign -- "Out here it's up to you! Please keep the water clean." -- promotes personal responsibility by users of the area and landowners around the watershed for helping to protect our community's drinking water. The message is simple but vital, supporting the CVRD's fundamental goal of delivering safe, high quality drinking water to approximately 40,000 people in the Comox Valley.

The CVRD has completed a number of watershed protection actions recommended as immediate steps for implementation in the draft Comox Lake watershed protection plan, including the installation of an oil spill response kit at Comox Lake, in partnership with TimberWest and the Comox Valley fish and game club, and the implementation of public outreach programs.

Left to right: vice-chair of Comox Valley water committee, Bill Anglin (City of Courtenay) and water committee chair Tom Grant (Town of Comox).

Photographer: Beverly Nelson

Photo: Cabrea Winery/Vineyard, Hornby Island Photographer: Hans Peter Meyer

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REGIONAL DISTRICT

Annual Report 2013

