

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**

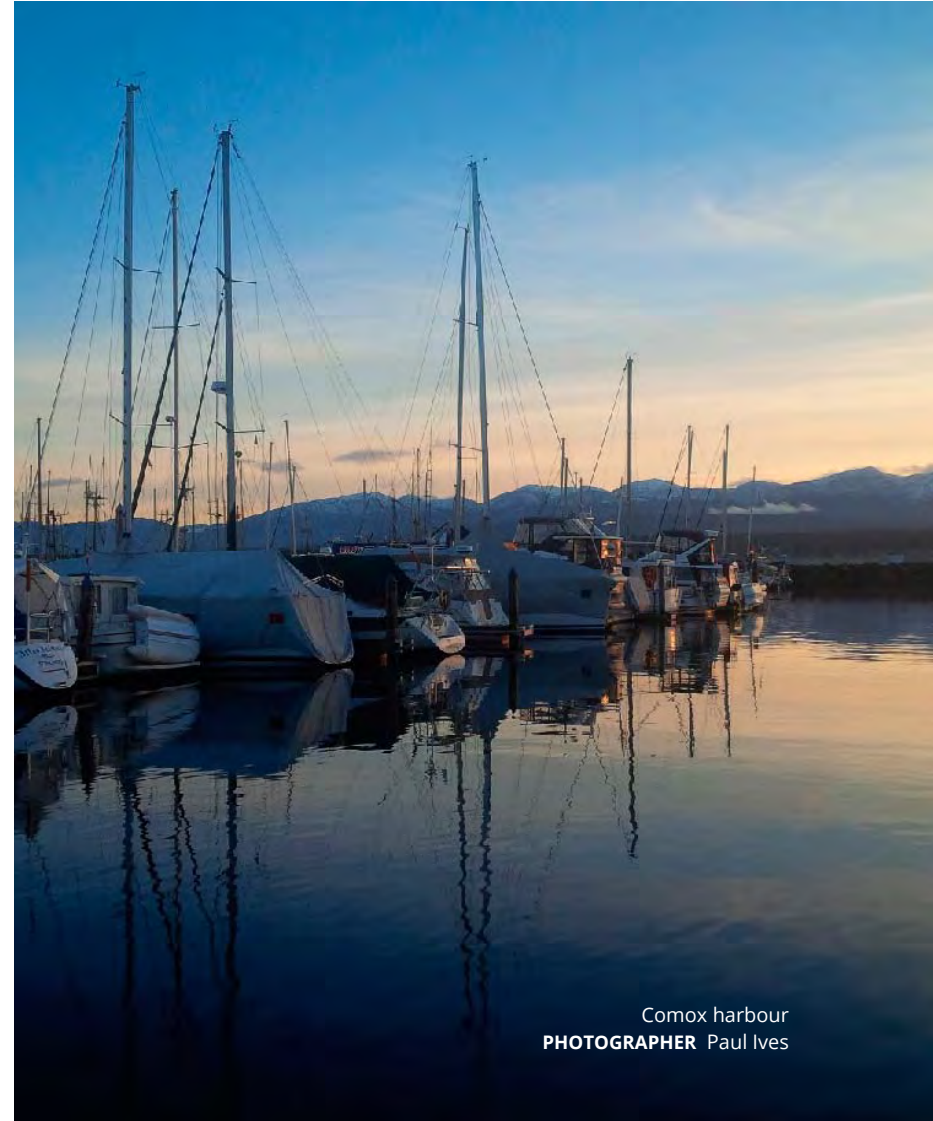
Ideas into

ACTION.

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COVER Footprints in the sand - Goose Spit
PHOTOGRAPHER Hans Peter Meyer



Comox harbour
PHOTOGRAPHER Paul Ives



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, 2014.

The theme of this annual report is “ideas into action”, and with all the movement on completing strategic priorities over the past year, that is exactly what we have been doing.

It began early in the year when the Comox Valley Regional District purchased five parcels of land comprising a portion of the Wellington Colliery railway grade as parkland for the purpose of a public trail from Royston to Cumberland. Acquiring these properties is consistent with the rural parks and greenways strategic plan’s active priority of acquiring land for a Royston-to-Cumberland trail.

Then, a little later in the spring, the CVRD board of directors gained approval via elector response to borrow funds for capital improvements to the Comox Valley curling centre. The curling centre facility is over

50 years old; upgrades will ensure that a multipurpose year round facility, with curling as its main focus, is available to the residents of the Comox Valley.

Hard on the heels of the forward step regarding the curling centre, was the completion of the Royston seaside trail, which now allows residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy a safe and scenic walk as well as enjoying nature viewing and water-based recreational opportunities along the trail. The work that has been done will protect the shoreline and ensure it will remain an attraction for tourists and residents for years to come.

In the summer, the south sewer project partners reached an agreement on a governance structure for construction and operation of the wastewater management and water resource recovery system being planned for the Comox Valley Regional District’s south region. That agreement established how decisions will be made regarding the construction of the proposed project and regarding operational management into the future.

MESSAGE from the chair continued...

The early fall saw the grand opening of the artificial turf field at G.P. Vanier secondary school. Construction of the synthetic turf field began in late spring of 2014 with the project completed on time and under budget. The whole Comox Valley will benefit from all the hard work and the collaborative approach with our community partners that brought this first-rate facility to completion.

The CVRD did many more things in 2014, and you can see some of them on the other pages of this report.

I am pleased to have been chair of the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors for the past year. It is an honour and a privilege to be able to work with people who care as much about the Comox Valley as I do, and as I know our residents do, too.



Edwin Grieve,
Chair

I am pleased to provide my thoughts and retrospective view of 2014, as contained in the CVRD's annual report for the past year. During 2014 we saw some change in middle and senior managers in key positions. We said good-bye to some excellent longer-term employees, and welcomed new, very skilled and experienced managers. Change occurs in every organization, and the CVRD has risen to the challenges of, and seized the opportunities presented by, changes in our structure, in our services and in our people. Personally, I was honoured to achieve a professional milestone in 2014, in receiving the Local Government Leadership Academy's award for leadership in local government.

There will be significant focus on major capital projects over the next five years, and we are working towards an efficient and effective organizational structure to manage these projects, in addition to balancing ongoing service delivery needs.

The theme of this report is "ideas into action" and it is apt for our organization. What we do is not just about 'getting the work done'. We literally do turn ideas into action, by proactively looking at ways to improve systems and procedures to 'do

the work better'. For example, working together, the water and IT departments created better data management of water hydrant locations, maintenance history, age, and characteristics, and streamlining the work for our water technicians. Overall, that makes the review and maintenance process much clearer, faster and more effective.

You will read in the body of this report many examples of the CVRD turning ideas into action – revitalization of the curling facility, completion of the synthetic turf field, purchase of land for trails, and implementation of bicycle racks in strategic spots in rural areas, among many other initiatives.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work productively with our staff, elected officials on our board and community partners on completing the ongoing projects and undertaking new ones, in 2015 and beyond.



Debra Oakman, CMA
Chief administrative officer



MESSAGE
from the CAO



2014 CVRD board of directors

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Edwin Grieve, Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C') (CVRD chair); Jim Gillis, Lazo North (Area 'B'); Patti Fletcher, Town of Comox; Manno Theos, City of Courtenay; Starr Winchester, City of Courtenay

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Jon Ambler, City of Courtenay (vice-chair); Bill Anglin, City of Courtenay; Gwyn Sproule, Village of Cumberland; Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'); Tom Grant, Town of Comox

PHOTOGRAPHER Beverly Nelson

2014 CVRD executive management team

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Ann MacDonald, general manager - planning & development services; Ian Smith, general manager - community services branch; Marc Rutten, general manager - engineering services branch; James Warren, corporate legislative officer; Julie Bradley, executive manager - human resources

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

PHOTOGRAPHER Beverly Nelson



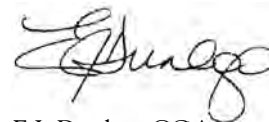
Management's responsibility for FINANCIAL REPORTING

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, 2014 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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

March 31, 2015

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, 2014 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, 2014. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 31, 2015. 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

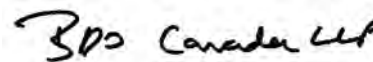
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary of the audited financial statements.

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, 2014 are a fair summary of those financial statements.



Chartered Accountants

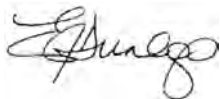
Vancouver, British Columbia

March 31, 2015



Summarized statement of FINANCIAL POSITION as at December 31, 2014 (audited)

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 67,288,881	\$ 67,008,602
Receivables and inventory for resale	3,234,830	3,137,634
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	21,403,520	23,706,038
Total Financial Assets	<u>91,927,231</u>	<u>93,852,274</u>
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	4,569,228	5,487,964
Short-term debt	964,790	987,555
Long-term debt	45,161,271	50,138,105
Restricted revenue	10,814,712	9,173,061
Deferred government transfers	-	5,191,080
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	36,702,691	23,513,377
Total Liabilities	<u>98,212,692</u>	<u>94,491,142</u>
Net Debt	<u>(6,285,461)</u>	<u>(638,868)</u>
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	146,641	132,369
Inventory of supplies	67,185	56,186
Tangible capital assets	96,172,092	96,413,575
Total Non-Financial Assets	<u>96,385,918</u>	<u>96,602,130</u>
Accumulated Surplus	<u>\$ 90,100,457</u>	<u>\$ 95,963,262</u>



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



Bruce Jolliffe
Chair of the board

Summarized statement of OPERATIONS year ended December 31, 2014 (audited)

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual (Restated)
Revenue			
Frontage and parcel taxes	\$ 599,328	\$ 598,721	\$ 420,438
Grants in lieu of taxes	198,524	394,137	387,055
Tax requisitions - electoral area and municipal	22,078,583	22,078,584	21,153,880
Government transfers	3,338,804	6,419,837	1,076,486
Sales of services and other revenue sources	18,142,390	18,598,859	16,208,819
Capital contributions from others	170,600	615,910	682,655
Investment income	70,000	1,019,871	702,157
Total Revenue	<u>44,598,229</u>	<u>49,725,919</u>	<u>40,631,490</u>
Expenses			
General government services	6,567,297	4,237,156	3,777,756
Protective services	3,156,504	3,057,050	2,923,268
Transportation services	2,621,310	2,319,890	2,198,242
Environmental health services	20,447,113	32,918,737	19,231,059
Public health and welfare services	188,262	118,312	697,801
Environmental development services	3,237,428	2,857,331	2,600,572
Recreation and cultural services	10,092,278	10,080,248	8,917,242
Total Expenses	<u>46,310,192</u>	<u>55,588,724</u>	<u>40,345,940</u>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(1,711,963)</u>	<u>(5,862,805)</u>	<u>285,550</u>
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year, as previously stated	97,880,013	97,880,013	96,556,851
Less: Prior period adjustment	<u>(1,916,751)</u>	<u>(1,916,751)</u>	<u>(879,139)</u>
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year, as restated	<u>95,963,262</u>	<u>95,963,262</u>	<u>95,677,712</u>
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 94,251,299</u>	<u>\$ 90,100,457</u>	<u>\$ 95,963,262</u>

Summarized statement of CASH FLOWS Year ended December 31, 2014 (audited)

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u> (Restated)
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,862,805)	\$ 285,550
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	(25,271)	(2,850)
Receivables	(97,196)	(454,927)
Inventory for resale	-	6,405
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(918,736)	492,579
Restricted revenue	1,641,651	701,917
Deferred government transfers	(5,191,080)	565,156
Items not utilizing cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,640,775	3,486,694
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	30,461	285,803
Transfer of tangible capital assets to other local government	-	563,435
Landfill closure and post closure allowance	13,189,314	3,070,583
Actuarial adjustments and other items	(1,126,785)	(1,018,535)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	<u>5,280,328</u>	<u>7,981,810</u>
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(3,540,272)	(4,185,102)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	110,520	77,247
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	<u>(3,429,752)</u>	<u>(4,107,855)</u>
Financing Transactions		
Long and short-term debt issued	262,790	-
Long and short-term debt repayments	(1,833,087)	(1,935,496)
Cash Applied to Financing Transactions	<u>(1,570,297)</u>	<u>(1,935,496)</u>
Change in Cash and Temporary Investments	<u>280,279</u>	<u>1,938,459</u>
Cash and Temporary Investments, beginning of year	<u>67,008,602</u>	<u>65,070,143</u>
Cash and Temporary Investments, end of year	<u>\$ 67,288,881</u>	<u>\$ 67,008,602</u>

ACTION on Comox Valley Curling Centre upgrades

An alternative approval process (AAP), which closed on June 13, received public approval to borrow \$1.9 million for upgrades to the Comox Valley curling centre. The curling centre facility is over 50 years old and main components of the refrigeration plant are well beyond their life expectancy and are in need of replacement. Energy efficient building and mechanical upgrades will add an estimated 30 years of life to the CVRD facility. The project is on track to start immediately following the conclusion of the curling season which is mid April 2015.



Comox Valley curling centre
PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler



South sewer project office opens. *Front row:* Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Area 'A'; Leslie Baird, Village of Cumberland mayor. *Back row:* Rob Everson, Chief, K'ómoks First Nation, Kris La Rose, CVRD's manager of liquid waste planning

PHOTOGRAPHER Marci Hotsenpiller, Zinc Strategies



CVRD manager of liquid waste planning Kris La Rose answers questions from residents at July's open house

PHOTOGRAPHER Colleen Dane, Zinc Strategies

FORWARD steps for south sewer project & south region liquid waste management plan

The south sewer project, proposed to protect Baynes Sound and support to economic development opportunities for the K'ómoks First Nation, took a significant step forward in 2014 when the CVRD launched the required liquid waste management plan (LWMP) process for the south region (Electoral Area 'A', excluding Denman and Hornby islands). Given the investigative work completed in previous years, it was agreed to combine stages one and two of the typically three-stage process. The project team then set to work drafting LWMP and environmental impact study terms of reference, forming public and technical advisory committees, collecting raw elements (interests, ideas, values) from the committees and the public, identifying discharge options and undertaking a preliminary screening exercise on those options. By the end of 2014, the project team and consulting engineers were further developing four potential scenarios and the rough cost estimates associated with them, to be presented publicly in early 2015. Along with the technical planning work and public consultation, south sewer project partners - the CVRD, Village of Cumberland and K'ómoks First Nation - also tackled important organizational decisions, including approval of a governance structure in August for construction and operation of the anticipated wastewater management and water resource recovery system.



Bike rack outside Back Street pub – Royston



Eel grass bike rack – Buckley Bay



Cruiser bike rack at Red
Wagon café – Ryan Road

PHOTOGRAPHER (all three photos)
Sue Vince, Comox Valley cycling coalition

BICYCLE racks not just an urban thing any more

The CVRD worked with organizations and businesses in the three electoral areas to install bike racks in 10 locations, for the convenience and security of cyclists. The bike racks were provided in partnership between the Comox Valley Regional District and the business or organization which provided the space to locate the rack as part of a program to encourage cycling. Funding for the racks was provided by the Gas Tax Agreement from the Government of Canada.

Comox Valley TRANSIT enters the cyber-lane

Taking the bus in the Comox Valley got easier for anyone with Internet access, or a smart phone, thanks to the expansion of the Google Transit trip-planning tool. Google Transit is a public transportation planning tool that combines the latest BC Transit schedule and route information with the power of Google Maps. It is a free service that makes trip planning quick and easy for everyone.

More than 582,000 people rode buses in the Comox Valley in 2014. Tools like Google Transit encourage even more riders by demonstrating that buses are a convenient alternative to private vehicles.



Comox Valley MLA Don McRae, and CVRD chair Edwin Grieve, work with a G.P. Vanier grade 8 student to see how Google Transit can link riders to some of the most popular BC Transit destinations in the Comox Valley.

PHOTOGRAPHER Beverly Nelson



Checking out the trail are Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair and director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'), Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A'), and Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B').

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler

CVRD Celebrates Completion of Royston Seaside Trail

The CVRD officially opened the Royston Seaside Trail in electoral area 'A' on June 23.

The CVRD received a \$325,000 grant from the Government of British Columbia's Community Recreation Program to help construct the trail. The CVRD contributed \$223,000 of the total project cost of \$548,000.

The project scope included construction of a 1.1 km long and 2.5 metre wide gravel trail along the waterfront, placement of logs and rocks and planting of native vegetation to prevent erosion of the foreshore, planting of native plants along the trail, and the development of a small parking area and a toilet. The improvements will help with accessibility and allow more people to enjoy the waterfront.

Fanny Bay property to become PARK land

The CVRD purchased property adjacent to the Fanny Bay community hall for park and recreational purposes. In early October, a joint signing celebration was held at the Fanny Bay community hall with local residents, representatives from the Fanny Bay Community Association (FBCA), the CVRD and School District 71 (SD71).

The property, deemed as surplus by SD71, was sold to the CVRD for \$50,000. The property is one acre comprising primarily second growth forest, and has been used by the FBCA through a lease agreement with SD71 for the past 15 years. The land has largely been left in its natural state and will help secure the forested area and recreational opportunities for the future as well as maintain a buffer between the active recreation amenities on the adjacent FBCA lands, and private lands to the south and west.



(L to R back row): CVRD Director, Lazo North (Area 'B') Jim Gillis; CVRD Director, Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A') Bruce Jolliffe; FBCA President Neville Hope
(L to R front row): SD71 Trustee Sheila McDonnell; CVRD Board Chair Edwin Grieve; School District 71 Board Chair Peter Coleman

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler



Comox Organics – Patti Fletcher, Town of Comox acting mayor, and Edwin Grieve, chair of the Comox Strathcona waste management service board, assist town parks worker, Ryley Carr, in applying compost into the gardens at Marina Park



Cumberland Organics –Village of Cumberland mayor Leslie Baird, Comox Strathcona waste management chair Edwin Grieve, and Cumberland's manager of operations Rob Crisfield display the fresh compost now being applied in the local parks

PHOTOGRAPHER Beverly Nelson

Food scraps become COMPOST for parks

The Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service processed over 2,800 tonnes of food and yard waste since the organics collection program began in June 2013, resulting in a nutrient-rich compost for various municipal landscaping projects.

The CSWM service has provided the participating municipalities -- the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland -- with compost to use as a soil conditioner for public area garden beds and community parks, creating a sustainable food-back-to-soil loop.

Garry Oaks find NEW ground

A tree conservation project at the CVRD's exhibition grounds involved planting new trees and, in April, with the help of Comox Valley Nature (CVN), six heritage Garry oaks were planted, bordering the farmers market area, with more to be planted on the grounds in the future.

The CVRD's Area 'B' heritage conservation service gave CVN a grant of \$5,000 for the conservation of Garry oak trees in the area. The CVN's Garry oaks nursery holds approximately 5,000 oaks of known genetics specific to the region for future replanting projects. Some of these were available free to the public in the fall.



Helping with the planting were, from left to right: Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair and director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'), Comox Valley Nature's Loys Maingon, and Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B').

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler

Goose Spit beach NOW a reality for all

The CVRD parks department and the Comox Valley Accessibility Committee partnered to make regional parks more accessible. In the summer, beach mats were installed at the far end of Goose Spit so residents of all abilities could enjoy the fire pit with friends and family. Also being looked at are additional improvements to accessible parking.



Checking out the mats are members of the accessibility committee: James Stewart, Heather Thomson, Heather Crites, Marg Misener, and Judy Norbury, along with Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair and director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'), Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands, (Area 'A') and Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B').

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler



Photograph supplied courtesy of Comox Valley Echo newspaper

HOSPITAL breaks ground

In August, Health Minister Terry Lake, along with Comox Valley MLA Don McRae and regional officials, celebrated the start of construction on the \$606.2-million North Island Hospitals Project, which will see new hospitals for Campbell River and the Comox Valley.

The boundaries of the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District (CSRHD) encompass the boundaries of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the Strathcona Regional District (SRD), and include all the directors from those two regional district boards.

Multi-Material BC ROLLS out

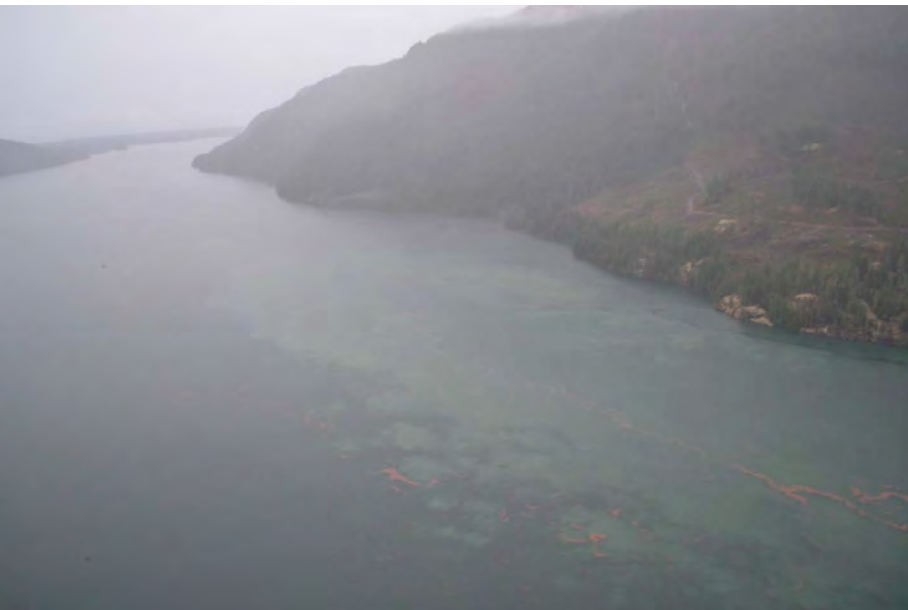
On May 19, 2014 under the BC Recycling Regulation, businesses that supply packaging and printed paper became responsible for the cost of collecting, sorting and recycling these materials. Multi-Material BC (MMBC), a non-profit organization, uses fees paid by its members to finance residential recycling programs for printed paper and packaging in many areas across BC, either directly or by working with local governments, First Nations, private companies and non-profit organizations.

When these new changes were implemented, some of the recycling depots throughout the region expanded to accept new materials. These depots include waste management centres in the Comox Valley and Campbell River, and on Cortes, Hornby and Denman Islands, and in Sayward, Tahsis and Gold River. These MMBC-approved depots started to collect plastic foam packaging (i.e. Stryfoam), glass, and plastic bags/film wrap.

Saving ENERGY = saving money

The concept of energy conservation showed some very tangible results in 2014. In the spring and summer of the year, phase two of the home energy incentive program saw 46 homes in the electoral areas have an energy audit and air leakage improvements undertaken for free. The annual energy savings associated with those actions was over 19,000 kilowatt hours and utility cost savings per home of \$48 per year on average.

2014 was also the one year anniversary of solar panel installation on the Oyster River and Fanny Bay fire halls, Little River water services site, and the south sewer project office. Funding for these projects was provided through the federal Gas Tax Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The energy and cost savings that resulted from these panels was approximately 19,000 kilowatt hours and \$2,000.



Turbidity moving down Comox Lake



Cruickshank River running into Comox Lake

PHOTOGRAPHER (both photos) Eva Harding, City of Courtenay

Turbidity - MORE than just a dirty word

Between October 27th and November 5th, and beginning again on December 11th for over a month, the Comox Valley water system was placed on two separate boil water advisories (BWAs) after extremely low levels in the lakes and rivers over the summer and early fall, combined with heavy rainfall in the later fall, caused turbidity levels to rise in the Comox Lake reservoir. The BWA advised users to boil their drinking water for one minute prior to consumption, in order to kill any pathogens that might be present. The purpose of a BWA is to ensure protection of public health from potential waterborne illnesses when turbidity levels in drinking water are higher than acceptable levels.

CVRD used a wide variety of ways to communicate with residents, and social media proved itself very useful in daily updates and on-the-spot ability to answer questions and provide information.

In 2015 CVRD staff will be providing the board with water treatment options that will help reduce and/or eliminate the need for future boil water advisories due to turbidity.

NEW Oyster River fire truck: the rubber meets the road

The Oyster River Volunteer Fire Rescue Association acquired a new fire engine early in the year. The new truck, which cost \$440,000, meets apparatus standards to enhance the Oyster River fire department's ability to save lives and property. The truck holds numerous life-saving pieces of equipment, with up-to-the minute technology. Features include four-wheel drive capabilities, a full complement of firefighting equipment appropriate for the area, multiple ladders, a full range of medical first responder and rescue equipment, as well as vehicle extrication equipment.



(L to R): Oyster River Fire Chief Niels Holbek; Brenda Leigh, chair of the Black Creek-Oyster Bay services committee and Strathcona Regional District (SRD) director for Oyster Bay-Buttle Lake (Electoral Area 'D'); Edwin Grieve, CVRD director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Electoral Area 'C') and member of Black Creek-Oyster Bay services committee; Oyster River Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Green.

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler



Checking out the new signage for the Royston-to-Cumberland railway trail project are - from left to right - Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B'), Edwin Grieve, CVRD board chair and director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C'), and Bruce Jolliffe, CVRD director for Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A').

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler

Railway grade turns into public TRAIL

Early in the year the CVRD purchased five parcels of land comprising a portion of the Wellington Colliery railway grade as parkland for this 4.7 kilometre public trail. Acquiring these properties is consistent with the rural parks and greenways strategic plan. Public response to community consultations demonstrated how Comox Valley residents value a variety of recreational opportunities. Future work will include better parking off Trent Road and drainage improvements.

■ Solid waste management plan steps FORWARD ■

The adopted solid waste management plan (SWMP) includes a long-range vision for waste management based on two regional landfills and ongoing consideration of waste-to-energy options.

The Comox-Strathcona solid waste management (CSWM) service is responsible for construction of a new engineered landfill at the Comox Valley facility to serve the region for the next 20 years. In addition, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent environmental impacts, the plan also requires the CSWM service to close the existing regional landfills at the Campbell River and Comox Valley facilities. These landfill closures support environmental compliance regulations addressing landfill leachate and landfill gas management.

The SWMP anticipates that existing reserves are not adequate to fund all the capital projects listed in the plan and consequently, borrowing funds is required. The loan authorization bylaw for just over \$45,000,000 was approved by the inspector of municipalities and was adopted on November 20, 2014 at the CSWM board meeting.

When a solid waste management plan is approved by the Minister of Environment, bylaws implementing the plan do not require further assent by the electors, as referenced in the Environmental Management Act.

RESTORING a tidal marsh

The Comox Valley Project Watershed Society has embarked on a major restoration project to re-establish the tidal marsh system along the CVRD's Royston seaside trail. The once-extensive tidal marshes in that area had been lost due to various industrial practices over decades, but volunteers have restored almost 2,000 square metres of eelgrass in the intertidal and sub tidal waters near the Royston wrecks. The CVRD committed \$25,000 of Community Works Funds to Project Watershed's salt marsh shoreline restoration project - some of which includes the work along the regional district's Royston seaside trail.



Planting salt-tolerant plants on salt marsh "bench" (l to r) Bob Wells, Project Watershed volunteer; Jim Gillis, CVRD director for Lazo North (Area 'B'); Nicole Wright, Project Watershed volunteer; Jennifer Sutherst, Project Watershed staff.

PHOTOGRAPHER Dan Bowen, Project Watershed board member



CVRD Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C') director Edwin Grieve and the Stolen Church

PHOTOGRAPHER Craig Freeman, Merville Community Association

Stolen Church found a NEW home

The Merville Community Association (MCA) bought an old church, known as the “Stolen Church”, and wanted to move it to the Merville hall grounds, to hopefully be the beginnings of an historic townsite tourist attraction. The church is an important artifact for the Merville community, and the CVRD’s Area ‘C’ heritage conservation service provided \$37,000 towards the project in 2014, which allowed the church to be moved to its new home site at the Merville community hall in April.

Synthetic turf field gets REAL

The CVRD and community partners welcomed the public to the grand opening of the G.P. Vanier synthetic turf field in late September. Those in attendance took part in some try-it activities and watched demonstrations offered by the soccer and field hockey clubs.

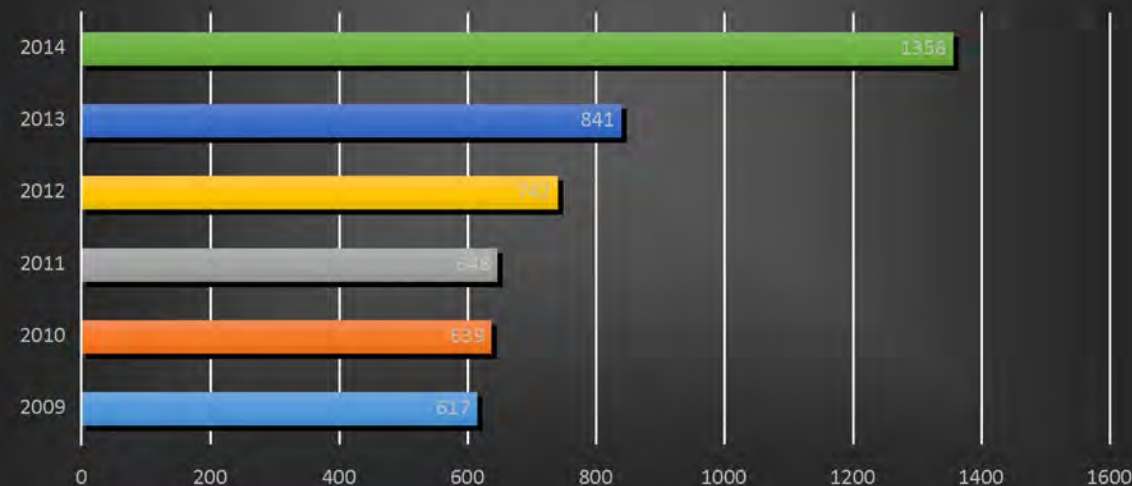
Construction of the synthetic turf field began in late spring of 2014 with project completion in September, on time and under budget. The project cost of \$1.2 million was funded in part by the CVRD, City of Courtenay, Comox Valley field hockey, and the Comox Valley United Soccer Club (CVUSC). School District No. 71 (SD 71) provided the land for the field. The turf field is environmentally friendly as the project received funding from Tire Stewardship BC for using BC recycled tires as part of the infill material for the turf base.



The new G.P. Vanier synthetic turf field will allow for sport activities year-round.

PHOTOGRAPHER Robyn Butler

Dog licence sales 2009-2014 Total annual sales (all areas)



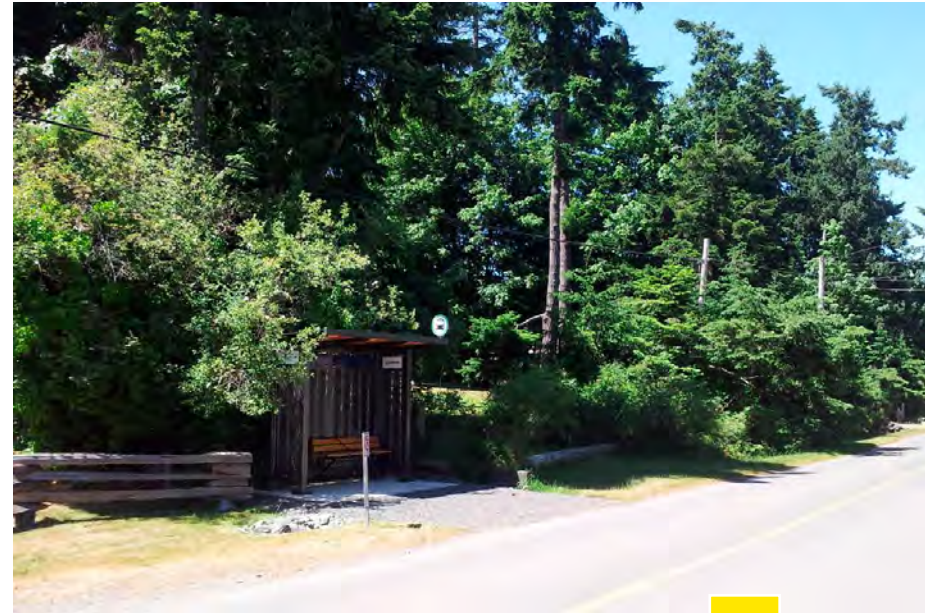
2009-2014 licence sales

Tangible RESULTS for dog licensing efforts

The CVRD sells licences and enforces dog licensing in the rural areas of the regional district. The licences are just \$5 for a year for spayed/neutered pets, and provide an excellent method of connecting stray or lost dogs with their owners. Efforts to increase the number of licensed dogs have been stepped up in the past couple of years, and they appear to be paying off.



New light-duty bus on display at public event
PHOTOGRAPHER Shannon Pickering



Saratoga Beach bus shelter
PHOTOGRAPHER Michael Zbarsky

Transit future is NOW

In April, the CVRD and BC Transit brought the Transit Future Bus back for a second round of community consultations, and by year end, the transit future plan was completed and adopted.

Over 2,500 people shared their thoughts and ideas for transit's 25 year plan, and some of those ideas became reality that same year. The #2 Cumberland bus route was improved to provide access to an area of the Village of Cumberland that didn't previously have service, including the recently developed Coal Valley Estates. In addition, the plan highlighted the need to match bus size with demand and a smaller light duty bus was brought into the conventional system to tackle off-peak times.

The Comox Valley sustainability strategy also saw vision turned into implementation with the installation of a new bus shelter at Saratoga Beach on the southbound route of the north valley connector bus.



Sieffert's pumpkin patch
PHOTOGRAPHER Hans Peter Meyer

