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13 Jours

Bruce Joliffe, Chair Comox Valley Regional District Board

Message From The Chair

Your board has chosen its strategic priorities for its term of office. These include improving the Comox Lake water supply, reducing homelessness, mitigating flooding, providing a sewerage service to the Royston/Union Bay area, improving recreation facilities, and providing a long term office building for the regional government. Our 2015 annual report captures the progress we are making on these priorities and other programs we have underway.

The CVRD homelessness support service was established in 2015. The establishment bylaw includes working to support the goals identified in the five-year plan created by the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. In 2016 two contracts will be awarded, one to the Comox Valley Transition Society and another to the Comox Valley Recovery Centre. The funding within these contracts will create six new transitional housing spaces within our community. Our long range goal is to continue to support the good work being done every day by the many non-governmental agencies that provide support to people facing homelessness.

Comox Lake supplies drinking water, power, fish habitat, and recreational opportunities. A plan to ensure these different uses align, a watershed protection plan, is nearing completion. This will allow the Comox Valley to continue with its traditional uses of the Comox Lake watershed without one use jeopardizing another.

As the regional government for the Comox Valley, the Comox Valley Regional District not only unites its member municipalities and its rural areas, it also provides a mechanism for collaborating with

Message From The Chair continued...

our First Nation hosts, the province, the federal government, and other regional districts. In particular our protocol agreement with the K'ómoks First Nation has facilitated providing water and sewerage services to lands they plan to use to improve their economic independence.

We are, in collaboration with the Strathcona Regional District, well on our way to having a 21st century solid waste management service. Programs to divert organics from the waste stream are expanding. Our landfills will soon be fully compliant with today's environmental expectations. Meeting modern landfill standards has been challenging not only for the two regional districts but for all their residents as we come to realize what it truly costs to manage the lifecycle of the products we consume in the course of our day to day living.

I hope this introduction will encourage you to continue reading our report to find out in detail how the Comox Valley Regional District serves you. Finally I want to thank my fellow directors and the Comox Valley Regional District staff for their passion in making the Comox Valley a highly livable region.



Debra Oakman, CPA, CMA Chief Administrative Officer

Message From The CAO

As I reflect on 2015, the organization accomplished a number of key outcomes that will provide certainty for the next three years within our region. A special thanks to the members of the executive management team for leading and guiding staff on the numerous initiatives.

The successful collective agreement negotiations has resulted in a four year contract with CUPE Local 556 and the United Steelworkers union. These agreements will be the guiding force for employees until 2018.

This past year the executive management team worked to advance business continuity planning for the regional district office. Currently the corporate office is located in a flood prone location that may be required to close or relocate operations due to adverse weather conditions. Providing continued operations, support and services to our residents during emergency situations is a priority we are actively managing.

2015 was a year filled with a significant amount of research and planning regarding watershed protection in our region. Climate change and erosion along the banks of Perseverance Creek have contributed to unprecedented boil water notices this past year. CVRD operations and administration worked extra-long hours and through flood conditions to ensure water sampling continued and ongoing public communications were completed. In 2016, the results of the water treatment options study will be presented and provide long term solutions for our region.

Within my role as the chief administrative officer (CAO) for the CVRD, I represent administration for the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District (CSRHD) board and the North Island 9-1-1 (NI911) Corporation. Both of these corporate entities have had successful projects this past year. The CSRHD

Message From The CAO continued...

broke ground and is well underway with the construction of the two new state-of-the-art hospitals set to open fall 2017. These new hospitals will ensure residents and visitors receive the best care, equipment and service for many years to come. 2015 represented the first full year of a five year agreement with EComm for a public-safety answering point for NI911. In 2015, there were over 64,000 9-1-1 calls within our vast geographical area. With this efficient delivery of 9-1-1 dispatching, the safety and health of our community is protected.

This past year, we were invited to participate in the provincial *Local Government Act* (LGA) review. The LGA is the governing legislation for all regional districts to follow and it was a pleasure to assist the province with the review. Finally, as an organization we have been providing support and resources to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC). The AVICC initiated a special committee dedicated to collaborating across Vancouver Island and coastal communities on matters related to solid waste. By participating in local, regional, Vancouver Island and provincial initiatives, we are developing collaborative networks and sharing knowledge.

With the end of any year comes the excitement of the next. I am looking forward to continuing to work proactively with the board, staff and the community in order to reach new milestones in our region.



2015 Board of Directors

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Ken Grant, Town of Comox (CVRD vice-chair); Bob Wells, City of Courtenay; Bruce Jolliffe, Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area 'A') (CVRD chair); Rod Nichol, Lazo North (Area 'B'); David Frisch, City of Courtenay (alternate director)

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Manno Theos, City of Courtenay; Gwyn Sproule, Village of Cumberland; Barbara Price, Town of Comox; Edwin Grieve, Puntledge-Black Creek (Area 'C')

Missing from photo: Erik Eriksson and Larry Jangula, both City of Courtenay

2015 Executive Management Team

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Ann MacDonald, Ian Smith, Marc Rutten, James Warren, Julie Bradley

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Teresa Warnes, Beth Dunlop, Debra Oakman, Leigh Carter



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, 2015 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2015.

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 Professional 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, CPA, CGA

Officer responsible for Financial Administration, pursuant to Section 237 of the Local Government Act

March 24, 2016

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, 2015 and the Summary Statements of Operations and Changes in 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, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 24, 2016. 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, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements.



Chartered Professional Accountants Vancouver, British Columbia March 24, 2016



Summarized Statement of Financial Position

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015 (AUDITED)

	2015	2014
Financial Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 77,201,880	\$ 67,288,881
Receivables	3,518,186	3,234,830
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	19,115,849	21,403,520
Total Financial Assets	99,835,915	91,927,231
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	4,712,822	4,569,228
Short-term debt	8,212,339	964,790
Long-term debt	40,682,790	45,161,271
Restricted revenue	14,046,841	10,814,712
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	29,659,980	36,702,691
Total Liabilities	97,314,772	98,212,692
Net Financial Assets (Net Debt)	2,521,143	(6,285,461)
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	198,204	146,641
Inventory of supplies	68,869	67,185
Tangible capital assets	96,961,752	96,172,092
Total Non-Financial Assets	97,228,825	96,385,918
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 99,749,968	\$ 90,100,457

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E.J. Dunlop, CPA, CGA
Officer responsible for Financial Administration
pursuant to Section 237 of the Local Government Act (RSBC 2015)

12 Jours

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Summarized Statement of Operations YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 (AUDITED)

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2014 Actual
Revenue			
Tax requisitions - electoral area and municipal	23,646,051	23,646,051	22,078,584
Sales of services and other revenue sources	18,636,613	18,696,511	18,483,814
Government transfers	1,784,680	1,246,115	6,419,837
Frontage and parcel taxes	626,091	626,090	598,721
Grants in lieu of taxes	198,524	407,408	394,137
Capital contributions from others	706,069	834,839	730,955
Investment income	70,000	851,712	1,019,871
Total Revenue	45,668,028	46,308,726	49,725,919
Expenses			
General government services	5,380,179	4,483,106	4,237,156
Protective services	3,445,126	3,233,624	3,057,050
Transportation services	2,752,955	2,529,069	2,319,890
Environmental health services	18,703,290	14,628,849	32,918,737
Public health and welfare services	160,288	90,793	118,312
Environmental development services	3,081,390	2,775,562	2,857,331
Recreation and cultural services	9,013,115	8,918,212	10,080,248
Total Expenses	42,536,343	36,659,215	55,588,724
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	3,131,685	9,649,511	(5,862,805)
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	90,100,457	90,100,457	95,963,262
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	\$ 93,232,142	\$ 99,749,968	\$ 90,100,457

Summarized Statement of Cash Flows

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 (AUDITED)

	2015	2014
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 9,649,511	\$ (5,862,805)
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	(53,247)	(25,271)
Receivables	(283,356)	(97,196)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	143,594	(918,736)
Restricted revenue	3,232,129	1,641,651
Deferred government transfers	-	(5,191,080)
Items not utilizing cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,723,147	3,640,775
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(10,624)	30,461
Landfill closure and post closure allowance	(7,042,711)	13,189,314
Actuarial adjustments and other items	(1,253,034)	(1,126,785)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	8,105,409	5,280,328
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(4,544,183)	(3,540,272)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	42,000	110,520
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(4,502,183)	(3,429,752)
Financing Transactions		
Long and short-term debt issued	8,685,020	262,790
Long and short-term debt repayments	(2,375,247)	(1,833,087)
Cash Provided by (applied to) Financing Transactions	6,309,773	(1,570,297)
Change in Cash and Temporary Investments	9,912,999	280,279
Cash and Temporary Investments, beginning of year	67,288,881	67,008,602
Cash and Temporary Investments, end of year	\$ 77,201,880	\$ 67,288,881

Homelessness Referendum Supports Service

In 2008, the Mayor's Task Force on homelessness determined there were 250 homeless individuals and another 3,000 residents who were at risk of homelessness in the Comox Valley. In January 2011, the CVRD standing committee on housing and homelessness set priorities regarding the populations in the greatest need for having their housing needs addressed. The groups identified were the mentally ill and addicted, women fleeing from abusive relationships, families, youth (over 15 years), and seniors living alone.

After years of trying to establish a service for the region, in November 2015 a referendum was conducted to see if voters of the Comox Valley were in favour of establishing a mechanism to fund initiatives to help alleviate homelessness in the region. The referendum passed by a vote of 1,617 ballots in favour to 1,433 ballots against.

Based on the results of this referendum, the region has been able to establish a service to provide funds to one or more non-government organizations to deliver services to assist homeless individuals, based on a five year plan. The tax will be approximately five dollars for an average home assessed at \$300,000. These funds will be collected by the CVRD and distributed to designated non-profits. Supportive and transitional housing projects are the highest priority as these facilities are limited within the Comox Valley. For more information on the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness visit www.cvhousing.ca.



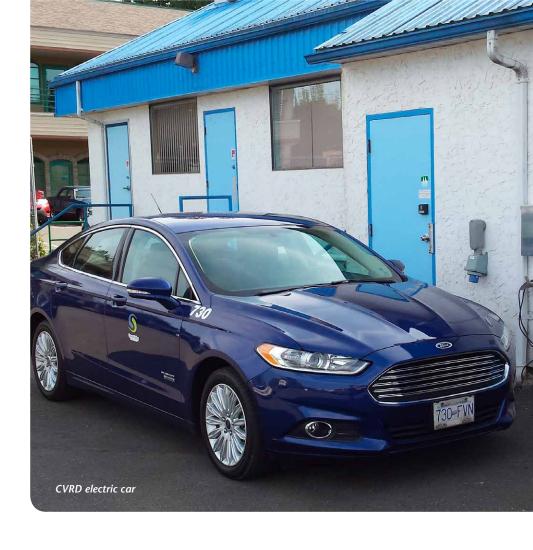
COMOX VALLEY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Housing & Necessary Supports

CVRD Carbon Neutral Leader

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the CVRD has been carbon neutral in its operations since 2012. In 2015 the CVRD received recognition for its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction efforts by being awarded Milestone 5 in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection program.

The CVRD adopted a corporate energy plan in 2011 and has been undertaking numerous corporate energy and climate initiatives in the past year including retrofitting energy intensive equipment at the recreation centres and purchasing electric fleet vehicles. Many CVRD services require the use of carbon producing energy sources to deliver their benefits to the community. In order to balance these emissions and reduce corporate GHG emissions, the CVRD has been purchasing carbon offsets. In 2015, the CVRD purchased verified carbon offsets from a landfill gas project in Utah that produces electricity for approximately 3000 homes, and has allocated the remaining offset funds to local GHG reduction projects.





New Routing and Fares for Transit

What better way to start off a new year than with improvements to local transit. The CVRD in partnership with BC Transit introduced a new bus route, as well as routing and schedule improvements to our regional transit system. These improvements were identified in the Comox Valley transit future plan that the CVRD board approved in 2014 and demonstrate our commitment to implementation of this plan.

The brand new route, #34 C2C Express, provides a direct route between downtown Courtenay and downtown Comox via North Island College with a trip time less than 20 minutes and is designed around typical business hours in support of commuters. As well, a smaller transit vehicle was brought into the system to help with the connections from this new route.

New routing on the #12 North Valley Connector now provides all weekday trips leaving Oyster River travelling direct to the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre and North Island College. Previously this route went into downtown Courtenay and residents had to transfer to get to North Island College. The new routing realignment will better serve North Courtenay, Merville, Black Creek and Oyster River residents who are attending North Island College and reduce their trip times.

Another new routing was on #2 Cumberland which now allows for more direct routing from Cumberland to Courtenay and better access for Cumberland residents in the recently developed areas of the village.

In order to make these system improvements possible a modest fare increase on cash and ticket trips was implemented; while monthly pass costs remain unchanged. The last transit fare increase in the Comox Valley was in 2011.

In2transit

The "In2transit – Get there by bus" campaign was designed to raise awareness of the Comox Valley transit system as a transportation option that can fit into any lifestyle. The Comox Valley transit system is a valuable community resource. It is an effective method of transportation and has tremendous potential to contribute to a more economically vibrant, livable, and sustainable community.

To help spread the word and interest, CVRD transit partnered with many local personalities and local businesses who appeared in promotions, donated prizes, and provided transit-related information. Participation was based on taking a selfie while on the bus and posting to social media with #In2Transit or by submitting a paper ticket available at local events. Over 2,500 visits were made to the campaign website, over 4,000 residents were reached by social media and approximately 2,000 residents were communicated with at local outreach events. The grand prize winners were randomly chosen from submissions and announced in November. The grand prize of \$550 cash was awarded to Carmen Thran, Steven Zwick won the MyTechGuys package valued at over \$400, and Angelica Rattray Parsons received the Dine by Bus Gift Package valued at \$250. The campaign received over 319 submissions.

The campaign helped balance the perception in the community that transit is inconvenient and unnecessary with the reality that transit is a viable transportation alternative that is vital to the community's well-being.

For more information on this campaign visit www.in2transit.ca.

in2transit campaign photo submissions.



Comox Air Show Park-and-Ride Service

The CVRD in partnership with the Comox Air Show and BC Transit, delivered a special Comox Air Show park-and-ride service which provided over 5,000 rides to and from the August airshow. The Comox Air Show attracts more than 10,000 residents and visitors each year. By offering the free shuttle service, thousands of residents avoided sitting in traffic and searching for parking. Instead the convenient shuttles offered a stress free way to enjoy the event.





The Grand Opening of the Hornby Island Free Store

The CVRD worked with the Hornby Island recycling committee to construct a new free store located at the Hornby Island recycling depot. The CVRD worked collaboratively with residents to meet the needs of the community and ensured that building materials in good condition were recycled from the old store and utilized on the new building. The grand opening celebration of the free store was hosted in April and a few hundred residents attended.





"After years of planning, budgeting and consultation with the community, it has been a huge accomplishment to see the re-opening of the curling centre come to fruition. Ensuring we are offering various, updated recreation activities and services to our residents helps create a healthier, more involved community for everyone to enjoy."

Chair Comox Valley Sports Centre Commission – Director Theos (City of Courtenay)

Grand Re-Opening of CVRD's Curling Centre

The CVRD's curling centre grand re-opening took place in November 2015. Upgrade work had been taking place since late spring of 2015 and the facility opened in time for the highly anticipated curling season.

The new energy-efficient building was seismically and mechanically upgraded which added an estimated 30 years of life to the facility and ensures that a multipurpose year-round building is available to the residents of the Comox Valley. Additional upgrades included construction of a new slab, a new refrigeration plant and improvements to social areas within the facility.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held, followed by the official throw of rocks. Members of the public took a tour of the building, enjoyed refreshments and tried their hand at throwing a curling stone.





"I take great pride in the work we accomplished with the watershed advisory group in the development of the Comox Lake watershed protection plan. Countless hours went into this planning process with members representing government agencies and licensed users having responsibilities or interest in resource management on public and private lands within the watershed. The Comox Lake watershed protection plan is now in final draft form and will be presented to the CVRD board in late spring 2016."

Chair, Comox Valley Water Committee - Director Wells (City of Courtenay)

Adapting to Changes in our Weather Conditions

The community responded to record-breaking dry weather conditions in the spring and summer. Local stage three water restrictions were put in place at the beginning of July due to hot dry weather and a BC Hydro shutdown of electricity generation. The stage three restriction was an essential part of reducing the water withdrawal rates from the Puntledge River. The daily consumption for the Comox Valley water system

decreased when the elevated restrictions came into effect. The data indicated that residents understood the extreme drought situation and decreased their water use by approximately 15,000,000 litres/day.

Followed by the unprecedented dry summer, winter produced heavier than normal rainfall causing a boil water notice to be issued in December that lasted one week. The boil water notice related to turbidity occurred in communities with water supplied from Comox Lake - including City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, and other electoral area water local service areas.

Boil water notices and ongoing water quality monitoring in Comox Lake has led the Vancouver Island Health Authority to make a final decision that both filtering and disinfection must be provided for the Comox Valley water system. Given this decision, the CVRD water commission and Opus Day and Knight completed a review of the water intake from Comox Lake and related treatment options. The project results from this study will be presented to the CVRD board in late spring 2016.





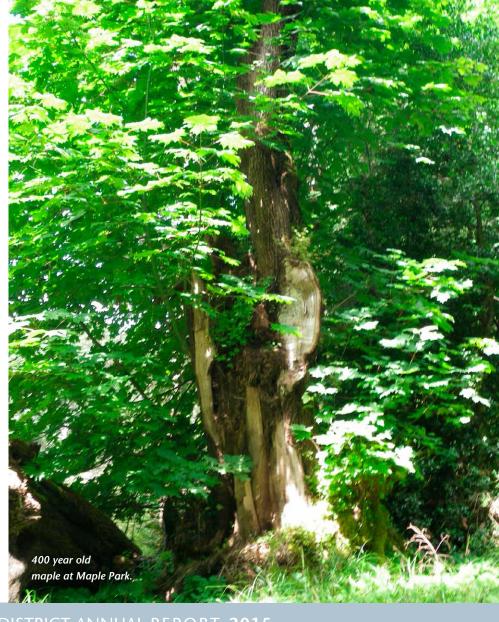
"2015 was a year filled with balancing community priorities. I am excited about our accomplishments in our more rural areas and look forward to continue working together in the coming year."

Chair, Electoral Areas Services Commission –
Director Grieve (Puntledge – Black Creek – Electoral Area C)

Elector Approval Obtained for CVRD's Denman Island Parks and Greenways Service Bylaw

Elector approval, by way of alternate approval process, was obtained in December 2015 for the CVRD's Denman Island community parks and greenways service establishment bylaw.

The Denman and Hornby Island community parks and greenways service was shared between the two islands for park-related activities on both islands. Recommendations from a community services report taken to the electoral areas services committee in August proposed that the existing service be split into individual services to allow each island to better manage its own interests. At this time there are no changes in the tax rate for the parks services as a result of this process.



CVRD Fire Service Working Together

The CVRD fire services is comprised of four fire departments: Oyster River Fire Rescue, Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Denman Island Fire Rescue, and Hornby Island Fire Rescue.

Through the fire services administration model review it was recommended that the fire chief positions of these departments be engaged as employees of the CVRD to provide direct responsibility for the delivery of fire services and to provide firefighters with appropriate liability coverage. With the fire chief positions as employees of the CVRD, clear reporting lines have been established and the risks associated with fire protection can be better managed at both an administrative and operational level.

Implementation of the new CVRD fire services administration model also positions both the fire departments and the CVRD to better meet the Office of the Fire Commissioner's minimum training and competency standards as established in 2014.

The four fire chief positions of our fire departments are now employees of the CVRD and are part of the team that manages the risks of fire protection within our region.

Mount Washington Fire Service Project

Following the commitment of feasibility funds and the establishment of a local steering group, the CVRD engaged the services of a consultant team to provide a detailed analysis of fire protection service options available for the Mount Washington community. A detailed report will be distributed in early 2016.

The establishment of a new Mount Washington fire service requires that CVRD seek permission from residents and property owners of the Mount Washington community by way of referendum, which may be scheduled for late summer 2016.





Clemmies Trail Officially Opens

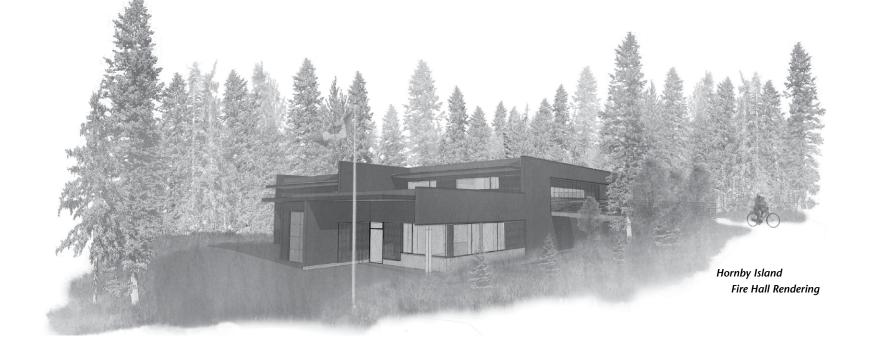
In October, the Clemmies trail officially opened. The trail extends the One Spot trail by 700 metres and trail users can enter the trail opposite Quinn stables on the Condensory Road. Finalizing the route and constructing the One Spot trail is one of the CVRD's strategic priorities. The One Spot trail is located primarily along the former railway grade of the Comox Logging and Railway Company. The trail is named after the first locomotive that worked on the grade, the "One-Spot" a wood burning Baldwin engine, built in 1909.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) now owns the grade which extends from the City of Courtenay to Endall Road. MOTI granted the CVRD a license of occupation for the grade between Condensory Road and the Tsolum River. With much help from the Comox Valley Land Trust, the Back Country Horsemen of BC and the Comox Valley Naturalists the CVRD officially opened the One Spot trail in the fall of 2005.

The first 525 metres of Clemmie's trail was constructed on private land under a statutory right-of-way which property owner Marilyn Clements generously donated to the CVRD. Construction included installation of a concrete bridge, fencing, 50 red maple trees, several

Leif Race, Dove Creek resident cuts the ribbon to Clemmies Trail with property donor Marilyn Clements while Bruce Jolliffe (CVRD chair) looks on.

culverts, signs and bollards. Completion of this extension brings the One Spot trail to a total length of approximately 13 kilometres over three distinct sections. The trail offers off-road pedestrian, horse and bike travel through the Dove Creek area.



New Fire Hall on Hornby Island Becoming a Reality

A new fire hall on Hornby Island is fast becoming a reality, following the results of the April 2015 referendum. A majority of voters in the Hornby Island fire protection service provided a definitive response by voting yes to borrowing \$1.6 million to be repaid over 20 years to assist in the construction of the project. The new fire hall with construction slated to begin spring 2016, will offer the community better trained firefighters, a post-disaster building, emergency operations centre and a safer workplace for volunteers.

There was much lively debate and active participation in the community regarding the project. Having community input into the proposal was integral in delivering a plan that would serve the needs of the community in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

South Sewer Project and South Region Liquid Waste Management Plan

Thousands of comments stemming from open houses, office hours, newsletters, press releases, social media posts and online engagement helped to move the south region's (Electoral Area 'A', excluding Denman and Hornby Islands) liquid waste management plan (LWMP) through critical stages in 2015.

The LWMP was launched in 2014 to guide the development of a community wastewater system that would address the failing onsite systems in the area that are impacting water quality in Baynes Sound and quality of life for some in the area. Following an open house that drew hundreds early in 2015, the technical and public advisory committees were able to apply the feedback to a triple-bottom line analysis of potential discharge locations. They determined that combining with the existing Comox Valley system's outfall at Cape Lazo would be the preferred option for the much-needed community wastewater system proposed for the CVRD and its partners, the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) and Village of Cumberland.

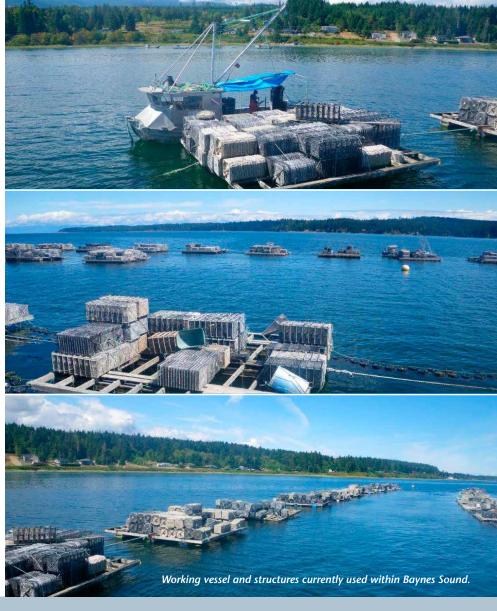
As planning continued, so did staff's investigations into additional funding opportunities that would continue to reduce the cost of the project for residents. As a result of that work, the federal agency PPP Canada indicated potential interest in supporting the delivery of the project, support that could cover 25 per cent of the capital costs. While the Village of Cumberland decided in November to opt out of the south sewer project in order to restart their own LWMP process, the CVRD and KFN remain committed to moving this important project forward. Revising the scope of the project, continuing to pursue additional funding sources and beginning assessment of possible wastewater treatment plant locations are the project team's priorities as 2016 begins.





Baynes Sound Initiative Takes Next Step

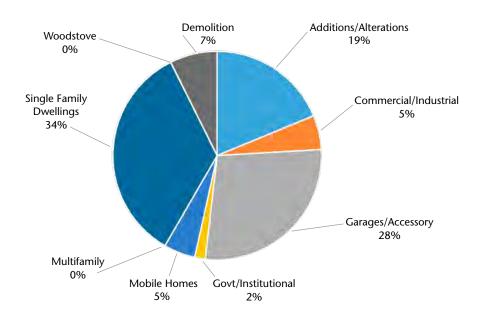
Baynes Sound is one of the most significant shellfish growing areas within the province, employing approximately 600 Comox Valley residents. It is a significant economic driver within our community. In 2014, the CVRD passed a resolution to "develop an area plan, in partnership with other stakeholders and government agencies that can assist in balancing the interests of the residential users and the aquaculture industry interests in the Baynes Sound area." This past year, the CVRD staff commenced a planning exercise for this area, along with representatives from the other levels of government with jurisdiction in the area including the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Ministries of Agriculture and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Transport Canada and a representative from Islands Trust. The next phase includes developing options to update the planning and zoning framework and focused consultation with stakeholders and area residents.



Another Busy Year in Building Services

The CVRD's regional growth strategy promotes developing and maintaining a diverse, flexible housing stock within the region. This past year there has been significant investment being felt within the electoral areas. A total of 227 building permits including 66 new dwellings were issued by building services. Single family dwellings accounted for 34 per cent of these permits. Area B saw the greatest number of building permits issued with 88 followed by Area C with 84 and Area A with 55. The total value of construction for all the permits was over 36 million dollars providing a great economic boost to our region.

2015 BUILDING PERMIT SHARE

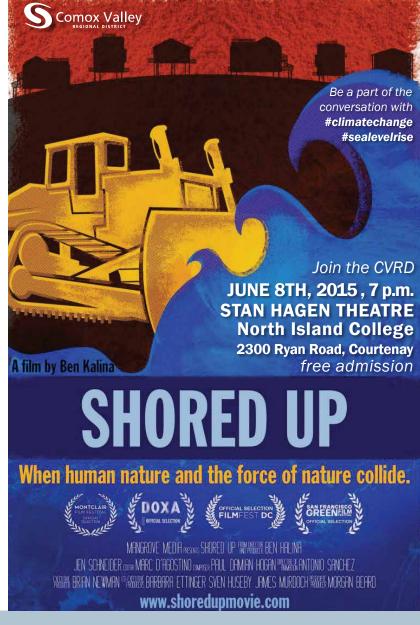


Helping Gain Awareness on Sea Level Rise

In November 2014, the official community plan was adopted which specifically identified working with stakeholders to assess risk and susceptibility of the coastal areas to increasing sea level and extreme surge impacts. This work helps guide the next steps and education opportunities for the coming years.

In celebration of World Oceans' Day, the CVRD hosted a public screening of Ben Kalina's documentary "Shored Up". The film challenges us to think about our relationship with a changing coastline in the face of climate change. How will our coastline change? How will coastal living change? What is important to us in the face of a changing coastline?

In 2016, the CVRD is embarking on a range of public outreach initiatives to encourage a community conversation about the impacts of climate change on coastal living.





Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Larry Jangula (City of Courtenay), Charlie Cornfield (City of Campbell River), Noba Anderson (SRD Area 'B'), Julie Colborne (Village of Zeballos), Brad Unger (Village of Gold River), John MacDonald (Village of Sayward), Rod Nichol (CVRD Area 'B'), Bruce Jolliffe (CVRD Area 'A'), Bob Wells (City of Courtenay), Ron Kerr (City of Campbell River), Erik Eriksson (City of Courtenay)

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT Maureen Swift (Town of Comox alternate for Ken Grant), Dan Mackenzie (SRD Area 'C' alternate for Jim Abram), Jude Schooner (Village of Tahsis), Brenda Leigh (SRD Area 'D'), Gwyneth Sproule (Village of Cumberland), Marlene Wright (City of Campbell River alternate for Michele Babchuk), Marg Grant (Town of Comox alternate for Barbara Price), Edwin Grieve (CVRD Area 'C'), Gerald Whalley (SRD Area 'A'), Larry Samson (City of Campbell River), Colleen Evans (City of Campbell River alternate for Andrew Adams), Manno Theos (City of Courtenay)

Missing from photo: Roger Kishi (Village of Cumberland alternate for Gwyneth Sproule)



"We have made significant progress towards meeting today's landfill standards. The landfills we are closing will properly process the leachate and the gas generated by their decaying waste. This in turn will ensure there is no harm to the surrounding countryside and its waterways. Our new engineered landfill will provide the region with a state-of-the-art landfill that properly respects the environment."

Comox Strathcona Waste Management committee – Director Jolliffe

Comox Strathcona Waste Management Centre Landfill Closure Project

In spring 2015, work commenced on the phase 1 closure of the landfill at the Comox Strathcona waste management centre as adopted in the 2013 solid waste management plan.

The landfill closure project is a large, complex capital project that required areas of the landfill that had reached capacity to be graded and capped with an impermeable liner. The new liner controls water from entering into the landfill, which in turn protects the quality of the groundwater. In addition, a landfill gas collection system will be installed to significantly reduce the release of greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing waste.





CVRD Funds Bevan Road Construction Project

In late November, the newly reconstructed two kilometre portion of Bevan Road leading from Cumberland to the Comox Valley waste management centre re-opened to the public. The road construction is part of a larger project to rebuild the transportation corridor to the waste management facility in order to withstand the heavy traffic flow.

The CVRD provided three million dollars to the Village of Cumberland to fund the design and construction of this one-time upgrade to the Cumberland and Bevan Roads corridor through the host community agreement established in 2013. In addition, the host community agreement provides the Village of Cumberland \$300,000 per year for 20 years to assist the Village with social, environmental and economic impacts either incurred or by having the Comox Valley waste management centre within its boundaries.

The second phase of the project, expected to take place in 2016, will reconstruct Cumberland Road from the Inland Island Highway to Bevan Road as well as the southern 300 metres of Bevan. Once completed, the Bevan Road construction project will feature improved sight visibility along with upgraded drainage along the new 7.2 metre wide paved road surface accompanied by 1.5 metre gravel shoulders.



Enhancing Recycling through Multi-Material BC in the Rural Regions

In efforts to improve efficiency and reduce contaminated recycling, the Comox Strathcona waste management service enhanced the approved Multi-Material British Columbia depots in the following areas: Tahsis, Gold River, Sayward, and Zeballos.

Storage containers were provided for the placement of the mega bags and signage added to direct the deposit of product packaging and paper. The new secured containers also prevent wildlife from destroying the bags and the content.



Landfills Get New Life in the Region

Over the past few years two of our community landfills received a makeover. Both Tahsis and Zeballos landfills were on their way to being permanently closed due to limited airspace. Extensive work completed in 2014 that included the installation of additional groundwater monitoring, relocation of waste within the landfill boundary, re-sloping and installation of stormwater management works, construction of improved buffers including land tenure application and the installation of bear proof fencing ensured that future use of these landfills has allowed the service to maximize the available landfill space.

Based on the current solid waste management plan (SWMP) approved by the Ministry of Environment in May 2013, it was identified that these landfills would be permanently closed with waste being transported to another disposal facility within the region. By meeting with the Ministry of Environment in 2015, the Comox Valley Regional District board was able to obtain approval on a revised SWMP and delay the closures. Implementing all these improvements and site management practices created approximately ten additional years of remaining life at these remote landfills.





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