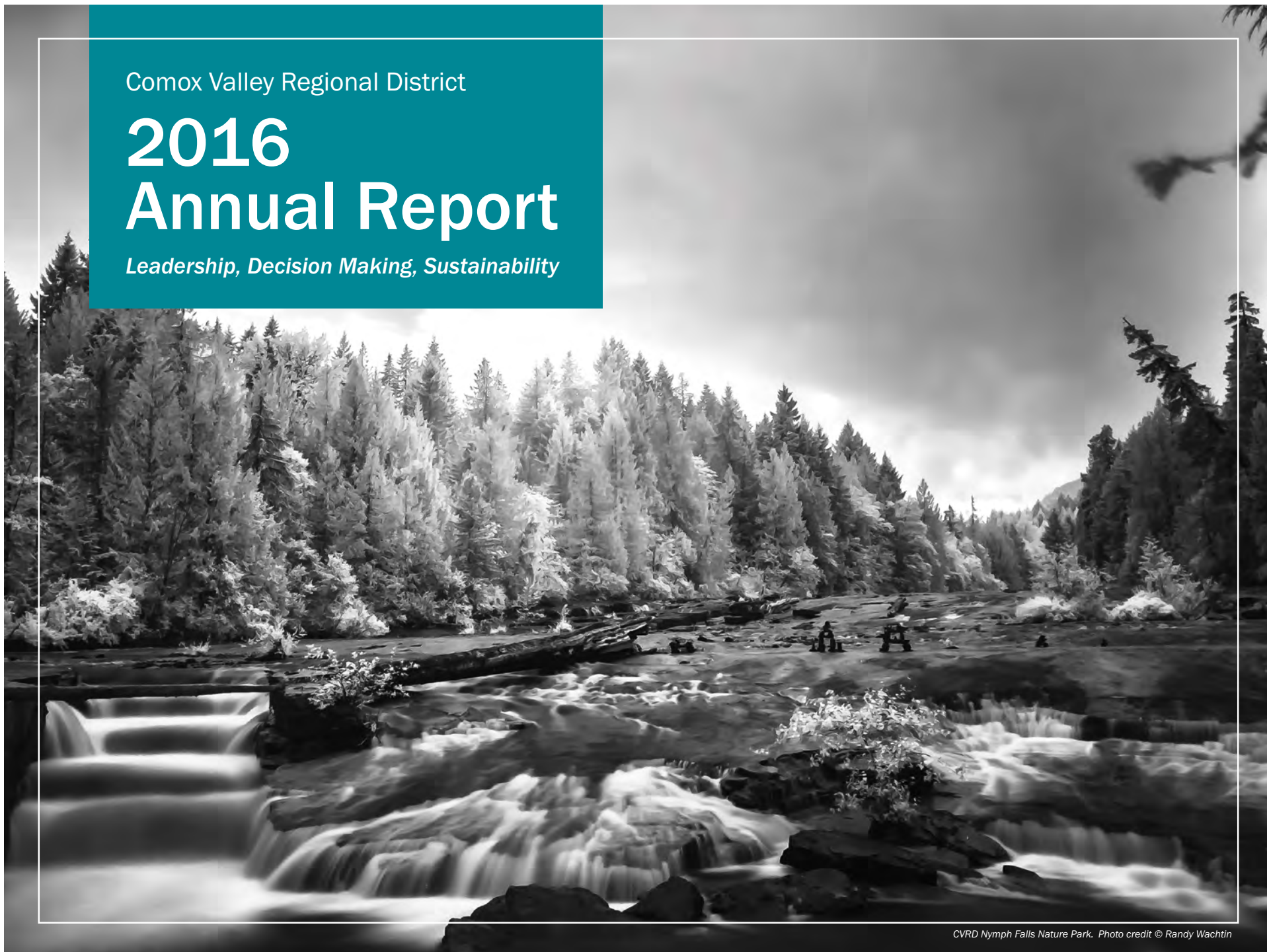


Comox Valley Regional District

2016 Annual Report

Leadership, Decision Making, Sustainability



CVRD Nymph Falls Nature Park. Photo credit © Randy Wachtin



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Message from the Chair



*The goal is to provide,
by September 2019, a water
treatment facility that will
eliminate further boil water
notices...*

Your board continues to move forward with a number of significant projects including building a water treatment facility for Comox Lake, completing the modernizing of our landfill, providing a more appropriate regional office building and creating a fire service for Mount Washington.

Boil water notices continue to affect the Comox Lake water supply. The studies have been completed, a design has been selected, and now the Board is in a position to move forward with construction. The goal is to provide, by September 2019, a water treatment facility that will eliminate further boil water notices and will better meet today's drinking water standards.

Our new landfill cell, developed in collaboration with the Strathcona Regional District, is nearing completion. It is expected to be ready to receive waste in 2017. The project is well under budget

and will ensure that the region's waste meets modern standards for waste disposal and will serve us for many years to come. As more and more materials are recycled the regional district expects that its waste management sites will meet the needs of residents well into the future.

Our current leased office space does not meet today's needs and is located in a flood plain. A contract has been awarded for the design of a new building to be located in central Courtenay on Harmston Avenue. Completion is expected in 2019. The new building will allow the CVRD to better serve residents and provide a more effective working environment for staff.

Mount Washington provides year round recreational opportunities to both the region and to our many visitors each year. However; it has lacked a fire protection service. The Mount Washington landowners voted strongly in favour of a fire service

Continued on page 4

in September 2016. The new fire service has been established and the regional district is currently implementing the service. With the addition of this service, the construction of a new seismic Hornby Island Fire Hall, and improvements to our other fire services, the region is an even safer place to live.

As the regional government for the Comox Valley, the regional district not only unites

its member municipalities and its rural areas, it also provides a mechanism for collaborating with our local First Nations, improvement districts, the province, the federal government, and other regional districts. The above is a sample of the projects your regional district has undertaken this past year. I encourage you to continue reading this report to find out more about these and other projects and the many services we offer.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow directors and the Comox Valley Regional District staff for their dedication and continued effort to make the Comox Valley a desirable place to live, work, and play.



Bruce Jolliffe, Chair
Comox Valley Regional District

Message from the CAO



Many of the projects I have been involved in from the onset are well on their way to completion and many others are coming to light.

In 2016, we continued our focus of advancing the board's 2015 to 2018 strategic and operational priorities while maintaining an organization culture based on ethical conduct, wellness, safety and a respectful workplace. We continue to assist the four fire department chiefs with the transition of working directly as employees of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), from additional access to administration and human resource staff to supporting them through the development of critical policies for safety and respectful workplaces. The recreation facilities experienced significant change in 2016 with several leadership team members retiring. With retirement comes change and the new leadership team is working hard to address the various needs of the organization. I want to extend my appreciation to all staff for continuing to balance the many projects, priorities and changes happening at the CVRD.

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 entities have had successful projects this past year. The two new state of the art hospitals are nearing completion and will open in fall 2017. Due to smart fiscal management we have been able to save an estimated 163.7 million dollars in interest costs and reduce the long-term borrowing term from 30 to ten years. These new hospitals will provide residents with paramount care and technologically advanced equipment for many years to come.

This year was the second year of a five year agreement for NI911 with EComm for a public-safety answering point. In 2016, there were over 68,000 9-1-1 calls within the six regional districts. The efficient, effective delivery of 9-1-1

Continued on page 6

dispatching ensures public health and safety is protected within our communities. It is important to note the successful negotiation of a fixed five year contract for fire dispatch services with the City of Campbell River. This fixed contract will leave the Corporation in a good sustainable place for the coming years.

As I look back at the past eight years of being the chief administrative officer for the CVRD it reminds me of various challenges we have worked through and accomplishments we have achieved. This will be my last year of reflection as the CAO as I embark on new adventures that life

may bring my way. I want to start off by saying thank you to the executive management team and staff for their support, demonstrating leadership and helping guide the organization over the years.

As my term ends, I know the residents within the region will be well looked after. Many of the projects I have been involved in from the onset are well on their way to completion and many others are coming to light. To the various board members I have worked with, I thank you for the past eight years leading this organization, carefully considering my recommendations and celebrating the milestones accomplished. While there are issues to resolve in the coming

years, the executive management team are well positioned to collaborate and complete various challenging projects related to water, sewer, solid waste, drainage, recreation services, community parks, fire protection services, emergency planning, transit, land use planning and development.



Debra Oakman, CPA, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Comox Valley Regional District

2016 Comox Valley Regional District Board



Back row Gwyn Sproule, Village of Cumberland; Edwin Grieve, Electoral Area C (Puntledge – Black Creek); Larry Jangula, City of Courtenay; Rod Nichol, Electoral Area B (Lazo North); Manno Theos, City of Courtenay; Ken Grant, Town of Comox; Barbara Price, Town of Comox

Front row Erik Eriksson, City of Courtenay; Bruce Jolliffe, Electoral Area A (Baynes Sound – Denman/Hornby Islands) (CVRD Board Chair); Bob Wells, City of Courtenay (CVRD Vice-Chair)

2016 Executive Management Team



Back row, left to right James Warren, Ann MacDonald, Marc Rutten, Ian Smith

Front row, left to right Teresa Warnes, Beth Dunlop, Debra Oakman, Julie Bradley

Comox Valley Regional District

2016 Financials



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, 2016 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 2016.

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 fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control.

MNP 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 28, 2017

Independent Auditors' Report On The Summarized Consolidated Financial Statements

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

The accompanying summarized financial statements, which comprise the summarized statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016 and the summarized statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District as at and for the year ended December 31, 2016. We expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 28, 2017.

The summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting

standards. Reading the summarized financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarized financial statements in accordance with management's criteria for aggregation of the balances.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the summarized financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Comox Valley Regional District as at and for the year ended December 31, 2016 are a fair summary of those audited financial statements, in accordance with management's criteria for aggregation of the balances.

Courtenay, British Columbia
March 28, 2017

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

MNP LLP

Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2016 (Audited)

	2016	2015
Financial Assets		
Cash	\$ 49,448,124	\$ 39,598,284
Portfolio investments	38,230,904	37,603,596
Receivables	3,376,280	3,518,186
Debt recoverable from member municipalities	17,246,275	19,115,849
Total Financial Assets	108,301,583	99,835,915
Liabilities		
Payables and other liabilities	6,758,553	4,712,822
Short-term debt	16,494,418	8,212,339
Long-term debt	36,029,833	40,682,790
Restricted revenue	15,765,011	14,046,841
Provision for landfill closure and post closure	25,212,180	29,659,980
Total Liabilities	100,259,995	97,314,772
Net Financial Assets	8,041,588	2,521,143
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	212,570	198,204
Inventory of supplies	79,318	68,869
Tangible capital assets	107,091,575	96,961,752
Total Non-Financial Assets	107,383,463	97,228,825
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 115,425,051	\$ 99,749,968



E.J. Dunlop, CPA, CGA
Officer responsible for Financial Administration,
pursuant to Section 237 of the Local Government Act (RSBC 2015)
March 28, 2017



Bruce Jolliffe
Chair of the board

Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2016 (Audited)

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
Revenue			
Property taxes	\$ 26,857,454	\$ 26,789,163	\$ 24,272,141
Sales of services and other revenue sources	19,587,494	20,404,387	18,788,345
Government transfers	2,995,447	1,333,243	1,246,115
Grants in lieu of taxes	203,524	451,936	407,408
Capital contributions from others	1,115,712	2,358,520	723,628
Investment income	70,000	703,951	851,712
Total Revenue	<u>50,829,631</u>	<u>52,041,200</u>	<u>46,289,349</u>
Expenses			
General government services	6,721,135	4,531,706	4,483,106
Protective services	3,548,245	3,451,003	3,233,624
Transportation services	2,735,348	2,523,934	2,529,069
Environmental health services	22,142,890	13,618,302	14,609,472
Public health and welfare services	347,249	224,563	90,793
Environmental development services	3,078,025	2,809,810	2,775,562
Recreation and cultural services	9,085,974	9,206,799	8,918,212
Total Expenses	<u>47,658,866</u>	<u>36,366,117</u>	<u>36,639,838</u>
Annual Surplus	3,170,765	15,675,083	9,649,511
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	<u>99,749,968</u>	<u>99,749,968</u>	<u>90,100,457</u>
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	<u><u>\$ 102,920,733</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 115,425,051</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 99,749,968</u></u>

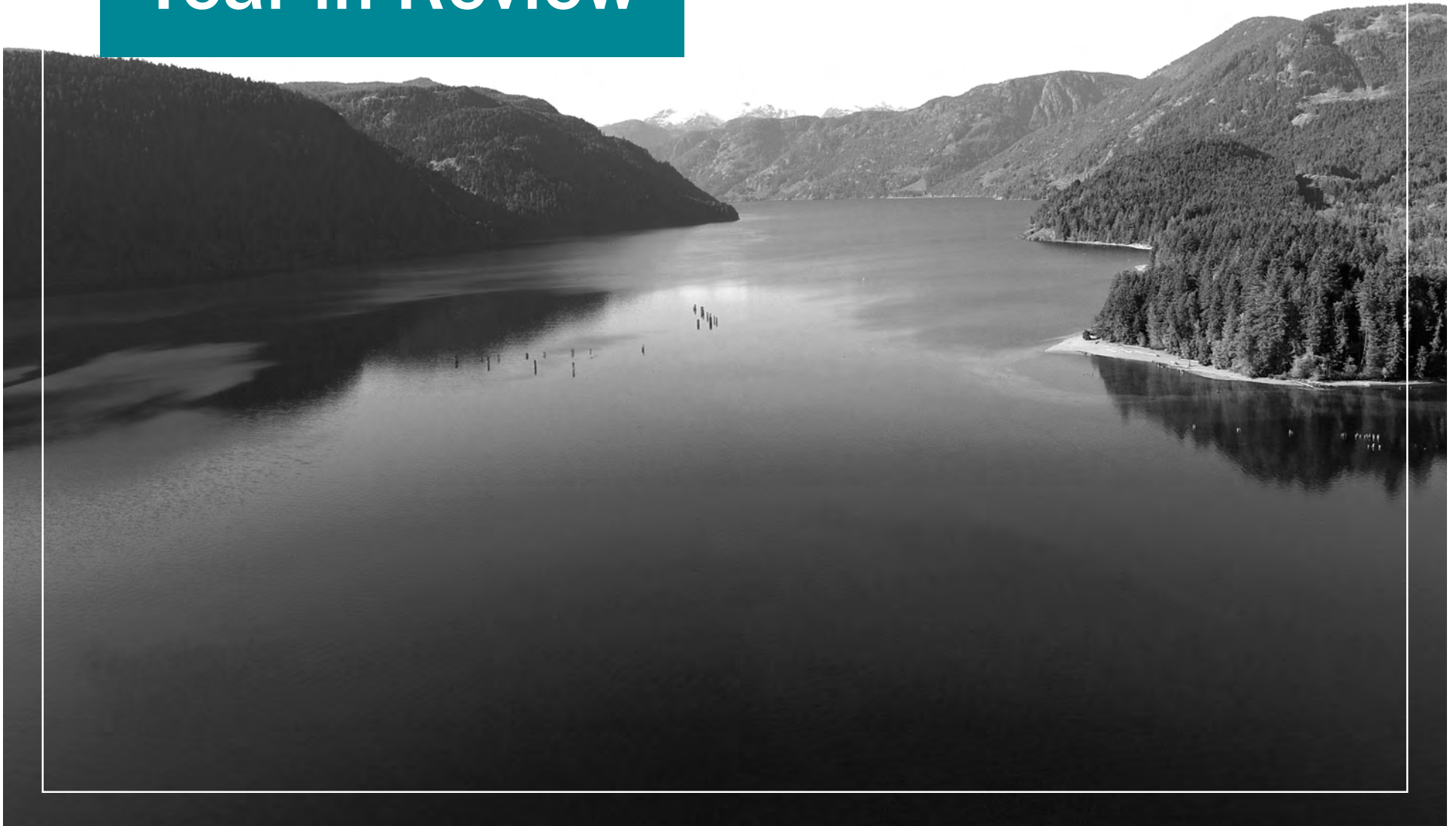
Comox Valley Regional District Summarized Statement of Cash Flows

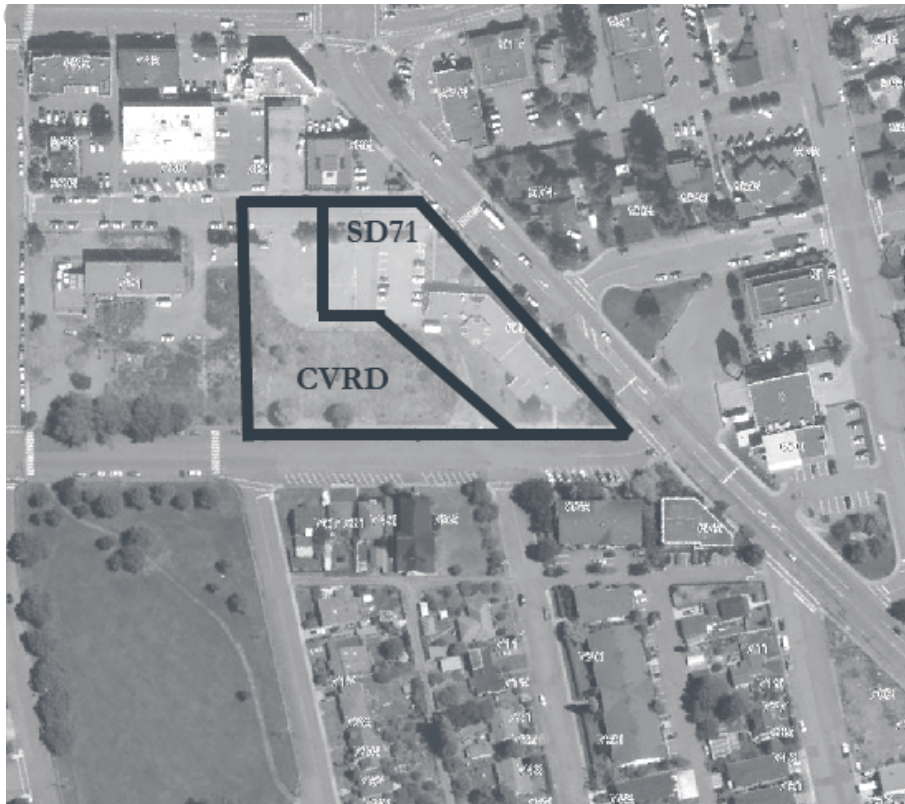
Year Ended December 31, 2016 (Audited)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Operating Transactions		
Annual Surplus	\$ 15,675,083	\$ 9,649,511
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	(24,815)	(53,247)
Receivables	141,906	(283,356)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	2,045,731	143,594
Restricted revenue	1,718,170	3,232,129
Items not utilizing cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,819,275	3,723,147
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	101,767	(10,624)
Landfill closure and post closure allowance	(4,447,800)	(7,042,711)
Actuarial adjustments and other items	(1,231,669)	(1,253,034)
Transfer of tangible capital assets from others	(1,496,397)	(72,788)
Cash Provided by Operating Transactions	<u>16,301,251</u>	<u>8,032,621</u>
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(12,631,969)	(4,471,395)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	77,500	42,000
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	<u>(12,554,469)</u>	<u>(4,429,395)</u>
Investment Transactions		
Cash Applied to Investment Transactions	<u>(627,308)</u>	<u>(690,965)</u>
Financing Transactions		
Long and short-term debt issued	10,008,239	8,685,020
Long and short-term debt repayments	(3,277,873)	(2,375,247)
Cash Provided by Financing Transactions	<u>6,730,366</u>	<u>6,309,773</u>
Change in Cash	<u>9,849,840</u>	<u>9,222,034</u>
Cash, beginning of year	<u>39,598,284</u>	<u>30,376,250</u>
Cash, end of year	<u><u>\$ 49,448,124</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 39,598,284</u></u>

Comox Valley Regional District

2016 Year in Review





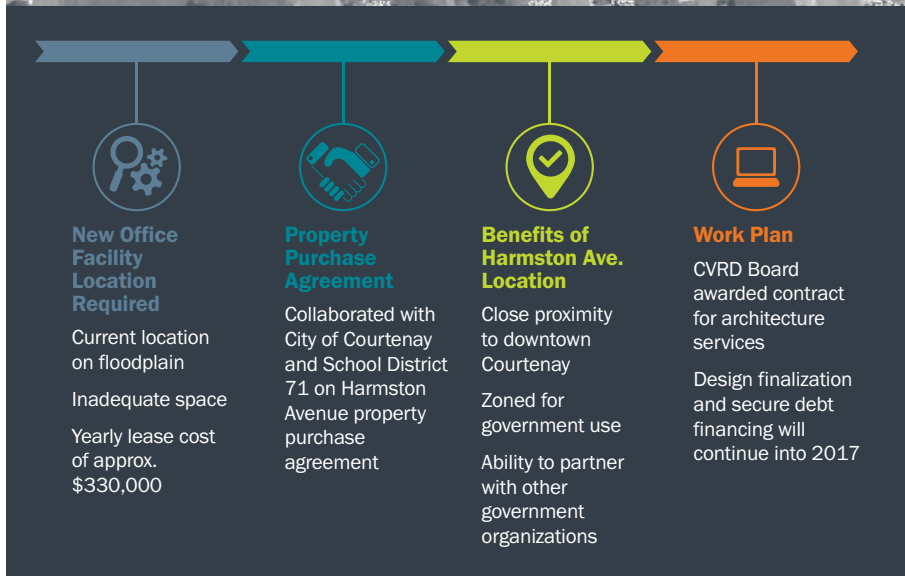
Board Priority for Civic Centre Moving Forward

For several years the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has been working towards a board strategic priority of developing a regional office facility. The CVRD office is an extremely important aspect to operations as it provides essential services like water supply, sewer system treatment and solid waste disposal to residents in the region. The current office location is problematic as it is located within the floodplain, offers inadequate space and has a lease cost of approximately \$330,000 per year.

In 2016, the CVRD worked with the City of Courtenay and School District 71 on a property purchase agreement. The site located on Harmston Avenue was determined as the desired location due to its proximity to the downtown Courtenay core, being zoned for government uses and offering the ability to partner with other government organizations.

In November, the CVRD board awarded the contract for architecture services to KMBR Architects and Planners after a request for proposals process. Work will continue into 2017 to finalize the design and secure debt financing for the building construction.

As the project comes to light in 2017, residents, stakeholders and the neighborhood will have the opportunity to be involved in the design process.



For more details on this project visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/civiccentre

2015

CVRD Adopted
Bylaw for
**Homelessness
Supports
Service**



2016

CVRD Provided
\$150,000
for
**Transitional
Housing**
For Women and
Children Who Have
Fled Domestic
Violence



First Year for the Homelessness Supports Service

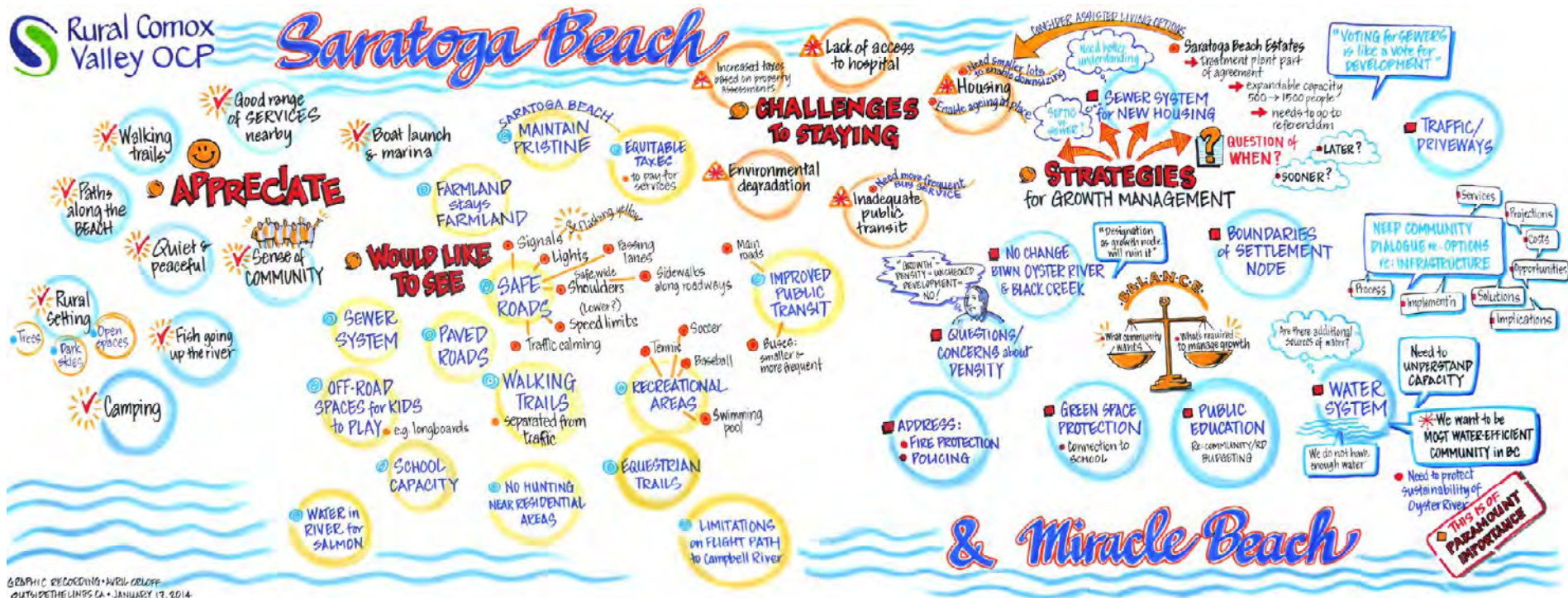
In 2015, the CVRD board adopted the establishment bylaw for the homelessness supports service. This bylaw enables the CVRD to provide funds to one or more local non-governmental organizations based on a board approved five-year action plan that is developed by the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. The City of Courtenay, Village of Cumberland, Electoral Area A (Baynes Sound portion), Electoral Area B (Lazo North) and Electoral Area C (Puntledge – Black Creek) participate in the service.

2016 was the first year that the CVRD provided funds to the service. In that year the CVRD provided \$150,000 to the Comox Valley Transition

Society (CVTS). \$80,000 of those funds helped construct two additional units of transitional housing and \$70,000 assisted with the purchase of a fourplex to support women and children who have fled from domestic violence.



For more information on these initiatives and the homelessness service visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/homelessness



Saratoga Miracle Beach Local Area Plan Update

Staff presented the draft Saratoga Miracle Beach Local Area Plan to the community in November. The Saratoga Miracle Beach area is one of three settlement nodes in the regional district intended to accommodate compact and increased growth, development and investment. Once complete, the plan will be appended as part of the Rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan.

The plan provides a policy and land use framework to direct future land use and includes policies on water use, climate change adaptations, growth patterns and other infrastructure considerations in the Saratoga Miracle Beach settlement node over the next twenty years.

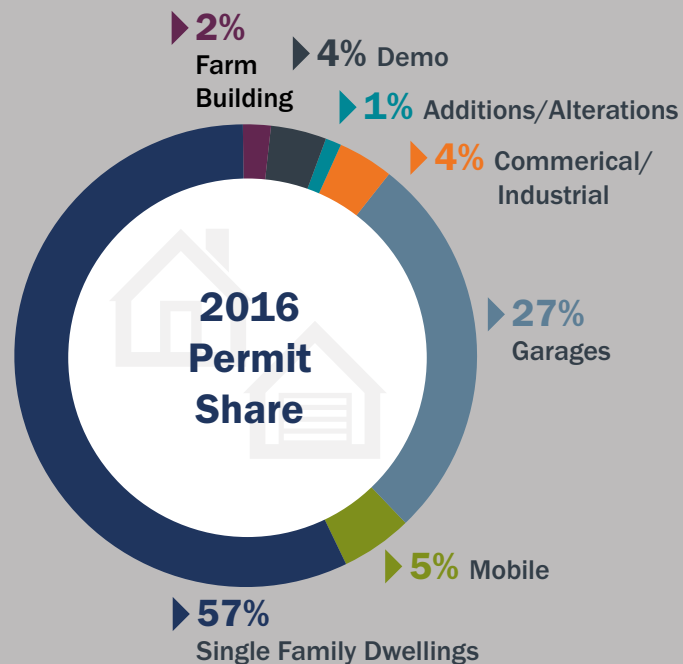
The draft plan proposes that there be a core development area with a mixed residential and commercial development and medium densities opportunities within the Saratoga Miracle Beach community.

The recommendations in the plan are supported by several background studies. These included two hydrological assessments to define water capacity and on-site septic failure rates, as well as detailed mapping to better define the projected sea level rise impacts on the community. As well, water

Continued on page 19

A Year in Review for Building Services

Construction activity remained strong in the CVRD in 2016, with a total of 276 building permits issued in the electoral areas, which was a 20 per cent increase over the previous year. Electoral Area B pulled the majority share with 118 building permits followed by Electoral Area C with 87 and Electoral Area A with 71. This past year saw a 36 per cent increase in the number of single family dwellings for a total of 104. This activity generated over 39 million dollars in construction value and economic benefit through increased non-market property assessed values and jobs in the Electoral Areas.



Saratoga Miracle Beach Local Area Plan Update continued

capacity continues to be a concern within the area as the Black Creek Oyster Bay water service continues to face shortages. Consequently, the draft local area plan recommends low growth in these areas until the water and sewer issues are resolved.

The draft local area plan also includes a recommendation responding to the owners request by the privately owned Watutco water system for the CVRD to assume system responsibility and a recommendation for a full plan review within five to seven years once additional water capacity has been secured to enhance the Black Creek Oyster Bay water service. The board will consider approval of the plan in late summer/early fall 2017 as well as host a public hearing to consider adopting the draft plan.



For more information on the Saratoga Miracle Beach Draft Local Area Plan visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/smblap

Solar Energy Project on Hornby Free Store



**50%
Reduction**

in Energy Costs and Reduced
Associated Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Corporate Climate Change – 20% by 2020

The CVRD has been carbon neutral since 2012 by completing energy reduction projects throughout its operations. The reductions have occurred with equipment and lighting retrofits at the Comox Valley Sports and Aquatic Centres, fleet management activities including purchasing more fuel efficient and electric vehicles and purchasing carbon offsets for remaining greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In 2016, the installation of a heat reclaim project at the Comox Valley Sports Centre was initiated and will significantly reduce electricity and natural gas consumption at the facility once completed in early 2017. Annual energy cost savings of approximately \$50,000 are anticipated.

As well, this past year the CVRD worked with Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (HICEEC) to implement a solar energy project on the Hornby Free Store as part of its energy and transportation initiative. The result will be a 50% reduction in energy costs at the facility and a reduction in associated GHG emissions. Educational signage and online monitoring of power production provides for an effective tool for community engagement around renewable energy.



For more information on this initiative visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/solarpower



In2Transit 2016 Campaign Stuffed the Bus to Gain Ridership Interest

The In2Transit campaign was created to reward those who use transit encourage everyone else to do the same. The 2016 campaign featured partnerships with many local businesses and community groups who provided prizes and raised the transit service's profile in the community. The campaign

resulted in over 550 contest entries, raised funds for local charities through a series of Stuff the Bus events throughout the community, and generated discussions regarding transit's role in the sustainable development of the region.

BC Transit Making Impacts in Community

In support of the development of the frequent transit network identified in the Transit Future Plan, BC Transit and local stakeholders worked on a frequent transit corridor study in 2016. The study identified routing options for future frequent transit services and options for future transit exchange locations. As well, they are planning conventional service enhancements to implement the near-term objectives identified in the Transit Future Plan and incorporate some of the recommendations of recent transit service analysis.

BC Transit and local stakeholders are also in the process of planning custom transit enhancements for rural areas of the CVRD, which are due to be implemented in fall 2017. These enhancements will feature two new routes, one through Seal Bay – Merville, and one through Union Bay, that will feature on request curb to curb service for passengers that live near the route, but are unable to get to the route due to mobility challenges or local road conditions.



To stay up to date on this project
visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/transitnews

Rider Appreciation Day

Each year, the Comox Valley transit system celebrates rider appreciation day, where bus riders are greeted with free coffee and baked goods at the downtown Courtenay transit exchange. The 2016 event, on December 9, occurred the same day winter conditions arrived in the Comox Valley and riders were happy to be greeted with warm drinks and fresh baked cookies during their snowy commute. It was also a wonderful reminder that the bus is a great option on those inclement weather days where driving conditions are less than ideal!

Transit Ambassador Program

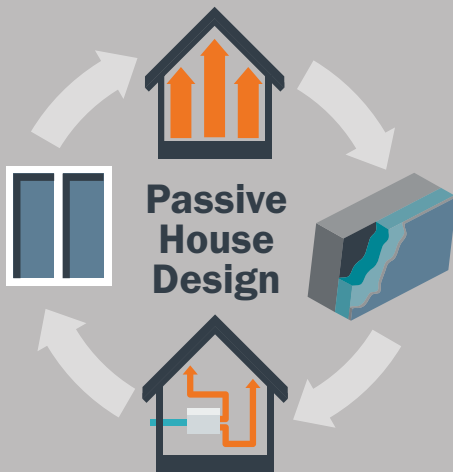
In 2016, the CVRD in partnership with Comox Valley Seniors Peer Support, launched a Transit Ambassador Program. The purpose of the program is to orient seniors to the transit system with the assistance of a Transit Ambassador. This program will support independence by encouraging seniors to continue to visit friends, go shopping and attend activities without depending on their car for transportation.



To learn more about the Transit Ambassador Program
visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/transitambassador

Hornby Island Fire Hall Renewal Select Committee Members

Lu Ackerson
Andrew Carmichael
Doug Chinnery
Doug Christie
Jim Garton
Giff La Rose
Carol Quin
Tony Quin
Electoral Area 'A'
Director Bruce Jolliffe



Improving building insulation and airtightness

in walls, roofs, windows and floors
to meet the objective of reducing
energy consumption



Hornby Island Fire Hall Almost Complete

Construction of the new Hornby Island Fire Hall began in the spring of 2016. The 7,450 square foot building is designed to accommodate 25 volunteer firefighters. The design follows Passive House guidelines and principles that allow for efficient building qualities while minimizing construction costs. This reflects community support for sustainability and practical innovation.

The primary objective of Passive House design is to substantially reduce the energy required to heat and cool buildings while maintaining comfortable temperatures and high indoor air quality. This is achieved by greatly improving building insulation and airtightness. By placing emphasis on the walls, roof, windows, and floors this meets the objective of reducing the energy

consumption over the lifetime of the building. This past winter, the hall has quickly taken shape and is on track for a projected final completion in spring 2017. Building features include four drive-through fire truck apparatus bays, an ambulance apparatus bay, a training area and meeting space, and cisterns for rainwater collection.

The Hornby Island Fire Hall Renewal Select Committee provided a dedicated and important role throughout the design and development stages and ensured constant communication with the Hornby Island community.



For more information on the new
fire hall visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/
hornbyislandfirehall](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/hornbyislandfirehall)



Mount Washington Fire Service Moving Forward

In September, a referendum was held to determine whether the CVRD should establish a fire protection service for the Mount Washington resort community. The service area encompasses all residential, commercial and recreational areas at Mount Washington. The referendum passed - voter turnout was 40% of eligible voters and the results were 102 yes votes cast and 19 no votes cast.

Due to the complexity of ownership on the mountain and rules determining residency, CVRD corporate services staff helped analyze the number of eligible voters in the proposed service. There are fewer than 20 electors who are residents in the proposed service area therefore most voters were identified as non-resident property electors. Also, many properties on Mount Washington are owned by a corporation or have a lease that is less than 99 years. The *Local Government Act (LGA)* stipulates that a non-

resident property elector must be a person (not a corporation) and a lease arrangement must be for 99 years or greater. Corporate services staff also helped promote as much awareness as possible about voter requirements prior to voting day, following the rules set out in the *LGA*.

A defensive firefighting service will be established by way of agreement with a Comox Valley local government that will be able to access fire equipment from a storage building/fire hall to be built on land currently owned by the CVRD for this purpose. A local steering group and the CVRD conducted the detailed analysis of available fire protection service options.

The targeted implementation date for the Mount Washington fire protection service is fall 2017.



For more information on this new fire service visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mtwashingtonfireproject



Emergency Management Busy in the Region

The Comox Valley Emergency Program (CVEP) engaged in continued education and outreach initiatives with the community this year. In the spring, residents and business owners of the Comox Valley were invited to participate in the Shake Zone earthquake simulator to shake up their personal preparedness planning by having the opportunity to experience what an 8.0 magnitude earthquake feels like. CVEP partnered with Insurance Bureau of Canada, First Insurance and other emergency programs across Vancouver Island to bring the Shake

Zone to various stops on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

This fall there was significant community interest at a CVEP emergency social services recruitment open house. The open house allowed many interested residents the chance to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Finally, CVEP conducted frequent, ongoing communications with regional stakeholders during a very wet and rainy November that transpired

into a flood watch for the region. Flood mitigation efforts included ensuring sand and sandbags were available to residents across the region.



To learn more about the Comox Valley Emergency Program and potential volunteering opportunities visit www.comoxvalleyemergencyprogram.com



Wheels Hit the Ground for Pinecrest Bike Skills Park Grand Opening

Bike riders of all ages in the Comox Valley are excited about the Pinecrest Bike Skills Park in Black Creek which officially opened on June 18.

After much public consultation, the newly revived bike skills park offers fun activity for all ages in the beautiful natural surroundings of the Macaulay Road area. Neighbours and user groups were given the opportunity to provide input into the features and design of the park throughout the process.

The park appeals to all ages and skill levels as it includes a variety of natural features including a dirt jump track and two pump tracks, for both novice and advanced riders, as well as a forested technical trail consisting of berms, rollers and log features. To allow for the whole family's enjoyment, a playground has also been installed for younger park users.



To learn more about this new bike park visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/pinecrest

Jack Shark Park Land Donation

In June the CVRD received a gift estate of six acres on Treherne Road in Electoral Area C as well as a donation of approximately \$50,000 by the late Mark Musick Krotter. The park will help preserve natural areas in the neighbourhood and act as a greenway connection between Treherne and Bishop Roads. The greenway connection is officially a public trail and the remainder of the properties are public park space. Mark requested in his will that the new park created from his bequest to the CVRD be called “Jack Shark Park” in memory of his close friend and neighbour, Jack Shark.



To learn more about Jack Shark Park
visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/jackshark



*CVRD Electoral Area Directors and residents at the official ceremony
recognizing the gift estate for Jack Shark Park.*



*CVRD Electoral Area Directors Edwin Grieve, Bruce Jolliffe and Rod Nichol at the Trent River
area property in Royston with the Horley family: Dale, Marilyn, Brian and Myrna Horley,
who have generously made a partial donation of land to the CVRD for parkland.*

Horley Family Donates Land to Comox Valley Regional District Parks

CVRD parks received a partial donation of land from local residents, Brian, Marilyn, Myrna and Dale Horley, in the Trent River area of Royston. The donation of land is consistent with the goals of the CVRD parks and greenways strategic plan for greater protection of biodiversity along the Trent River corridor.

The Trent River corridor is an important watershed in our community and protection of this area will help to increase biodiversity and preserve flood plain habitat. This generous donation from the Horleys will ensure recreational use for generations to come.



To learn more about this donation visit
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/trentriverdonation

Lafarge Donates Land to CVRD Parks

Lafarge Canada donated land along Comox Road, which is intended to extend the existing Dyke Road park along the waterfront.

This land donation connects with the CVRD's long-term plan of developing the Dyke Road greenway as part of the regional district's parks and greenways strategic plan.

The property, which originally contained a cement silo, was officially donated in July. There was no cost to the regional district, apart from obtaining the license of occupation and the responsibility of taking over the waterfront lot infrastructure.



To learn more about this donation visit
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/lafargedonation



CVRD electoral area directors Rod Nichol, Bruce Jolliffe and Edwin Grieve, with Lafarge's Don Renwick and Jennifer Weslowski, cut the ribbon at the Comox Road property, which Lafarge Canada has donated to the CVRD for parkland.



CVRD Director for Puntledge-Black Creek (Electoral Area 'C') Edwin Grieve addresses the crowd, alongside Lazo North (Electoral Area 'B') Director Rod Nichol and CVRD Board Chair Bruce Jolliffe, during the official opening of the One Spot-Tsolum North trail.

One Spot-Tsolum North Trail Opening – Area 'C'

Comox Valley Regional District directors and residents officially opened the One Spot-Tsolum North Trail in Dove Creek on a rainy October day. The One Spot-Tsolum North Trail connects the parking lot of Tsolum Spirit Park with the existing One Spot Trail that extends to Teachers Creek near Fitzgerald Road.

The new connection provides another significant linkage to the CVRD's trail network as outlined in the regional district's parks and greenways strategic plan. Stakeholders, including the local farming community, TimberWest, neighbours and user groups, came together to make this project happen.



For more information on the One Spot Trail visit
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/onespottrail

The Stonehenge property acquisition
provides the possibility of



Stonehenge property on Headquarters Road in Courtenay.

CVRD Purchases Property Adjacent to Exhibition Grounds

The board approved the purchase of Stonehenge Farm on Headquarters Road, adjacent to the CVRD Exhibition Grounds. The property was formerly a 3.38 hectare riding academy housing two residences, a stable, outdoor and indoor riding facilities and several pastures.

Acquiring this site provides the ability to enhance our services, provide economic opportunities and develop partnerships that would benefit our growing community in the long-term.

The long-term site use will be determined through a review and update of the 2008 Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds master plan. As this property is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), any future site developments would have to adhere to both the City of Courtenay and ALR permitting and zoning bylaws. Consultation with key stakeholders including the Comox Valley Exhibition Association, Comox Valley Farmers Institute, North Vancouver Island Horse Association, Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society, Vancouver Island MusicFest, other interested parties and the public has been underway as part of the Exhibition Grounds Master Plan set to be completed spring 2017.




The Comox Valley Water System Filtration Plant a Go

In September 2016, the Comox Valley Water Committee approved moving forward with design and construction of a new water filtration facility that will meet provincial requirements and eliminate turbidity related boil water notices in the future, like the one experienced for 30 days in November 2016.

The CVRD will also proceed with the construction of a deep water intake to ensure the long term security of water supply for our community and to mitigate other risks identified in the Watershed Protection Plan. A deep water

intake will allow access to the colder water found deeper in the lake, which is favourable for treatment and disinfection.

The water committee's decision to approve filtration allows the CVRD to proceed with property acquisition, permits and approvals, detailed design, and grant funding applications. Island Health's current operating permit requires the new water treatment facility to be completed by September 2019.

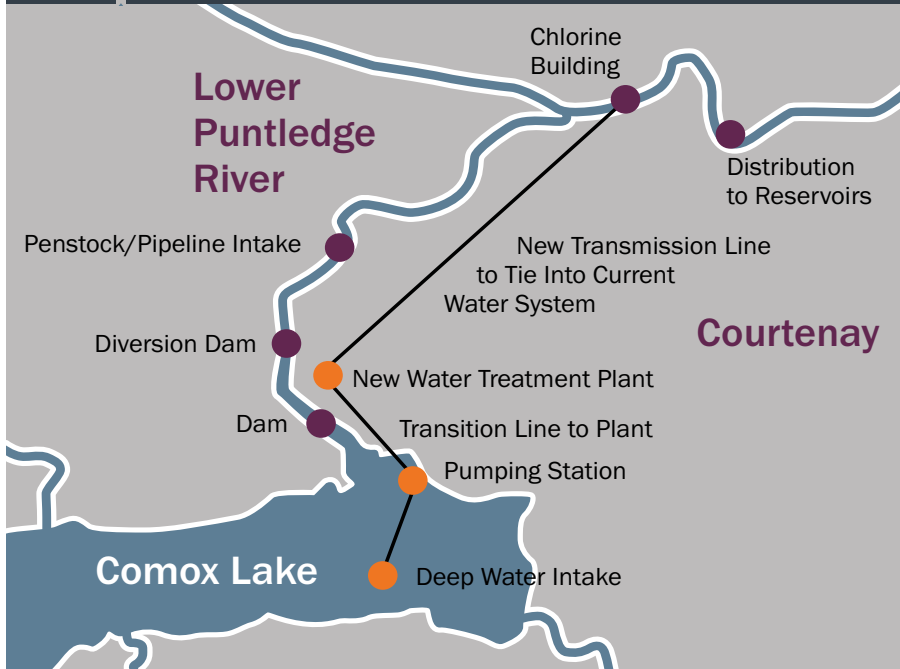


CVRD is proceeding with a new water filtration facility and construction of a deep water intake to

eliminate turbidity related boil water advisories

Estimated Cost = \$106M

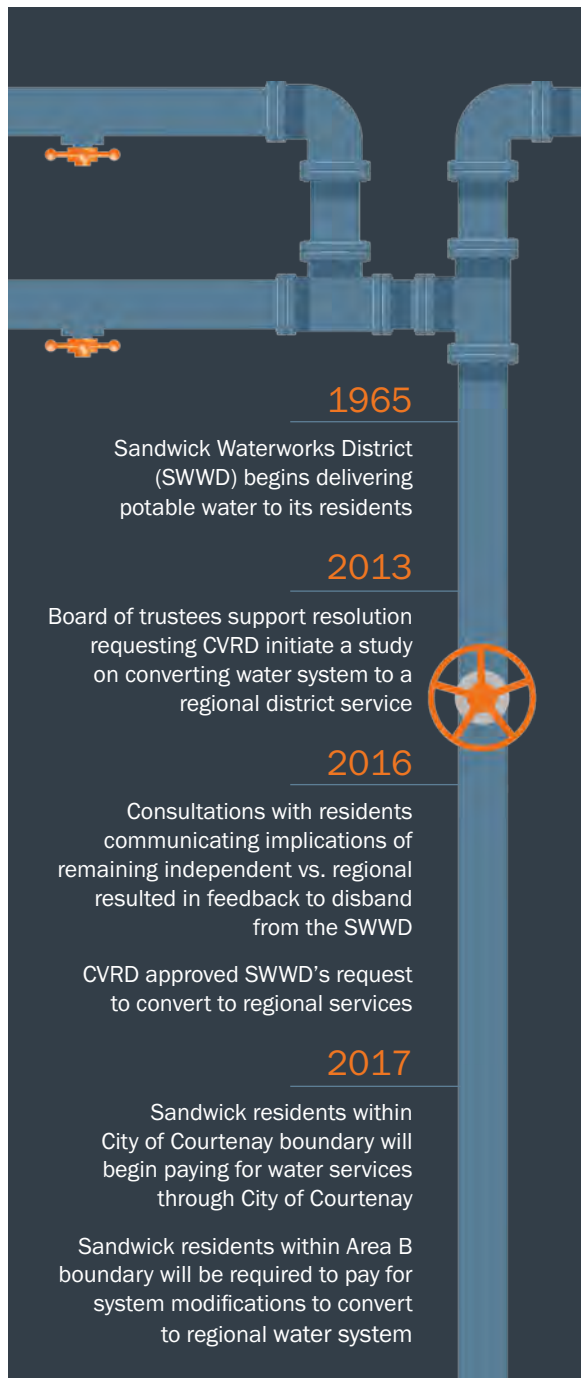
Island Health's operating permit requires new water treatment facility to be completed by September 2019



The total cost of the water treatment plant including direct filtration and UV disinfection, deep water intake, new raw water pumping station, transmission lines to the plant and the chlorination station is estimated at \$106 million.



For more information on this infrastructure project please visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment



Sandwich Waterworks District Water Conversion

The Sandwich Waterworks District disbanded and converted its water supply and distribution services for Electoral Area B residents to the CVRD effective December 31, 2016. The Sandwich Waterworks District has delivered potable water to its residents since 1965. During their annual general meeting in 2013, the board of trustees supported a resolution requesting the CVRD initiate a study of the options and costs associated with converting to a regional district service. This request was based on challenges around water supply and sources, health authority regulations pertaining to surface water treatment and organizational capacity.

Corporate services staff worked diligently with the Sandwich Waterworks District (SWWD) to consult with residents and communicate about the implications of remaining independent versus disbanding and converting to a regional service. Sandwich residents provided their feedback to the Sandwich Trustees in June 2016 with the SWWD taking that input and making the decision to disband. The CVRD approved the SWWD's request to convert its water supply and distribution services in July 2016.

City of Courtenay residents on Sandwich water will see their annual water bill included on their annual property tax notice beginning in 2017. Commercial and multi-family properties in the rural area will be connected to water meters in 2017 and transition from an annual flat rate to quarterly metered billing will occur in 2018.

Area B Sandwich residents will be required to pay for the system modifications that are required to convert Sandwich to the regional water system. Without additional grant funding, the total cost is estimated at \$4,902 per single family home. Payment options are being investigated and the CVRD is communicating with residents about project costs and the billing process.

The City and the CVRD have been working closely to ensure a smooth transition of the water supply conversion, and will be communicating directly with residents in their respective jurisdictions to keep them informed of project progress and impacts.



For more information on the Sandwich conversion visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentprojects



Comox 2 Pump Station

A new pump station is required to resolve long standing environmental risks with the wastewater forcemain along Willemar Bluffs and also to increase capacity at the Courtenay and Jane Place pumping stations. The contract for the design phase of Comox 2 was awarded to Opus DaytonKnight (Opus) early in 2017.

In October 2016, the Comox Valley Sewage Commission approved \$1 million in funds to make immediate repairs to the section of forcemain on Balmoral Beach that faces significant risk of failure, due to adverse environmental conditions caused by wave action and beach erosion. Those repairs were completed in December 2016, mostly at night due to the winter tidal conditions.



For more information on Comox 2 Pump Station
visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/comox2



South Sewer Project

On June 18, the CVRD conducted a referendum for phase 1 of the south sewer project. The referendum was held to determine whether the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) should establish a service to provide a new centralized wastewater collection system and water resource recovery facility in the south region of the CVRD serving residents within Royston and Union Bay including Kilmarnock.

Corporate services staff provided invaluable support to organize a referendum for 2,200 eligible voters in the south sewer service voting area. Approximately 44 per cent of residents cast their votes with 29 per cent voting in favour

of the Service Bylaws and Loan Authorization Question and 25 per cent in favour of the Partnership Agreement.

While the referendum did not pass, the results of vote have provided valuable insight into the community's values and concerns. The CVRD is continuing its work to shape a wastewater solution that will protect the natural environment in a cost effective manner and that the community supports.



For more information on the South Sewer Project visit

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/southsewer

Comox Valley Regional District

Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM)

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)

Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board





What's New at Comox Valley Waste Management Centre

Phase 1 landfill closure

The first phase of the Comox Valley waste management centre landfill was closed in 2016. Because the landfill is expected to be decomposing and settling for many years, it will most likely be maintained as an open space once landfill gas generation decreases to acceptable levels. Public access will be restricted until the area is deemed safe.

Proposed end uses for the site will continue to be evaluated during the post-closure period of the landfill, which is assumed to be minimum of 30 years. Possible options for end uses include wildlife habitat or a park.

New engineered landfill

Following the closure of the first phase of the Comox Valley waste management centre, a new engineered landfill was excavated. The new landfill will utilize technology to protect the environment, including the placement of an engineered liner and drainage stone as a barrier to prevent contaminated wastewater from entering the ground.

The new engineered landfill is expected to be completed under budget early in 2017. The project was initially budgeted at \$21.5 million in 2014 and projected costs are now significantly lower at \$16.1 million.

An onsite leachate treatment plant will be constructed in 2017 to treat the leachate generated from the new landfill. Leachate includes any liquid that has percolated through or drained from landfill waste.



For more information on the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service visit www.cswm.ca



New Recycling Depot Changes

2016 saw changes applied to CSWM recycling depots located in Campbell River, Quadra Island, Black Creek – Oyster Bay and Comox, to help make it easier for residents to recycle. The transition to “single-stream” recycling makes the experience at the bins similar to the municipal curbside recycling program.

All depots have moved to the new format and new signage has been installed to educate the public about the changes. A CSWM waste reduction educator is intermittently onsite to answer questions. Residents who have questions regarding the change are encouraged to call 250-334-6000 or email engineering@comoxvalley.ca

CSWM depots are provided as a service for homeowners who do not have access to a municipal recycling curbside program. The CSWM service has a contract with Emterra for depot maintenance and the collection and processing of recyclables.

The Comox Strathcona Solid Waste Management Plan targets a 70 per cent diversion rate by the year 2022. Increasing diversion of food and yard waste is a primary target to assist in achieving that goal. It is estimated that 35 per cent of landfill waste consists of organics.

Infrastructure Canada has recently announced funding for a number of projects across small B.C. communities including \$5.5 million for CSWM to implement a regional organics composting facility for the entire service area. The CSWM service has been partnering with the City of Campbell River on a regional organics management solution. A study has already been conducted to examine the potential locations, technologies and costs of operating a regional organics facility. With funding secure, the service can now finalize its analysis, select a site, develop a program and then design and construct the infrastructure required.



For more information on recycling visit www.cswm.ca



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