

RETRO Perspectives

A REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO PUBLICATION | DECEMBER 2017

This year marks the RDN's 50th Anniversary of providing services to this great Region. To celebrate our 50th year we wanted to look back over some of our accomplishments for 2017 as well as mention a few to look forward to in the future.

Incorporated on August 24, 1967, the RDN was part of the provincial government's initiative to establish a form of local government for rural areas and to better enable those areas and

municipalities to work together at a regional level. The RDN is one of 27 Regional Districts across British Columbia and is governed by a Regional Board, comprised of directors from locally-elected municipal councils and directors elected by Electoral Area residents.

The RDN held a Community Celebration in October recognizing fifty years of service to the Region as well as officially opening the Coombs to Parkville Rail Trail.



2016 – 2020 Board Strategic Plan Update

Our Progress

The Strategic Plan identifies key focus areas and strategic priorities for the RDN Board. Each year, the Directors meet to review and adjust the Strategic Plan to ensure it directs the RDN's annual work plan, budget and five year Financial Plan.

Strategic priorities advanced over the past year include transit expansions, recreational amenity improvements, with First Nation input on planning and service delivery, and recognizing the importance of water for our environmental and economic health.

To better monitor and report on this progress, the RDN developed an Operational Report and Forecast. The Operational Report measures progress on priority projects in the current year against the Strategic Plan, while the Forecast aligns the five year Financial Plan.

Together, the Board Strategic Plan and the Operational Report and Forecast establish the highest priorities for the RDN and provide information on how effectively the RDN is advancing Board priorities. In September 2017, the content of the current Strategic Plan was reaffirmed and the Operational Report and Forecast was recognized as an essential tool to show how work is progressing in the RDN. We look forward to continuing to implement the Board Strategic Plan and reporting on our progress through 2018.

To see the full plan, visit rdn.bc.ca/strategicplan.

New look and ways to share information

A new and additional way to get involved with the RDN and have your say is by visiting getinvolved.rdn.ca to see many of our current projects. This gives us another way to connect with the community and encourage dialogue with our staff and each other. You can see project timelines, events, FAQ's, background documents and more. Some of the interactive tools that you can watch for include: polls, surveys, placing feedback on a map, questions and answers. **All of these tools show input in a transparent way, encouraging more two-way dialogue and information sharing.**

Get Involved RDN!

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US ONLINE AND SIGN UP TO PROVIDE YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR CURRENT PROJECTS.

RDN Rebates

The RDN offers funding rebates to residents to help make your property more environmentally friendly by reducing water and/or energy usage. The RDN offers rebates through the Green Building Incentive Program, the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program and the SepticSmart Program. Please note that as the year end is approaching, many of the programs may be fully subscribed. Thank you to those that participated in the rebate programs and did their part!

If you missed out this year, not to worry - programs will be offered again in 2018! Check it out at rdnrebates.ca for further details and application forms.

- **Rainwater Harvesting Incentive** – up to \$750, for residential rainwater harvesting systems with 1000 imperial gallons of storage and higher.
- **Rural Water Quality Stewardship Incentive** – for well water quality testing & wellhead protection upgrades.
- **WaterSmart Garden Rebate** – for soil augmentation and irrigation system efficiency upgrades (drip, smart controllers, sensors etc.).
- **Septic Maintenance Rebate Program** – for maintenance of existing systems or replacement of malfunctioning systems.
- **Oil to Heat Pump Rebate** – incentives to transition from oil heating to heat pumps.
- **Home Energy Assessment** – initial home energy assessments that result in an EnerGuide rating for the home. Additional rebates are available if upgrades are performed that result in energy saving measures that help reduce home energy costs.

Look inside for more rebates >



What's Inside:

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

YOUR CURRENT BOARD

rdn.bc.ca

- **Graded Site-Cut Timber Incentive** – using graded site-cut timber for structural use in renovations and new construction requiring a building permit. Homeowners who harvest and use timber on the same site can take advantage of this rebate.
- **Renewable Energy System Incentive** – save money while upgrading to energy efficient technology in your home.
- **Sustainable Development Checklist** – homeowners and builders that develop high-performance building projects and meet checklist requirements may qualify for incentives up to \$1,000 and may be eligible for additional rebates through the RDN.
- **Woodstove Exchange Rebate** – when replacing an old wood burning appliance with an EPA/CSA-certified wood burning, pellet, or gas stove or insert.
- **Residential EV Charging Station** – install a residential Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Station, providing immediate emission reductions and encouraging clean energy vehicle deployment in the Regional District.

From litter pick-up to stream keepers, park wardens to emergency services and many others...

THANK YOU
ALL RDN
VOLUNTEERS!

Recreation and Parks Updates

RECREATION SERVICES MASTER PLAN FOR DISTRICT 69 (OCEANSIDE)

A new Recreation Services Master Plan is underway for the Oceanside area. This is for the northern communities within our region, from Nanoose Bay to Deep Bay and west to Coombs, Hilliers and Errington. The Master Plan will provide a long-term strategic plan for the delivery of recreation services and help guide future decision making and actions in a number of key areas including infrastructure needs and programming partnerships.

Engagement with residents is a key aspect of the project, and in February, a survey was launched to capture public feedback on current recreation services and ideas on how those services can be improved. Survey results were presented to the Board on July 11, 2017. A series of public open houses and online community engagements were held in November and early December on the Draft Master Plan, with a completed Draft Master Plan scheduled to be presented to the Board in March 2018.

More information and the survey report on key findings can be found at getinvolved.rdn.ca.



COOMBS TO PARKVILLE RAIL TRAIL

The 7 km Rail Trail between Station Road in Coombs and Springwood Community Park in Parkville is now complete and officially open. The trail is accessible and welcomes all ages to enjoy this important amenity and community connector. For more information please visit rdn.bc.ca/parks.

MEADOWOOD COMMUNITY PARK

On October 23, 2017, the RDN purchased 1830 Galvin Place from School District 69 Qualicum to further develop the existing Meadowood Community Park. The land acquisition was funded from the Electoral Area F Community Parks budget.

Community engagement on development plans for the park, including potential design and construction of a community recreation centre on the site, will commence in 2018. For more information on RDN Parks and Trails, visit rdn.bc.ca/parks.

MT. BENSON PARKING UPGRADES

Land is being acquired by the RDN to improve parking and trailhead amenities that serve Mount Benson Regional Park. Mount Benson Regional Park and Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail are currently served by a roadside 24 car parking area on Benson View Road. The parking area regularly overflows and is not able to sustain the increasing number of visitors accessing the public lands and trails on the slopes of Mount Benson.

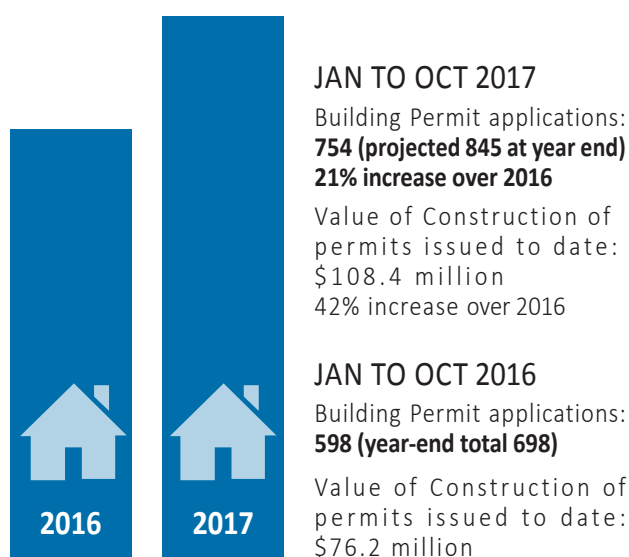
Once constructed, the new parking lot at 2761 Benson View Road is estimated to have the capacity to hold between 92 and 126 parking stalls. Work continues throughout 2017 and 2018 to determine the best design for the new parking lot and plans for the existing parking lot. *More information and project updates can be found at getinvolved.rdn.ca.*

- Mount Benson Regional Park and Witchcraft Regional Trail is one the RDN's most popular day use parks with over 8000 users accessing the trail this year alone between June and August

Strategic & Community Development Updates

BUILDING PERMITS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

Construction activity has remained strong in the Regional District for 2017. Building activity is an indicator of the strength and diversity of the economy within the region.



The RDN is pleased to be doing its part to ensure permits are approved in a timely fashion as well as planning ahead to improve service and move towards innovative solutions to streamline processes.

For more information on the Building Permit process, fees and how to book inspections online, please visit rdn.bc.ca/building-inspection-services.

RURAL AREA SIGNAGE PROJECT

Effective signage is important to the local economy, is a public safety factor and can strengthen community identity and pride. The Regional District of Nanaimo approved actions intended to reduce obstacles to effective signage in participating Electoral Area at its October Board meeting. The intent of these changes is a result of engagement that was held through the spring and summer of 2017 to address the current challenges and community concerns related to rural signage.

For more information, visit rdn.bc.ca/ruralsignage.

BC ENERGY STEP CODE

In April 2017, the Province of British Columbia adopted the BC Energy Step Code as regulation. The new standard is a tool designed to help both governments and industry chart a course to a future in which all new construction across the province is 'net-zero-energy ready' by 2032. To support the Province's initiative, the RDN received grant funding from BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities Program to provide region wide education and to build awareness amongst the construction industry about the BC Energy Step Code.

The Step Code is a departure from the traditional prescriptive building standard and is a performance based model that allows the builder to consider a more sustainable approach to create highly energy efficient buildings. The RDN's goal is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to create high performance green buildings that use energy more efficiently and build local resiliency.

The 2017 Green Building series included a tour of the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, a 25 unit affordable housing complex designed to the Passive House Standard. Through the RDN's Regional Sustainability Initiatives Reserve Fund, the RDN made a one-time contribution to the development of the Nanaimo Passive House Project.

CARBON NEUTRAL FOR 2016

The Regional District of Nanaimo has successfully achieved its annual goal of corporate carbon neutrality, achieving Level 4 recognition – "Achievement of Carbon Neutrality" for the 2016 reporting year.

Some examples of how the region achieved this recognition include:

- the diversion of food waste in the regional waste collection program
- fueling buses with CNG
- improving energy efficiency when doing facility upgrades
- purchasing electric hybrid vehicles for its fleet

More information on provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program, please visit cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm.



ELECTORAL AREA H OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

The Electoral Area H Community Plan Review is nearing completion after successful engagement throughout 2017 including a community survey, a community meeting, a Working Group, an open house and a public information meeting. The RDN also set up weekly office hours in Bowser to encourage the community to come and ask questions directly to a staff member.

Some of the highlights in the new plan include:

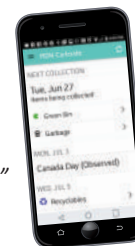
- improvements for the protection of sensitive shorelines;
- updated Development Permit Areas;
- support for more environmentally and financially sustainable rural subdivision;
- implementation of the Active Transportation Plan to improve safety and accessibility of walking and cycling.

The proposed bylaw is available on our website at rdn.bc.ca/areahocp.

RDN CURBSIDE APP Simplify your life with the RDN Curbside App

Never miss a collection day!

- View, download or print your collection schedule
- Sign Up for Reminders
- Confused which items go in your green bin, blue bin, garbage or back to a depot? Use the "What Goes Where" tool to look up an item and find out where it goes.



- EMAIL
- PHONE CALL
- TWITTER
- ICALENDAR
- DOWNLOAD THE APP



Visit www.rdn.bc.ca/curbside for a link to download the app.

Need help setting up a reminder? We are happy to help. 250-390-6560 Toll free 1-877-607-4111

REMINDER FOR RDN CURBSIDE COLLECTION CUSTOMERS



Over Christmas and New Year, garbage, recycling and food waste **pick-ups will change due to statutory holidays**. Check your RDN collection schedule to ensure you put out the correct bin on the correct day.

If you haven't received your new two-year schedule by December 31, you can access it online:

rdn.bc.ca/curbside

If you do not have a smart device or access to the internet, please call Solid Waste Services at 250-390-6560 and we will mail you your calendar.

City of Nanaimo residents should check with the City for information on the City's collection service.

Regional & Community Utilities & Solid Waste Services Updates

SECONDARY TREATMENT UPGRADE AT THE GREATER NANAIMO POLLUTION CONTROL CENTRE

Construction is well underway on the Secondary Treatment Upgrade at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) this year. The project will be paid for through a combination of reserves, development cost charges and borrowing. Construction will continue to December 2019.

The project will provide additional capacity for planned growth and meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements for secondary treatment.

The active construction site can be viewed live to watch as our \$81.7 million Secondary Treatment Upgrade project at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre at 4600 Hammond Bay Road progresses. The live feed shows a high resolution video of the work underway at the future secondary treatment plant area in real time.

For more information, please visit rdn.bc.ca/gnpcc.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR WASTE: A CLOSER LOOK

The RDN's Solid Waste Management Plan supports sustainable solid waste management in this region. The Updated Solid Waste Management Plan addresses both waste diversion and residual waste management and serves to guide solid waste management-related activities and policy development in the RDN over the next 10 years.

The Updated Solid Waste Management Plan Draft is available for review at getinvolved.rdn.ca and is available at your local Vancouver Island Regional Library branch. Copies may also be requested for pickup at the RDN Administrative office at 6300 Hammond Bay Road in Nanaimo.

Residents can also learn more by contacting Solid Waste Services at 250-390-6560, or toll free in BC at 1-877-607-4111, or by emailing inquiries to zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca.

BOWSER VILLAGE CENTRE WASTEWATER PROJECT

This project will provide sewer services to the Bowser Village Centre.

KEY PROJECT FACTS:

- This project has been awarded funding under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund at a maximum federal/provincial contribution of \$7,590,328.
- The capital cost is estimated to be \$10.7 million to be recovered through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, Development Cost Charges and Individual Property Taxes.
- The project is designed to meet or exceed all federal and provincial regulations and will produce secondary treated effluent with UV disinfection, to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

For more information, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca.

Transportation and Emergency Services

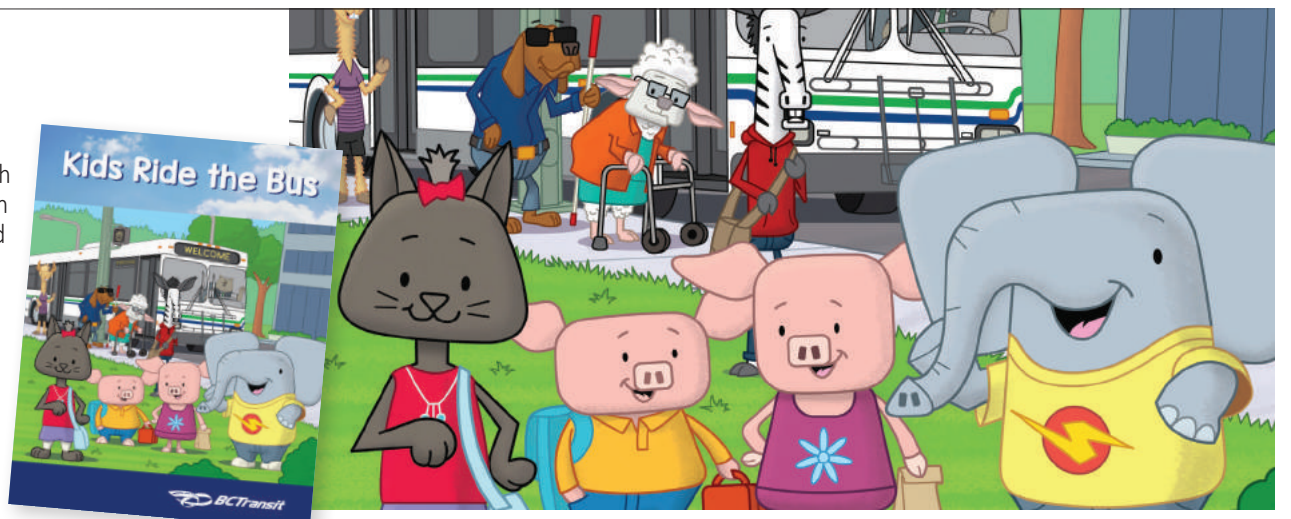
DISTRICT 69 TRANSIT EXPANSION

Enhanced transit service to Areas G, H and the Town of Qualicum Beach took effect in fall 2017. Service includes a community bus within Qualicum Beach, 5 days per week service for the #99 Deep Bay bus and extra service on the #91- Intercity.

KIDS RIDE THE BUS PROGRAM

We want to start the transit conversation early! In late 2017, we are reaching out to schools that receive current transit services, sharing information, resources and introducing the Kids Ride the Bus Ambassador Program. **We hope to get children excited about riding the bus safely and help create life-long riders.**

Any questions about how you can bring this program to your school, please contact the RDN Transit office at 250-390-4531.



ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER? November to January is the highest risk time for extreme weather, power outages and local flooding. When the province issues a Heavy Rainfall Warning or Flood Watch or Warning, there is a strong likelihood a river will breach its banks.

HOW WILL FLOODING IMPACT ME? You may not be able to get home if the roads are flooded. If you are at home, you may need to be evacuated to a nearby emergency reception centre and could be eligible for 72 hours of Emergency Social Services. Your basement or lower level may be flooded and there may not be phone or power service.

HOW CAN I PREPARE? Make sure you have a current grab and go bag. Know where your utilities are and know how to turn them off. Remove important items from basement floors. If you have to evacuate, your family may not be together at the time. Have an emergency communication plan and know how you will reunite after an emergency. Review your insurance policy. Pets are family too—prepare for them as well.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN TO EVACUATE? If you have to leave your home due to a flood or other emergency, you will be notified in advance if there is time or you will receive an Evacuation Alert or Order delivered to your home.



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

In 2017, the RDN launched its new Emergency Notification System. With RDN Emergency Notifications, we can provide the message directly to individuals on their phone by both text message and voice call, so they can be in a position to respond right away.

RDN Emergency Notifications are intended to inform residents and visitors alike about emergency incidents that could impact them, such as flooding, fires, and storms.

Working together, we can take proactive steps to build a safer and more resilient community.

To sign up to receive emergency notifications please visit:

RDNeemergency.connectrocket.com or click on the link at rdn.bc.ca

CELEBRATING Fifty Years!

Your Current Regional Board

The RDN Board has two standing committees – The Electoral Area Services Committee and The Committee of the Whole. The Board and its Standing Committees meet regularly to govern the affairs of the District and to establish local bylaws and public policy.



BILL VEENHOF
BOARD CHAIR
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA H
SHAW HILL, DEEP BAY, BOWSER



IAN THORPE
VICE CHAIR
CITY OF NANAIMO



ALEC MCPHERSON
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA A
SOUTH WELLINGTON, CASSIDY,
CEDAR



HOWARD HOULE
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA B
GABRIOLA & SURROUNDING
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MAUREEN YOUNG
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA C
EXTENSION, EAST WELLINGTON,
PLEASANT VALLEY



BOB ROGERS
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA E
NANOOSE



JULIAN FELL
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA F
COOMBS, HILLIERS, ERRINGTON



JOE STANHOPE
DIRECTOR, ELECTORAL AREA G
DASHWOOD, ENGLISHMAN
RIVER, FRENCH CREEK



BILL MCKAY
CITY OF NANAIMO MAYOR'S
OFFICE



BILL BESTWICK
CITY OF NANAIMO



JERRY HONG
CITY OF NANAIMO



JIM KIPP
CITY OF NANAIMO



GORDON FULLER
CITY OF NANAIMO



BILL YOACHIM
CITY OF NANAIMO



DIANE BRENNAN
CITY OF NANAIMO



MARC LEFEBVRE
CITY OF PARKSVILLE



KIRK OATES
CITY OF PARKSVILLE



BOB COLCLOUGH
DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE



TEUNIS WESTBROEK
TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH