

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010
(immediately following the Committee of the Whole)

(RDN Board Chambers)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BYLAWS

For Adoption.

French Creek Sewer

Bylaw No. 813.44. (All Directors – One Vote)

That "French Creek Sewer Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 813.44, 2010" be adopted.

This bylaw extends the boundaries of the French Creek Sewer Service to include an Area 'G' property.

Bylaw No. 889.56. (All Directors – One Vote)

That "Northern Community Sewer Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 889.56, 2010" be adopted.

This bylaw extends the boundaries of the Northern Community Sewer Service to include an Area 'G' property.

Fire Protection Services

Bylaw No. 821.08. (All Directors – One Vote)

That "Errington Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 821.08, 2010" be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Errington Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

Bylaw No. 964.05. (All Directors – One Vote)

That “Dashwood Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 964.05, 2010” be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Dashwood Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

Bylaw No. 991.03. (All Directors – One Vote)

That “Nanoose Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 991.03, 2010” be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Nanoose Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

Bylaw No. 1022.07. (All Directors – One Vote)

That “Coombs Hilliers Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1022.07, 2010” be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Coombs Hilliers Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

Bylaw No. 1385.06. (All Directors – One Vote)

That “Bow Horn Bay Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1385.06, 2010” be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Bow Horn Bay Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

Bylaw No. 1439.03. (All Directors – One Vote)

That “Extension Fire Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1439.03, 2010” be adopted.

This bylaw amends the Extension Fire Protection service establishment bylaw to include rescue services.

COMMISSIONS

District 69 Recreation Commission.

5-23

Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission meeting held June 17, 2010. (for information)

(Parksville, Qualicum Beach, EAs 'E' 'F' 'G' 'H' – Weighted Vote)

1. *That the 2010/2011 Northern Community Recreation Services Program Fees be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix A.*
2. *That the 2010/2011 program, admission and rental fees for Oceanside Place be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix B.*

(Parksville, Qualicum Beach, EAs 'F' 'G' 'H' – Weighted Vote)

3. *That the 2010/2011 program, admission and rental fees for Ravensong Aquatic Centre be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix C.*

SCHEDULED STANDING, ADVISORY STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

24-27 **Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.** (All Directors – One Vote)

Minutes of the Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held May 31, 2010. (for information)

That the Regional District Board approve financial assistance in the amount of \$20,000 to the Arrowsmith Agriculture Association to be used for the heating upgrade to the Association's Community Activity building from the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks Capital Reserve Fund.

Regional Parks & Trails Advisory Committee. (All Directors – One Vote)

28-113 Minutes of the Regional Parks & Trails Advisory Committee meeting held June 10, 2010. (for information)

1. *That the Regional District of Nanaimo apply to the Province for a long-term lease or a statutory right of way over the six Crown parcels comprising the Morden Colliery Regional Trail currently secured by a non-exclusive Crown licence of occupation set to expire in 2015.*
2. *That the 2010-2019 Management Plan for the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area be approved.*

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

114-117 Fire Protection Services - Authority to Respond to Emergencies Outside of Service Areas (Extension, Nanoose Bay, Coombs Hilliers, Errington, Dashwood & Bow Horn Bay Fire Protection Services). (All Directors – One Vote)

ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

IN CAMERA

That pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) and (g) of the Community Charter the Board proceed to an In Camera Committee of the Whole meeting to consider items related to land and legal issues.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 69 RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010 AT OCEANSIDE PLACE 2:00PM

Attendance: Frank Van Eynde, Electoral Area 'E', Chair
Dave Bartram, Director, RDN Board
Reg Nosworthy, Electoral Area 'F'
Teresa Patterson, Councillor, City of Parksville
Michael Procter, Electoral Area 'H'
Jack Wilson, Councillor, Town of Qualicum Beach
Bill Preston, School District #69, Alternate

Staff: Tom Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks
Dean Banman, Manager of Recreation Services
Chris Midgley, Manager of Energy and Sustainability
Ting Pan, Sustainability Coordinator
Marilynn Newsted, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Eve Flynn, School District #69

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Van Eynde called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

Mr. Midgley, Manager of Energy and Sustainability, presented an overview of the Carbon Neutral Operations and how they effect the Regional District and especially the Recreation Service area, including the two facilities (Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Oceanside Place), which are two of the larger consumers of energy (electricity and natural gas) in the Regional District. Mr. Midgley stated the Regional District, under the Climate Action Charter, made a commitment to become carbon neutral by the year 2012, and in that regard he reviewed steps which have been taken and which still need to be initiated by the Regional District to meet that commitment.

MINUTES

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Procter, that the Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission meeting held May 20, 2010, be approved.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Patterson, that the Correspondence D. Banman to Arrowsmith Community Enhancement Society, re: Funding, and the late Correspondence J. Kennedy, Oceanside Generals Jr. Hockey Club, re: Thank You Cyclone Taylor Cup Assistance, be received.

CARRIED

FUNCTION REPORTS

Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre/Recreation Coordinating

Mr. Banman briefly explained the new statistical reporting format related to the Active Living Card and Active Pass purchase and usage for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre to the Commission.

Regional Parks and Trails and Community Parks (Ea 'E' – 'H')

Mr. Osborn briefly summarized the Regional Parks and Trails and Community Parks projects for May.

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Procter, that the status reports for May 2010 be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Update

Mr. Banman stated remedial work has started on the Ravensong Aquatic Center, noting the project's progress may be tracked on the web site should the Commissioners wish to keep informed during the project.

Mr. Banman stated the demolition and electrical work is in progress and the skylight will be removed next week. He noted approximately eighty percent of the tenders are complete, with most of the items coming in under budget, which has allowed the inclusion of improvements to the change rooms and the entry way. Also, with some redesign to the floor plan an additional family change room will be created.

District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges 2010/2011

Mr. Banman summarized the District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges 2010/2011 report for the Commission. He pointed out an adjustment had been made to *Appendix D* in the report, after staff clarified with other Mid Island Communities the criteria used to gather the information, which resulted in a much closer comparison between District 69 and other Mid Island Community admission fees.

MOVED Commissioner Procter, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the 2010/2011 Northern Community Recreation Services Program Fees be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix A.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Procter, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the 2010/2011 program, admission and rental fees for Oceanside Place be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix B.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Procter, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the 2010/2011 program, admission and rental fees for Ravensong Aquatic Centre be increased by 3% and approved as provided in Appendix C.

CARRIED

COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

Commissioner Procter stated he enjoyed the District 69 Youth Recreation Summit held May 28, at the Parksville Community Centre, and thought it was a very worthwhile event for the adults and the many youth who attended.

Commissioner Nosworthy highlighted the following items in Electoral area 'F':

- the Blast From the Past Annual Car Show will be held July 31, location TBA
- the school activity programs are coming to a close for the summer
- the new fall activities are being planned for the fall, which will include the Sport Night which was quite successful in the spring
- Cardio Karate will begin on September 15

Commissioner Patterson noted the City of Parksville is investigating a solution for the control of rabbits and geese in the Community Park.

Commissioner Preston reported approximately seventy-five people were in attendance for the new Activity Centre Grand Opening. He also noted, a grant in the amount of \$8,000 was received from the Pieter De Reuver Foundation, to cover the cost of the installation of the new removable floor in the facility.

Commissioner Preston reported a very successful Dry Grad celebration was held in Qualicum Beach for the Kwalikum Secondary graduates and guests.

Commissioner Preston noted *The Future Lives Here – Uniting Schools and Communities* event, to be held October 21- 22, at the Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey may be of interest to staff, especially with regard to the current review of youth recreation services.

Commissioner Van Eynde stated he also attended the District 69 Youth Recreation Summit and was surprised to find that youth and adults had more in common than not, with similar objectives of wanting to be active, busy doing things and that both young people and older people have fixed incomes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Commissioner Bartram that the meeting be adjourned at 3:25pm.

Frank Van Eynde, Chair



MEMORANDUM	
CAO APPROVAL: [Signature]	
EAP	
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BOARD	
Db9 Rec Comm. June 17/10	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: June 3, 2010

FROM: Dean Banman
Manager of Recreation Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges – 2010/2011

PURPOSE

To seek Regional Board approval for setting the 2010/2011 fees and charges for Oceanside Place, Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Northern Community Recreation Services.

BACKGROUND

Recreation services fees and charges in District 69 are reviewed annually and can be categorized in two broad areas, one for Northern Community Recreation Services, and the second category is recreation facility based. Each service area is further divided into numerous fee sub-categories as noted below.

1. Northern Community Recreation Services

Categories:

1. Program Fees	4. Administration Fees
2. Recovery Rates	5. Percentage split for term instructors
3. Direct program expenses	

Details of recovery rates, revenue sharing percentages and other related information are identified in *Appendix A*.

With respect to the Northern Community Recreation Service function, the fee structure has been based on program recovery rates and a current annual 3% increase to established fees. Recovery rates and cost sharing percentages were both reviewed last year and changes made. No further changes are recommended this year.

2. Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre

Facility Admission Fees and Rental Rates – There are over 21 different rate categories for Oceanside Place, 28 for Ravensong Aquatic Centre, and 8 admission categories at both of these facilities. These admissions, rentals rates and their descriptions are outlined in *Appendix B* (Ravensong) and *Appendix C* (Oceanside Place).

An annual all encompassing review of Northern Community Recreation Services and both Ravensong and Oceanside facilities is extremely difficult due to the number of variables such as fee categories, definitions, and rates that comprise the entire structure. As a result categories are broken down into more manageable blocks and reviewed annually on a rotating basis. A more common approach within the

industry is for fees and charges to be reviewed on a three year cycle. This time frame allows for monitoring the changes to see if they have the desired result. The three year cycle will also provide the Commission and the Board to implement fee adjustments to “catch up” with annual operating increases in expenses and allows time for staff to thoroughly review all fees and charges.

An extensive review of the admission categories was completed for the 2009/10 season and endorsed by the District 69 Recreation Commission and approved by the Regional Board. The changes and review occurred in seven areas and are summarized below. Included in the 2009/10 report was a 3% increase to admissions, facility rentals rates and program fees for years up to and including 2012/13.

Summary of Changes to Fees and Charges 2009/2010

	Item	Detail
1.	Introduction of new membership price structure	Customers can now save as much as 50% at both recreation facilities on admissions when “bulk” admissions are purchased via a membership card.
2.	Free to ages three and under Free to ages 80 and over	To encourage active lifestyles at both these critical age categories customers within these ages gain free admissions to facility public swim and skating sessions.
3.	Aquafit fees removed	Review of other mid-island communities identified that extra fees in addition to regular facility admission rates for Aquafit was not a common practice.
4.	Alignment with mid-island averages	On an annual basis staff compare District 69 fees and charges with other mid-island communities.
5.	Special swim/skate sessions	In order to provide low cost alternative sessions and to charge more proportionally equal for public sessions that are shorter in duration, a special discount rate was established.
6.	Alignment of fees with user groups seasons	To eliminate user groups and staff coordinating a rate increase during a sport season, rentals rates are aligned with major sport seasons so no increases are implemented during a season.
7.	Northern Community Recreation Services fees adjusted	To align with the release of the semi-annual Active Living Guide, fees adjusted are parallel with guide and school year.

With such an extensive shift in admission practices, specifically items 1-3 inclusive, the impact these changes have is hard to determine and predict at this time. Trends and patterns are just coming to light and to make decisions now using this information would be premature. As a result salient changes to these categories other than the 2010/11 3% fee increases endorsed by the District 69 Recreation Commission and RDN Board in June/July of 2009 is not recommended.

As part of this year’s review process, as in past years, a summary of rates from other mid-island recreation departments was completed and included in *Appendix D*. After a review of these communities the schedule of admissions and fees as outlined in *Appendix ‘B’* and *‘C’* continue to trend as predicted

which supports a 3% increase. Sandwiched between two comprehensive reviews for seasons 2009/10 and 2011/12, an endorsement of last Spring's 3% recommendation is the most palatable and maintains the integrity of the three (Oceanside Place, Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Northern Recreation Services) recreation service function budgets.

A full review of all 21 rate categories for Oceanside Place and the 28 at Ravensong Aquatic Centre is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2011. As this review will be similar in detail to the one completed in 2009/10, significant changes are anticipated during the 2011/12 fees and charges review.

Forward Facing Issues Affecting Customers

It has been considered offering support to sport user groups, in particular youth organizations as they face the challenges of the pending harmonized sales tax (HST) that will increase all rental and admission fees compounded by the reduction or discontinuation in government grants and gaming revenues.

Deferring the budgeted 3% rate increase for 2010/11 season would offer some relief to user groups and patrons. However facility operating costs would still occur and have increased with inflation. Revenue from other sources would likely need to be further increased to absorb any deferred relief offered to customers. In a worst case scenario, Oceanside Place revenues could be down approximately \$46,000 in 2010 from 2009 as rental groups (minor hockey \$25,000, adult hockey \$6,000 and summer ice use \$15,000) have curtailed their use. With the unlikely ability to book more rentals into the facility to increase revenues from user groups and patrons, further tax requisitions increases and operating with minimal surpluses would be required to cover the revenue reduction. Based on this, staff are not recommending deferring the proposed 3% fee increase that was endorsed last year.

Mid-Island Communities - Fees and Charges

As per RDN policy C2.1 – Recreation Fees and Charges, a review of the fees and charges of similar facilities in the mid-Vancouver Island region is required to be taken into consideration when establishing prices for both Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre. The policy does not give specific direction to a direct correlation between RDN facilities and other facilities but it is implied that local fees and charges will be within an acceptable range with other communities in the area.

Last year the mid - island average had decreased compared to previous years which saw increases. This is due in large part to a significant drop in the admission rates in Port Alberni. Alberni had a desire to address challenging economic times by offering affordable rates to attract participation and reduced fees by 50%. The fees and charges review undertaken this year has seen the mid-island average increase as Port Alberni has abandoned this strategy. As shown in *Appendix D*, Port Alberni now has rates that exceed the average.

It should be noted that a significant factor in comparing mid-island communities is the timing of the data collection. Fees and charges in all these communities are scheduled to be reviewed at some point between Spring and Fall of 2010.

Table 1 outlines the mid-island averages for admission fees as of April 2010 and compares the proposed rates for 2010/11, including the City of Nanaimo. The table identifies that RDN admissions fees consistently fall below the mid island average. Consideration could be given to increase specific rate categories more than 3% that are significantly lower than the mid-island average (Family, Adult, Senior). Staff have identified this as a possible option for consideration.

Table 1

	Children	Youth	Adults	Seniors	Family
RDN Admissions - current	2.57	3.33	4.76	3.71	9.05
RDN Admissions proposed 2010/2011	2.65	3.43	4.90	3.83	9.32
% change from RDN 2010 and 2011	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
City of Nanaimo - current	2.85	4.01	5.57	4.03	11.15
Mid Island Averages as of May 2010	2.71	3.53	5.14	4.05	10.63
Difference of Recommended RDN Fees from Mid Island Averages	\$-0.06	\$-0.10	\$-0.67	\$-0.22	\$-2.10

Taxes not included

Taxes and Rounding Off Admission Rate

For the benefit of patrons and front office efficiencies, past practice has been to apply the applicable tax rate and round off prices to the nearest nickel. Admissions rates would then be advertised and quoted including the tax and rounding off. Rounding off to even prices on admission fees has been a typical format for the majority of parks and recreation departments.

Including the tax rate and rounding off does present challenges. When tax rates fluctuate and are changed based on provincial or federal government direction, updates within the CLASS computer software to each individual price is required. Both hard and electronic advertising and signage is also required to be updated mid season which has caused customer confusion. Although rounding off admissions is relatively straight forward, upon reviewing past practices and future projections, staff have determined that if this practice is continued, an additional 2% on average to admission prices over a four year period could inadvertently be added to admission fees.

With the HST being implemented this summer, which has further caused challenges as noted above, as of September 1, 2010, admission fees and rates will no longer include applicable taxes on posted or advertised admission fees. Other recreation departments also appear to be moving in this direction as well.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To increase recreation fees by 3% for 2010 / 2011 and approve Northern Community Recreation Services Fees as per *Appendix A*, and the admission and rental fees for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre as per *Appendix B* and *C*.
2. To approve the 2010 / 2011 Northern Community Recreation Services program fees and rates as per *Appendix A*, the rental fees for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre as per *Appendix B* and *C* and increase the admission fees for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre (Family, Adult and Senior) to match the April 2010 mid – island average as per *Appendix D*.
3. To not approve the fees and charges as outlined and provide alternative direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

1. As noted earlier, operational costs in relation to services provided over the years has continued to increase significantly, including, but not limited to, gas prices, water, electricity bills, and wages. The proposed 3% increases to the program, admission and rental fees outlined in Appendices A, B and C applied to the next five years in all three District 69 recreation functions are intended to generate additional revenues to assist in keeping pace with increasing operational costs and aid the burden on tax requisitions. These increases presented in the appendices are set in accordance with the current

forecasted Five Year Financial Plan. Although some signs indicate revenue may be less than projected, this possible decrease does not warrant a shift or change in the proposed fees at this time by compensated the difference with increased rates to user groups.

2. The fees and charges review conducted for this report of mid-island averages has identified the admission fees and Oceanside Place and Ravensong consistently fall below the mid island average. The Family, Adult and Senior rates show the largest difference. By not addressing these larger variances in individual price categories on a smaller yearly and incremental basis, the need for significant increases in every two or three years will be required.
3. If the fees and charges are not approved as presented in the report, consideration needs to be given to the direction provided on the five year financial plan. If a reduction or "freeze" in fees and charges is approved and the volume of rentals and admissions does not increase proportionally, annual surpluses would be negatively impacted. Projected budget surpluses are carried forward to succeeding years and used to help offset increases in tax requisitions and fund operational and capital projects.

SUSTAINABILITY / CITIZEN IMPLICATIONS

Providing affordable access to programs and facilities is paramount for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle. However this affordability is in contrast to the expenses in operating facilities and offering recreation programs. Most local governments in the Canada have committed to subsidizing fees and charges of recreation programs/facilities and have consistently applied a broad based universal amount in the percentages that these subsidies will be. This subsidization is done with the understanding that programs and services provided improve the quality of life to residents, improve the vitality of a community, and ensures healthy and active residents both socially and physically.

Microeconomics of local communities are always considered or at least discussed when rates are being reviewed. However since there are very few quantifiable ways to apply local conditions, changes to fees and charges can be somewhat subjective. As long as the perceived value is deemed beneficial, customers will continue to participate; however, there will be a threshold by which they measure their involvement. If fees surpass ability to pay, curtailment of use will result.

2010 has proven to be a challenging year for user groups, especially those organizations that rely on government grants which were reduced or cut with little or no warning. Organizations reacted by cutting back on significant expenses, which quite often are facility rental fees, in order to keep operating.

If the proposed increase to fees and charges create a financial barrier to some residents, additional support can be provided through the Financial Access Program provided through the Recreation and Parks Department, and for Children and Youth through the Society of Organized Services. The membership concept implemented last year also provides another option for patrons providing savings while maintaining an active lifestyle.

CONCLUSION

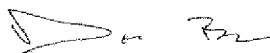
The annual fees and charges for the three District 69 recreation functions are required to be set for the upcoming 2010 - 2011 season. In setting the fees a variety of factors have been considered, including mid - island averages from other local governments that provide public recreation services, financial pressures to facility users (including the loss of gaming grants), increasing operational costs, and projected revenue targets in the Five Year Financial Plan.

On June 2, 2010, the District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges Subcommittee reviewed the proposed fee increases and endorsed proceeding with the fees and charges as outlined in the three appendices which includes a 3% increase in recreation fees for the 2010 / 2011 season.

Given the information provided in the report it is recommended the Regional District approve the 2010/11 program, admission and rental fees for the Oceanside Place, Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Northern Recreation Services functions as outlined in *Appendices A, B and C*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 2010/ 2011 Northern Community Recreation Services Program Fees be increased by 3% and approved as provided in *Appendix A*.
2. That the 2010 / 2011 program, admission and rental fees for Oceanside Place be increased by 3% and approved as provided in *Appendix B*.
3. That the 2010 /2011 program, admission and rental fees for Ravensong Aquatic Centre be increased by 3% and approved as provided in *Appendix C*.



Report Writer



General Manager Concurrence



C.A.O. Concurrence

APPENDIX A

Northern Recreation Services Fees

1. A minimum 3% increase to all on-going program fees effective September 1, 2010 through to August 31, 2015; however, a higher percentage may be applied from year to year if the recovery of program costs warrants such an increase in fees.
2. Recovery rate categories for Northern Recreation Services function shall be as follows:

Category:	Recovery Rates (%):
Pre-School Programs (5 yrs. & under)	100
Children's Programs (Kindergarten – Grade 5)	100
Youth Programs (Grade 6 – 12)	75
Adult Programs (19 yrs. and above)	125
Summer and Holiday Camps	75
Contract Camps	100
Family Programs	75
Leadership Development	75

3. The administration fee included in the development of programs shall be 15%.
4. The guideline for the revenue-sharing percentage ratio for Term Instructors (Companies) and the Regional District of Nanaimo agreements shall be 70% / 30% respectively.

APPENDIX B

FEES & CHARGES 2010-2015 MASTER GRID

OCEANSIDE PLACE ADMISSIONS

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
<small>Calculation Admissions & Rentals: Take base rate from previous year and multiply by 1.03, then multiply new base rate by 1.12 for total inc. tax.</small>														
	Base Rate	Total inc. 5% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST
Child (0-3)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Child (4-12)	2.57	2.70	2.57	2.88	2.65	2.97	2.73	3.06	2.81	3.15	2.89	3.24	2.98	3.34
Youth (13-18)	3.33	3.50	3.33	3.73	3.43	3.85	3.54	3.96	3.64	4.08	3.75	4.20	3.86	4.33
Adult (19-59)	4.76	5.00	4.76	5.33	4.90	5.49	5.05	5.66	5.20	5.83	5.36	6.00	5.52	6.18
Senior (60-79)	3.71	3.90	3.71	4.16	3.83	4.28	3.94	4.41	4.06	4.55	4.18	4.68	4.31	4.82
Senior (80+)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Family	9.05	9.50	9.05	10.14	9.32	10.44	9.60	10.75	9.89	11.07	10.18	11.41	10.49	11.75
Special Rate	2.38	2.50	2.38	2.67	2.45	2.75	2.53	2.83	2.60	2.91	2.68	3.00	2.76	3.09
Special Rate	1.19	1.25	1.19	1.33	1.23	1.37	1.26	1.41	1.30	1.46	1.34	1.50	1.38	1.55
Family w/Skate Rental	12.95	13.60	12.95	14.50	13.34	14.94	13.74	15.39	14.15	15.85	14.58	16.33	15.02	16.82
Child / Youth Skate Rental prev child only	1.19	1.25	1.19	1.33	1.23	1.37	1.26	1.41	1.30	1.46	1.34	1.50	1.38	1.55
Adult / Senior Skate Rental Prev														
You/Ad/Sen	2.38	2.50	2.38	2.67	2.45	2.75	2.53	2.83	2.60	2.91	2.68	3.00	2.76	3.09
School District 69 Skate Rental	1.19	1.25	1.19	1.33	1.23	1.37	1.26	1.41	1.30	1.46	1.34	1.50	1.38	1.55
Skate Sharpening (price incl. pst and gst)	4.38	4.90	4.38	4.91	4.51	5.05	4.64	5.20	4.78	5.35	4.92	5.51	5.07	5.68

OCEANSIDE PLACE RENTALS

Tournament Rates

Adult Tournament	102.18	107.28	102.18	114.44	105.24	117.87	108.40	121.41	111.65	125.05	115.00	128.80	118.45	132.66
Senior Tournament	99.52	104.49	99.52	111.46	102.50	114.80	105.58	118.25	108.75	121.80	112.01	125.45	115.37	129.21
Minor Tournament	60.96	64.00	60.96	68.27	62.78	70.32	64.67	72.43	66.61	74.60	68.61	76.84	70.66	79.14
Commercial Events Prime	140.66	147.69	140.66	157.54	144.88	162.26	149.22	167.13	153.70	172.14	158.31	177.31	163.06	182.63
Commercial Events Non Prime	119.83	125.82	119.83	134.21	123.43	138.24	127.13	142.38	130.94	146.65	134.87	151.05	138.92	155.59

APPENDIX B cont.

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
Calculation Admissions & Rentals: Take base rate from previous year and multiply by 1.03, then multiply new base rate by 1.12 for total inc. tax.														
	Base Rate	Total inc. 5% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST
Winter Rates (September 1 - March 31)														
Adult Prime	131.29	137.86	131.29	147.05	135.23	151.46	139.29	156.00	143.47	160.68	147.77	165.51	152.21	170.47
Adult Non Prime	107.28	112.65	107.28	120.16	110.50	123.76	113.82	127.48	117.23	131.30	120.75	135.24	124.37	139.30
Minor Prime	69.75	73.24	69.75	78.12	71.84	80.47	74.00	82.88	76.22	85.37	78.51	87.93	80.86	90.56
Minor Non Prime	60.96	64.00	60.96	68.27	62.78	70.32	64.67	72.43	66.61	74.60	68.61	76.84	70.66	79.14
Senior Prime	131.29	137.86	131.29	147.05	135.23	151.46	139.29	156.00	143.47	160.68	147.77	165.51	152.21	170.47
Senior Non Prime	99.52	104.49	99.52	111.46	102.50	114.80	105.58	118.25	108.75	121.80	112.01	125.45	115.37	129.21
Hockey / Skating Schools	131.29	137.86	131.29	147.05	135.23	151.46	139.29	156.00	143.47	160.68	147.77	165.51	152.21	170.47
School Rentals Prime	67.71	71.10	67.71	75.84	69.74	78.11	71.84	80.46	73.99	82.87	76.21	85.36	78.50	87.92
School Rentals Non Prime	60.96	64.00	60.96	68.27	62.78	70.32	64.67	72.43	66.61	74.60	68.61	76.84	70.66	79.14
Commercial Events Prime	207.87	218.27	207.87	232.82	214.11	239.80	220.53	247.00	227.15	254.41	233.96	262.04	240.98	269.90
Commercial Events Non Prime	164.11	172.32	164.11	183.80	169.03	189.32	174.10	195.00	179.33	200.85	184.71	206.87	190.25	213.08
Shoulder Season Rates (April 1 - August 31)														
Adult Prime	111.59	117.17	111.59	124.98	114.94	128.73	118.39	132.59	121.94	136.57	125.60	140.67	129.36	144.89
Adult Non Prime	91.19	95.75	91.19	102.13	93.92	105.19	96.74	108.35	99.64	111.60	102.63	114.95	105.71	118.39
Minor prime	60.46	63.48	60.46	67.72	62.27	69.75	64.14	71.84	66.07	74.00	68.05	76.22	70.09	78.50
Minor Non Prime	51.79	54.38	51.79	58.00	53.34	59.74	54.94	61.54	56.59	63.38	58.29	65.28	60.04	67.24
Senior Prime	111.59	117.17	111.59	124.98	114.94	128.73	118.39	132.59	121.94	136.57	125.60	140.67	129.36	144.89
Senior Non Prime	87.82	92.21	87.82	98.36	90.45	101.31	93.17	104.35	95.96	107.48	98.84	110.70	101.80	114.02
Hockey / Skating Schools	96.56	101.39	96.56	108.15	99.46	111.39	102.44	114.74	105.52	118.18	108.68	121.72	111.94	125.38
School Rentals Prime	60.46	63.48	60.46	67.72	62.27	69.75	64.14	71.84	66.07	74.00	68.05	76.22	70.09	78.50
School Rentals Non Prime	51.79	54.38	51.79	58.00	53.34	59.74	54.94	61.54	56.59	63.38	58.29	65.28	60.04	67.24
Commercial Events Prime	191.48	201.05	191.48	214.45	197.22	220.89	203.14	227.51	209.23	234.34	215.51	241.37	221.97	248.61
Commercial Events Non Prime	109.41	114.88	109.41	122.54	112.69	126.21	116.07	130.00	119.55	133.90	123.14	137.91	126.83	142.05

APPENDIX B cont.

Category	2009/10 Base Rate	2009/10 Total inc. 5% GST	2009/10 Base Rate	2009/10 Total inc. 12% HST	2010/11 Base Rate	2010/11 Total inc. 12% HST	2011/12 Base Rate	2011/12 Total inc. 12% HST	2012/13 Base Rate	2012/13 Total inc. 12% HST	2013/14 Base Rate	2013/14 Total inc. 12% HST	2014/15 Base Rate	2014/15 Total inc. 12% HST
OCEANSIDE PLACE RENTALS														
Dry Floor														
Adult Prime	60.17	63.18	60.17	67.39	61.98	69.42	63.84	71.50	65.75	73.64	67.72	75.85	69.76	78.13
Adult Non Prime	49.23	51.70	49.23	55.14	50.71	56.80	52.23	58.50	53.80	60.26	55.41	62.06	57.08	63.92
Minor prime	43.76	45.95	43.76	49.02	45.08	50.49	46.43	52.00	47.82	53.56	49.26	55.17	50.74	56.82
Minor Non Prime	38.30	40.21	38.30	42.89	39.44	44.18	40.63	45.50	41.85	46.87	43.10	48.27	44.39	49.72
Senior Prime	60.17	63.18	60.17	67.39	61.98	69.42	63.84	71.50	65.75	73.64	67.72	75.85	69.76	78.13
Senior Non Prime	43.76	45.95	43.76	49.02	45.08	50.49	46.43	52.00	47.82	53.56	49.26	55.17	50.74	56.82
Hockey / Skating Schools Prime	65.63	68.91	65.63	73.51	67.60	75.71	69.63	77.98	71.72	80.32	73.87	82.73	76.09	85.22
School Rentals Prime	43.76	45.95	43.76	49.02	45.08	50.49	46.43	52.00	47.82	53.56	49.26	55.17	50.74	56.82
School Rentals Non Prime	38.30	40.21	38.30	42.89	39.44	44.18	40.63	45.50	41.85	46.87	43.10	48.27	44.39	49.72
Commercial Events Prime	191.48	201.05	191.48	214.45	197.22	220.89	203.14	227.51	209.23	234.34	215.51	241.37	221.97	248.61
Commercial Events Non Prime	109.41	114.88	109.41	122.54	112.69	126.21	116.07	130.00	119.55	133.90	123.14	137.91	126.83	142.05
Commercial Events Set Up	54.69	57.43	54.69	61.26	56.33	63.09	58.02	64.99	59.76	66.94	61.56	68.94	63.40	71.01
Other Amenities														
The Pond (Leisure Ice)														
Ice In Prime	41.58	43.66	41.58	46.57	42.83	47.97	44.11	49.41	45.44	50.89	46.80	52.42	48.20	53.99
Ice In Non Prime	35.64	37.42	35.64	39.91	36.71	41.11	37.81	42.35	38.94	43.62	40.11	44.92	41.31	46.27
Ice In in conjunction with full sheet	17.82	18.71	17.82	19.96	18.35	20.56	18.90	21.17	19.47	21.81	20.06	22.46	20.66	23.14
Ice Out Prime	29.69	31.18	29.69	33.26	30.59	34.26	31.50	35.28	32.45	36.34	33.42	37.43	34.42	38.56
Ice Out Non Prime	23.75	24.94	23.75	26.60	24.46	27.40	25.20	28.22	25.95	29.07	26.73	29.94	27.53	30.84
Ice Out In Conjunction with full sheet	17.82	18.71	17.82	19.96	18.35	20.56	18.90	21.17	19.47	21.81	20.06	22.46	20.66	23.14
Multipurpose Room														
Full Room	32.84	34.48	32.84	36.78	33.82	37.88	34.84	39.02	35.88	40.19	36.96	41.39	38.07	42.63
Half Room	16.41	17.23	16.41	18.38	16.90	18.93	17.41	19.50	17.93	20.08	18.47	20.68	19.02	21.30
Commercial Full Room	38.30	40.21	38.30	42.89	39.44	44.18	40.63	45.50	41.85	46.87	43.10	48.27	44.39	49.72
Commercial Half Room	21.88	22.97	21.88	24.50	22.53	25.24	23.21	25.99	23.91	26.77	24.62	27.58	25.36	28.41

17

Full Room w/ Ice/Floor Rental	21.88	22.97	21.88	24.50	22.53	25.24	23.21	25.99	23.91	26.77	24.62	27.58	25.36	28.41
Half Room w/ Ice/Floor Rental	10.95	11.50	10.95	12.26	11.28	12.63	11.62	13.01	11.96	13.40	12.32	13.80	12.69	14.22

APPENDIX B cont.

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total
OCEANSIDE PLACE RENTALS	Rate	inc. 5% GST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST
Day Rate (Full Room)	193.07	202.73	193.07	216.24	198.87	222.73	204.83	229.41	210.98	236.29	217.31	243.38	223.83	250.68
Day Rate (Half Room)	96.53	101.36	96.53	108.12	99.43	111.36	102.41	114.70	105.48	118.14	108.65	121.68	111.91	125.34
Meeting Room (Note: All regular Ice User Groups will have 3 hrs/month free access)														
Meeting Room	5.21	5.47	5.21	5.84	5.37	6.01	5.53	6.19	5.70	6.38	5.87	6.57	6.04	6.77
Meeting Room w/ Ice / Floor rental	5.21	5.47	5.21	5.84	5.37	6.01	5.53	6.19	5.70	6.38	5.87	6.57	6.04	6.77

APPENDIX C

RAVENSONG AQUATIC CENTRE ADMISSIONS

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base Rate	Total inc. 5% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST
Child (0-3)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Child (4-12)	2.57	2.70	2.57	2.88	2.65	2.97	2.73	3.06	2.81	3.15	2.89	3.24	2.98	3.34
Youth (13-18)	3.33	3.50	3.33	3.73	3.43	3.85	3.54	3.96	3.64	4.08	3.75	4.20	3.86	4.33
Adult (19-59)	4.76	5.00	4.76	5.33	4.90	5.49	5.05	5.66	5.20	5.83	5.36	6.00	5.52	6.18
Senior (60-79)	3.71	3.90	3.71	4.16	3.83	4.28	3.94	4.41	4.06	4.55	4.18	4.68	4.31	4.82
Senior (80+)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Family	9.05	9.50	9.05	10.13	9.32	10.44	9.60	10.75	9.89	11.07	10.18	11.41	10.49	11.75
Special Rate	2.38	2.50	2.38	2.67	2.45	2.75	2.53	2.83	2.60	2.91	2.68	3.00	2.76	3.09
Special Rate	1.19	1.25	1.19	1.33	1.23	1.37	1.26	1.41	1.30	1.46	1.34	1.50	1.38	1.55

RAVENSONG AQUATIC CENTRE RENTALS

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base Rate	Total inc. 5% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST
Children's Community Groups + Schools														
Main Pool	70.49	74.02	70.49	78.95	72.61	81.32	74.79	83.76	77.03	86.27	79.34	88.86	81.72	91.53
Whirl-Leisure Pool	35.28	37.04	35.28	39.51	36.34	40.70	37.43	41.92	38.55	43.17	39.71	44.47	40.90	45.80
Per Lane	11.97	12.57	11.97	13.40	12.33	13.81	12.70	14.22	13.08	14.65	13.47	15.09	13.87	15.54
Pool All	105.77	111.06	105.77	118.46	108.94	122.02	112.21	125.68	115.58	129.45	119.05	133.33	122.62	137.33
Youth Community Groups														
Main Pool	79.19	83.15	79.19	88.69	81.56	91.35	84.01	94.09	86.53	96.91	89.12	99.82	91.80	102.81
Whirl-Leisure Pool	39.56	41.54	39.56	44.31	40.75	45.64	41.97	47.01	43.23	48.42	44.53	49.87	45.86	51.37
Per Lane	13.32	13.98	13.32	14.92	13.72	15.36	14.13	15.82	14.55	16.30	14.99	16.79	15.44	17.29
Pool All	118.75	124.69	118.75	133.00	122.31	136.99	125.98	141.10	129.76	145.33	133.65	149.89	137.66	154.18

APPENDIX C cont.

RAVENSONG AQUATIC CENTRE ADMISSIONS

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total
	Rate	inc. 5% GST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST
Adult Community Groups														
Main Pool	105.11	110.37	105.11	117.72	108.26	121.26	111.51	124.89	114.86	128.64	118.30	132.50	121.85	136.48
Whirl-Leisure Pool	52.55	55.18	52.55	58.86	54.13	60.62	55.75	62.44	57.42	64.31	59.15	66.24	60.92	68.23
Per Lane	17.62	18.50	17.62	19.74	18.15	20.33	18.70	20.94	19.26	21.57	19.84	22.22	20.43	22.88
Pool All	157.67	165.56	157.67	176.59	162.40	181.89	167.27	187.35	172.29	192.97	177.46	198.76	182.79	204.72
Swim Club - Children														
Main Pool	72.57	76.20	72.57	81.28	74.75	83.72	76.99	86.23	79.30	88.82	81.68	91.48	84.13	94.23
Whirl-Leisure Pool	36.31	38.12	36.31	40.66	37.40	41.88	38.52	43.14	39.67	44.44	40.86	45.77	42.09	47.14
Per Lane	12.32	12.93	12.32	13.80	12.69	14.21	13.07	14.64	13.46	15.08	13.86	15.53	14.28	15.99
Pool All	108.88	114.33	108.88	121.95	112.15	125.61	115.51	129.37	118.98	133.25	122.55	137.25	126.22	141.37
Swim Club - Youth														
Main Pool	81.49	85.57	81.49	91.27	83.94	94.01	86.46	96.83	89.05	99.74	91.72	102.73	94.47	105.81
Whirl-Leisure Pool	40.74	42.77	40.74	45.62	41.96	46.99	43.22	48.40	44.51	49.86	45.85	51.35	47.22	52.89
Per Lane	13.72	14.41	13.72	15.37	14.13	15.83	14.56	16.30	14.99	16.79	15.44	17.29	15.90	17.81
Pool All	122.26	128.37	122.26	136.93	125.93	141.04	129.71	145.27	133.60	149.63	137.61	154.12	141.73	158.74
Swim Club - Adult														
Main Pool	108.20	113.61	108.20	121.19	111.45	124.82	114.79	128.57	118.23	132.42	121.78	136.40	125.44	140.49
Whirl-Leisure Pool	54.09	56.79	54.09	60.58	55.71	62.39	57.38	64.26	59.10	66.19	60.87	68.18	62.70	70.22
Per Lane	18.14	19.05	18.14	20.31	18.68	20.92	19.24	21.55	19.82	22.20	20.41	22.86	21.03	23.55
Pool All	162.30	170.41	162.30	181.77	167.17	187.23	172.18	192.84	177.35	198.63	182.67	204.59	188.15	210.72

APPENDIX C cont.

Category	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total	Base	Total
	Rate	inc. 5% GST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST	Rate	inc. 12% HST
Birthday Party Rental/Program														
1 hr (pool admission/leader)	59.08	62.03	59.08	66.17	60.85	68.16	62.68	70.20	64.56	72.31	66.50	74.48	68.49	76.71
1 1/2 (pool admission (pool/party/leader	154.99	162.74	154.99	173.59	159.64	178.80	164.43	184.17	169.37	189.69	174.45	195.38	179.68	201.24
1 hr (exclusive pool rental only)	105.77	111.06	105.77	118.46	108.94	122.02	112.21	125.68	115.58	129.45	119.05	133.33	122.62	137.33
Commercial														
Main Pool	175.62	184.40	175.62	196.69	180.88	202.59	186.31	208.67	191.90	214.93	197.66	221.37	203.59	228.02
Whirl-Leisure Pool	87.82	92.21	87.82	98.36	90.45	101.31	93.17	104.35	95.96	107.48	98.84	110.70	101.80	114.02
Per Lane	29.27	30.74	29.27	32.79	30.15	33.77	31.06	34.78	31.99	35.83	32.95	36.90	33.93	38.01
Pool All	281.86	295.95	281.86	315.68	290.32	325.15	299.02	334.91	308.00	344.95	317.24	355.30	326.75	365.96
Patio (4 hr maximum)	20.23	21.24	20.23	22.66	20.84	23.34	21.46	24.04	22.10	24.76	22.77	25.50	23.45	26.27
Guards														
Additional Guard(s) per 1 hr sessions	33.26	34.92	33.26	37.25	34.26	38.37	35.28	39.52	36.34	40.70	37.43	41.92	38.56	43.18

APPENDIX C cont.

MEMBERSHIPS (OP and RAC)

	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11	2011/12	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Base Rate	Total inc. 5% GST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST	Base Rate	Total inc. 12% HST
3 Month - Calculation: Regular admission rate based on usage twice weekly for 13 weeks														
Child (4-12) Previously 0-14yrs		70.20	66.82	74.84	68.86	77.13	70.93	79.44	73.06	81.82	75.25	84.28	77.51	86.81
Youth (13-18) Previously 15-18yrs		91.00	86.58	96.97	89.27	99.98	91.94	102.98	94.70	106.07	97.54	109.25	100.47	112.53
Adult (19-59) Previously 19-54 yrs		130.00	123.76	138.61	127.52	142.83	131.35	147.11	135.29	151.52	139.35	156.07	143.53	160.75
Senior (60-79) Previously 55+yrs		101.40	96.46	108.04	99.47	111.40	102.45	114.75	105.53	118.19	108.69	121.74	111.95	125.39
Family		247.00	235.30	263.54	242.30	271.37	249.56	279.51	257.05	287.90	264.76	296.53	272.71	305.43
6 Month - Calculation: Three month fee multiplied by 1.6														
Child (4-12) Previously 0-14yrs		126.36	120.28	134.71	123.95	138.83	127.67	142.99	131.50	147.28	135.45	151.70	139.51	156.25
Youth (13-18) Previously 15-18yrs		163.80	155.84	174.55	160.68	179.96	165.50	185.36	170.47	190.92	175.58	196.65	180.85	202.55
Adult (19-59) Previously 19-54 yrs		234.00	222.77	249.50	229.54	257.09	236.43	264.80	243.52	272.74	250.83	280.93	258.35	289.35
Senior (60-79) Previously 55+yrs		182.52	173.63	194.46	179.04	200.53	184.41	206.54	189.95	212.74	195.65	219.12	201.51	225.70
Family		444.60	423.54	474.36	436.13	488.47	449.22	503.12	462.69	518.21	476.57	533.76	490.87	549.77
12 Month - Calculation: Six month fee multiplied by 1.5														
Child (4-12) Previously 0-14yrs		189.54	180.41	202.06	185.93	208.24	191.51	214.49	197.25	220.92	203.17	227.55	209.27	234.38
Youth (13-18) Previously 15-18yrs		245.70	233.77	261.82	241.02	269.94	248.25	278.04	255.70	286.38	263.37	294.97	271.27	303.82
Adult (19-59) Previously 19-54 yrs		351.00	334.15	374.25	344.31	385.63	354.64	397.20	365.28	409.12	376.24	421.39	387.53	434.03
Senior (60-79) Previously 55+yrs		273.78	260.44	291.70	268.57	300.79	276.62	309.82	284.92	319.11	293.47	328.68	302.27	338.55
Family		666.90	635.31	711.55	654.20	732.70	673.82	754.68	694.04	777.32	714.86	800.64	736.30	824.66

APPENDIX D

RDN Admissions proposed 2010/2011	2.65	3.43	4.90	3.83	9.32
Mid Island (MI) Averages April 2010	2.71	3.53	5.14	4.05	10.63
Mid Island (MI) Averages April 2009	2.71	3.55	5.14	3.76	9.63

MID ISLAND FEES AND CHARGES
Current as of April 2010

Light Grey Shade = Lowest Rates

Dark Grey Shade = Highest Rates

Location:	Children	Youth	Adults	Seniors	Family
Campbell River	2.50	3.50	5.25	3.75	10.25
Comox Valley SC	2.63	3.05	4.99	3.99	10.34
Comox Valley AC	2.78	3.36	5.36	4.46	11.55
Cowichan Arena /Aquannis Centre	2.75	3.00	5.75	4.25	11.50
Cowichan Aquatic Centre	2.50	4.00	5.00	4.00	
Fuller Lake	2.75	3.50	5.00	3.75	10.00
Port Alberni	2.90	3.60	5.50	4.10	11.60
Powell River	2.85	3.90	4.20	4.35	10.20
Nanaimo	2.85	4.01	5.46	4.03	10.93

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'F' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010
AT ERRINGTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL
6:30PM

Attendance: Reg Nosworthy, Chair
Lou Biggemann, Director, RDN Board
Stephen Cross
Kebble Scheaff
Alfred Jablonski

Staff: Lesya Fesiak, Parks Planner

Regrets: Peter Doukakis
Linda Tchorz

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nosworthy called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

DELEGATIONS

Arrowsmith Agricultural Association, Mr. Worland

Mr. Worland gave a short report on the building progress of the new Community Activity Building situated in the Coombs Fairgrounds. He presented the Arrowsmith Agricultural Association's request for financial assistance to assist with the completion of the facility in one of the following three areas, stating the preferred priority would be the heating system:

- \$25,000 to complete the in-floor heating system in order to increase usage of the facility, or
- \$20,000 for a permanent waste treatment system, or
- \$8,000 to purchase and install a resilient sports floor

MOVED K. Scheaff, SECONDED S. Cross, that the delegation of Wilfred Worland, Arrowsmith Agricultural Association, be received.

CARRIED

Corcan / Meadowood Residents Association, Ms. Peligren

Ms. Peligren, CMRA President, requested the Regional District address the need for the development of the 22.8 acre Meadowood Community Park and the creation of a conceptual design for the park and a community centre. Ms. Peligren requested the development of a link between the Meadowood Community Park and the Little Qualicum River Regional Park which would include trails, a picnic area and benches, noting the CMRA could partner with the Regional District to help make the project immediate and viable.

Ms. Peligren requested a Regional District representative attend the CMRA AGM to be held October 2, at the Lighthouse Community Centre.

MOVED K. Scheaff, SECONDED S. Cross, that the Delegation Elaine Peligren, Corcan / Meadowood Residents Association (CMRA), be received.

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOVED S. Cross, SECONDED A. Jablonski, that the Minutes of the Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held February 22, 2010, be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Area 'F' Trail Plan Open House will be scheduled for the fall.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED K. Scheaff, that the Correspondence N. Avery to D. Jones, re: Delegation RDN Board Meeting March 23, 2010, be received.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

Arrowsmith Agricultural Association

Committee members stated their concern about the impact the request to fund the Community Activity Building heating system would have on the 2010/2011 Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks Operating Budget and any park and trail development for 2010.

MOVED S. Cross, SECONDED K. Scheaff, that the Regional District Board approve financial assistance in the amount of \$20,000 to the Arrowsmith Agriculture Association to be used for the heating upgrade to the Association's Community Activity building from the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks Capital Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

Corcan / Meadowood Residents Association

MOVED S. Cross, SECONDED K. Scheaff, that staff be directed to prepare a conceptual design for the Meadowood Community Park.

CARRIED

As this could create a prioritizing problem for staff, the Chair requested the Romain Road Park Preliminary Plan be presented at this point in the meeting. Ms. Fesiak presented the preliminary drawings of the park and indicated she would include parking, a frontage trail to the park and a picnic area as requested by the Committee.

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Park and Regional Parks and Trails Projects February through to April 2010 and the 2010 Work Plan and Five Year Priorities

Ms. Fesiak presented the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trail Projects and the 2010 Work Plan and Five Year Priorities report.

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED S. Cross that the reports be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Conceptual Design Romain Road Community Park F18

MOVED S. Cross, SECONDED K. Scheaff, that the purchase of a picnic table and installation in the Romain Road area be included in the 2011 budget.

CARRIED

Committee members agreed both the Romain Road Park and the Meadowood Community Park Plan projects could move forward at the same time. In addition and with staff's approval, they also agreed that the Errington Park playground and ball field project be moved to 2014 and the Meadowood Way planning to 2011 on the work plan. The Kopernick Road to Fairdown Road Trail would be addressed at the fall 2010 open house.

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED S. Cross, that staff be directed to advise the Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee of any plan to develop the Little Qualicum River Regional Park adjacent to the Meadowood Way 22.8 acre community park.

CARRIED

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED S. Cross, that the Meadowood Way Community Park project be moved to 2011, ahead of the Errington playground and ball field on the Electoral Area 'F' Park Survey Development Schedule 2009 – 2014.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

Mr. Biggemann suggested the Committee consider seeking tenure of the two Crown Land lots located behind the old Errington School property for future park use.

Mr. Nosworthy suggested the Committee consider the sale of land locked or possibly redundant Electoral Area 'F' parkland and pursue secure tenure of the 40 acres of Crown Land adjacent to the Malcolm Property Community Park.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The Committee agreed to move the meeting start time back to 7:00pm from 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED K. Scheaff that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45pm

Chair

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE
REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010, 12:00PM
IN THE RDN COMMITTEE ROOM**

Attendance: Director Larry McNabb, Chair
Director Joe Stanhope
Director Maureen Young
Director Teunis Westbroek
Peter Rothermel
Frank Van Eynde
Craig Young

Staff: Carol Mason, Chief Administrative Officer
Tom Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks
Wendy Marshall, Manager of Parks Services
Marilynn Newsted, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Director Dave Bartram

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McNabb called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

MINUTES

MOVED T. Westbroek, SECONDED J. Stanhope, that the Minutes of the Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting held April 6, 2010, be approved.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED J. Stanhope, SECONDED M Young, that the following Correspondence be received:

- M. Dunn, Re: Appreciation Regional Parks and Trails
- T. Osborne to Nanaimo and Area Land Trust Society, Re: 2010 Funding

CARRIED

REPORTS

Morden Colliery Regional Trail Tenure Upgrade

Ms. Marshall presented a brief summary of the Morden Colliery Regional Trail Tenure Upgrade report.

MOVED T. Westbroek, SECONDED F. Van Eynde, that the Regional District of Nanaimo apply to the Province for a long-term lease or a statutory right of way over the six Crown parcels comprising the Morden Colliery Regional Trail currently secured by a non-exclusive Crown licence of occupation set to expire in 2015.

CARRIED

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan

Ms. Marshall reviewed the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan for the Committee.

MOVED J. Stanhope, SECONDED T. Westbroek, that the 2010-2019 Management Plan for the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area be approved.

CARRIED

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects March- May

Ms. Marshall briefly reviewed the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails projects for March through to May.

MOVED T. Westbroek, SECONDED F. Van Eynde, that the Reports be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Mount Benson Parking Plan Proposal at Witchcraft Lake

Mr. Osborne presented the five Benson View Road Concept Parking Plans for Mount Benson Regional Park. The plans have been presented to both the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) and the City of Nanaimo for their review. Mr. Osborne stated a variation of concept plan number one which would include a back-in pull-out scenario for the vehicles is the preferred plan and should receive approval shortly from both MoT and the City of Nanaimo.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED F. Van Eynde, SECONDED M. Young, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:30pm.

CARRIED

IN CAMERA

MOVED T. Westbroek, SECONDED J. Stanhope, that pursuant to Section (90) (1) (e) of the Community Charter the Committee proceed to an In Camera meeting to consider land issues.

CARRIED

Chair

ALTERNATIVES

1. To apply for a statutory right of way or long-term lease over the six Crown parcels comprising the currently licensed Morden Colliery Regional Trail.
2. To provide alternative direction in regard to securing tenure for the Morden Colliery Regional Trail

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs related to the RDN obtaining a statutory right of way or long-term lease for the Morden Colliery Regional Trail would include a fee (expected to be nominal), legal costs associated with any title registrations, and possibly the cost of resurveying some or all of the Crown corridor. Note that development of the as yet unconstructed section of the Regional Trail, scheduled for consideration in 2011 or beyond as per a February 23, 2010 Regional Board decision, would require survey at a cost of about \$5,000.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Regional District plays a pivotal role in fostering a healthy environment so citizens can thrive and prosper. The provision of public amenities like parks and trails has both direct and indirect impacts on community wellbeing. Trails in particular offer high value as active transportation corridors within and between communities. Today, the Morden Colliery Regional Trail is a fine example of a recreational place where citizens can get out and get active. Eventually, with the completion of trail and bridge development along this historic rail corridor, the Morden Colliery Regional Trail will function as a true green highway in Electoral Area A.

SUMMARY

The recent marketing of farmland situated both sides of the Crown-owned historic rail corridor under licence to the RDN for use as the Morden Colliery Regional Trail has raised concerns in the community about how well the old rail corridor and Regional Trail are protected. The RDN's 1995-2015 licence of occupation for the Crown corridor is non-exclusive. While the marketing of the large farm will have no affect on the legal status of the titled Crown corridor or the RDN's existing licence of occupation, it does raise questions about the ability of other parties to obtain licences over some or all of the corridor lands and by doing so possibly jeopardize community protection of the historic rail route and the operation and development of the Regional Trail including a large bridge over the Nanaimo River. The Integrated Land Management Bureau has suggested to the RDN that it consider pursuing stronger tenure rights over the Crown corridor, e.g., a long-term lease or statutory right of way. These tenures would provide the RDN with a formal and substantive role in controlling competing uses along the historic rail corridor and Regional Trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regional District of Nanaimo apply to the Province for a long-term lease or a statutory right of way over the six Crown parcels comprising the Morden Colliery Regional Trail currently secured by a non-exclusive Crown licence of occupation set to expire in 2015.



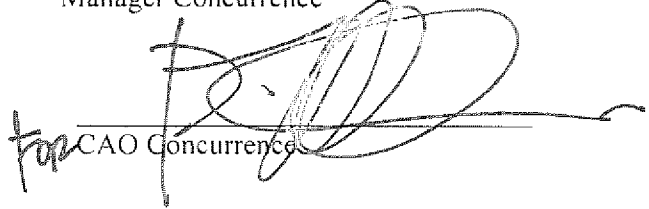
Per / Report Writer



General Manager Concurrence



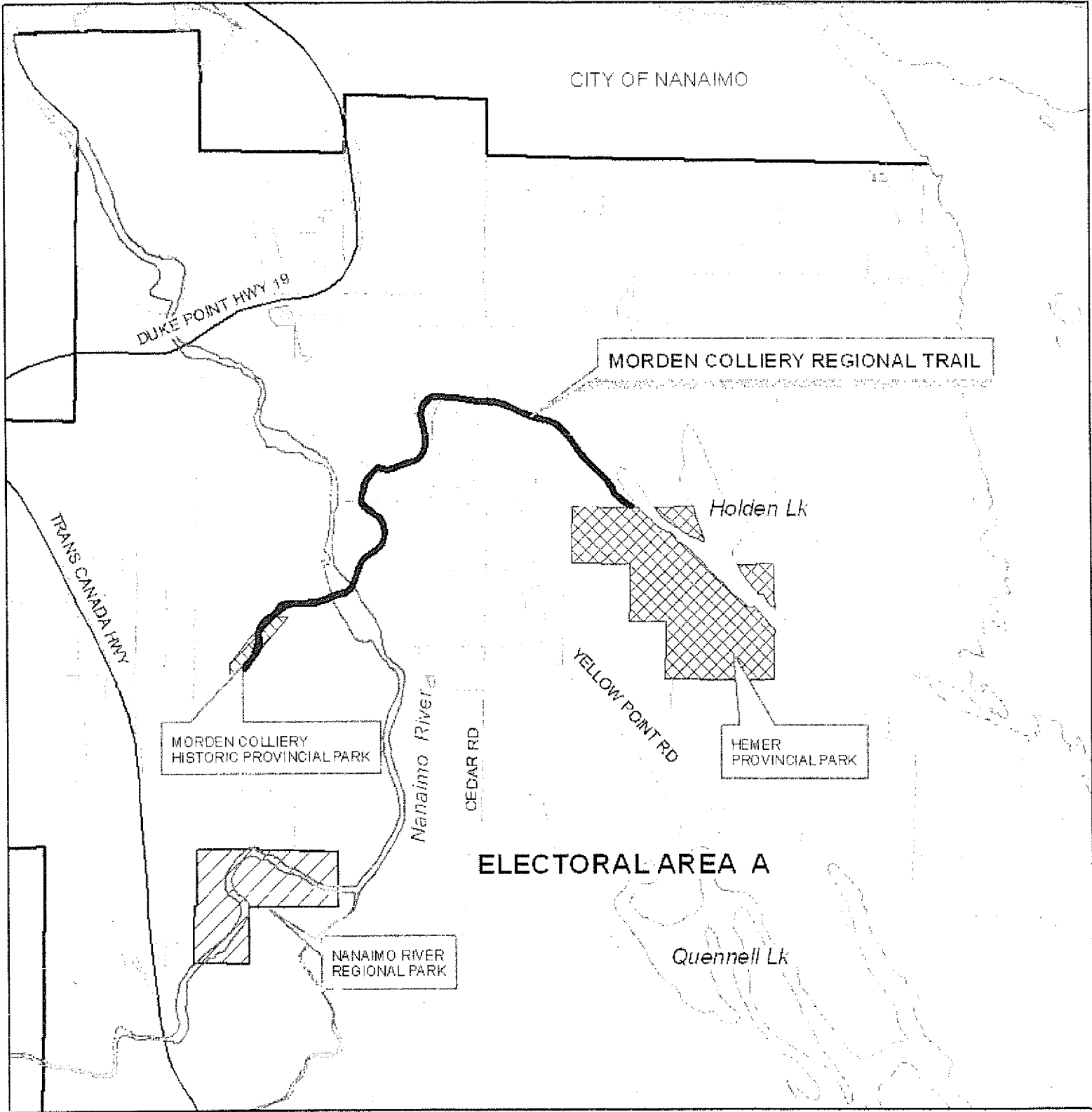
Manager Concurrence



for CAO Concurrence

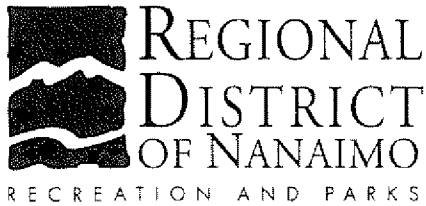
Appendix 1

Site Map of Morden Colliery Regional Trail



MORDEN COLLIERY REGIONAL TRAIL





RDN PETITION	
COC APPROVAL	
EAP	
COW	
TITLE	
RPD	
BOARD	
R.P.I.C. - Jun 10 '10	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

DATE: June 2, 2010

FROM: Joan Michel
Parks and Trails Coordinator

FILE:

SUBJECT: Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area
2010-2019 Management Plan

PURPOSE

To obtain approval of the 2010-2019 Management Plan for the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area (LQERCA) situated in Electoral Area G.

BACKGROUND

In February 2003, the Regional Board approved the RDN's acquisition of the 4.6 ha LQERCA spit in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). In June 2003, the RDN and DUC acquired the spit as tenants in common, with the RDN to take five years to achieve an eventual 21 per cent fractional interest. At the time of acquisition, the RDN and DUC concluded a non-renewable five-year agreement providing for (i) management and protection of the land as a regional conservation area, (ii) institution of a s. 219 Covenant in favour of the RDN, fencing and restricted public access to the property, and (iii) preparation of a management plan. The agreement also set out the financial terms by which the RDN would achieve its 21 per cent fractional interest in 2008; these terms were met.

In 2008, the RDN and DUC began work on a long-term management framework for the LQERCA. It was agreed that DUC would lease its management interest to the RDN for 99 years, just as DUC, The Nature Trust of BC and the Nature Conservancy of Canada had done at Englishman River Regional Park in 2006. A co-owners agreement addressing the potential sale of the LQERCA by either party would also be created, the RDN's s. 219 covenant would be updated to include DUC as a charge holder and to increase the flexibility around options providing for the development of public access facilities on the spit, and work would be initiated on a first detailed management plan for the LQERCA. Work on the 99-year lease, co-owners agreement and revised s. 219 covenant should conclude before year-end 2010. The LQERCA management plan has now been completed and is attached here in full.

Tangentially, over the 2008-2010 period, the RDN Board took the necessary steps to ensure that, in future, it would be positioned to acquire park properties for conservation purposes without having to provide for public access. Especially with a small environmentally sensitive property like the LQERCA, it is not

always possible to accommodate public use without jeopardizing conservation values. The passing of Bylaw 1231.02 Acquisition and Management of Conservation Areas under the Regional Park Function in April 2010 now permits the RDN to better match its acquisition aims with the conservation imperatives of the land.

The LQERCA 2010-2019 Management Plan describes the spit property, its uses, values and issues; confirms a vision and a set of management goals for the conservation area; and identifies the management actions to be carried out by the RDN and DUC at the LQERCA over the next decade. The paramount goal for the LQERCA is to preserve, conserve, maintain and enhance the natural state of the LQERCA as wildlife habitat within the context of the Little Qualicum estuary. The plan recognizes the importance of cooperating with the managers of adjacent federal and provincial conservation areas in order to ensure success at the Little Qualicum estuary. As regards public use and appreciation of the LQERCA, the plan recommends that development of any public access facilities be deferred until 2020. This will allow initial management and expenditure focus to be placed squarely on addressing conservation issues, while at the same time concluding a boundary adjustment involving the adjacent provincial wildlife management area, working with federal and provincial partners to educate the public on the sensitivity of the estuary lands and waters, and investigating appropriate ways to provide for required yet restricted public access to the LQERCA spit.

The RDN and DUC worked together on the development of the LQERCA 2010-2019 management plan, and shared the cost of its production. A range of federal and provincial agencies took part in plan preparation and draft review. The Manager of the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program, representing DUC, the Ministry of Environment, The Nature Trust of BC, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, supports the plan.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To approve the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan.
2. To not approve the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan and provide alternative direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 8 of the management plan summarizes the major property expenditures forecast for the LQERCA from 2010 to 2014. The greatest expenditures are a \$6,000 boundary adjustment cost in 2011, and a \$32,000 expenditure over 2010-2014 to help deal with the significant Canada Goose problem at the Little Qualicum estuary. The bulk of the goose expenditures (\$30,000) will depend upon multiple federal and provincial agencies successfully advancing a pilot project initiated in 2010.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

The management planning process involved an open house in September 2009 attended by approximately 35 people; a web-based user survey active from September 2009 to February 2010 which received 75 responses; a draft plan review notice mailed in January 2010 to over 100 Electoral Area G residents living in the vicinity of the LQERCA; and a draft plan comment survey completed by five respondents during the January through February 2010 review period. All comments received from the public have been reproduced as received in Appendix A of the Management Plan. The public expressed overwhelming support for the conservation imperative at the LQERCA, and a wide range of opinion about providing

for and managing public access to the spit. Many underlined the need to undertake conservation planning at the scale of the Little Qualicum River estuary if not the watershed as a whole.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Regional District is committed to the protection of important ecosystems and ecological features: they must be healthy and productive. Being proactive about protecting watershed health requires a coordinated approach to land use and park and protected areas planning that prioritizes the health of forests, ecosystems and watersheds. Equally significant are communication and education to raise awareness of the importance of watersheds. The LQRERCA 2010-2019 Management Plan is a meaningful first step in a coordinated conservation effort at the Little Qualicum River estuary, and the initiation of conservation planning for the Little Qualicum River watershed in its entirety.

SUMMARY

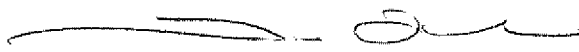
The RDN and Ducks Unlimited Canada acquired the 4.6 ha Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area in 2003 as tenants in common. A five-year non-renewable management agreement was concluded at the time to address the payment terms for the RDN's 21 per cent interest (paid in full in 2008), conservation and public access management, and the preparation of a management plan.


In 2008, the RDN and DUC began work on a long-term management framework for the estuary spit that would be founded on a 99-year management lease in favour of the RDN – similar to that put in place for Englishman River Regional Park – and on the first management plan for the spit. Work on the lease and associated agreements is nearing completion.

The 2010-2019 Management Plan is complete and attached for approval. The plan reflects consensus on a strong conservation vision for the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area and recommends delaying any public access development until a number of conservation issues are addressed over the next decade. Management Plan preparation involved wide stakeholder consultation from federal and provincial agencies involved with the national and provincial conservation areas at the Little Qualicum estuary to the Electoral Area G residents living in the vicinity of the estuary spit. Open house, user survey and draft plan comments all support a strong conservation imperative at the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area. Forecasted expenditures for 2010-2014 are largely directed towards a multi-agency effort to halt the alarming estuary habitat destruction caused by Canada Geese and see restoration of native estuarine plant communities begin.


RECOMMENDATIONS

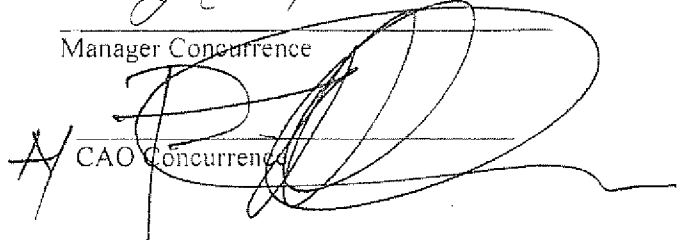
That the 2010-2019 Management Plan for the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area be approved.



Report Writer


General Manager Concurrence



Manager Concurrence


CAO Concurrence

Appendix 1

LQRERCA 2010-2019 Management Plan

(main document and appendices in two separate pdf files)

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan June 2010



Acknowledgements

The preparation of this plan was overseen by Dan Buffett, Regional Planning & Research Biologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wendy Marshall, Manager of Parks Services for the Regional District of Nanaimo, and Joan Michel, Parks and Trails Coordinator for the Regional District of Nanaimo. Holly Clermont with Clermont Environmental Research and Planning undertook research, stakeholder consultation and initial plan preparation.

Thanks are extended to the following agency staff who provided valuable input and feedback during plan development:

Tom Reid, Manager, Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program
Dave Smith, Protected Areas Manager, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
Courtney Albert, Ecosystem Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
Maggie Henigman, Ecosystem Biologist, BC Ministry of Environment
Drew Chapman, Protected Area Supervisor, BC Ministry of Environment
Scott Northrop, Senior Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Many thanks are also extended to all the members of the public and residents living in the vicinity of the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area who took the time to participate in the management planning process. That these many people care deeply about the estuary and the spit is evident from their written comments.

Photo Credits

Cover photo: R. Guthrie and M. Henigman, MoE

Page 13: Neil K. Dawe, CWS

Page 14: Guy Monty

Page 16: Ron Buechert

Pages 19 (bottom) and 22 (bottom right): Tim Clermont

Executive Summary

The Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area (LQRECA) is a small 4.6 ha sparsely vegetated sand and gravel spit that guards the mouth of the Little Qualicum River where it enters the Strait of Georgia on the east side of Vancouver Island. The LQRECA is situated within the UNESCO designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, west of the Town of Qualicum Beach in Electoral Area G of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). The LQRECA is surrounded by the Province's extensive Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area, and abuts the Marshall Stevenson Unit of the Qualicum National Wildlife Area.

The LQRECA is the only estuarine spit in the RDN that has escaped significant development. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the RDN acquired the LQRECA in 2003, with DUC representing its Pacific Estuary Conservation Program partners Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Land Conservancy of Canada, and The Nature Trust of BC. Spits like the LQRECA represent high value coastal habitat: they play a key role in protecting estuaries from strong ocean forces and in sustaining the proper functioning and rich biodiversity of these nutrient-loaded areas where river meets the sea.

DUC and the RDN own the LQRECA on a 79:21 per cent basis, respectively. They are in the process of concluding a 99-year lease by which the RDN will formally adopt the role as long-term property manager at the LQRECA. The spit is one of 11 regional park properties managed by the RDN. The broad directions for RDN park management are set out in the *2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan*. These include: to secure, protect and steward land and water features of environmental significance and wildlife habitat value.

This 2010-2019 LQRECA management plan was prepared by DUC and the RDN. A range of stakeholders, the public and in particular the neighbours of the LQRECA were consulted over the course of plan preparation. An open house was held in the fall of 2009 and an on-line survey was used to solicit views on the use of the LQRECA and estuary in general. A draft version of this management plan was made available for comment. Overall, reaction to the draft plan and directions contained therein was favourable and this final version is substantially the same.

The 2010-2019 LQRECA management plan describes the spit, its uses, values and issues; confirms a long-term vision and set of management goals for the conservation area; and identifies the actions to be carried out by the RDN and DUC at the LQRECA over the next decade. The paramount goal for the LQRECA is to see the natural state of the spit preserved, conserved, maintained and enhanced as wildlife habitat within the context of the Little Qualicum estuary as a whole. To this end, the plan recognizes the importance of coordinating actions with the managers of adjacent federal and provincial conservation areas. All three conservation areas share a sensitive environment -- under great stress from Canada Geese -- and all managers wrestle with the impacts of human and canine visitors. Through education, interpretation and restricted public access, the goal at the LQRECA is to provide residents and visitors with wildlife viewing and nature appreciation experiences without compromising natural values at the spit.

Executive Summary (continued)

The management plan establishes a course of action for the 2010-2019 period that is focused on addressing conservation issues, primarily the Canada Goose problem but also, for example, the removal of invasive species; on continuing to properly secure the spit property; and on communicating along with federal and provincial partners to the public about the natural values to be found at the Little Qualicum estuary and the need to limit and control the human footprint made there. As conservation and education advances are made, the development of public access facilities on the LQRERCA spit will be studied carefully and a sound plan prepared with actual development to take place in 2020 and beyond.

The following table summarizes the actions and forecasted RDN expenditures at the LQRERCA for the first five years of this plan.

Summary of Management Actions and RDN Expenditures 2010-2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Conservation						
Invasive Plant Removal		\$2,500				
Canada Geese	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Inventory & Monitoring						
Fish Channel Restoration						
Property Management						
Boundary Adjustment		\$6,000				
Old Metal Removal						
Boundary Demarcation						
Public Use & Education						
Print & Web Update						
Water Access Signage			\$1,000			
Fence Line Signage			\$1,000			
WMA Beach Support						
Public Access Review						

Higher priority actions are shown in red, medium priority actions in yellow, and lower priority actions in green. Where a dollar figure has not been specified, the RDN will be undertaking work under regular regional park operating budgets through use of park staff. Opportunities to partner with other agencies and to apply for external grants will be pursued as possible.

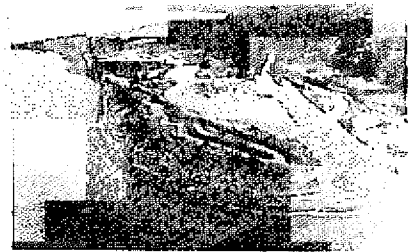
This management plan along with actual work accomplished at the LQRERCA will be reviewed on an annual basis by DUC and the RDN. The management plan will be formally updated every ten years.

Table of Contents

	Page
Acknowledgements and Photo Credits	ii
Executive Summary	iii
Table of Contents	v
Table of Maps and Figures	vi
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Guardian of the Estuary	1
1.2 Acquisition	1
1.3 Management Planning	4
1.4 Plan Organization	5
2.0 Property Overview	5
2.1 Legal Description and Situation	5
2.2 Ownership and Management	8
2.3 Land Use	8
2.4 Regulation	9
3.0 Property Values	10
3.1 Conservation	10
3.2 Recreation	14
3.3 Culture	15
4.0 A Stake in the Property	15
4.1 Stakeholder Interests	15
4.2 User Views	17
5.0 Exploring Concerns	19
5.1 Conservation	19
5.2 Legal	21
5.3 Access	21
5.4 Cooperation	24
6.0 Fundamental Aims	25
6.1 Vision	25
6.2 Management Goals	25
6.3 Operating Principles	26
7.0 Management Actions and Expenditures 2010-2019	26
7.1 Conservation	26
7.2 Property Management	28
7.3 Public Use and Education	29
8.0 Summary: Management Actions and Expenditures 2010-2015	32
Appendices	

Table of Maps and Figures

	Page
Map 1	
Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area	
Location	2
Map 2	
Little Qualicum River Estuary Federal, Provincial and	
Regional Conservation Areas	3
Figure 1	
LQRERCA Stakeholders	4
Map 3	
Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area	
Site	6
Figure 2	
Formation of a Spit	11



1.1 Guardian of the Estuary

The Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area (LQRECA or Little Querca) is a small 4.6 ha sparsely vegetated sand and gravel spit that protects the mouth of the Little Qualicum River where it enters the Strait of Georgia – see Map 1. LQRECA is situated within the UNESCO designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, west of the Town of Qualicum Beach in Electoral Area G of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN).

The LQRECA is surrounded by the Province's extensive Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area, and abuts the Marshall Stevenson Unit of the Qualicum National Wildlife Area along with a small oceanfront residential neighbourhood served by Kincade Road and McFeeley and Surfside Drives – see Map 2.

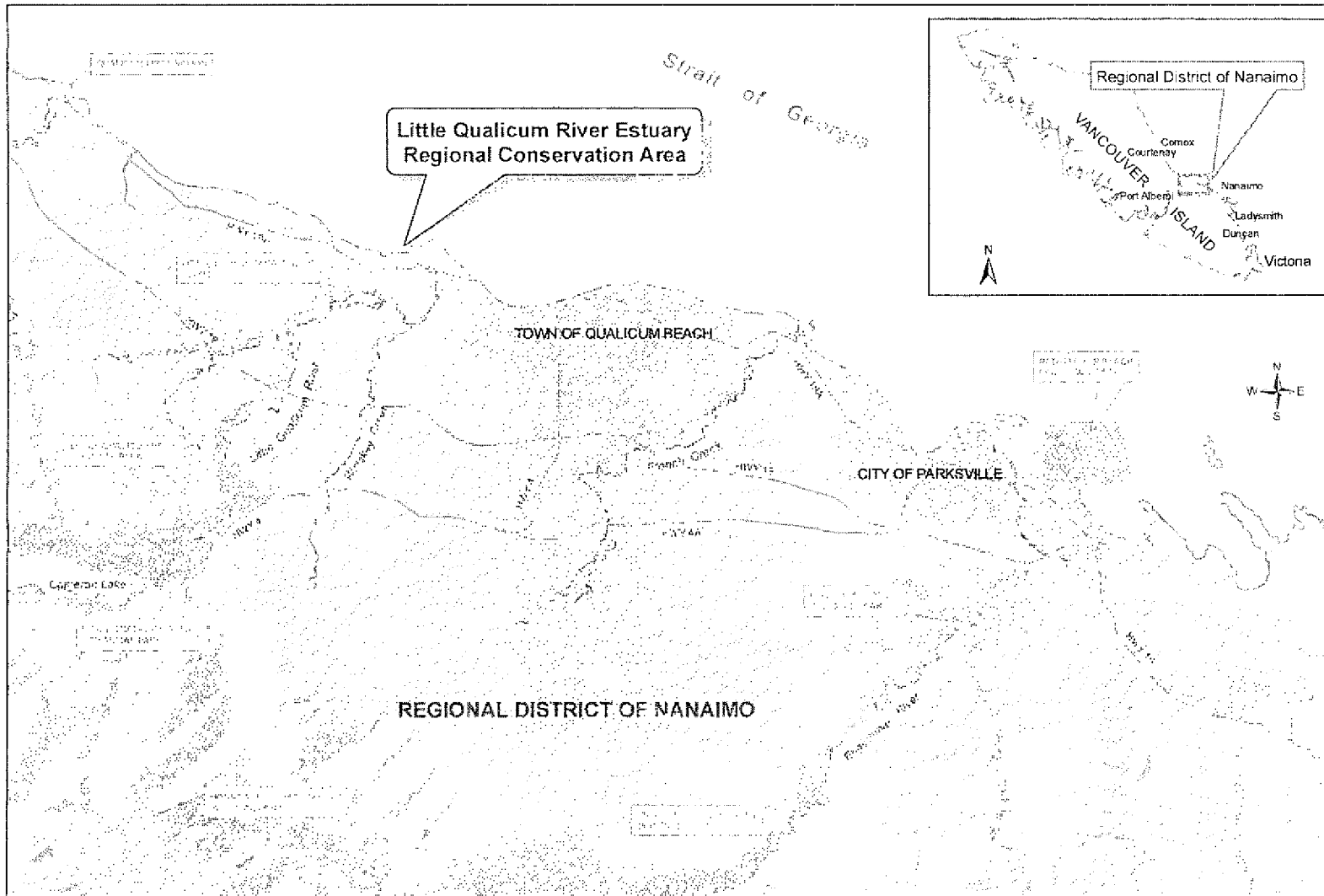
The LQRECA is the only estuarine spit in the RDN that has escaped significant development. Spits play an important role in protecting estuaries from strong ocean forces and sustaining the proper functioning and rich biodiversity of these nutrient-loaded areas where river meets the sea. LQRECA is the guardian of the Little Qualicum estuary: it supports and protects rare ecosystems and critical habitat within and beyond its borders.

1.2 Acquisition

In 2003, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the RDN purchased the spit at the Little Qualicum River estuary.

DUC's vision is to work to achieve a mosaic of natural, restored and managed landscapes capable of perpetually sustaining populations of waterfowl and other wildlife. In the acquisition of LQRECA, DUC represented the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program.

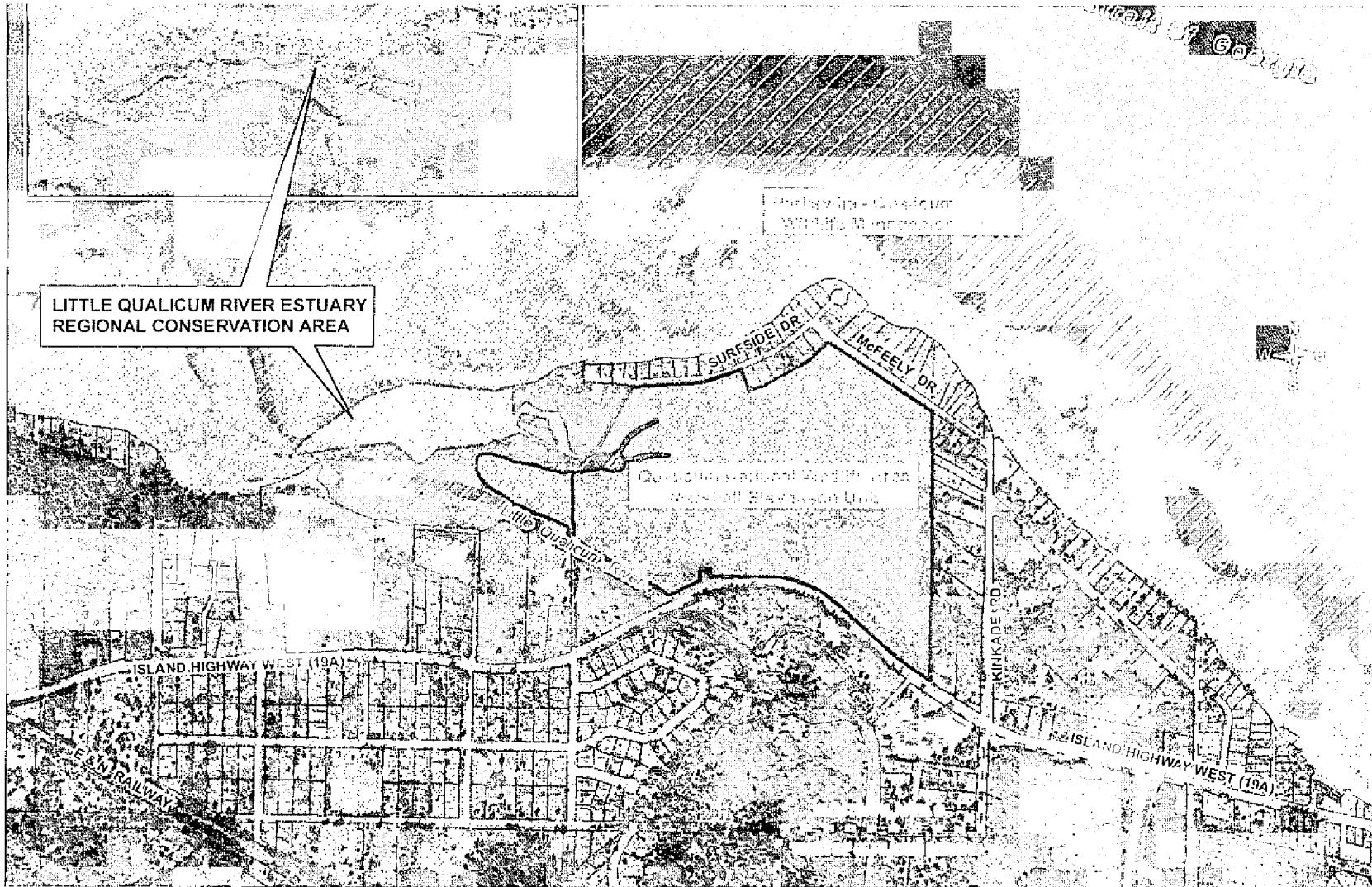
The RDN acquires and manages park and conservation lands of regional significance on behalf of all residents of the Regional District, typically in partnership with other conservation agencies, land trusts and governments. LQRECA is one of 11 such regional properties held by the RDN. The *2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan* sets out the RDN's vision: to secure, protect and steward land and water features of environmental significance and wildlife habitat value.



MAP 1. Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area Location

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers
 Map produced by Regional District of Nanaimo, October 2009

- Legend**
- Regional Park
 - ▨ Provincial Park
 - ▨ Conservation Lands
 - ▨ Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area



MAP 2. Little Qualicum River Estuary Federal, Provincial and Regional Conservation Areas

0 100 200 400 600 800 Meters

Date of Photography Summer 2009

Map produced by Regional District of Nanaimo June 2008

1.3 Management Planning

The purpose of this first management plan for the LQRERCA is to describe the property, its uses, values and issues, confirm a vision and conservation goals, and set out management actions for the next decade that will advance DUC and the RDN's conservation aims at the LQRERCA spit. This management plan will be updated every ten years.

DUC and the RDN initiated the LQRERCA management planning process in September 2008 and engaged consultant Clermont Environmental Research and Planning to undertake research, stakeholder consultation and plan preparation. Background research was undertaken over the winter 2008-09, and stakeholder consultation began in spring 2009. Figure 1 below shows the stakeholders consulted and their current or potential interest in the LQRERCA.

Figure 1: LQRERCA Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Acronym	Current or Potential Interest
Ducks Unlimited Canada	DUC	Owner
Regional District of Nanaimo	RDN	Owner and manager
Ministry of Environment	MoE	Estuary conservation neighbour and regulatory agency
Canadian Wildlife Service	CWS	Estuary conservation neighbour
Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program	VICLMP	Manager of conservation lands on Vancouver Island on behalf of DUC, MoE, The Nature Trust of BC (TNT), CWS, and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	DFO	Salmonid enhancement partner and regulatory agency
Qualicum First Nation	QFN	Aboriginal heritage
Vancouver Island University	VIU	Research and monitoring support
Conservation Groups		Stewardship support
Neighbours		Stewardship support
RDN residents		Support

In early September 2009, the RDN launched a project web page for the LQRERCA management plan on the RDN's web site www.rdn.bc.ca. This project page chronicled the planning process and included an on-line survey. Through the public survey, DUC and the RDN sought to hear from regional residents, neighbours and other interested parties on how they use the LQRERCA and surrounding Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area, and what concerns them at the estuary. The survey remained live through to the end of the draft management plan review period, at which point 75 respondents had completed the survey. All survey responses and other feedback received are discussed in Section 4.2 of this plan and provided in whole in Appendix A.

On September 15, 2009 DUC and the RDN hosted a project open house at the RDN's Oceanside Place facility in Parksville. Approximately 35 people attended the afternoon and evening event which featured a series of story boards on the LQRERCA and presentation by the project consultant.



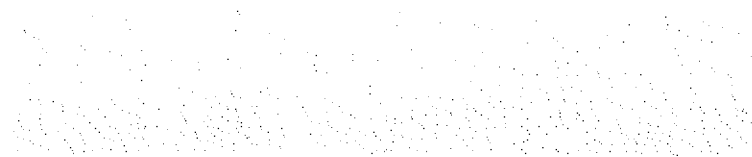
In January 2010, a draft management plan was issued for public and

stakeholder review. The draft plan and a comment form were posted on the LQRERCA project web page. Those who attended the open house, over 100 Electoral Area G residential neighbours in the vicinity of the estuary, and other key stakeholders were notified directly about the availability of the draft plan and encouraged to provide their feedback. Feedback received is documented in Appendix A.

At the end of February 2010, the draft management plan review period concluded, and a final plan was prepared that reflects the feedback received. The final plan was submitted to the RDN's Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee and the Regional Board for final RDN approval. DUC and the RDN will initiate the LQRERCA management plan in spring 2010.

1.4 Plan Organization

Section 1 introduced the LQRERCA, its acquisition by primary stakeholders DUC and the RDN, and the management planning process. **Section 2** describes the LQRERCA property and ownership set-up, how the land has been used and the regulatory framework that applies to the LQRERCA. **Section 3** explores the primary values of the LQRERCA, that is, as a conservation property with some recreation and cultural aspects. **Section 4** outlines the interests of those who have a stake in the property and includes the results of the user survey. **Section 5** explores the concerns and issues that require addressing at the LQRERCA. **Section 6** proposes a vision for the LQRERCA, and outlines primary management goals and the principles governing management. **Section 7** presents the plan for managing the LQRERCA from 2010 to 2019, including who would be involved in a particular action, when the work is to be undertaken and completed, and an estimate of short-term expenditure requirements. **Section 8** summarizes 2010-2019 management plan actions and associated expenditures in tabular form. **Appendices A through D** include all public feedback, further information about LQRERCA's natural and cultural values, and an annotated list of references used in the preparation of this plan.



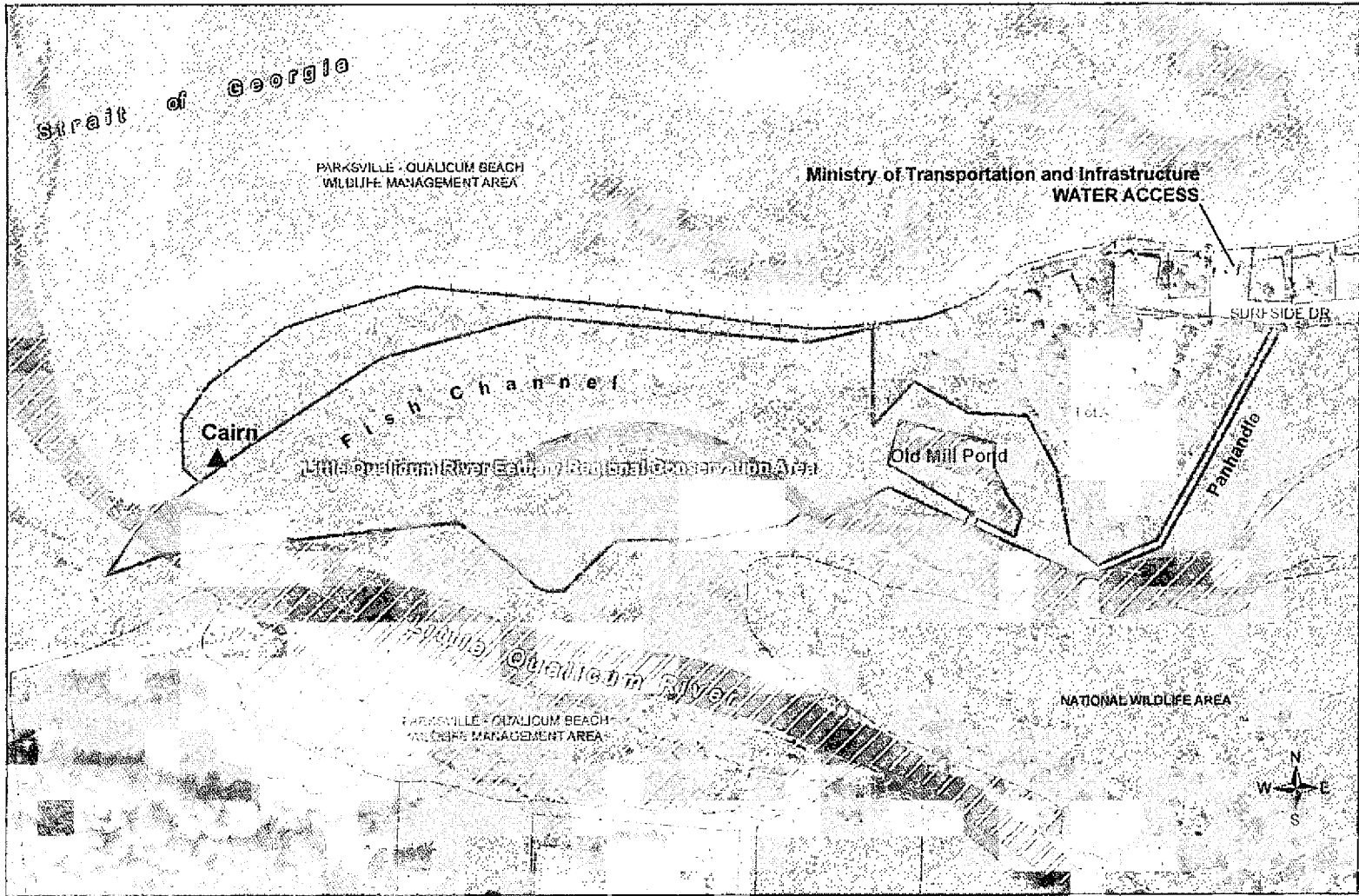
Map 3 provides a detailed overview of the LQRERCA site and adjacent lands and waters.

2.1 Legal Description and Situation

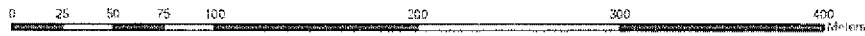
The LQRERCA is legally described as Lot 1, District Lots 11 and 110 and part of the bed of the Strait of Georgia and parts of the bed of the Little Qualicum River, Newcastle District, Plan VIP75238, PID 025651561. Lot 1, 4.6 ha in size, was created to enable the purchase of the spit by DUC and the RDN in 2003; it was severed from the residential estuary property owned by the Marshall family (Lot A). The LQRERCA is situated in floodplain. As can be seen from Map 3, erosion and accretion have over time created a mismatch between the spit's land base, highlighted in bright green, and legal boundaries set out in 1974.



To the north, west and south of the LQRERCA are the intertidal lands and waters of the Province's Parksville-



MAP 3. Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area Site



Date of Photography Summer 2009

Map produced by Regional District of Nanaimo, October 2009

Legend	
	Property Outline
	Chain Link Fence across Panhandle
	Four Strand Wire Fence along Upland Edge
	Old Wood Chip Pile

Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (WMA). To the east of LQRERCA are residential properties along Surfside Drive and the estuarine marsh of the Marshall Stevenson Unit of the Qualicum National Wildlife Area (NWA). The LQRERCA property fronts onto Surfside Drive by virtue of a narrow panhandle of land sitting between Lot A and the NWA. The panhandle, currently fenced off at Surfside Drive, does not provide useful access to the spit proper for either maintenance or public access purposes because of the limited land base around the old mill pond sitting between panhandle and spit proper. The NWA lands that front the panhandle are closed to the public and, in this area, present an impassable deep muddy marsh and tidal flat.

At this time, the only ready land connection to the LQRERCA is from the WMA beach, by way of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure water access at the western end of Surfside Drive. Map 3 shows the fence line that separates the WMA beach and the LQRERCA on the outside of the spit. On the un-fenced inside of the spit, access to the LQRERCA from WMA waters is uncontrolled.

The LQRERCA land title references one easement and one restrictive covenant. The easement concerns a water line for LQRERCA's parent property (Lot A). The restrictive covenant, established under s. 219 of the *Land Title Act*, was placed on the LQRERCA by the RDN when DUC and the RDN acquired the property. The covenant runs with the land and requires LQRERCA owners to preserve, conserve and maintain the natural state of the parcel and its amenities in perpetuity as a habitat for waterfowl, fish and wildlife. The covenant recognizes the right of the public to restricted access to the property for wildlife viewing and educational purposes, prohibits dogs, requires maintenance of fencing intended to restrict access, and speaks to a management plan that, amongst other things, addresses neighbouring federal and provincial interests in wildlife habitat protection.

The Province's Archaeology Branch (Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts) shows no registered archaeological sites at the LQRERCA. The LQRERCA is located within the Dashwood Fire Service Area.



2.2 Ownership and Management

DUC and the RDN co-own the LQRERCA on a 79:21 per cent share basis, respectively. At time of acquisition in 2003, DUC and the RDN concluded a five-year management agreement for the property. The agreement addressed the completion of financing, recognized the LQRERCA as an RDN regional conservation area, and assigned the RDN responsibility for maintaining property security.

In 2008, DUC determined to lease its management interest in the LQRERCA to the RDN for the long-term. DUC and the RDN are in the process of concluding a 99-year lease to govern the arrangement. The lease is modeled after that put in place at Englishman River Regional Park for lands owned by The Nature Trust of BC, DUC and the Nature Conservancy of Canada and managed by the RDN.

The 99-year lease to govern the LQRERCA will establish a management steering committee comprised of DUC and the RDN. This committee is to convene at least once a year in order to review the status of management plan actions, and reconfirm general management and conservation directions for the LQRERCA. The lease will provide for the creation of a formal habitat or conservation advisory committee including representatives from agencies such as MoE, CWS, TNT and DFO. As managing partner in the LQRERCA, the RDN will take the lead in executing the management plan and covering regular operational expenses. DUC and the RDN shared the cost of this management plan.

DUC and the RDN are in the process of reviewing the wording of the s. 219 covenant on the LQRERCA, and adding DUC as a charge holder. As written, the covenant requires development of boardwalk trail and a viewing platform at a specific location towards the western end of the spit in order to meet public access rights. The covenant also prohibits any alteration, e.g., improvement, of the existing fencing. DUC and the RDN will refresh the covenant language around property improvements so that the location and nature of any work undertaken to address limited and controlled public access to LQRERCA for wildlife viewing and education purposes are determined based on environmental suitability.

2.3 Land Use

Traditionally, the Coast Salish People camped at the Little Qualicum River estuary, where they harvested and preserved salmon and shellfish. In the 19th Century, settlers raised cattle and ran a fish oil business there, with a commercial fish saltery following in the early 1900s. From the 1930s to early 1950s, the estuary marsh was used as a log storage area. Circa 1947-1950, a sawmill operated near the mill pond in what is now the LQRERCA.

With the establishment of the NWA in 1974, roads serving the old estuary businesses were legally closed and work began on freeing the large tidal marsh southeast of the LQRERCA for habitat conservation. For more historical information on the estuary, see Appendix B. All that remains to be seen today of the spit's industrial heritage is some scattered pieces of rusting metal debris. A Level 1 Environmental Audit conducted in early 2003 on un-submerged portions of the property found that there was minimal potential for adverse environmental impact to subsurface soil and groundwater quality conditions from previous industrial use. The LQRERCA no longer presents any resource values.



For some time prior to acquisition by DUC and the RDN,

the spit at the Little Qualicum estuary was part of a residential property. The edge of the spit facing the Georgia Strait was fenced with barbed wire strands and 'wildlife area, keep out' signs were posted. The frontage onto Surfside Drive by the property entrance was fenced with chain link. In 2000, the landowner worked with DFO and the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers on a project to deepen and extend an existing intertidal channel on the spit in order to provide rearing habitat for chinook, chum and coho salmon along with cutthroat trout. As well, the old mill pond was deepened, a new entrance constructed and the former one filled in. Some overburden was deposited in the process of these works. Over time, wood chips and garden waste were deposited onto the spit. Fences, fish channel and wood chip area are shown on Map 3. No services (water, power, septic) were ever extended to the spit.

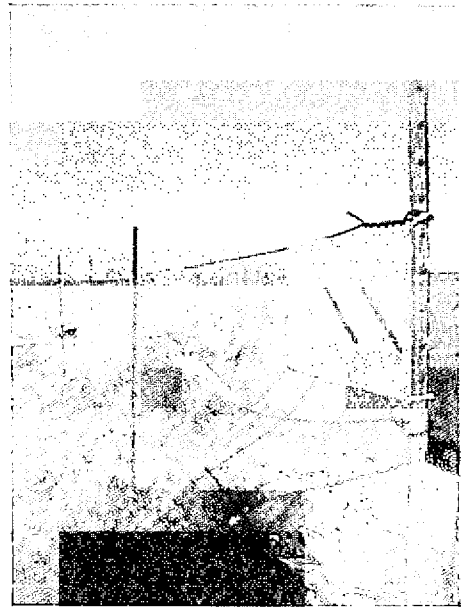
Since the spit was acquired by DUC and the RDN in 2003, little has changed on the land now known as the LQRERCA. DUC/RDN signage was posted along the fence lines to identify the new conservation area and its owners and to state a prohibition against dogs and people. In 2005, DUC used a helicopter to carefully install a cairn within the fence line at the far west end of the spit – see Map 3. This cairn recognizes the contributions of the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Bill and Valerie Shuttleworth, long-time supporters of DUC and wetland conservation. In 2008, the RDN replaced the old barbed wire strands of the main fence with galvanized plastic-coated panel wire especially suited for marine environments.

2.4 Regulation

The *2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan* defines the directions, policies, priorities and action for Regional Parks and Trails in the RDN over the next number of years. In respect of environmental land management, the RDN applies a 'best practices' approach as set out in MoE's *Develop With Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Development in British Columbia*. The RDN also works closely with its environmental and conservation partners in order to complement local government's operational and management functions with the science and conservation expertise of these other agencies and organizations. For environmentally sensitive properties such as the LQRERCA, it is recognized that public access must be carefully controlled and restricted to a greater extent than would be the case in a typical regional park.

As is the case anywhere in BC, works around water require involvement and approval by MoE and DFO. The foreshore surrounding the LQRERCA is Crown, and the fish channel is a DFO installation. Any improvements or activities affecting the WMA or the bed of the estuary require permission from MoE.

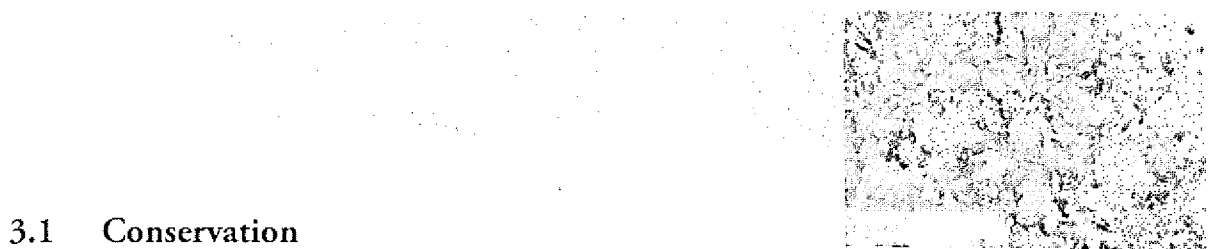
The Electoral Area G Official Community Plan Bylaw 1540, 2008 zones the LQRERCA as Parkland/Green Space/Natural Area and designates it as an Environmental Sensitive Area. Many development permit areas



apply to the sensitive LQRERCA, although no permits are required to carry out typical conservation activities such as fencing, removal of invasive plants, and fish and wildlife habitat restoration. The OCP supports the Regional Parks and Trails Plan, the coordination and harmonization of efforts among the public, stakeholders and all levels of government in the protection of the natural environment. The OCP recognizes the foreshore and waterfront as a finite resource, an integral part of the community's character and a major destination for leisure and recreational pursuits.

RDN Park Use Regulation Bylaw 1399 (2004) and amendment Bylaw 1399.01 (2009) regulate use of regional park properties. The Bylaw provides for the reasonable control of human use of parks, including for the protection of the natural environment. All RDN-posted signage at LQRERCA is enforceable under Enforcement Ticket Information Bylaw 1418. Bylaw 1399 also controls special uses such as research, for which park use permits may be issued.

Although there are no registered or recorded archaeological sites within the LQRERCA, the area has significant potential to contain sites. Any development requiring excavation or similar alteration of the landscape would need careful examination and may trigger an archeological site assessment.



3.1 Conservation

Conservation values are the paramount values at the LQRERCA. The following section introduces estuaries and spits, and describes the broad nature of the Little Qualicum estuary and estuarine spit that make up the LQRERCA. Several specific conservation conditions at the LQRERCA are then examined. Detailed conservation values, e.g., estuary species lists, are found in Appendix C.

3.1.1 The Importance of Estuaries and Spits

BC's estuaries are important stepping stones for millions of migratory birds along the Pacific flyway, providing staging areas where the birds can rest and feed. For the Brant, a provincially blue-listed species, intertidal foreshore and estuaries in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area are critical habitat. Estuaries are also important to wintering waterfowl, particularly when freshwater feeding areas are frozen. Birdlife International has recognized the Little Qualicum River estuary as an Important Bird Area.

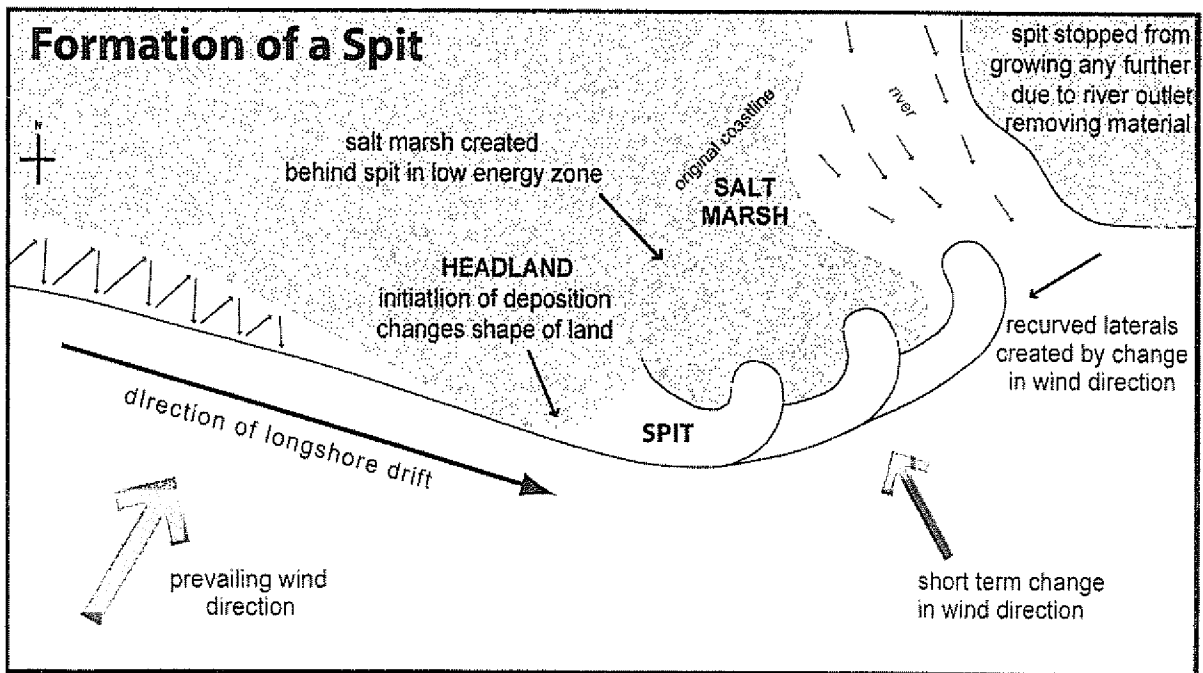
Estuaries are essential to the survival of Pacific salmon. The Little Qualicum River supports populations of chum, chinook and coho salmon, small numbers of sockeye and pink salmon, and steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout. Juvenile salmon use the estuary to forage, hide from predators and acclimate to salt water. Returning adults congregate in the outer estuary until river flows are suitable for upstream migration and spawning. Anadromous cutthroat trout may spend much of their life cycle in the estuary.

Estuaries are significant habitats for people too. In addition to the biological services they provide to fish and wildlife, estuaries provide many ecosystem services, such as buffering against storm wave damage, shoreline stabilization, hydrologic processing, flood water storage, water quality, sediment trapping, nutrient cycling, chemical and metal retention, pathogen removal, carbon storage, and food production.

Estuarine spits develop where long shore currents carrying sediments encounter a headland and must turn or change direction – see below. As the current turns towards the river and slows, the sediment load falls and builds the spit until a point where the water velocity from the river is too great to allow the sediment to deposit. As the spit grows, a marsh develops behind it. Spits support distinct, specialized plant communities that evolve and eventually stabilize over thousands of years.

The spit creates a narrow entrance to the estuary, functioning as the “guardian of the estuary.” The spit protects the estuary from sea winds and currents, and is particularly important to waterfowl seeking refuge from winter storms. As sea levels rise and storms increase in intensity with climate change, the spit will play an increasingly important role by protecting the marsh from high energy waves. By influencing estuarine circulation, the spit affects the range and distribution of salinity, temperatures, nutrients, sediments, and other attributes.

Figure 2: Formation of a Spit
Based on Chambers, 2007 as retrieved 28/09/09 from www.geobytesgesc.blogspot.com, with permission from St. Ivo School Geography Dept., Cambridgeshire, UK.



What is an Estuary?

An estuary is formed where a river meets the sea. The term ‘estuary’ is used to describe many interconnected habitat types:

- subtidal marine
- intertidal sand and gravel
- intertidal mudflat
- cobble, gravel and sand beach
- river
- riparian
- brackish or saline marsh
- dendritic channel
- grass, forb and shrub upland
- coastal forest.

The productivity of a healthy estuary is akin to that of a tropical rainforest. Estuaries accumulate nutrients and sediments from the sea, stream and uplands, which combine to form rich substrates. MoE estimates that these highly productive habitats are used by 80 per cent of all coastal wildlife.

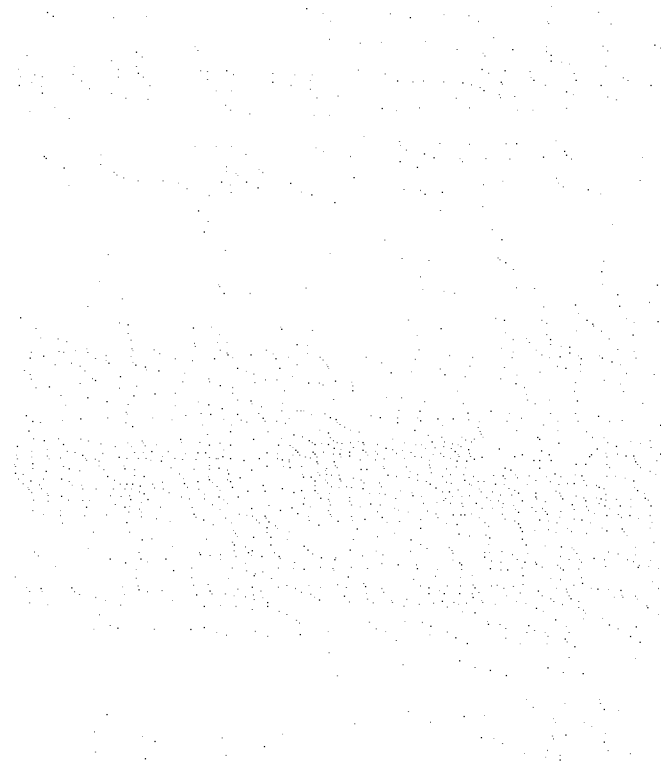
The LQRERCA spit is maintained and grows by receiving sediment from streams and eroding shorelines to the east-southeast along Vancouver Island. Weathered driftwood pieces on the uplands of the property are remnants of the former beach along the Strait of Georgia and testimony to the dynamic nature of the spit. Erosion along the inner channel appears to have slowed in recent years with the buildup of gravel and debris in the river side channel.



Sea level rise, increased river discharges, flooding and intense storms associated with climate change may also affect the structure and function of the spit. Sea level is expected to rise 11 cm at Nanaimo by 2100 based on an expected total increase in the level of the world's oceans of 30 cm. Extreme global rise forecasts reach 80 cm. Since biodiversity confers resilience, climate change will likely have its greatest impact in areas where biodiversity has already been affected by other stresses. Consequently, to effectively adapt to climate change, the structural complexity, productivity, biodiversity and resiliency of the estuary must be maintained and increased.

3.1.2 The Nature of the Little Qualicum Estuary and Spit

The Little Qualicum estuary is situated in the small Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, moist maritime subzone (CDF mm). Wetlands, including estuary ecosystems, make up only two percent of the CDF mm; natural non-forested ecosystems make up only four percent. Of nine rare ecological communities described by the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) that may be found in the Little Qualicum River estuary, eight are estuarine wetland communities.



The Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) of eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands has classified the lower Little Qualicum estuary as wetland marsh, and sparsely vegetated, i.e., characterized by patches of vegetation interspersed with bare sand and gravel. The SEI notes that wetland marsh ecosystems are among the most threatened habitats in the world. Less than 0.01 percent of the entire SEI study area is represented by sparsely vegetated ecosystems. Thirty-one of 38 red and blue-listed bird species in BC have been recorded on the estuary.

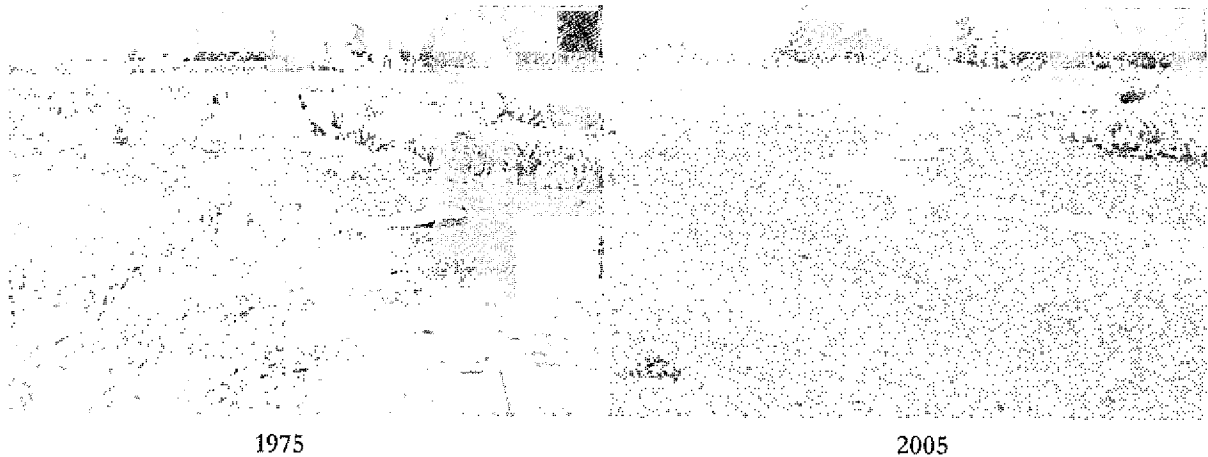
There are no species lists specific to the LQRERCA. Several inventories of the NWA lands in the 1970s and 1980s did however include the spit. Records show 220 species of birds, 20 mammals, 4 amphibians, 4 reptiles, 17 fishes, 29 molluscs, 234 vascular plants, 55 fungi, 22 bryophytes, 14 algae and 62 families of arthropods at the Little Qualicum estuary. The CDC has recorded a sensitive rare mammal species occurrence overlapping the LQRERCA.

Over many years, expanses and pockets of mosses, lichens and wildflowers have established on the LQRECA. Shrubs such as rose, Pacific crab apple, black hawthorn and Sitka mountain ash are scattered throughout and there are occasional small trees such as big leaf maple and arbutus. Stunted Douglas-fir trees form a ragged line along the beach. A small cluster of trees grows between the eastern end of the fish channel and the tidal mill pond once used for log storage.

3.1.3 Condition of the LQRECA

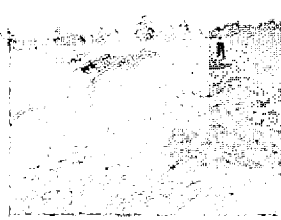
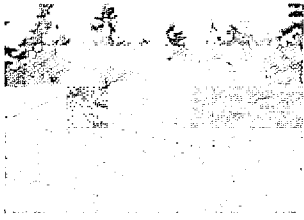
The natural communities at the estuary and LQRECA have declined in recent decades and are in poor condition, much exacerbated by the overgrazing of an exotic subspecies of the Canada Goose introduced to Vancouver Island in the 1970s and to a lesser extent before. Lyngbye's sedge and other vascular plants that should abound at the LQRECA have been decimated by the geese, and substrates laden with microscopic organisms have been eroding and washing away with the tides. In this deteriorating condition, the estuary is vulnerable to large-scale estuarine invaders such as cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

The photos below by Neil K. Dawe of the CWS show the significant impact to marsh vegetation on the NWA between 1978 and 2005 caused by the introduced subspecies of Canada Geese. Note the log in the channel mud in both images; the end of Surfside Drive is on the horizon. Most geese found at the Little Qualicum



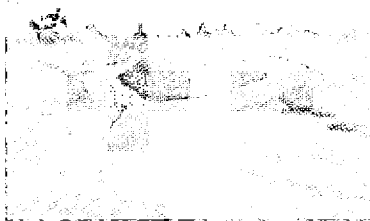
estuary nest on the south facing half of the LQRECA spit. An egg adding program of limited success has been underway there since 2003. Hunting is not allowed in the estuary though it may occur on nearby fields.

As one moves away from the inner spit and fish channel and into the lichen and moss communities that characterize the north or outside face of the LQRECA, the impact of geese declines -- lichen and moss being less palatable to geese than vascular plants. Lichen and moss communities surviving on a thin or absent organic layer are highly susceptible to other kinds of disturbance including colonization by invasive plants. Himalayan blackberry, butterfly bush, scotch broom, spurge-laurel, dandelion and thistle are evident at the LQRECA, and reflect old garden waste dumps and human intrusion. Although still intact, the sensitive lichen and moss



communities show stress and stunted development and, without help, may not be able to out-compete invasive species.

The fish channel developed at the LQRERCA in 2000 to enhance existing habitat and create new habitat for juvenile salmon and trout is not performing well. A few fry and smolts have been observed, but the predominant inhabitants at lower tides appear to be shore crabs and sculpins. Due to a general lack of vegetative productivity and natural shelter around the fish channel, there is little food, thermal cover or protection from predators for young salmonids. May 2009 water temperatures were estimated to be 16 to 21° C. When juvenile salmon are exposed to temperatures above 20° C, they are susceptible to disease and higher rates of mortality.



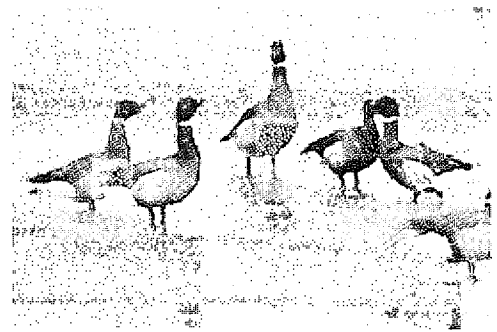
3.2 Recreation

The serenity, breathtaking coastal scenery and opportunities for wildlife viewing attract visitors to the Little Qualicum estuary. Boaters, kayakers and fishers enjoy the marine life, while walkers, birders and other nature enthusiasts enjoy the expansive WMA beach and the surrounding wildlife. Other activities associated with the WMA include swimming, picnicking, socializing around a fire, shell collecting, and shellfish harvesting.

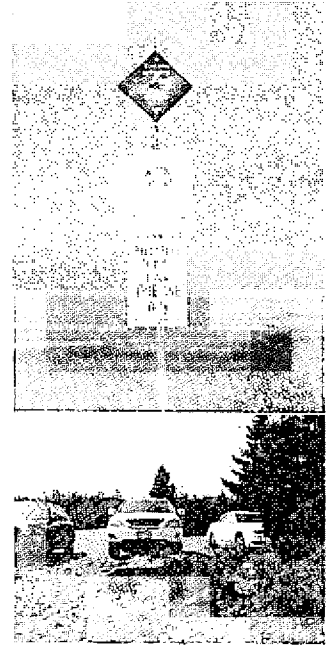
As a small fenced spit of land with no beach of its own and, at least for the present, a low vegetation fish channel, the LQRERCA does not itself present much of a recreation destination within the context of the greater estuary and beautiful large beach. Further, there is no direct access to the spit unless one is in a boat. The LQRERCA panhandle fronting on Surfside is well fenced off, as is the NWA beyond. To get to the LQRERCA by land, one must first head into the WMA and then turn away from the attractive beach and cross the wire strand fence with its no walkers-no dogs signs.



The most direct and commonly used public access to the Little Qualicum estuary, the WMA, and hence the LQRERCA, is the Ministry of Transportation



and Infrastructure water access at the west end of Surfside Drive – see Map 3. The parking area there easily accommodates four to five vehicles, and a concrete and wood memorial bench is available for resting and contemplation of the Georgia Strait. Ministry of the Environment signage welcomes visitors to the WMA, warns them of the sanitary shellfish closure and states a prohibition of beach fires below tide line. During March and April, signs that declare the WMA beach closed to dogs are erected by the Ministry at the water access.



3.3 Culture

As previously noted, there are no registered archeological sites on the LQRERCA. The only obvious cultural heritage values at the Little Qualicum estuary are remnants of First Nation fish fences in the outer estuary and along the Strait of Georgia, still visible at very low tide. Archaeological interpretations describing Aboriginal use of the estuary and detailed written accounts by early settlers are available for use in developing interpretive materials. The Qualicum Beach Historical Museum is also a useful source of local information and historical material. Any interpretation of Aboriginal use of the LQRERCA would require the participation of the Qualicum First Nation. For more background on the heritage of the Little Qualicum estuary in general, see Appendix B.

It takes a community to protect a conservation area. There are many active and potential agencies, groups and individuals who have a stake and interest in the management of the LQRERCA. The interests of major stakeholders are discussed below, followed by a summary of what the public had to say when surveyed about the LQRERCA, its use and management.

4.1 Stakeholder Interests

DUC and the RDN -- The LQRERCA was acquired by DUC and the RDN as a conservation property, and as a means to help protect the Little Qualicum River estuary. The intention from the outset was to permit only restricted public access to the spit property for the purposes of wildlife viewing, education and interpretation. No other recreational uses of the LQRERCA, e.g., as a boat launch site or trail network with boardwalks, were ever considered. Managing for conservation is the priority at the LQRERCA, with restricted public access to be introduced where and when it is feasible to do so without jeopardizing the conservation values of the small estuarine spit.

As property manager, the RDN will coordinate and permit the conservation effort at the LQRERCA, as well as maintain and develop all works required to secure the spit and provide for restricted public access. DUC and the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program (VICLMP) representing DUC, MoE, TNT, CWS, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation will oversee development and the undertaking of a conservation program for the LQRERCA. The VICLMP already supports management of the WMA and NWA and will thus be able to integrate the interests of the LQRERCA with those of adjacent protected

areas. The VICLMP Manager notes that while some vandalism to WMA signs at the Surfside Drive water access has been seen, for the most part the problems associated with this part of the WMA are ecological and unrelated to public access.



MoE – This Ministry is responsible for the WMA that stretches across the greater Parksville-Qualicum Beach oceanfront and includes a succession of large public beaches. Limited Ministry resources preclude regular monitoring of the entire area. Concentrated efforts during the Brant migration, including the prohibition of dogs on the beach and increased enforcement, have helped secure greater public cooperation in achieving conservation aims. MoE supports regular communication and collaborative management between agencies involved in or near the WMA. MoE has expressed concern about promotion of the LQRECA insofar as promotion of the spit means promotion of the WMA at the Little Qualicum estuary. Agency collaboration on how the LQRECA and WMA at the estuary are presented for public use and access will be required. MoE also performs a regulatory role concerning works around water.

CWS -- The CWS is responsible for the NWA, one of five national wildlife areas in BC and the only one on Vancouver Island. Note that this NWA includes land at both Little Qualicum and Nanoose estuaries. Public access to the NWA at the Little Qualicum estuary has been barred since 1984, when interpretive programs there were cancelled. The last management plan for the NWA dates from 1986. Limited CWS organizational resources and staff will restrict the direct participation of CWS in any estuary wide conservation planning efforts in the near-term. TNT is the caretaker of the NWA.

DFO -- The fish channel developed at the LQRECA prior to acquisition as a conservation property is not an operational DFO site. DFO staff are however available to assist DUC and the RDN in the formation of restoration plans for this old salmonid enhancement project. DFO is also the primary regulatory agency for development affecting fish habitat.

QFN -- Interpretation of Aboriginal history requires the participation of First Nations, the Qualicum First Nation in the case of the LQRECA. Over time, it is hoped that the QFN will join DUC and the RDN in the creation of interpretive material that tells the cultural story of the spit.

Vancouver Island University -- The University offers a range of science-based degree programs, e.g., Natural Resource Protection and Resource Management Officer Technology programs, which are teaching students valuable conservation-related skills. As well, VIU supports an Institute for Coastal Research, the Community Based Research Institute, and the Applied Environmental Research Lab. The professors, associates and students involved in all of these educational endeavours present a valuable work force and partner to help monitor and assess conditions at the LQRECA on a regular basis over many years. DFO and the RDN have had good results partnering with VIU on stream invertebrate monitoring projects at Englishman River Regional Park over the last two years. The Milner Gardens and Woodlands is another good example of VIU on-site and curricular collaboration in the study and care of lands of conservation interest.

Other Conservation-related Groups -- There are a number of conservation groups operating in the greater Parksville-Qualicum Beach area capable of and interested in furthering conservation at the LQRECA. The BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) is a well-known partner in agency restoration works within the Englishman River watershed as part of the Englishman River Watershed Recovery Plan. BCCF has expressed interest in working with DUC, the RDN and DFO on restoration of the fish channel at the LQRECA and containment of the goose problem at the estuary. The Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, who worked with DFO on initial fish channel development at the LQRECA, are also a good local resource. Various watershed-wide planning and conservation efforts along with activities flowing from the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve can all

bring something to bear regarding the long-term conservation of the LQRECA and the Little Qualicum River watershed in general.

Neighbours -- Residential neighbours of the LQRECA represent an important group of stakeholders at the LQRECA. These neighbours are typically regular visitors to the estuary, express deep feelings about the value of the estuary, and have first hand opportunity to witness the condition of the area and how it is being used by humans and their pets, and to report concerns. As the RDN develops its park warden program, participation by LQRECA neighbours will be invaluable. A number of neighbours came out to the September 2009 Open House and showed keen interest in the LQRECA management plan.

RDN Residents -- In developing the *2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan*, the RDN surveyed regional residents on a wide range of subjects from acquisition to use and management. Protecting environmentally sensitive areas was rated the most important role of the regional parks and trails system, and attracting tourists was considered the least important. As the regional planning process revealed however, many if not most RDN residents are unaware of their regional parks and trails. One of the primary aims of the RDN's *Regional Parks and Trails Guide*, first issued in 2008, is to raise awareness of the regional properties so that the residents who are paying for them can better understand them and participate more meaningfully in decisions about their care and use.

4.2 User Views

As part of the LQRECA management planning process, a survey was mounted on the RDN web site in order to obtain feedback from regional residents on use of the spit and adjacent WMA beach along with conservation concerns. By the end of the draft management plan review period, 75 respondents had completed the survey. Indications are that at least 10 per cent of those are neighbours. Full survey questions and results are shown in Appendix A.

The LQRECA survey showed that about 90 per cent of respondents go to the WMA and over one third of those cross the fence into the LQRECA spit. Almost 95 per cent of those going to the WMA do so via the Surfside Drive water access, half of them usually with a vehicle and the other half just by non-motorized means, i.e., foot, bicycle or boat. The majority of survey respondents visit the WMA at least once a month, with many more making it out several times a year. The frequency of visits drops off somewhat during the winter; late summer-fall spawning time appears to be the most popular time to go.

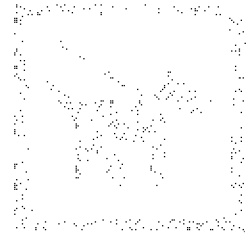
Wildlife viewing, exploring the beach and relaxing are the dominant activities noted by survey respondents. Few survey respondents reported being dog walkers and even fewer are fishers. Bird watching and photography were often specifically cited activities. For those who cross the fence into the LQRECA, seasonal preference is the same as for the WMA. Wildlife viewing is by far the primary reason given for going onto the spit; fishing and the cairn do not appear to be important draws. Again, notable specific activities mentioned are photography and bird watching. About 15 per cent of survey respondents expressed a clear interest in becoming a park warden at the LQRECA. One respondent

advised that the Citizens on Patrol (COPs) regularly visit the area.

The two highest ranked values of the Little Qualicum estuary were peacefulness and tranquility, and wildlife viewing opportunities. In comments, people praise the protected status of the area. The vast majority of survey respondents want to learn more about the cultural and natural environments at and around the LQRERCA, and there is a strong interest in free guided tours. Again, a bird watching interest featured in comments.

Survey respondents showed a strong preference for information signage along the LQRERCA fence line as a means of communicating about the conservation area; otherwise, information signage about the LQRERCA, WMA and NWA at the Surfside Drive water access or in a brochure was preferred. Some people expressed concern about over-promotion (“don’t want it to become just another beach for fun seekers”) while others feel active promotion including movies and media events will help in communicating the values of the area. Some felt worn and relatively uninformative signage currently at the Surfside Drive water access may not be conveying the best conservation messages. One respondent concluded there is a need to “create a level of respect for the area such that most people will have a willing reluctance to venture in the area.”

The survey concluded with two open ended questions on people’s concerns about the LQRERCA, its management and the estuary in general. Over three quarters of the respondents expressed concerns about the estuary in general with a great many people taking the time to describe those concerns in detail. Common concerns included: (1) dogs and the need to stop them from running loose if not ban them entirely; (2) the importance of addressing conservation within the Little Qualicum River watershed as a whole and not just focusing on the estuary; (3) the importance of managing protected areas, providing some access (e.g. viewing platform) while minimizing development, (4) maintaining the ‘wild’ flavour and ensuring recreation is kept in check; and (5) the need to do something about the geese.

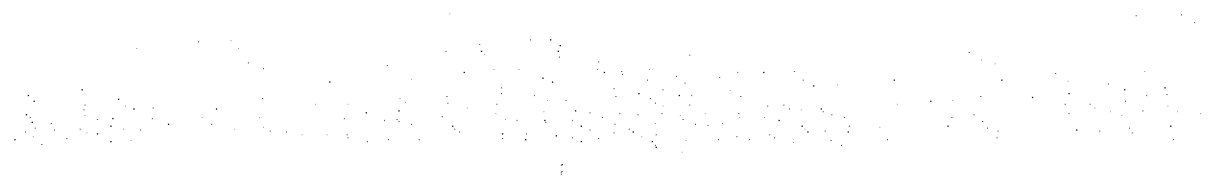


Some survey respondents call for better information on how to get to the LQRERCA and what to see and do there, i.e., improved accessibility, while others worry about the estuary if it is advertised as a recreation destination. The middle ground of respondents appear to recognize a need for restricted public access, want more information on natural values and protection needs, and support work to ensure the area is functioning well as habitat. There is a general call for more protection within the watershed, as well as dog (and boater)



control on the WMA beach and in the estuary. In summary: view, experience, learn and appreciate – but don't disturb sensitive areas.

The public's views on the care and use of the LQRERCA were also received by way of comments on the draft management plan. Five people completed an on-line comment form on the draft, two submitted emailed comments, and one community environmental group sent in a formal letter. These are all reproduced in Appendix A. The comments exhibit broad support for the management plan and its emphasis on the conservation imperative. The comments also reveal the range of opinion that exists about public access to and use of the LQRERCA and WMA beach, and the growing call for action on watershed planning focused on the Little Qualicum River.

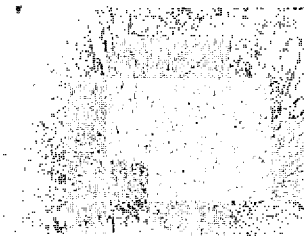


Previous sections of this Plan have described and explored the values of the LQRERCA with a view to establishing a management plan for 2010-2019. A number of concerns and issues have been identified. This section explores the concerns that require addressing at the LQRERCA as DUC and the RDN move forward with the management of this small but important conservation property.

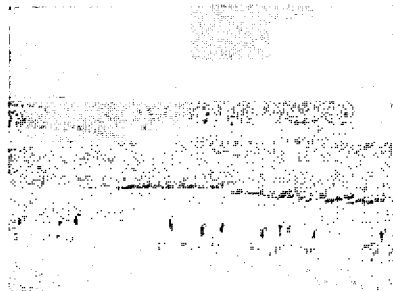
5.1 Conservation

5.1.1 Invasive Plants

Identification and mapping of several patches of invasive plants have been initiated at the LQRERCA. An area of garden waste and invasive plants advancing on moss-lichen communities requires attention as soon as possible, and could be undertaken concurrent with the removal of old metal pieces scattered about the property. Because of the large size of the garden waste area, a strategy for replanting the disturbed area with appropriate native species as well for conducting recurrent control is warranted. The Coastal Invasive Plant Committee now offers invasive plant management services to local government; consulting vegetation ecologists or specialists in invasive plant species management are also available to carry out the development of a strategy for the LQRERCA.



It is important to note that the restoration of natural ecosystems to a former state is often unattainable, and increasingly more so as time passes. Ecosystem processes, such as inputs and cycling of sediments and detritus, are dynamic and may not be able to support restoration goals based on a historic ideal. Therefore, "time is of the essence," and history should be viewed as a guide rather than a target for restoration.



5.1.2 Canada Geese

Baseline and follow-up vegetation studies of the Little Qualicum River estuary by Neil K. Dawe of the CWS make it an excellent candidate site for a pilot project focused on estuary-wide rehabilitation through the

management of Canada Geese. The Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries, a volunteer group of community and professional conservationists, have been adding Canada Goose eggs at the Little Qualicum and Englishman river estuaries for a number of years. An RDN park use permit for the 2010 adding program at the LQRERCA was issued to the Guardians in the spring. The Guardians are now working with the CWS, MoE, DUC, RDN, DFO, BCCF, and VICIMP to develop a multi-year project at the two estuaries that is focused on the protection and enhancement of high quality habitats. First, efforts would be made to protect existing habitat from geese through the use of exclosures; ideally, exclosure-protection and restoration of degraded habitat would then follow.

5.1.3 Inventorying and Monitoring

A baseline inventory of flora and fauna would set a benchmark for conservation management at the LQRERCA and prepare for the identification and management of common species as well as species at risk. During several visits over a single spring and summer season, a vegetation ecologist could inventory plants, and map plant communities and introduced species. The mapping of invasive species could be refined as a component of this plant inventory. Multi-year upland inventories are probably unnecessary and would increase the likelihood of trampling and exposing the roots of sensitive species. Ideally, the inventory of estuarine communities would be conducted to Resource Information Standards Committee (RISC) standards.

The rare mammal species known to occur in the area of the LQRERCA could be inventoried relatively easily. Birds have been extensively inventoried at the estuary, and naturalists regularly record sightings along the beach; another inventory would not be a priority. A comprehensive inventory of other fauna is best accumulated over time.

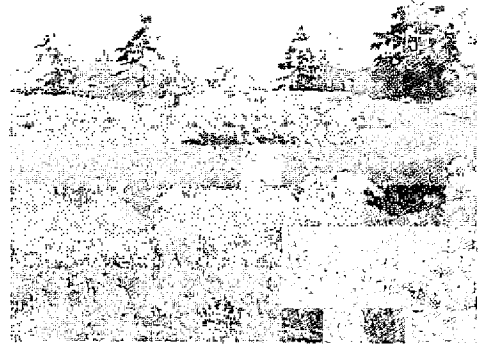
For long-term monitoring of spatial and temporal trends in habitat and wildlife at the LQRERCA, consideration could be given to an 'augmented, serially alternating panel' sampling design. This design is conducive to sensitive sites. It entails monitoring a set of sites every year, as well as monitoring a different set of sites for each of five years; the cycle is then repeated. In this way, a high number of total of sites are monitored, and a large number of diverse species and habitats are sampled. One advantage of the process is that by monitoring most sites in different years, individual sites are allowed to recover from disturbance by monitors. This monitoring regime could be extended to the whole estuary.

Baseline inventories and other information can be used to establish and follow indicators that permit the quantifiable measurement of actions taken. Photo monitoring sites are valuable for monitoring changes over time. Indicators can detect trends and issues, or may signal an approach to a threshold that, once passed, moves the system into an alternative state which is difficult or impossible to reverse. For example, height of extreme high water events could be used to monitor the effects of climate change on the LQRERCA, while the presence of *Spartina* spp could be used as a measure of the effectiveness of invasive species control programs. An indicator of the success of the proposed estuary goose project might be area of Lyngbye's sedge - herbaceous vegetation ecological community >50 cm high.

Research to assess disturbance of rare and target plant communities that result from invasive plants or controlled human access to the LQRECA would be useful to develop indicators and set “limits of acceptable change”. If a threshold is reached for the amount of change the ecosystem or habitat can absorb, then appropriate management actions can be triggered.

5.1.4 Fish Channel

DFO has recently visited the fish channel at the LQRECA and witnessed its poor state. A closer examination of conditions, actual and potential performance and works required to improve and maintain the channel are required. Given the small size of the fish channel, this may prove a suitable project for a habitat team from Vancouver Island University, working in collaboration with DFO. While further enhancement of the salmonid project area may be beneficial, experience has shown that it can be difficult to emulate natural functions and ‘created’ habitats like the fish channel rarely lead to self-sustaining ecosystems. Restoration and enhancement efforts at the LQRECA should focus first on natural estuary habitats, and then on man-made and modified habitats.



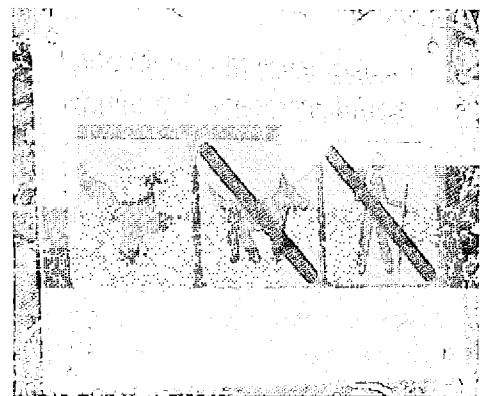
5.2 Legal

The legal boundaries of the LQRECA require adjustment to reflect natural spit boundaries, that is, where beach and tidal waters meet the uplands. The natural boundaries of the spit are highlighted in green on Map 3 which shows how the small spit’s land base is legally divided at this time. The required fence line referenced in the property covenant is not on the property nor is the cairn. Almost a third of the legal property consists of the bed of the Little Qualicum River at the estuary mouth and a section of the tidal flats bed in the inner estuary. This mismatch of legal title and land base presents an unnecessary and confusing division of ownership and management at and around the small spit. To rectify the situation, DUC and the RDN would need to commission a new survey and apply to BC’s Integrated Land Management Bureau for inclusion of the accreted lands within Lot 1 (LQRECA). In so doing, DUC and the RDN would see the eroded portions of existing Lot 1, i.e., river mouth and inner tidal flats, severed from the LQRECA and available for addition to the WMA.



5.3 Access

The clearest access to the spit constituting the main LQRECA property is from the surrounding WMA beach and waters. Aside from public access, this has implications for how property maintenance, development, as well as research and conservation can be undertaken at the LQRECA. At the least, limited property access highlights the need to carefully consider the imperative for any works on the property, to provide adequate planning for an environmentally sound approach to and passage



over the spit in the event of works, and to consider high tide water approaches. For the one-time removal of rusty metal debris, garden waste and large invasive plants, it may be possible to negotiate access to the spit by way of Lot A residential neighbours. In the longer term, an access agreement with the Province could be concluded to manage operational and research access to the LQRERCA via the WMA.

5.3.1 Restricted Public Access

The LQRERCA was acquired for conservation purposes with the understanding that only restricted public access to the property for wildlife viewing and education purposes is to be permitted. Otherwise, access to the LQRERCA spit is to be limited to basic property management, e.g. security and maintenance, and conservation activities and research carried out by DUC, the RDN and its conservation partners. For the most part, the LQRERCA was conceived as a small fenced-off protected area for habitat, with people enjoying the estuary by making use of the expansive WMA beach and estuary waters that surround the LQRERCA. Signage along the LQRERCA fence and possibly at the Surfside Drive water access would describe LQRERCA values without necessitating access to the spit.

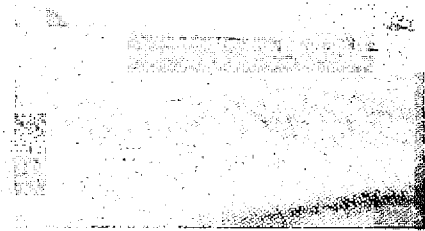
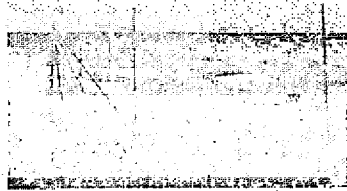


Achieving the original concept of LQRERCA will require resolution of two main issues: (i) how to provide and manage some restricted public access to the LQRERCA without compromising its environment and the conservation efforts undertaken there, and (ii) how to coordinate this public access management to LQRERCA with public access management of the adjacent WMA. As previously observed, one cannot discuss public access to the LQRERCA in practical terms without also discussing public access to the WMA.

At time of acquisition, it was thought that development of a wildlife viewing platform towards the western end of the LQRERCA spit, with about 30 m of associated trail or boardwalk from the WMA beach to the platform, would satisfy the requirement for restricted public access to the LQRERCA. The existing fence line would be maintained with the exception of an opening provided for route to the platform. Examination of the proposed viewing platform idea and consultation with conservation agencies have so far revealed a range of opinion about the efficacy of the initial viewing platform proposal. The proposed viewing platform and trail or boardwalk would constitute relatively major works for the sensitive LQRERCA spit and could trigger an archaeological site assessment. As well, it is not clear what views people are seeking or to be had from the spit. A formal agreement with MoE for use of the WMA to provide public access to a viewing platform on the spit will likely be required.

A program of annual guided tours into the LQRERCA offers another means of educating the public about the natural values to be found there. Parameters for moving people through the property without damaging the sensitive landscape would need to be established. Note that a similar need exists in relation to managing the





conduct of research and conservation projects at the LQRERCA. Ultimately, virtual tours and information displays could be developed for the web that might deter actual visits to the LQRERCA, however careful presentation would be required to avoid counter-productive promotion and increased interest in real visits .

Before determining any wildlife viewing and educational development at the LQRERCA, a more comprehensive examination and inventory of the site's natural values is required in order to clarify where, when and how the

human footprint could be accommodated on a restricted basis. As well, more information is needed on wildlife viewing: what wildlife is being viewed at the LQRERCA and where is it best to view? What additional wildlife viewing opportunities does the LQRERCA present that are not already available and managed through the WMA? And finally, how can limited formal public access to the LQRERCA be kept restricted and contained such that a large influx of people are not drawn to the protected areas at the Little Qualicum estuary?

5.3.2 Communicating about Public Access

Managing restricted public access to the LQRERCA is inexorably intertwined with managing public access to the NWA and WMA. The NWA has been fenced off and closed to public access for years; print and web information on the lands is minimal. Conversely, the huge beaches of the WMA stretching from the Little Qualicum estuary to Craig Bay on the south side of Parksville are iconic Vancouver Island landscapes. The WMA is recognized as a low-impact recreation destination by the Province through its BC Parks promotion, and is a major attraction for Oceanside residents and tourists alike. WMA managers work hard to constrain the negative impacts of human activity in the wildlife management area by erecting wildlife viewing platforms and educational signage along the beachfront, prohibiting dogs on the beach during the annual Brant migration and undertaking on-the-beach enforcement. The north end of the WMA at the Little Qualicum estuary remains one of the quieter and less known big beaches in the WMA, with no development except aging WMA signage at the Surfside Drive water access. Minimizing the promotion of and public access to the LQRERCA would help NWA and WMA managers keep the lid on public interest in using the wildlife areas at the Little Qualicum estuary.



Beginning in the late 1990s, RDN residents saw a rapid acceleration in their acquisition of large parks and trails. Ten years later, few residents understood what they owned or managed. In 2008, the RDN used Community Tourism Grant dollars from the Province to initiate an awareness program about regional parks and trails. The program focused on signage and kiosk development at major public parks like Englishman River Regional Park and Nanaimo River Regional Park, and the production of a guide to showcase the 11 regional parks and seven regional trails in the RDN. First issued in late 2008, the *Regional Parks and Trails Guide* describes how to get to the lands (map included) and what to do there. The entry for the LQRERCA, updated for the 2009 guide issue, states that public access to the spit is restricted for conservation reasons and refers people to the WMA beach for wildlife viewing and enjoyment purposes.

5.4 Cooperation

5.4.1 Conservation at the LQRERCA, the Estuary and in the Watershed

Ideally, the Little Qualicum River estuary would be seamlessly managed by federal, provincial and local governments and a comprehensive watershed management plan would be in operation for the Little Qualicum River. DUC and the RDN see the LQRERCA management plan as a first step towards at least estuary-wide conservation management. The RDN's 99-year property management lease for the LQRERCA outlines required consultation with other estuary conservation managers and provides a framework for engaging them in conservation planning at the spit. While the VICLMP supports the concept of estuary-wide management at the Little Qualicum, circumscribed federal, provincial and VICLMP staff and financial resources will limit how far and how fast this can be achieved. If funded, the goose project will stand as the first collaborative conservation project at the Little Qualicum estuary. It should help build working relationships among the participating agencies and foster more conservation collaboration down the road.

5.4.2 Managing Appropriate Public Use at the Estuary

Managing appropriate public use involves good communication, monitoring and enforcement. Because the western end of the WMA and the LQRERCA are intertwined from a public use perspective, cooperation between WMA and LQRERCA managers on communication, monitoring and enforcement fronts will benefit all.

The Province's Surfside Drive water access is the primary public access point to the Little Qualicum estuary. As a site for communication to users, it cannot be bettered. The LQRERCA fence line offers additional space for interpretive signage and communications to estuary users about the fragility of the spit landscape and the need to obey user restrictions. Through web sites and brochures, the RDN and MoE have powerful tools by which to communicate about the LQRERCA, surrounding WMA and estuary as a whole. Virtual tours of the LQRERCA can also be mounted on the RDN web site as a means of educating and informing, and potentially minimizing interest in actually visiting the spit or estuary lands and waters. Messaging that emphasizes the fragile nature of the estuary in general and distinguishes the area from more typical WMA beach playgrounds and public park space may help limit public use and benefit conservation goals at the Little Qualicum estuary.

Appropriate use of the estuary clearly involves containment of dogs, i.e., their required leashing if not elimination altogether. (Note that dogs are already prohibited from the LQRERCA under Bylaw 1399.) The efficacy of signage and MoE's dog-on-the-beach closure periods during Brant migration is much helped by monitoring for compliance and talking to dog owners about conservation values and the disturbance that can be caused by unleashed dogs chasing wildlife and uprooting nests. The RDN can work with WMA managers on the dog effort at the Little Qualicum estuary, in general information campaigns and specifically during the spring prohibition of dogs at the WMA. the RDN's new volunteer park warden program will provide a means to engage assistants in the monitoring of public use of the WMA and LQRERCA and spreading the word about the need for dog control.

6.1 Vision

The LQRERCA and Little Qualicum River estuary are diverse, robust and resilient ecosystems that inspire and enrich us all.

6.2 Management Goals

Conservation

Preserve, conserve, maintain and enhance the natural state of the LQRERCA as wildlife habitat within the context of the Little Qualicum estuary. This is the paramount goal for the LQRERCA.

Cooperative Management

Pursue management of the LQRERCA in regular consultation and cooperation with MoE, CWS and VICLMP managers, and with the help of other conservation agencies and

organizations, educational institutions, the Qualicum First Nation, stewardship groups, neighbours and the public.

Education and Interpretation

Provide on- and off-site interpretation and education about the sensitive natural values of the LQRERCA and Little Qualicum estuary and the need for public access restrictions.

Recreation

Offer limited restricted public access to the LQRERCA for wildlife viewing, nature appreciation and education purposes in a way that does not compromise natural values.

Property Management

Control access to the LQRERCA through fencing and other works and maintain a litter and hazard free natural area.

6.3 Operating Principles

Management takes place within operational frameworks that establish principles or rules for action. In the case of the LQRERCA, the key operating frameworks are the s. 219 covenant, the coming 99-year DUC-RDN lease, this management plan, and the RDN's *2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan*. Should DUC and the RDN enter into any formal agreements with MoE concerning public use management at the WMA beach, or with MoE and CWS concerning joint conservation planning at the estuary, these would provide additional specific operating principles for the management of the LQRERCA.

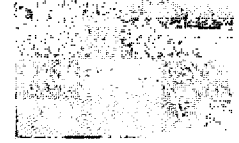
The vision of a robust, diverse and resilient LQRERCA and estuary will take time to achieve, and much work lies ahead to begin realizing management goals for the LQRERCA. To begin, the following course of action is proposed for the 2010-2019 period. As managing owner at the LQRERCA, the RDN will organize and oversee all work at the spit, consult regularly with DUC and its representative the VICLMP manager, and ensure regulations are met. Primary financial resources (in-kind or development capital) will be provided by the RDN and supplemented by grants and project partnerships as possible. Many actions are premised upon the RDN successfully enjoining the participation of educational, conservation and stewardship groups. Note that all identified actions are considered important, however some require attention earlier than others within the ten-year planning horizon and are thus ranked of higher priority.

7.1 Conservation

A general caution about herons applies to the undertaking of any conservation activities at the LQRERCA: only pressing, high priority activities should be carried out if herons are nesting on the spit. All efforts should be made not to disturb nesting herons.

7.1.1 Invasive Plants

Action	Engage a consultant to prepare a plan for early removal of large or easily addressed invasive plants and suitable revegetation of disturbed areas, along with a longer-term plan for annual cycles of invasive removal and revegetation over the 10 year plan period. Seek VIU and conservation or stewardship group assistance with the undertaking of invasive removal, replanting and monitoring.
Rationale	Protection of existing native habitat is a conservation priority and the elimination of invasive plants will remove a significant threat at the LQRERCA spit.
Timing	2011 for a plan and initial removal of easy to address plants and revegetation; 2012-2019 for continuing annual effort.
Resources	RDN \$2,500 in 2011; in-kind for 2012-2019
Participants	RDN, consultant, VIU, stewardship group
Priority	high; medium



7.1.2 Canada Geese

Action	Continue to support the addling of Canada Geese eggs at the LQRERCA by the Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries. Work with the Guardians and other conservation agencies in undertaking pilot native plant restoration work at the spit and developing a multi-year multi-agency project that addresses damage by Canada Geese at the Little Qualicum and Englishman estuaries.
Rationale	Without effective management of Canada Geese at the Little Qualicum estuary, it will not be possible to reclaim its productivity, species diversity and buffering capacity. The goose problem can only be approached at an estuary level.
Timing	2010-2019 for egg addling. 2010 for continuing pilot exclosure work and development and funding of a multi-year multi-agency supported program. 2011-2014 for program undertaking.
Resources	RDN \$2,000 in 2010 for the pilot exclosure work; RDN \$7,500 per year 2011-2014 should a program be confirmed.
Participants	Guardians, MoE, CWS, DFO, BCCF, DUC/RDN
Priority	high



7.1.3 Inventory and Monitoring

Action	Initiate a baseline inventory of flora and fauna at the LQRERCA and prepare for long-term monitoring of spatial and temporal trends at the spit with established indicators of success in place.
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Rationale	Undertake in order to monitor and evaluate the success of invasive plant removal and control efforts; clarify the current state of the spit and establish benchmarks for change assessment; determine and manage the nature, scope and timing of controlled public access to the LQRERCA; and contribute to climate change monitoring at the Little Qualicum estuary.
Timing	2011-2019
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN, VIU, stewardship groups
Priority	medium

7.1.4 Fish Channel

Action	Study and assess the restoration of the man-made channel.
Rationale	The man-made fish channel is in poor shape and unlikely fulfilling any salmonid enhancement goals. A study of the site including actual and potential salmonid use is required, along with recommendations regarding restoration and continuance of enhancement goals.
Timing	2015-2017
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN, DFO, VIU, Streamkeepers
Priority	low

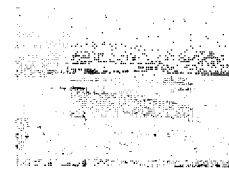


7.2 Property Management

The caution about nesting herons raised above also applies to property management activities at the LQRERCA: only pressing activities should be carried out if herons are nesting on the spit.

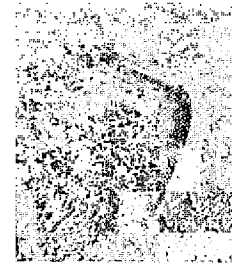
7.2.1 Boundary Adjustment

Action	Have the LQRERCA spit re-surveyed and apply to the Province's Integrated Land Management Bureau for inclusion of accreted lands in the LQRERCA and transfer of eroded lands to the Province for the WMA.
Rationale	Current legal boundaries at the Little Qualicum estuary spit are outdated and present a confusing property base for land and human management.
Timing	2011
Resources	RDN \$6,000 in 2011
Participants	DUC/RDN
Priority	high



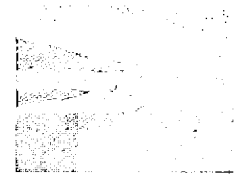
7.2.2 Old Metal

Action	Using GPS mapping information and invasive species removal plan, remove all old metal pieces from the spit and revegetate as appropriate. Seek operational access for metal removal via adjacent residential property.
Rationale	Metal pieces constitute hazards for humans and wildlife and are unnatural additions to the estuary landscape.
Timing	2011-12
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN
Priority	medium



7.2.3 Boundary Demarcation

Action	Review demarcation of the LQRECA property including boundary with residential property and unfenced side of spit.
Rationale	To secure the LQRECA and control human access, there is a need for clear property boundaries and effective fencing.
Timing	2012-2014
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN
Priority	low

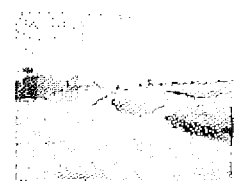


7.3 Public Use and Education

LQRECA management activities for 2010 to 2019 are focused on initiating conservation works, educating the public about the sensitive lands, and securing the spit. During this time, the RDN will also study how to provide appropriate restricted public access to the LQRECA. Proposed development to enable restricted access will not however be addressed until 2020 when the next ten-year update of the LQRECA management plan is prepared. Until then, the LQRECA spit will remain off-limits to the public.

7.3.1 Print and Web Material

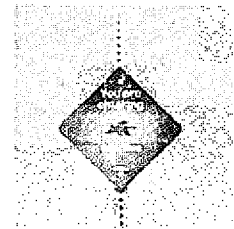
Action	Change the presentation of the LQRECA in the next edition of the RDN's Regional Parks and Trails Guide, remove the LQRECA from the RDN's ParksGo web pages, and promote the 2010-2019 LQRECA management plan.
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Rationale	There is a need to distinguish the LQRERCA from other regional park properties which are all publicly accessible recreation destinations, and to explain why access to the LQRERCA is restricted and, for the time being, prohibited. While it is important to inform RDN residents about their regional conservation area at the Little Qualicum estuary, the spit and estuary should be promoted as sensitive conservation areas and not as recreation destinations.
Timing	2010 for the web page updates; 2011 for the Guide
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN
Priority	high

7.3.2 Water Access Signage

Action	Work with MoE and VICLMP managers on the development of information and education signage at the Surfside Drive water access about the WMA and LQRERCA, if not also the NWA, and appropriate public behaviour in these conservation areas.
Rationale	The Surfside Drive water access is the gateway to the estuary for most and the best point to communicate important conservation messages to users. Existing signage is old and makes no reference to the LQRERCA.
Timing	2011-2012
Resources	RDN \$1,000 in 2012
Participants	RDN, MoE, VICLMP, CWS
Priority	medium



7.3.3 Fence Line Signage

Action	Review the need for additional or more detailed signage along the LQRERCA fence line and boundaries in order to reinforce the prohibition against access and obtain cooperation, and upgrade as required.
Rationale	While most estuary visitors use the WMA beach and waters, a good number of people still cross the LQRERCA fence line to explore the sensitive spit. Education about sensitive spit plant communities and conservation works now being undertaken should help increase public understanding and acceptance of the need to leave the spit alone.
Timing	2011-12
Resources	RDN \$1,000 in 2012
Participants	RDN
Priority	medium



7.3.4 WMA Beach

Action	Work with MoE and VICLMP managers on partnering opportunities at the WMA estuary to educate about and enforce usage regulations, e.g. with respect to dogs. Explore the possibility of seeing dogs permanently prohibited from the WMA's Little Qualicum estuary beach, as they already are from the NWA and LQRECA.
Rationale	That conservation should trump recreation at the Little Qualicum estuary requires emphasis. In particular, continuing dialogue with RDN residents about the negative impacts of loose dogs in conservation areas is needed. The RDN has the ability to assist in this messaging and, at least in respect of the LQRECA, the undertaking of visible enforcement activities.
Timing	March-April 2011-2019
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN, VICLMP, MoE
Priority	low



7.3.5 Public Access Review

Action	Given progress on inventorying and clearing the LQRECA of invasive plants, communicating about the sensitive natural values of the spit, and regular consultation with other estuary conservation managers, explore how to provide for restricted public access at the LQRECA. Consult with users and user groups, e.g. neighbours, professional birders, on options. Conclude examination as part of next management planning cycle.
Rationale	Restricted public access is to be provided at the LQRECA, however time will be needed to study and understand how this can be accomplished with minimal negative impact on the environment. First address the conservation imperative and then accommodate recreation.
Timing	2011-2019
Resources	in-kind
Participants	RDN
Priority	low



The table below summarizes this plan's 12 management actions and the associated costs for the 2010 - 2015 period, all as discussed in Section 7. Higher priority actions are shown in red, medium priority actions in yellow, and lower priority actions in green. Where a specific cost has been forecast for an action, the dollar amount by year is indicated; in-kind expenditures are assumed for the balance.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Conservation						
Invasive Plant Removal		\$2,500				
Canada Geese	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Inventory & Monitoring						
Fish Channel Restoration						
Property Management						
Boundary Adjustment		\$6,000				
Old Metal Removal						
Boundary Demarcation						
Public Use & Education						
Print & Web Update						
Water Access Signage			\$1,000			
Fence Line Signage			\$1,000			
WMA Beach Support						
Public Access Review						



Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area 2010-2019 Management Plan

Appendices

June 2010

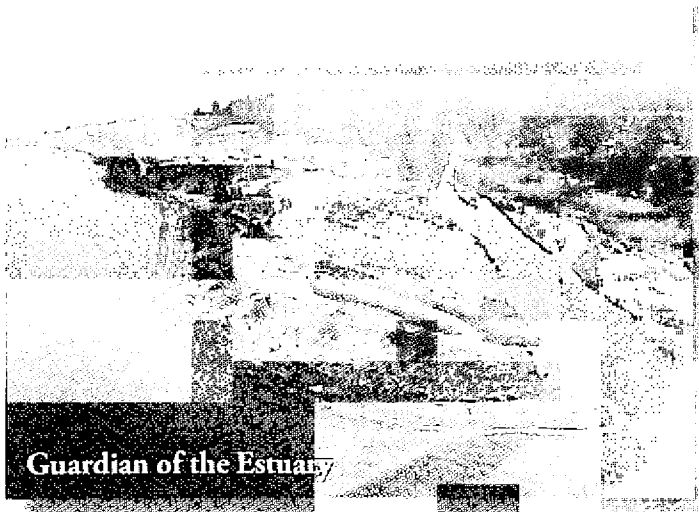


Table of Contents

	Page
Appendix A	User Survey Results and Other Feedback A3
Appendix B	Estuary History A23
Appendix C	Estuary Conservation A25
Appendix D	Bibliography A32

Table of Figures and Map

Figure C1	Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) of the Little Qualicum River Estuary (2004) A25
Figure C2	Terrestrial Ecosystem Map (TEM) of the Little Qualicum River Estuary (2008) A25
Figure C3	Rare Ecological Plant Communities Possibly at the Little Qualicum Estuary, Showing those Almost Certainly Present at the Estuary A26
Figure C4	Rare Animals Documented at the Little Qualicum Estuary and Possibly Using the LQRERCA A28
Figure C5	Rare Plants Documented at the Little Qualicum Estuary and Possibly Found at the LQRERCA A30
Map C1	Little Qualicum River Watershed A31

Cover photo: R. Guthrie and M. Henigman

In the end, 75 people completed the user survey mounted on the LQRERCA Management Plan project page on the RDN's web site. All survey responses are presented below. Note that some questions permitted multiple answers, so percentage figures shown for any one question may not add up to 100. In the case of multiple choice questions like #2, individual surveys were analyzed in order to obtain some of the results presented in the main document of the management plan.

		Response (%)
Q1	The beach and waters around the LQRERCA form part of the Province's WMA. Do you ever visit the beach or waters in this part of the WMA?	
	Yes	89
	No	11
Q2	How do you usually get to the WMA at the Little Qualicum River estuary? Please check all answers that apply.	
	On foot	54
	By bicycle	18
	By vehicle	67
	By kayak or canoe	11
	By power or sail boat	4
Q3	If you visit the WMA at the Little Qualicum River estuary by foot, bicycle or vehicle, where do you usually enter the WMA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	At the Province's public water access at the western edge of Surfside Drive	94
	From your own property along the WMA beach	8
	Other	5
	Other	
	Property adjacent to Crown land & LQRERCA (south bank of river)	
	Neighbouring farm	
	Flamingo Drive	
Q4	For those who visit the WMA at the Little Qualicum River estuary by boat, please list where you usually launch your boat to start.	
	Somewhere along Qualicum Beach	
	Surfside Drive (2)	
	Deep Bay (2)	
	Little Qualicum River	
	Canoe under the 19A bridge	
	LQ River, upstream off Waters Drive	
	Kayak from Columbia Beach	
	Surfside Drive	

		Response (%)
Q5	Approximately how often do you visit the WMA at the Little Qualicum River estuary?	
	Every day	4
	Once a week	15
	Once a month	49
	Once a year	32
	23 Comments	
	Sometimes more often	
	Every couple of months	
	5 to 6 times per year	
	Approx 6 times per year	
	Every 2 years	
	Sometimes more than once per year	
	Two to three times per year	
	5-6 times per year	
	Once a week in the late summer, autumn to observe s	
	Approx six times a year	
	Twice a year	
	3 or 4 times a year	
	2 or 3 times a year	
	Every few years	
	Occasionally; a few times per year	
	Every day in certain seasons, once a week in others. Probably average 75 visits per year.	
	Three or four times a year	
	Six times a year	
	Irregularly. A few times per year.	
	Several times in August and September to fish.	
	As landowners of recreational home/property on McFeely we usually visit the estuary area many times during our cottage time.	
	When I am at my summer place on Flamingo Drive.	
	Two or three times a year.	
Q6	At what time of year do you usually visit the WMA at the Little Qualicum River estuary? Please check all answers that apply.	
	Just during the Brant Wildlife Festival	9
	Just when the WMA is not closed to dogs	3
	Just during the late summer-early fall salmon spawning season	22
	In the spring	72
	In the summer	75
	In the fall	78
	During the winter	52

		Response (%)
Q7	What do you usually do when you visit the WMA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	explore the beach	78
	view wildlife in or on the water	91
	view wildlife on the land	75
	exercise	30
	walk the dog	15
	fish	9
	relax	45
	have a picnic	16
	socialize	13
	have a campfire on the beach	3
	6 Comments	
	Observe	
	Take photos	
	We are thankful for such a beautiful, and to us, magical place to enjoy nature.	
	Swim	
	Pick up shells for crafts	
	This is a wonderful sanctuary for bird watching which I do either by myself or with a group.	
Q8	The Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area or LQRERCA consists of the small spit of mostly fenced land on the east side of the Little Qualicum River estuary, and is only readily accessible by way of the WMA beach. Have you ever crossed the fence or otherwise gone into the LQRERCA?	
	Yes	39
	No	61
Q9	At what time of year do you usually go into the LQRERCA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	Only during the Brant Wildlife Festival	3
	Only when the WMA is open to dogs	0
	In the spring	79
	In the summer	69
	In the fall	76
	During the winter	45
Q10	What do you do in the LQRERCA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	View Wildlife on the water	97
	View wildlife on the land	86
	Visit the cairn	21
	Fish	7

		Response (%)
Q10 cont'd	What do you do in the LQRERCA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	4 Comments	
	Seek unusual shells	
	Photo and video work	
	Wildlife photography	
	I was only there once for the DUC dedication	
Q11	Would you be interested in volunteering as a park warden at the LQRERCA?	
	Yes	16
	No	84
	11 Comments	
	Mainly interested in birdlife. I am not available full time nor until after 04/10.	
	Not physically able to do so.	
	Citizens on Patrol - we visit the area as on almost every patrol.	
	We would need more information before answering question #11.	
	Interested in preserving integrity of Little Qualicum River forest cover up stream to protect integrity of the estuary, wildlife, biological diversity, and cultural treasures.	
	As long as the expectations on participation are not onerous. Have a great deal of interest in improving fish habitat -- water and riparian area.	
	Wildlife protection from disturbances caused by dogs.	
	I am already a steward on the Arrowsmith Massif and have no extra time for other areas.	
	Pretty well anything that would ensure the environmental sustainability of the area.	
	We overlook the estuary from the south bluff and transportation plus time restraints make it difficult for us to access the estuary on a regular basis; however we do take an active interest in preserving this valuable area.	
	Our property overlooks the LQRERCA, we wish to see its beauty kept.	
Q12	Q12. What do you value most about the Little Qualicum River estuary as a whole? Please check only one answer or provide your own.	
	The beach	26
	The biodiversity	41
	The rare and fragile upland ecosystems	41
	The wildlife viewing opportunities	51
	The peacefulness and tranquility	51

		Response (%)										
Q12 cont'd	Q12. What do you value most about the Little Qualicum River estuary as a whole? Please check only one answer or provide your own.											
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="9">9 Comments</td> <td>Re "the rare and fragile upland ecosystems": what are they? Are they not indigenous to all estuaries?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The protection afforded visiting wildlife to rest, recuperate and feed.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The chance to view wildlife, yesterday we watched the salmon swimming upstream.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magical place of Eagles, Swans, Sealions, Salmon, Geese, Ducks, ocean air, interface of river, forest, sea...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The fact that it is a little spot of "wildness" in a largely urban/built/changed environment.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provide for the protection of fish habitat - transition and refuge conditions for fish.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The fact that this area has been set aside for wildlife and habitat values.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The importance of the estuary as habitat.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All of the above are reasons to value this area.</td> </tr> </table>	9 Comments	Re "the rare and fragile upland ecosystems": what are they? Are they not indigenous to all estuaries?	The protection afforded visiting wildlife to rest, recuperate and feed.	The chance to view wildlife, yesterday we watched the salmon swimming upstream.	Magical place of Eagles, Swans, Sealions, Salmon, Geese, Ducks, ocean air, interface of river, forest, sea...	The fact that it is a little spot of "wildness" in a largely urban/built/changed environment.	Provide for the protection of fish habitat - transition and refuge conditions for fish.	The fact that this area has been set aside for wildlife and habitat values.	The importance of the estuary as habitat.	All of the above are reasons to value this area.	
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	The importance of the estuary as habitat.											
	All of the above are reasons to value this area.											
Q13	Are you interested in learning more about natural and cultural environments at and around the LQRERCA?											
	Yes	85										
	No	15										
Q14	Would you participate in free guided tours of the LQRERCA?											
	Yes	84										
	No	16										
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="7">7 Comments</td> <td>Mostly birdwatching at prime season, but not with huge crowd of people.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limited to easy walking.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>This is a beautiful but fragile conservation land, and I would love to be able to be a part of helping keeping it this way... we were supposed to go to the meeting but had unexpected company, and were upset when both of us missed this rare opportunity...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>This type of activity should be the only infrequent "intrusion" into the conservation area. It should be used for research and education.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Experienced Birder.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mostly due to lack of time, rather than interest.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contact names and telephone numbers if a member of the public has any concerns regarding LQRERCA or any other Estuary - particularly Englishman River which supposedly is managed by RDN and MVHIES.</td> </tr> </table>	7 Comments	Mostly birdwatching at prime season, but not with huge crowd of people.	Limited to easy walking.	This is a beautiful but fragile conservation land, and I would love to be able to be a part of helping keeping it this way... we were supposed to go to the meeting but had unexpected company, and were upset when both of us missed this rare opportunity...	This type of activity should be the only infrequent "intrusion" into the conservation area. It should be used for research and education.	Experienced Birder.	Mostly due to lack of time, rather than interest.	Contact names and telephone numbers if a member of the public has any concerns regarding LQRERCA or any other Estuary - particularly Englishman River which supposedly is managed by RDN and MVHIES.			
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	Contact names and telephone numbers if a member of the public has any concerns regarding LQRERCA or any other Estuary - particularly Englishman River which supposedly is managed by RDN and MVHIES.											

		Response (%)
Q15	How can we best communicate about the natural and cultural features of the LQRERCA? Please check all answers that apply.	
	Interpretive signage along the LQRERCA fence	70
	General information about the LQRERCA contained within a brochure about all RDN parks and trails.	42
	A detailed RDN brochure about the LQRERCA	24
	Interpretive signage at the Surfside Drive access to the WMA that addresses the LQRERCA and the WMA.	62
	A detailed brochure on all three conservation areas at the Little Qualicum estuary.	58
13 Comments	Establish controlled public access from the south side Hwy 19A side with appropriate signage.	
	Take care not to publicise to the point of turning it into just another beach for sunseekers.	
	RDN does not seem able to produce concise brochures, they concentrate on promotion!	
	Occasional tours of the area would be interesting.	
	All three of the areas signage is old, and faded...also there is nothing that has been printed about where all this started, who looks after it, and what is being done for these areas in the future.	
	Talks to interested/community groups.	
	Video, photos, website, special events like rivers day, media coverage...	
	Advertise on TV - make a movie.	
	Do not spend money on features that need constant updating or that are vulnerable to vandalism. Create a level of respect for the area such that most people will have a willing reluctance to venture into the area. Be mindful that we do not want to increase vehicular traffic into the residential area that has been (unwisely) allowed to be developed out towards and onto the spit.	
	On site enforcement of laws pertaining to disturbance of wildlife by dogs.	
	Public signage best gets the message out.	
	Articles in local newspapers from time to time. A tour by Shaw Cable to view on Channel 4.	
	Are you looking for a way to deter people.	
Q16	Are you concerned about any aspect of the LQRERCA or Little Qualicum River estuary? If yes, please describe those concerns.	
	Yes	79
	No	21

		Response (%)
Q16 cont'd	Are you concerned about any aspect of the LQRFERCA or Little Qualicum River estuary? If yes, please describe those concerns.	
51 Comments	<p>I am always concerned that our small pieces of protected land and water will remain protected and safe from degradation by any number of possible sources.</p> <p>Proliferation of overwintering Canada Geese. Absence of elevated duck nests. Any thought to adding wood duck nesting boxes? (or cavity nesting bird boxes) Why has no effort been made to solicit and integrate all adjacent properties & property owners?</p> <p>The health of the estuary. Concerned that the estuary cannot or will not be restored to its original or healthier state. That activities further up LQR will damage the health of the estuary, the watershed and aquatic habitat of the river.</p> <p>I think it should be managed as is. It was designed to protect the area, if you let the public in you/and we lose!</p> <p>Development of any kind.</p> <p>The need to protect whatever natural environments we have left in the RDN.</p> <p>Dogs running loose in the area chasing wildlife.</p> <p>Despite two conversations with the person(s) responsible for the bird sanctuary no one appears to care about the birds. There is a home owner across the street from the sanctuary who owns up to 8 cats which freely roam the sanctuary and do what cats do, kill birds. We now have no pheasants, no quail and I don't know how many the other bird populations have been affected. There is a onsite caretaker who could be given instructions to live trap the cats, return them to the owner and if they return have them destroyed. This I was advised by the person in charge is within their rights. This is a bird sanctuary not a cat playground.</p>	



<p>Q16 Cont'd</p>	<p>51 Comments</p>	<p>In particular, I am concerned about the up-stream impact of development and forestry practices which may impact the LQRERCA. For the LQRERCA to remain healthy, the whole area which impacts the reserve is of vital concern.</p>	
		<p>Concerned about First Nations sites on the estuary. Concerned about the Little Qualicum River all the way to Labour Day Lake and Mt. Moriarty. Concerned about the salmon stock of the LQR.</p>	
		<p>I've seen dogs roam through the area flushing and harassing wildlife. Educating people about why they shouldn't allow dogs to run loose only goes so far. If the area is to be conserved, then there should be stronger protection as in fences that dogs can't get through or around.</p>	
		<p>Inappropriate human and domestic pet behaviours. Local residents using it as an exercise area for themselves and pets. Partying.</p>	
		<p>My concern is that after living here for more than 2 years, this is the first I have heard of this area. All I knew was that it seemed to be inaccessible -- not public friendly. there were no signs that I noticed. If I had any idea that such an area existed, I could have tried to find the information.</p>	
		<p>I would like to see it maintained as a sanctuary for wildlife in the fenced area, and maintained for people outside the fence and along the beach and river.</p>	
		<p>The preservation of the whole area.</p>	
		<p>The whole L.Q. watershed is of vital importance to the health of the environment. Preservation should not be restricted just to the estuary.</p>	
		<p>Leave it the way it is. A viewing platform would be a big help, similar to Englishman River estuary. At present, it is quite difficult to view any wildlife except by kayak.</p>	
		<p>Rising sea level or heavy runoff down the river after a heavy rain can destroy it.</p>	
		<p>Over use could damage habitat. Development of larger homes along this area could change the atmosphere of the region.</p>	
		<p>Environmental pollutants.</p>	
		<p>I want to see it preserved/protected and maintained in its natural state as much as possible. Would that mean restricted access? Not sure. Need to know more.</p>	
		<p>Nothing has been done for a long time for any of the three areas, LQRERCA, OR WMA OR NWA. The signage is old, and although I respect the area greatly, it needs work and a cleanup. I would be happy to spend some time doing this. We used to have an eagle's nest which blew down a few years ago. It was wonderful to watch the resident eagles have their family and to be able to watch them every day "in our own back yard" was a Blessing. Let's look after Mother earth or we will lose it.</p>	

		Response (%)
Q16 Cont'd	51 Comments	<p>Concerned that more residential building may take place.</p> <p>Possible rise in level of tidal waters due to global warming.</p> <p>It's one of the best kept secrets. Why advertise? Play it low key and keep it peaceful there. The less people the better for the environment and those critters living there. Signage is pollution in a place like that.</p> <p>I am a locally born and raised Qualicum person, with personal ties to the Little Qualicum River, with a keen sense of responsibility to not disturbing wildlife. I am a dog owner, and I am very annoyed with people being allowed to take ANY dog off leash at anytime in the Surfside Drive area, whatsoever. There is just no need for that and I would like the area signed as completely ONLY ON LEASH for DOGS at any time all year long for that area. It would be pretty clear and the word would get around and eventually people would come to respect that that is the acceptable behaviour for areas near sanctuaries. It makes sense. Set a precedent. I do enjoy allowing my dog loose on the Qualicum main beach to run on the sand when allowable, yet would continue to always keep my own dog on leash near sanctuaries and perhaps even wetlands like Hamilton Marsh trail.</p> <p>Impacts to the hydrology, sedimentation, archaeological sites, wildlife, vegetation....by industrial logging in the watershed of the Little Qualicum River. Management of the salmon hatchery may have water quality impacts when unnaturally large quantities of carcasses are disposed of.</p> <p>Need better public access, but in a way that maintains the integrity of the environment and ecosystems of the estuary.</p> <p>Quality of life is in direct proportion to the quality of the natural environment we choose to protect. This is a good beginning. However, more information is required. The area being protected appears too small. All properties in the spit area should be protected. Construction or reconstruction should not be allowed. Fair value should be paid to owners as time and money permits. Much more sensible project than paying for a swimming pool in QB with our tax money. Time QB grows up and pays for its own pool. This would allow more tax money to be available for projects like this one.</p> <p>That is might become "overmanaged" to the point of losing its wildness and natural ecosystem.</p> <p>We continue to lose more and more sensitive habitat. The estuaries are hotbeds of biological activity. We lose them at our peril.</p> <p>Would like to see rehabilitation from impacts such as Canada Geese and then left as a healthy functioning ecosystem. Once fully rehabilitated then only sustainable plant harvest for First Nations traditional use should be considered.</p>

		Response (%)
Q16 Cont'd	51 Comments	It is very troubling to hear about the difficulties that biologists are having in rehabilitating the area. Some of the recent efforts, although well-intentioned, seem questionable and do not appear to anticipate negative outcomes - thus wasting (volunteer???) time and money.
		Upriver developments such as the Little Qualicum Village could have a negative impact on the estuary/river.
		HADD
		Pollutants from ground sewer surrounding the WMA LANDS.
		Use of the beach by dogs who I often see chasing and harassing wildlife. In my view there should be a complete ban on unleashed dogs using this beach at all times, enforced by heavy fines, in addition to the bans that apply during Brant season.
		I am concerned about the pressure from dog walkers to have the spit opened as a dog run area. We need to protect our wildlife from such disturbance, not sanction it. Can we not leave even our wildlife areas undisturbed? We have already destroyed and degraded far too much habitat. Wildlife cannot afford this extra disturbance. NO dog walking! No Boat Launch!!
		People walking dogs off leash on the beach causing stress to wildlife especially birds. Also people not picking up their dogs' shit. The potential for increased access by fisherman to the estuary. Typically this causes great disturbance to wildlife and additional litter to the area. Walkers smoking on the beach and dropping butts.
		Danger of motor boats and dogs running off leash disturbing the wildlife and delicate ecosystem.
		I would hope that this area will remain protected as a wildlife area and not be released for general recreation which would destroy the area. We have more than adequate recreation area on Vancouver Island without releasing our most important sanctuaries and wildlife areas to boaters and dog owners. This would eventually destroy it all.
		I really think that this area should be left as an area for wildlife and the enjoyment of viewing in its natural state. Please no dogs, commercial activity or anything to take away from the wildlife values...there are enough developed areas and areas for dogs and dog-walkers already!! There are huge economic spinoffs to natural areas being kept natural, and this will only increase!

		Response (%)
Q16 Conr'd	51 Comments	I am concerned that the area will be popularized even more and that there will be a boat launch or off leash dog walking area considered for the area either of which will be detrimental to the wildlife of the area. There are so few areas like this left on the east central part of Vancouver Island as so many have become grassy parks, campgrounds, or trailer parks. This spot and several others in the area should in my opinion be managed for the preservation of wildlife and other natural features rather than making yet more areas for the general recreation of fishermen, boaters, dog walkers, and partiers all of which care more about themselves and their fun than the natural environment. Nature should come first!!
		Human impact on the area. The fence helps with this. Human and pet impacts on wildlife. Off leash dogs are a big concern for impacts to waterfowl and shorebirds, especially during migration.
		The area has become an unofficial off-leash dog park. Dogs should be banned from the entire area, year round. Sports fishing may also be having a detrimental effect upon the ability of wildlife in the area to make use of the habitat.
		Get rid of dogs off leash.
		I have concerns that recreation will not be held in check, to the detriment of wildlife.
		Invasive plant species, any attempt to develop the area into a people-friendly park (it should be managed as a natural area), Canada Goose impacts to the estuary (erosion of vegetation and loss/degradation of habitat.
		Populations of Canada Geese are increasing and I understand this is devastating the tidal grasses. Has any thought been given to organizing a hunt to reduce the population. If you could obtain a scare permit from CWS I would be pleased to organize a local hunt.
		It should not be advertised as a regional "attraction" so as to draw hords of tourists to the area. Generally people that are interested in this type of conservation area seek out and visit the lands individually or in very small numbers. The Marshall Stevenson area is a good example of how the area should be "advertised". It is there, noted on maps, but not with flashing neon signage to make it an "attraction". The areas for parking should not be enlarged or changed in any way. Status quo is the word. "pets"...as a property owner of beachfront on McFeely and after having walked from our property to the estuary many, many times over the last 16 years, I honestly say that a "pets" must be on a leash and under control at all times would be sufficient, as in other parks.
		The main ones are people who trespass in restricted areas, & people who allow their dogs to run loose. Also, the proliferation of the goose population appears to be a problem. At one time there was a sign at the mouth of the LQ River prohibiting boats from going further up river using motors. The sign seems to have vanished and there is some increase in motor boat traffic proceeding up the river

Q17	We welcome any comments you may have about the LQRECA and its management. Thank you for participating in this survey.		
	31 Comments	<p>Brant.... The Brant "Festival" seems to overshadow all other waterfowl initiatives in the area. The "Festival" is also highly commercialized and does not interface with other programs and initiatives. As such it compromises all the others!</p> <p>Strengthen the fencing and increase the signage explaining the protection aspect.</p> <p>On all brochures re Parks, Reserves, Marshes etc., there needs to be a brief, written description of how to reach it by road and/or walking trail, and location of nearest parking.</p> <p>This is a very fragile ecosystem and probably the best management is no manipulation of the landscape in any way and restricted public access.</p> <p>It is too sensitive and fragile an area to be "advertized" for its "recreational" attributes.</p> <p>Thank you for your work.</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>Try for an acronym that sounds better than LQRECA!</p> <p>I would welcome more information on this area and the management of same.</p>	



		Response (%)
Q17 Cont'd	31 Comments	
	Brant.... The Brant "Festival" seems to overshadow all other waterfowl initiatives in the area. The "Festival" is also highly commercialized and does not interface with other programs and initiatives. As such it compromises all the others!	
	Why does accessibility to the conservation area appear so limited?	
	Great job in protecting this land. Thank you.	
	We know nothing about the association or its management.	
	I am glad I attended the very well presented Open House on Sep 15 at Oceanside Place and will report on what I learned to other members of the Nanoose Bay Parks and Open Space Committee and urge them to be informed by visiting the site.	
	I do think it would be wise to have patrols that can sometimes, now and then, throughout the year, check the shorelines and people's properties very close to tidelines, for campers' human waste....squatters....illegal additions without proper septic.... fuel dumping on properties or water...garbage dumping on shorelines...etc. Any type of possible pollution that could somehow get to the waterways through the ground. With so much building and construction and people's desire to be near water, there are most likely a few offenders that really do not care and are doing illegal, inconsiderate disposal of any waste. It is something that has always had me wondering, "who keeps an eye open for pollution sources in the immediate area, either side of the river, by making investigations and enquiries"?	
	Although I welcome conservation efforts I would be offended by a complete ban on human visitation. Being able to experience magical places first hand privately and respectfully can inspire love of natural places and consequently contribute to their preservation.	
	Management activities need to be better publicized and explained.	
	Good beginning but much more needs to be done.	
	We do not think that enough is being done to protect sensitive areas.	
	Estuaries are apparently some of the most "productive" habitat for plant and animal organisms. Only about 3 per cent of the coast is made up of estuaries. Most are badly ruined (primarily by human activity) particularly in the E&N land grant area. Is it too much to ask that given this estuary has been provided with some form of environmental protection by way of covenant that it be allowed to revert to a perfectly natural area, and protected as such -- just like the Burgess Shales of Field BC?	
	I would like to see as much done as possible to preserve this area as a functioning habitat for wildlife.	
	just keep it as pristine as possible and try to allocate some funds for the education of the public.	

		Response (%)
Q17 Cont'd	31 Comments	
	Please, just leave it alone except for the addition of interpretive signage and upgrading the fence that is already there.	
	I cannot stress enough my concerns about dogs charging along beach areas such as this and doing damage to the area and scaring away birds or doing damage to nesting birds and their young, as well as bothering people trying to enjoy the natural beauty....this should be a dog-free zone. no questions asked!! I really like dogs, but not in this kind of an area at all!!	
	I would like to see pet dogs either excluded from the LQRERCA entirely, or no-leash rules enforced more stringently. Off-leash dogs are a concern for wildlife as well as children in the area.	
	Canoes and kayaks should be discouraged from entering the estuary.	
	All dogs to be on leash. Have signage for dog owners to clean up after their dog.	
	While I am a proponent of recreation in natural areas, I feel that some special ecological zones need added protection from human impact. In my mind, wildlife values trump recreational values and while it is desirable to have people allowed to observe and record, to promote wilderness values, sometimes it is needed to re-route humans around these areas, in order to preserve the original habitat in its pristine state.	
	Your plan makes sense and I appreciate your efforts.	
	Congratulations on this aquisition and we all look forward to seeing nothing change.	
	A heartfelt Thanks and Congratulations to all involved in presenting a very comprehensive and impressive report. It's a shame that use of the estuary has to be restricted because some people seem to lack good common sense but it is a fact, and many very useful suggestions have been made to preserve the area, e.g. a viewing platform, more signage, fence improvements, and curtailing the reproductive capabilities of the pesky Canada goose among them. It makes me hopeful that this beautiful area will be protected and preserved for future generations.	
	At present my wife and I are newcomers who purchased property overlooking the LQRERCA and hope to see it maintained.	

As part of the draft management plan review process, a comment form was made available on the project web page. Five respondents completed this form. Note that some respondents skipped some of the questions.

Q1	Are you satisfied that all major concerns about the LQRERCA have been examined in the draft Management Plan?		Response (#)
		Yes	4
		No	0
	Comments	I am not an expert so do not know if something is missing. All I know is that we humans have not taken very good care of the ecosystems that sustain the plants, animals, birds, fish and humans. Let's get moving and implement.	
Q2	Do you support the vision and management goals set out for the LQRERCA in the draft Management Plan?		
		Yes	4
		No	0
	Comments	If your vision is to prevent any further habitat destruction then my answer would be yes. It is unfortunate that people (small groups) cannot enjoy this conservation area.	
Q3	The draft Management Plan concludes with a list of actions for the 2010-2019 period that are aimed at reaching the LQRERCA vision and management goals. Would you add or delete anything from this list of proposed actions?		
		Yes	0
		No	4
Q4	Do you agree that the primary conservation action in favour of the LQRERCA 2010 to 2019 should be helping to resolve the goose problem at the Little Qualicum estuary?		
		Yes	4
		No	1
	Comments	Also prioritize getting dogs permanently prohibited. We don't feel that the geese are a problem.	
Q5	The draft Management Plan recommends delaying development of limited restricted public access to the LQRERCA until priority conservation actions can be advanced. Do you agree with this approach?		
		Yes	5
		No	1
	Comments	As priority conservation actions will take a decade or more to develop, perhaps installation of a board-walk could allow some public access and encourage public cooperation. Yes & No. Yes, delay public access in perpetuity. We have exploited almost everywhere so I think humans should restrict access.	

Q6	What thoughts or ideas do you have about eventually developing limited restricted public access to the LQRERCA?		Response (#)
	Comments	<p>As above. Limited access could be allowed on a guided tour basis for educational purposes.</p> <p>No. Too many humans do not acknowledge that humans are the most destructive predator on the planet.</p> <p>Never improve/increase parking opportunities. This is a priority CONSERVATION area so no more "promotion" required. Wildlife need privacy and undisturbed spaces. Many alternate recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities are already available e.g. QB Brant viewing stand/Q Beach main/Eaglecrest beach/French Creek Marina/Columbia Beach/Rathrevor et. etc. etc. For same as above reasons no "group" organized tours are needed.</p> <p>Keep dogs away. Leashed dogs may be acceptable.</p> <p>May be only limited public access to a lookout platform would be good, all other areas fenced.</p>	
Q7	On-site signage and brochures about the estuary and LQRERCA are important means of communicating about natural values and appropriate user behaviour in these sensitive areas. Do you think creating a virtual estuary experience on the web would go further in helping to limit or at least influence recreational use taking place at and around the LQRERCA?		
			Yes 1
			No 4
	Comments	<p>I think it would only encourage more human traffic in the sensitive area.</p> <p>People want to come and see. Too much publicity draws more people and more imprint.</p> <p>Virtual experience = just another way of "advertising" this area. Put all efforts into signage on site re appropriate behaviour.</p>	
Q8	Has reading the draft Management Plan helped dissuade you from going onto the fenced LQRERCA spit or confirmed your reluctance to do so?		
			Yes 3
			No 1
	Comments	<p>Confirmed reluctance to do so.</p> <p>Never did anyway.</p> <p>But I'm still disappointed that I can't enjoy it.</p>	
Q9	Does the draft Management Plan encourage you to play a role in monitoring conservation values or public use at and around the LQRERCA?		
			Yes 3
			No 2
	Comments	<p>Already working full time to protect what little natural habitat is left.</p> <p>Would volunteer to help out anytime.</p> <p>I don't live right in the area but I do have a vested interest in it.</p>	

Q10	Please provide us with any other thoughts you have about the draft 2010-2019 Management Plan for the LQRERCA?		Response (#)
	Comments	Looks realistic.	
		Let's implement this plan, it is good.	
Q11	The LQRERCA User Survey is accessible from the same Management Plan project page as this comment form. The User Survey helps us understand how people recreate at and around the LQRERCA, and what value they place on the estuary lands and waters. Have you completed the LQRERCA User Survey?		
		Yes	3
		No	1
Q12	Please tell us where you live.		
		Electoral Area G -- in the vicinity of the Little Q estuary	2
		Electoral Area G -- other	0
		Town of Qualicum Beach	1
		City of Parksville	1
		City of Nanaimo	0
		Other Regional District of Nanaimo	1
		Outside the Regional District	0



Michel, Joan

From: Andy Pickard [andy.pickard@nucleus.com]
Sent: April 18, 2010 4:10 PM
To: Michel, Joan
Subject: LQRERCA - BELATED INPUT

Joan, I regret that I was unable to complete and submit the questionnaire on the LQRERCA earlier this year. My wife and I have a very strong interest in this area – we overlook the western end of the estuary and thoroughly appreciate the view and wildlife we see daily.

I want to strongly encourage continued conservation of this area, with minimal development or advertising. Specifically, I recommend:

- There is a need for 'no trespassing' signs to be posted down the side of the Little Qualicum River from below the bridge to the mouth of the river. We see fishermen during the spring and fall, and campers during the summer, walking or boating down the river, and entering the sanctuary. In most cases, I expect they have no idea that it is a wildlife sanctuary.
- Great Blue Herons are again nesting in the sanctuary – all people, including naturalists, should stay right out of the sanctuary for the next few months. The herons are readily disturbed if people walk past their nest, and they leave the nest unprotected at such times, as we saw two years ago.
- If staff must enter the sanctuary to remove old debris, they should do it after all nesting activity has finished.
- By all means, discourage Canada Geese, but don't disturb the Great Blue Herons to addle the geese eggs or to take other measures.

I'll be glad to become a 'steward' for the sanctuary – we have an excellent view over much of the area all day.

As an aside, regarding the Brant Geese and the 'no dogs on the beach' policy. I'd recommend changing that to "no dogs on the beach, and no people, especially photographers, within 300 metres of Brant Geese or feeding areas at low tide." I have not seen any dogs on the beach in front of us, disturbing the Brant, but I have certainly seen people, usually photographers and sometimes clam diggers, approaching Brant or going out to feeding areas so Brant won't go there to feed.

Thanks and best wishes.

Andy Pickard
3789 Island Highway West
Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2C7
Canada
andy.pickard@nucleus.com
250-752-3364

27/05/2010

Michel, Joan

From: Terry Mobberley [thmobb43@hotmail.com]
Sent: February 26, 2010 2:38 PM
To: Michel, Joan
Subject: RE: Draft Management Plan Now Available for Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Firstly...thank you for what to me has been generally speaking...a well-organized & coordinated...albeit informative solicitous...overall program.

My own comments are strategic rather than technical & based on some practical experience (s), to wit;

1. With such a large (potentially "confusing") body of stakeholders...it is imperative that only one spokesman cum acronym/pointy-top of the pyramid)...be identified...& have publicly have carriage & be seen as being "responsible"...or have "authority" on behalf of the stakeholder consortium. This is especially important when it comes to...signage (effective/cohesive), issues around "seasonality"/access restrictions or even enforcement...and in terms of promulgating information or news releases. *Present "arrangements" & trying to understand who/what/how/why is like unscrambling an omelet...at least to me.*

2. I had a truly unpleasant (rude/belligerent/bullying attitude) encounter (south side of estuary)with an individual who was (I'm not clear) either a self-appointed -or- stakeholder appointed "warden". The attitude and heavy handed abuse by this officious individual was absolutely unacceptable...especially if he had any legitimate authority. To risk inflicting this type of behaviour on the public at large (rather than politely informing)...is to put at risk the very best conservation/protection program...especially in smaller community environments.

2.1 Therefore...I suggest cancelling all present enforcement, policing or prohibitive administrative arrangements... and re-constituting them on a basis from which to engender good-will & public understanding/education (& potentially support or in the very least...respect).

2.2 Similarly...all signage (especially) along the south margins of the estuary...needs to be clear, properly established/located...with an appropriate understandable message (per # 1 above).

3. A program of encouraging appropriate access...needs to be established, especially for birders, photographers, school visits (& source of clean-up help) & those having more of a vested interest. Out & out "Prohibition" is passe (& damaging in my opinion). "Stress" in migratory or local waterfowl in particular is over-rated. In looking to establish more contemporary access parameters...look to the programs at Point Pelee Ontario, Oak Hammock & the Fort Whyte Nature Conservancy in Manitoba, Aransas Pass Texas (where Whooping Cranes overwinter), Crane Lake Idaho...and their "versions" of public access cum management that is species/seasonally appropriate before reviewing or establishing "prohibitive policies". (Blue Herons with their unusual courtship/pairing has been going on for at least a month now although colony nesting takes place somewhere else...& is probably the most "sensitive" species in the estuary. Unfortunately eagle proliferation has become nesting heron's greatest risk factor).

4. Can a local (sponsorship) program be initiated to provide tree nesting boxes to attract Wood & other cavity nesting ducks as well as Owls, Kestrels & the like? This ideally should be extended further along the river's watershed into the Federal Governments Salmon

spawning channels upriver...which would benefit the estuary & engender public goodwill. (I was able to re-introduce many such species really successfully right in the City of Winnipeg)

Finally...I'm confident I saw 2 American Woodcock in flooded brush at the estuary margin on at least 2 occasions.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Cordially

Terry Mobberley



QUALICUM BEACH STREAMKEEPERS
221 Elizabeth Avenue
Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1G8
250 752 9297 phone 250 752 0531 fax
fcsmith@telus.net

PROJECT	
CLIENT	
PROJECT NO.	
DATE	
FEB 25 2010	
FILE NO.	
PROJECT	
DIRECTOR	

RDN Recreation and Parks
Greenside Place
630 W. Island Highway
Parksville, B.C.
V9P 2X4

February 25, 2010

Attention: Joan Michel, Parks and Trails Coordinator

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area Management Plan

The Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft LQRECA management plan.

Overall, we view the draft management plan as a balanced report which has effectively identified the major concerns. Rather than go through each item we agree with, we strongly suggest it go through as is, except for one major alteration. We recommend that the development of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Little Qualicum River be included as a high priority.

As you may be aware, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers - with the financial support of the BC Real Estate Foundation - completed a community consultation process in 2006 which indicated a strong community consensus for development of such a watershed plan. The draft LQRECA plan notes, in Section 5.41, that a watershed plan would be ideal, but suggests that it will be some years before this can be achieved. We believe that such a plan can be undertaken much sooner.

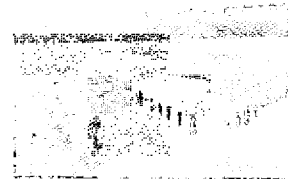
Our own organization's work in protecting and enhancing the local aquatic environment has reinforced our belief that it is becoming increasingly important to have a watershed plan within which all the stakeholders and concerned organizations can make decisions with respect to each element of the Little Qualicum River watershed.

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society is prepared to partner with other agencies in the development and implementation of such a watershed plan.

Yours sincerely,

Faye Smith
On behalf of Board of Directors,
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society

Thomas Kinkade Jr., son of the first landowner at the Little Qualicum estuary, documented Aboriginal use of the estuary from the late 1880s. There were no Aboriginal People living there by that time, though there was evidence of a large (80' x 400') stockade recently built and burned down and the bones of many bodies lay about the spit. Kinkade Sr. was told that the people had succumbed to small-pox, and the stockade had been burned by the few remaining survivors before they left. Other bodies were found in canoes or in cedar boxes placed on the limbs of spruce trees. Kinkade Sr. interred the remains on his property.



Kinkade Jr. noted that Qualicum, Nootka and Haida people continued to visit the Little Qualicum estuary and camped along Qualicum Beach. They built fish traps in the estuary by driving rows of cedar posts into the ground to form multiple compartments. Willow switches were woven between the posts and long wings were used to guide the fish to one main entrance. When the tide went down, the fish were gathered. In July and August, the people collected cockles, horse and other clams, and wove them onto slender sticks which were placed on racks and sun-dried. If the weather was wet, they built smokehouses with cedar, and used maple and alder wood to smoke the shellfish.

Thomas Kinkade Sr.'s first look at the Little Qualicum River in 1867 was from a whaling vessel, when he and other crew members harpooned a whale at the river mouth. In 1882-83, he and his Aboriginal wife wintered on a sloop in the estuary; years later it sunk while anchored there. In 1887, Thomas Kinkade was granted Lots 9 and 11, including the spit, thus ushering in one of the oldest settlements on Vancouver Island. The Kinkades constructed a dyke 125 feet long, 12 feet wide and 10 feet high across the main slough to keep the water from surrounding their house. The family raised cattle and ran a fish oil business for the servicing of machinery.

In 1903, Japanese fishermen holding a drag-seine license collected 17,000 fish in one haul at the Little Qualicum estuary. A 130 foot by 60 foot saltery was constructed there from split cedar, and many large boxes each containing about 450 lbs of salt fish were transported to Chinese markets. In 1907, the fishermen began using gasoline-powered purse seiners. Within a few years, the number of seining vessels harvesting at the Little Qualicum, Big Qualicum and Englishman Rivers estuaries had increased from three to 75, and the rivers were almost depleted of fish. The Board of Trade and Fish and Game Club worked with the federal MP and Senator to prohibit seining in the area and delay gill net fishing until after October 10th. Eventually salmon populations recovered to some degree. Records from the Shady Rest Hotel showed that fishermen who caught 32 lb salmon were given gold buttons, and salmon up to 20 lbs were considered so insignificant that they were not even weighed.

The Kinkade farm was sold, subdivided into numerous lots and in the 1930s, partially re-consolidated. In 1940, Sherwood and Maureen Marshall purchased about 80 acres of the original farm; they bought the spit itself in 1962. The low marsh area at the estuary was a log booming ground from the 1930s to the early 1950s, with a sawmill operating on the spit for a few years after the war. Cattle grazed the marsh for many years after the war.

In 1974, the Marshalls donated 29 ha (72 acres) of their estuary lands to the

Canadian Wildlife Service for use as a migratory bird sanctuary, and the Qualicum National Wildlife Area - Marshall Stevenson Unit was born. The CWS also managed the undeveloped portion of the Marshall's spit and obtained informal tenure over foreshore Lot 379 (the former log booming area) in 1982. In 1993, the WMA was created and MoE took over management of the river mouth and lower estuary.

In 1985, a portion of the old west access road used to haul logs to the storage area by the mill pond was removed to restore tidal flow to the southern marsh. Log culverts had restricted estuarine circulation and the cycling of detritus, and discouraged the use of this area by wintering migratory birds. Although there had been no vehicular traffic on the road since it was officially closed in 1974, there was considerable opposition to the physical removal of the road from fishermen and other pedestrians. Because the estuary is small and wintering birds easily disturbed, CWS viewed the restriction of pedestrian access as an additional benefit.



C-1 Ecosystems

Comprehensive habitat and ecosystem studies of the Little Qualicum estuary began with the inauguration of the National Wildlife Area. In the late 1970s, Dawe & White (1982) mapped vegetation communities, and Jones (ref missing) mapped vegetation and substrates.

Figure C1 shows the 2004 Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) classification of lands at the Little Qualicum estuary. Figure C2 shows results for the estuary from a 2008 Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) project completed for the entire Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone. The seashore saltgrass site association noted in the 2008 study is red-listed in BC. For a complete definition of BC's red and blue listed species and ecological communities, see www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/red-blue.htm. In short, red-listed communities, species and sub-species are extirpated, endangered or threatened in BC, and those blue-listed are of special concern and at risk but not extirpated, endangered or threatened.

Figure C3 presents a list of rare ecological communities that may be found at the Little Qualicum estuary. This list was produced by H. Clermont for this management plan using the Species and Ecosystems Explorer web tool available on the BC Conservation Data Centre home page (www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc), E-Flora (www.eflora.bc.ca), Mackenzie & Moran (2004) and Pojar & Mackinnon (1994). Based on the work of Dawe & White (1982) and the 2008 TEM study, it is argued that five of these rare ecological communities are almost certainly present at the estuary today.

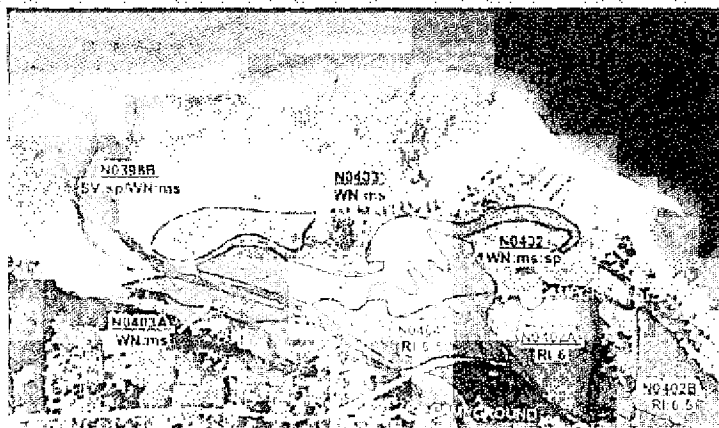


Figure C1: Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) of the Little Qualicum River Estuary (2004)

SEI Polygon	SEI Code	Ecosystem
NO398B	SV:sp	Sparsely Vegetated: Coastal gravel and sand spits
	WN:ms	Wetland:Marsh
NO403	WN:ms	Wetland Marsh
NO402	WN:ms:sp	Wetland:Marsh:Swamp
NO404	RI:6:5	Riparian:Mature coniferous-deciduous forest (80-250 yrs old); Young deciduous forest (40-80 yrs old)

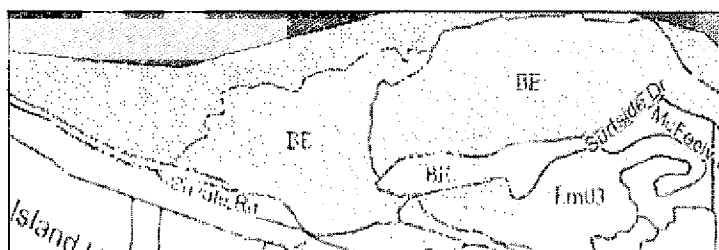


Figure C2: Terrestrial Ecosystem Map (TEM) of the Little Qualicum River Estuary (2008)

TEM Code	Description
BE	Beach
Em03	Seashore saltgrass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i> var. <i>spicata</i>) site association

Figure C3: Rare Ecological Plant Communities Possibly at the Little Qualicum Estuary, Showing Those Almost Certainly Present at the Estuary

Scientific Name English Name	Habitat	BC List	Almost Certainly Present
<i>Carex lyngbyei</i> Herbaceous Vegetation Lyngbye's sedge herbaceous vegetation	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Blue	•
<i>Carex macrocephala</i> Herbaceous Vegetation Large-headed sedge herbaceous vegetation	Sparsely Vegetated Herbaceous	Red	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> ssp. <i>beringensis</i> - <i>Aster subspicatus</i> Tufted hairgrass - Douglas' aster	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Blue Endemic	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> ssp. <i>beringensis</i> - <i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i> Tufted hairgrass - Meadow barley	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Blue Endemic	•
<i>Distichlis spicata</i> var. <i>spicata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation Seashore saltgrass herbaceous vegetation	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Red	•
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> Herbaceous Vegetation Common spike rush herbaceous vegetation	Wetland Herbaceous	Blue	•
<i>Juncus arcticus</i> - <i>Plantago macrocarpa</i> Arctic rush - Alaska plantain	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Red	
<i>Ruppia maritima</i> Herbaceous Vegetation Beaked ditch grass herbaceous vegetation	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Red	•
<i>Salicornia virginiana</i> - <i>Glaux maritima</i> American glasswort - sea milkwort	Estuarine Herbaceous Wetland	Rec	

C-2 Flora and Fauna

The flora and fauna of the Little Qualicum estuary were documented in Dawe (1976), Dawe and Buechert (1995). The biodiversity of the WMA and viability of specific natural values found there were documented in the 1996 and 2003 WMA management plans (Clermont, 1996, Lanarc, 2003).

C-2.1 Birds

At least 44 species of birds nest in the vicinity of the Little Qualicum estuary, including Bald Eagles. The Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WTIS) has identified four Bald Eagle nests in and around the estuary as late as 2008, however the sites may not still exist or be active. As noted in the main section of this management plan, herons have been recently nesting at the spit. The BC *Wildlife Act* protects all bird nests while the birds are nesting, and protects heron and eagle nests year-round.

Fall migrant dabbling ducks arrive as early as August and peak in November. In winter, waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese spend long hours in the estuary. Both species are known to cause damage to estuarine vegetation by overgrazing. Diving ducks such as Surf Scoters (blue-listed) make extensive use of the outer estuary. Loons, grebes and other waterbirds can be observed offshore. The Little Qualicum estuary is considered crucial to rebuilding the Brant population.

C-2.2 Fish

The Little Qualicum estuary is an important rearing area for salmon, particularly in May and June. Chum begin to gather at the mouth of the river in late September, and by the end of November, there are many carcasses and scavengers to be seen in the estuary. Escapement data, that is numbers of fish that have escaped the fisheries and arrived at their natal stream for spawning, is available for chinook, chum and coho fall runs in the Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement section of the DFO Pacific Region website; search for Mapster in the Maps and Data section. Estimates of steelhead populations are available from BCCF. Numerous salmonid enhancement initiatives have been undertaken on the Little Qualicum in order to bolster salmon and trout populations. DFO maintains the Little Qualicum Hatchery facility with its network of artificial spawning channels located approximately five kilometres upstream from the estuary; see Map 1 in the main section of this Management Plan.

In addition to salmon, trout and herring, other fish sited at the Little Qualicum estuary include spiny dogfish, copper rockfish, shiner sea perch, Pacific hake, Pacific sanddab, three-spined stickleback, high cockscomb, prickly sculpin and coastrange sculpin. Provincially, the Little Qualicum estuary part of the Georgia Strait has become an increasingly important major herring spawning area. Herring spawning habitat is declining in the face of waterfront development.

C-2.3 Species at Risk

There are many rare animals and plants at the Little Qualicum estuary, and possibly at the LQRERCA. These are listed in Figures C4 (animals) and C5 (plants) below. The following table explains the abbreviations used for Presence with respect of birds in Figure C4.

Abbreviation	Description
R	Resident, present year round
R	Transient, spring or fall migrant
W	Winter (December - February)
Sp	Spring (March - May)
S	Summer (June - August)
F	Fall (September - November)
Ab	Abundant: species almost always seen, occurring in very large numbers
Co	Common: species almost always seen, occurring in large numbers
Fc	Fairly common: species usually seen, occurring in moderate numbers
Un	Uncommon: occurring in small numbers, 10 or more records per year
Ra	Rare: normally occurs annually, seen fewer than 10 times per year
Ca	Casual: record on file, not seen most years
Ac	Accidental: species out of its range, unlikely to be seen again
Hy	Hypothetical: undocumented sighting
*	Breeding record for the NWA

Figure C4: Rare Animals Documented at the Little Qualicum Estuary and Possibly Using the LQRERCA

Derived by H. Clermont from CDC's Species and Ecosystems Explorer web data base (2008), pared down using E-fauna. Bird presence based on data for the NWA. Global, BC and COSEWIC rank information for this table available upon request.

Scientific Name	English Name	Class	BC List	Presence
<i>Rana aurora</i>	Red-legged Frog	Amphibian	Blue	
<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Western Grebe	Bird	Red	CoW, FcT
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Bird	Red	
<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>	Northern Goshawk, laingi subspecies	Bird	Red	RaW
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled Murrelet	Bird	Red	UnS, RaW
<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	Horned Lark, strigata subspecies	Bird	Red	RaT
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Peregrine Falcon, anatum subspecies	Bird	Red	RaT?
<i>Melanerpes lewis pop. 1</i>	Lewis' Woodpecker (Georgia Depression population)	Bird	Red	Vancouver Island populations extirpated
<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	Brandt's Cormorant	Bird	Red	CaW
<i>Pooecetes gramineus affinis</i>	Vesper Sparrow, affinis subspecies	Bird	Red	
<i>Sialia mexicana pop. 1</i>	Western Bluebird (Georgia Depression population)	Bird	Red	CaT
<i>Sturnella neglecta pop. 1</i>	Western Meadowlark (Georgia Depression population)	Bird	Red	UnW
<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Great Blue Heron	Bird	Blue	CoR
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	Bird	Blue	RaT
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	Bird	Blue	
<i>Branta Bernicla nigricans</i>	Brant	Bird	Blue	AbSp T, CaFT
<i>Branta hutchinsi</i>	Cackling Goose	Bird	Blue	+
<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	Snowy Owl	Bird	Blue	RaW
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk	Bird	Blue	CaFT
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron	Bird	Blue	RaT
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Bird	Blue	CaS
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Tundra Swan	Bird	Blue	RaW
<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Grouse (Blue Grouse)	Bird	Blue	
<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>	Peregrine Falcon, pealei subspecies	Bird	Blue	RaT?
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon	Bird	Blue	RaW
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Yellow-billed Loon	Bird	Blue	RaW, CaT
<i>Glaucidium gnoma swarthi</i>	Northern Pygmy-Owl, swarthi subspecies	Bird	Blue	
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Bird	Blue	CoS*
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California Gull	Bird	Blue	FcT

Figure C4: Rare Animals Documented at the Little Qualicum Estuary and Possibly Using the LQRERCA -- continued

Scientific Name	English Name	Class	BC List	Presence
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Short-billed Dowitcher	Bird	Blue	RaS
<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>	Western Screech-Owl, kennicottii subspecies	Bird	Blue	RaR
<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Surf Scoter	Bird	Blue	RaS, CoW
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	Bird	Blue	FcS
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	Bird	Blue	UnR
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	Bird	Blue	RaFI'
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin	Bird	Blue	
<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Cassin's Auklet	Bird	Blue	RaI'
<i>Tringa incana</i>	Wandering Tattler	Bird	Blue	CaT
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	Bird	Blue	RaR
<i>Fossaria vancouverensis</i>		Gastropod	Red	
<i>Hemphillia dromedarius</i>	Dromedary Jumping-slug	Gastropod	Red	
<i>Nearctula sp. 1</i>	Threaded Vertigo	Gastropod	Red	
<i>Physella heterostropha</i>	Pewter Physa	Gastropod	Red	
<i>Carychium occidentale</i>	Western Thorn	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Hemphillia glandulosa</i>	Warty Jumping-slug	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Monadenia fidelis</i>	Pacific Sideband	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Pristiloma jobsoni</i>	Broadwhorl Tightcoil	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Promenetus umbilicatellus</i>	Umbilicate Sprite	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Prophysaon vanatta</i>	Scarletback Tail dropper	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>	Black Gloss	Gastropod	Blue	
<i>Erythemis collocata</i>	Western Pondhawk	Insect	Blue	
<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	Autumn Meadowhawk	Insect	Blue	
<i>Myotis keeni</i>	Keen's Myotis	Mammal	Red	
<i>Orcinus orca pop. 5</i>	Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident population)	Mammal	Red	Occasionally offshore
<i>Sorex palustris brooksi</i>	American Water Shrew, brooksi subspecies	Mammal	Red	
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Mammal	Blue	
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Grey Whale	Mammal	Blue	Occasionally offshore
<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Steller Sea Lion	Mammal	Blue	Offshore - seasonal
<i>Mustela erminea anguinae</i>	ermine, anguinae subspecies	Mammal	Blue	
<i>Phocoena phocaena</i>	Harbour Porpoise	Mammal	Blue	Occasionally offshore

Figure C5: Rare Plants Documented at the Little Qualicum Estuary and Possibly Found at the LQRERCA

Derived by H. Clermont from CDC's Species and Ecosystems Explorer web data base (2008), pared down using E-fauna. Global, BC and COSEWIC rank information for this table available upon request.

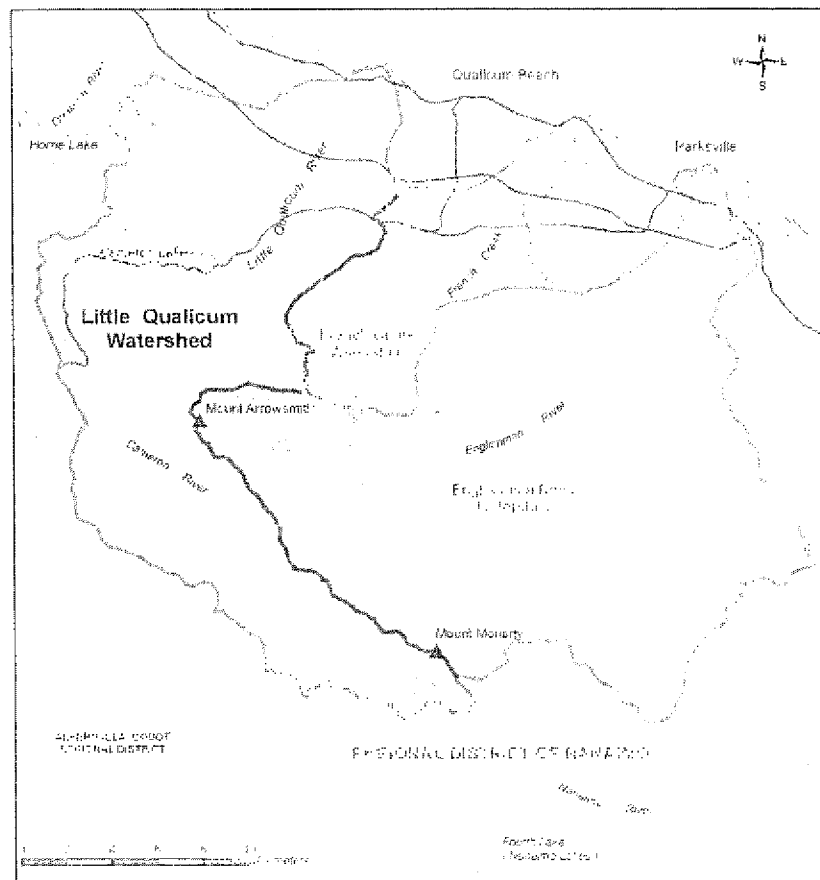
Scientific Name	English Name	BC List
<i>Lotus pinnatus</i>	yellow sand-verbena	Blue
<i>Allium amplexens</i>	slimleaf onion	Blue
<i>Allium geyeri</i> var. <i>tenerum</i>	Geyer's onion	Blue
<i>Anagallis minima</i>	chaffweed	Blue
<i>Aster curtus</i>	white-top aster	Red
<i>Batrachium stricta</i>	apple moss	Red
<i>Bidens amplissima</i>	Vancouver Island beggartick	Blue
<i>Bulbostylis capillaris</i>	densetuft hairsedge	Red
<i>Carex feta</i>	green-sheathed sedge	Red
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	foothill sedge	Red
<i>Chamaesyce serpyllifolia</i> ssp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaved spurge	Blue
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	field dodder	Blue
<i>Entosthodon fascicularis</i>	banded cord-moss	Blue
<i>Epilobium densiflorum</i>	dense spike-primrose	Red
<i>Isoetes nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's quillwort	Blue
<i>Juncus oxymeres</i>	pointed rush	Blue
<i>Juniperus maritima</i>		Blue
<i>Limnanthus macounii</i>	Macoun's meadow-foam	Red
<i>Meconella oregana</i>	white meconella	Red
<i>Microseris bigelovii</i>	coast microseris	Red
<i>Psilocarphus tenellus</i> var. <i>tenellus</i>	slender woolly-heads	Blue
<i>Ranunculus alismifolius</i> var. <i>alismifolius</i>	water-plantain buttercup	Red
<i>Rupertia physodes</i>	California-tea	Blue
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney's bulrush	Red
<i>Senecio macounii</i>	Macoun's groundsel	Blue
<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>	Henderson's checker-mallow	Blue
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	Blue
<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>	Macrae's clover	Blue
<i>Triglochin concinna</i>	graceful arrow-grass	Red

C-3 Little Qualicum Watershed

Estuarine and other wetland ecosystems respond to small changes in hydrology such as reduced summer flows or lowering of the water table. Run-off from residential development and agricultural lands, as well as sediment from road building and forestry activities can affect water quality. Changes in water chemistry alter substrates and productivity within a watershed. Consequently, the structure and health of an estuary is largely dependent upon the ecological integrity of the watershed.

Map C1 shows the Little Qualicum River Watershed, along with adjacent French Creek and Englishman River watersheds. The Little Qualicum River is a Sensitive Stream under the BC *Fish Protection Act* and Sensitive Streams Designation and Licensing Regulations (Brandes and Curran, 2008). When a stream is designated as sensitive, the sustainability of fish receive highest priority; recovery plans may be required if fish are unable to rehabilitate naturally; water managers must consider the needs of fish before issuing a water license; water license applicants may be required to provide water flow and fish habitat information or find a reasonable alternate source of water; and water license applicants may be required to develop mitigation or compensation measures.

Biophysical inventories conducted to assess steelhead habitat capability in eastern Vancouver Island watersheds have noted changes over time in the form and structure of rivers such as the Little Qualicum. The river channels are wider, there are extensive gravel bars, pools are filling in and there are fewer of them. As well, there is little functional in-stream large woody debris. The harvesting of large conifers from riparian areas of mainstem and tributary channels, along with agricultural and residential development, have contributed to this change in river morphology over the years.



Map C1: Little Qualicum River Watershed

Map produced by RDN, November 2009

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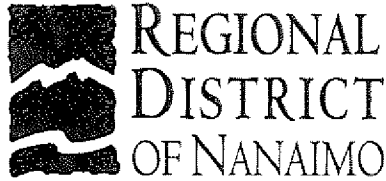
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DATE	07/13/10
TO	
FROM	
SUBJECT	✓ Jul 13 '10

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Armet, Manager
Building, Bylaw and Emergency Planning Services

DATE: July 2, 2010

FROM: Jani M. Drew, Emergency Coordinator

FILE:

SUBJECT: Fire Departments Authority to Respond to Wildfire Emergencies Outside Fire Protection Boundaries.

PURPOSE:

To obtain Board approval for Regional District Volunteer Fire Departments to respond to requests for resources to fight wildfires outside their service area boundaries.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional District of Nanaimo is responsible for six volunteer fire departments as follows:

Extension	(Electoral Area C)
Nanoose Bay	(Electoral Area E)
Coombs Hilliers	(Electoral Area F)
Errington	(Electoral Area F)
Dashwood	(parts of Electoral Areas F, G and H)
Bow Horn Bay	(Electoral Area H)

Each year the Office of the Fire Commissioner asks fire departments to provide lists of equipment and personnel that could be made available for large fire emergencies in the Province. In 2009, requests for both regular fire fighting resources as well as a specialized structural protection unit (SPU) were made to Regional District fire departments. Staff recommended that the Regional District authorize responses to fires on Vancouver Island, under the Coastal Fire Center's Operational Guideline. This guideline permits the Ministry of Forests to reimburse fire crews for responding in a "mutual aid" capacity.

The Errington Fire Department Structural Protection Unit (SPU) was established over a number of years and its use is typically the subject of an operating agreement with the Province. The previous agreement however was flawed and staff has been corresponding over the past year with the Province to have an appropriate agreement in place for 2010.

Staff was recently contacted by the Office of the Fire Commissioner advising that the Province is amending the *Emergency Act* to cover requests for structural protection units. Under those amendments, a fire department responding to an SPU request would be issued a task number and could make a claim for reimbursement of costs in the same way as for other types of emergencies. However, it is still important for local governments to consider potential risks and ensure they have provided authorization for the use of the resources.

In anticipation of the changes to the Emergency Act regarding SPUs and possible requests for regular fire fighting assistance, staff is recommending that the following Regional District fire departments be authorized to respond as follows for fire season 2010:

On Vancouver Island only:

- Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department – fire fighting crew and equipment
- Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department –fire fighting crew and equipment

Province Wide:

- Errington Volunteer Fire Department – SPU crew and equipment only
- Coombs Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department – SPU crew
- Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department –SPU crew

Each of the operating Societies has confirmed that they have the resources to deploy a portion of their crews in an intra-provincial emergency. With respect to the SPU equipment, some of the District 69 departments are pooling resources because a crew of 4 is required and no one department can spare that number of crew.

Staff is currently working on a report and draft policy that describes the authorization and notification procedures to be followed by fire departments responding to requests from the Province to assist in wildfire response outside of service area boundaries. The proposed policy will also include requests for other types of responses such as river rescue, medical aid, highway traffic control and extrication. In the interim, fire departments will be advised they must contact the Emergency Coordinator to obtain approval to respond out of boundary for wildfire response. The Emergency Coordinator will collect information that will be shared with the Finance Department for later reimbursement.

Fire departments will also be advised to forward incident summaries that will be compiled in an annual report to the EMSC/Board. Until such time as the policy is approved by the Board, fire departments will continue to respond to rescue calls per their current practice. The CAO and Board Chairperson will be notified by the Emergency Coordinator if the event is of a scale that will require extraordinary or extended resources or require the activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Provide authority to fire department Societies that have provided lists of equipment and personnel to staff, to respond to provincial requests for resources outside their boundaries for the 2010 fire season.
2. Provide an ongoing authority to fire department Societies to respond to provincial requests for resources outside their boundaries.
3. Not approve the use of fire protection resources outside of existing fire protection boundaries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Alternative 1

Under this alternative those fire department Societies that have provided staff a list of personnel and equipment and could respond to intra-provincial emergencies, would be authorized to do so throughout the 2010 fire season. Task numbers where applicable would be assigned to the Regional District and

would be managed by the Emergency Planning Department in the same way as for other emergencies. This would require some staff time but is not anticipated to be significant.

Responding departments would be paid scheduled rates for the use of equipment and personnel and are typically reimbursed for the cost of consumables such as foam. The rates paid by the Province for fire protection resources have been in place for many years and have been approved by the Fire Chiefs Association as adequate compensation.

Other costs which might be incurred include equipment or vehicle damage and injury to responders. The Regional District is responsible for its own property, vehicle and liability insurance whenever it responds to a provincial request. The Regional District carries replacement property insurance coverage for equipment and is adequately insured for liability through the Municipal Insurance Association. Vehicles are insured for their depreciated value – this would not in most cases be entirely adequate should a vehicle be completely destroyed.

One area of some exposure is injury to personnel. Volunteer firefighters have limited coverage with WorkSafe BC, based on reported firefighting earnings which are typically quite low. However, most departments purchase additional life insurance and accident coverage. Because the latter coverages are purchased directly by the operating Societies staff are not completely aware of the details of those policies, but understand that they are generally adequate. This is an area which will be investigated further, but is not considered a serious gap at this time. To summarize, it is difficult to project the potential costs, however there is considerable experience in both situations and no department has been impacted financially.

Alternative 2

Under this alternative the authorization for fire department resources would be open ended and would carry over from year to year. The Province usually requests updated lists of equipment and personnel annually and this gives the RDN an opportunity to review the prior year experience and to update this information regionally. For these reasons, staff recommends an annual approval for fire resources (alternative 1).

Alternative 3

Given the prior experience in responding to provincial fires it is recommended that Alternative 1 be approved in the broader public interest.

CONCLUSION:

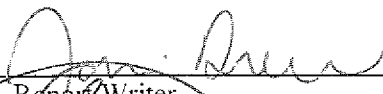
Staff has been obtaining information with respect to the use of fire department resources outside of regular boundaries as fire season approaches. For 2010, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (on behalf of the Ministry of Forests) is soliciting lists of equipment which could be made available if required. Requests for resources as described in this report would typically not involve the activation of an Emergency Operations Center by the Regional District.

Reimbursement of expenses will follow Ministry of Forests Operating Guidelines. SPUs use specialized equipment and their use will result in issuance of a formal EMBC/PEP task number; improving accountability and standardizing reimbursement for standby costs. The Regional District is adequately insured for most instances of equipment/vehicle damage and personal injury that might arise if a fire


department responds to intra-provincial requests for assistance. This report therefore recommends that fire departments that submit lists of personnel and equipment be authorized for the 2010 fire season to respond to intra-provincial requests and that fire response authorities be re-considered annually. A policy is currently being drafted for Board consideration that will provide formal notification procedures to ensure that the EMSC/Board is aware of fire department resources, response capability and deployments.

RECOMMENDATION:

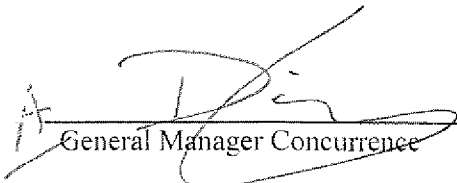
That the Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, Errington and Coombs Hilliers Volunteer fire departments be authorized to deploy fire-fighting resources outside their statutory boundaries for the 2010 fire season as outlined in this report.




Report Writer



Manager Concurrence



General Manager Concurrence



CAO Concurrence