

Regional District Update

JANUARY 2010

**2009
IN REVIEW**

Challenging issues and solid accomplishments added up to a busy 2009 for Regional District directors and staff. This newsletter provides a summary of these issues and achievements, and an important notice about the upcoming Parks & Green Space planning project.

Projects Completed or Underway

Water systems ...

There are many community water systems of varying sizes throughout the region, and some are encountering challenges as they strive to meet current health standards.

South of Town: In light of these concerns, the Regional District undertook a study, scheduled to be completed by year's end, to examine potential long-term supply sources south of the City. The public will be informed of the results of the study as soon as the information is available.

Lund: Unfortunately, although similar concerns face residents in the Lund area, an application for a large infrastructure grant to improve their water system was turned down by the province. Consequently, the Regional District will be discussing improvement options with the system manager (Lund Improvement District), the Drinking Water Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health, and representatives from the province's infrastructure program.

Other areas: The Regional District has also applied for planning grants on behalf of several other Improvement Districts to assist them in identifying what is needed to bring their water systems into compliance with the current Drinking Water Regulations.

Energy Conservation...

Improving the energy efficiency of the Regional District's infrastructure is high on our list. Over the past year, we have completed major energy efficiency improvements to the Gillies Bay School and Library (Texada); installed new meters at the Myrtle Pond Water system to encourage water conservation; and completed a minor project at the Malaspina Fire Hall which also addressed energy conservation.

Building upgrades ...

Local fire halls received considerable attention this past year. On Savary Island there was major progress on the construction of the west end substation and substantial improvements were completed at Lasqueti Island's main fire hall. In the area served by the Northside Volunteer Fire Department (NVFD), a contract has been awarded to local **Alofi A Design** to prepare a design and associated cost estimates for a new fire hall at Craig Road. Once the design and estimates are complete, taxpayers in the area served by the NVFD will be asked to approve the project in a spring referendum.



The tennis courts at Gillies Bay

On Texada Island, the tennis courts at Gillies Bay were totally refurbished, thanks to a \$57,420 grant from the province's Towns For Tomorrow program work; a beautiful garden development was completed at the Texada Health Centre in memory of nurse Linda Biennia; renovations were completed at the Texada Airport caretaker/ terminal building; and a contract was awarded for upgrades to the Van Anda dock.

Regional park and recreation facilities also came in for some attention. In a project managed by the Lund Community Society, an \$11,000 provincial gaming grant was matched by local tax payers to finance building renovations, landscaping and parking improvements at the Lund Community Centre (old school).



Retaining wall at Palm Beach Regional Park

Shelter Point and Haywire Bay Regional Parks both got new outhouses and new picnic tables and at Palm Beach Regional Park the retaining wall received some significant repairs.

Our Cemeteries ...

In an effort to meet the interment and memorialization needs and wishes of our region's residents, the Regional District contracted the consulting services of **Lees & Associates** to prepare a Development Plan for the Powell River (Cranberry) and Texada Island (Woodlands) cemeteries. The Plan will encompass landscaping, options for interment space and memorialization, amenities (seating, parking), and work space considerations. The purpose of this work is to expand the use of our cemeteries; make them more aesthetically pleasing as public green space; and provide the Board and staff with clear direction on future development.

In the Future...

High on our radar and of major concern is the need to meet Provincial requirements pertaining to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There is good news regarding Paratransit – federal funding has been secured to purchase a new bus and this will be a joint project between the City and the Regional District. To date, operating funds have not been approved, but a request has been put forward to next year's budget to secure the operational funding. ▲

Regional District Parks and Greenspace Plan

The Regional District is developing a Regional District Parks and Green Space Plan with the assistance of a local advisory group and under the guidance of **HB Lanarc**, a planning and design firm. The Plan will cover the entire regional district, including the City and all electoral areas.

The overall goal of this project is to provide the foundation of a strategy for creating a parks and green space system that addresses the long-term needs and interests of the region as a whole and of its rural communities.

The project objectives are:

- To protect areas of significant ecological value
- To ensure the availability of public areas for passive and active recreation for future generations
- To preserve and enhance the Region's aesthetic [scenic] qualities for the enjoyment of the local and visiting public
- To develop a parks and green space acquisition strategy

As part of this planning process, the Regional District is asking residents to help us understand the parks and green space in this region.

- What areas should be protected for future generations?
- Where are your favourite trails or natural features?
- Are there problems today that the Plan can help to resolve in the future?

We want to hear what you think! Join us at one of our Public Workshops and/or fill out the Online Survey (available at the end of January, 2010). You also have an opportunity to identify your favourite recreational site(s) and trail(s) using our Online Mapping Tool.

Public workshops are being held in the following locations:

City of Powell River

Date: Monday, January 18

Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: Town Centre Hotel,
Jervis Room, 4660 Joyce Avenue, Powell River

Lund

Date: Tuesday, January 19

Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: Lund Community Hall,
9656 Larson Road

Texada Island

Date: Wednesday, January 20

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Location: Gillies Bay Community Hall,
2602 Gillies Bay Road

Southern Area

Date: Thursday, January 21

Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: Kelly Creek School,
2341 Zilinsky Road

For more information about the Regional District Parks & Green Space Plan contact:

Don Turner, Regional Planner, PRRD

planning@powellriverrd.bc.ca

(604) 483-3231 or

Andrea Tower, HB Lanarc

andrea.tower@hblanarc.ca pr

(604) 688-9769 x104 ▲



Powell River Community Sustainability Charter

Our region's Sustainability Charter is almost finished. This project started in 2008 with a Community Forum of 300+ members. Following the forum, some dedicated and visionary volunteers kept the project going with work that included focused discussions with local youth. The present draft came about when the City, with Regional District support, secured funding to hire a consultant who worked with a broad-based Steering Committee to refine that initial work and prepare a draft for our region's first Sustainability Charter.

The document proposes that:

"Sustainability means that human beings locally and around the globe can flourish and have fulfilling lives in the long term, while living in harmony with a healthy natural environment".

This definition is then expanded into a set of principles and goals that are grounded in the reality of our region and that will, we hope, help to guide individuals, community groups, business and governments as they plan and implement policies, programs and projects in the face of many important, pressing challenges which confront our region.

Committee members who worked on the Charter include: **Stewart Alsgard, Rhonda Alton, Ryan Barfoot, Sarah Barkowski, Susan Jersak, Frances Ladret, CaroleAnn Leishman, Chris McNaughton, Colin Palmer, Arlette Raaen, Denise Reinhardt, Richard Stogre** and **Betty Zaikow**. We are indebted to these individuals and to the many other community volunteers for all their work on this important document.

The final draft of the Sustainability Charter has a projected release date to the public in early 2010. Announcements about the release will be placed in the newspaper and the document will be available at the public library and at City and PRRD websites. If you want to know more about the background to this project, please visit <http://pr.viu.ca/sustainability.asp> ▲

PRRD Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update

One of the most significant projects undertaken by the Powell River Regional District within the last few years is the updating of the PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

As part of the review of the 1996 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a multi stakeholder advisory committee was established to help draft an updated plan that reflects current public and political direction for managing the region's solid waste.

The committee was composed of the following members:

- Community members at large: Ted Belyea, Harold Diggon, Laurie Chambers, Sandra Macklem, Ronnie Uhlmen and Diana Wood;
- PRRD: Patrick Brabazon and Frances Ladret;
- City: Jim Palm and Larry Price;
- Sliammon First Nation: Eugene Louie and Walter Paul;
- Chamber of Commerce: Don Krompocker;
- Service providers: Craig Long for Augusta and Daryl McCormack for Sunshine Disposal;
- SD 47: Len Crivea ;
- Ministry of Environment: Ashley Smith; and
- Consultant: Sarah Wilmot for Aecom Ltd.

The committee reviewed technical information, evaluated waste management programs and services operating locally and elsewhere, consulted with the broader community and then made recommendations to the Regional Board on waste management matters. Their dedication and hard work culminated in a draft plan that was presented to the public at open houses held in mid November on Texada Island and in the City.

Response from the public to date (from both the open houses and a second survey) has been quite favourable with many thought provoking, well-researched questions and comments coming forward from residents.

Two significant and innovative components put forward in the new draft SWMP are 1) efforts to realize a centralized composting facility and 2) the hiring of a Waste Reduction Coordinator, whose primary role would be to set up and operate a variety of programs aimed at helping residents and businesses alike to reduce the amount of waste that they produce.

Fully implemented, the revised plan strategies would increase the waste diversion rate in the Regional District to approximately 59% with much of this diversion realized through waste reduction, recycling and the implementation of a composting strategy. Exporting of waste from the region will continue while new diversion programs are being implemented.

The next steps will be to seek Ministry of Environment approval for the Plan, after which it will be adopted by the Regional Board. Once the plan is adopted, the Board will consider when and how to implement the recommendations. The entire draft Plan may be viewed on our website at www.powellriverrd.bc.ca ▲

Do you have trouble with High Speed Internet Access?

The Regional District has retained **Second Flux** to provide technical assistance for community groups working towards improved internet access in the region. The three-month contract follows a report on this topic presented by Second Flux in November. That report, contact details and other information are available on our website.

Planning Matters

UPDATE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (Electoral Areas B and C)

In accordance with Provincial legislation, the Powell River Regional District must conduct regular reviews of its official community plans (OCPs).

Landworks Consultants Inc. was retained to review and update the current OCP for Electoral Areas B and C and members of the local community were invited to become part of the process by joining focus groups.

The information collected from these groups helped provide the foundation for the revised OCP which the consultant then presented back to those focus groups last summer. That draft was subsequently reviewed and edited by the Planning Committee, who met again with the focus groups in November to outline the main changes it had made to the draft OCP.

As a result of that November meeting, issues were raised that require further discussion. Once the Planning Committee has had an opportunity to address these issues, the public will be invited to review the draft OCP at a public open house, some time early in the New Year.

Curious about Regional District business?

You are welcome to attend our Board and Committee meetings.

The regular meeting schedule is posted on our website and agenda packages with memos, reports and motions are available 24 hours ahead of the meeting from either our website or our office.



RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

The Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) is designed to protect fish and fish habitat. Under Provincial legislation, the RAR must be implemented by local governments in any area that is covered by an official community plan and zoning bylaw.

A public information meeting was held in Lund on November 16th to inform residents about the Regional District's intention to implement the RAR in the area covered by the Lund OCP by adopting a bylaw that amends the Lund OCP to include development permit provisions. After that bylaw is adopted, property owners in the area covered by the Lund OCP will be required to obtain a development permit before embarking on any residential, commercial or industrial development on land within 30 m of a watercourse. Similar provisions for development permits are being included in the revised Southern Region OCP.

To apply for a development permit, property owners will need to retain the services of a qualified environmental professional to determine if the proposed project will be harmful to fish habitat and what can be done, if anything, to mitigate any damage to the riparian area. The terms of any development permit issued by the Regional District will likely incorporate the recommendations made by the qualified environmental professional. In view of the need for this professional expertise, and in light of the complexity of the RAR, the Regional District is in the process of compiling a list of qualified professionals available to do this work.

Please note that a development permit will not be required if the proposed work is outside of the 30 m riparian area. Uses within the 30 m riparian area, existing at the time of the adoption of the bylaw, are 'grandfathered'.

For further information on the RAR, contact the Regional District's Planning Department. ▲

CONTACT US



Powell River Regional District

5776 Marine Avenue (in the Townsite)
Powell River, B.C. V8A 2M4

PHONE: 604-483-3231

FAX: 604-483-2229

EMAIL: administration@powellriverrd.bc.ca

WEBSITE: www.powellriverrd.bc.ca