



# \$6 MILLION FEDERAL GAS TAX GRANT SECURED

## RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE: A STEP CLOSER TO REALITY!

The Powell River Regional District was thrilled to receive a \$6,000,000 Federal Gas Tax Grant this year to remediate the old incinerator site on Marine Avenue and convert the property into a state-of-the-art Resource Recovery Centre. This project has received incredible support from community leaders, agencies and the public. Collaboration efforts between local governments will begin in 2017 to move this project from a concept to a reality.

The one-stop shop convenience and the educational, research and development opportunities provided at the Resource Recovery Centre, are projected to increase waste diversion and resource recovery significantly within the first five years of operation and beyond.

Not only will we have the opportunity to divert large volumes from landfill, we will be:

- keeping resources available locally by recovering and re-purposing materials, thus taking responsibility for our waste stream and seeing it as an asset rather than simply 'waste';
- creating local job opportunities;
- providing lower cost disposal options to the public;
- encouraging a circular economy;
- providing leadership in waste management; and
- reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions created through the current transportation of our waste to the state of Washington.

Closure of the old incinerator site to meet Ministry of Environment compliance, and development of the Resource Recovery Centre, will not only reduce and eventually eliminate the contaminants on the site from past practices, but will provide an invaluable community educational and economic hub focused on continually evolving environmentally sustainable practices and initiatives.

This two-phased project (Landfill Closure and Resource Recovery Centre Development) will take time. Be assured that there will be opportunities for the public to have input along the way.

**2017**

- Collaboration of local governments
- Landfill closure planning & risk assessments
- Solid waste management plan update completion
- Request for proposals for landfill closure

**2018**

- Closure of landfill
- Site preparation & access corridors
- Detailed design of RRC
- Operational structure planning

**2019**

- Request for proposals for RRC
- Select contractor
- Begin construction

**2020**

- Continued construction
- Confirm governance model
- Finalize operational structure

**2021**

**Resource Recovery Centre opens!**

# THE FUTURE OF GARBAGE

A solid waste management plan is a road map that details how we plan to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, and dispose of our waste for the next 10 to 20 years. The Powell River Regional District has recently embarked on a process to update the region's solid waste management plan and the Lasqueti Island sub-plan.

There have been a number of changes on the waste management front in our area in recent years. We now have staffed recycling depots that are producing some of the cleanest recyclables in BC. In 2016, we worked to ensure that our local industrial, commercial and institutional sectors can now recycle as well. The City of Powell River made its curbside recycling program more user friendly. There are collection sites for most household hazardous wastes like paint, pesticides and antifreeze in the Powell River area (for a list of locations, see the Waste Wise Guide on our website).

Most recently, we initiated a pilot program to collect residential and commercial food waste (see more on CORE pilot program).

## But where do we go from here? What does the future hold?

The Regional District has convened an advisory committee of government staff, Board directors, the waste management industry, business, and the general public to discuss just that. Over the coming months, they will meet regularly to review current practices and to identify potential improvements to affordability, the protection of the environment and the reduction of waste that ends up in landfill.

The outcome of these discussions will be a draft solid waste management plan that will be taken out to the community for your input, before our new map to our solid waste future is finalized and adopted by the Regional District's Board of Directors.

Learn more about the process to update the Regional District's solid waste management plan online: [www.bit.ly/PRRD\\_SWMP](http://www.bit.ly/PRRD_SWMP)



## CORE PILOT PROGRAM

Are you a **Residential or Commercial Community Member** who wants to Compost? Visit the Self-haul Depot Locations:

**Town Centre Recycling Depot** in parking lot beside Rona, FREE drop off during hours of operation (Monday to Saturday 8 am - 5:30 pm)

Loads over 50L/20 lbs must be taken directly to **Sunshine Disposal** (Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm only) at 4484 Franklin Avenue (604-485-0167)  
Note: maximum size load is two yards

**COMING  
2017!**  
City of Powell River's  
Curbside Organics  
Collection Pilot  
Program

## Let's Talk Trash

WHAT IS WASTE?

Questions? Comments?  
604-485-0020  
info@letstalktrash.ca

On average, food scraps make up 40% or more of the waste stream. By diverting food scraps out of the garbage, you can save money on disposal fees. The Regional District encourages residents, local businesses and institutions to take advantage of this cost saving and environmentally beneficial program. Once we have a sufficient quantity of organics being collected, a local processing facility will be considered to lower our costs, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, provide a quality soil product to the region, and create local employment.

# MANAGING YOUR ASSETS

The Powell River Regional District is responsible for the operation of 35 services throughout the region including the Myrtle Pond water system, the Lund sewer system, four volunteer fire departments, and regional parks. The Regional District builds and maintains the infrastructure or physical components required by each service. These are the Regional District's tangible capital assets. The Myrtle Pond water system, for example, is made up of the treatment plant, the land upon which it sits, distribution lines, hydrants, valves, etc. Each of these components has a purchase cost and an estimated replacement cost. Each asset depreciates over time and its lifespan can be extended through rigorous scheduled maintenance.

In 2007, the Public Sector Accounting Board introduced new accounting standards which required local governments to report on their tangible capital assets and the annual cost to use them. These new standards were implemented based on evidence that many local governments were under-funding the maintenance and replacement of their assets, a practice that results in local services that are not sustainable.

Asset management is defined by Asset Management BC as "an integrated approach involving planning, finance, engineering and operations to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risks and provide satisfactory levels of service to community users in a socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable manner".

Asset Management BC established *Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery: A BC Framework* which is a "high-level, systematic approach to support local governments in moving toward service, asset and financial sustainability through an asset management process". The Framework is based on the graphic above, the circular nature of which emphasizes that the practice of asset management is "on-going and requires continuous review and improvement". It is not something that is done once and put on a shelf. Asset management planning is about making good decisions to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



*Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery: A BC Framework*

The Regional District made asset management one of its five corporate strategic priorities in our 2015 - 2018 Strategic Plan. We developed an asset registry, are in the process of surveying all of our assets, will be performing condition assessments in 2017 to determine the life left in our assets, and will determine what the estimated replacement cost for each of our assets will be.

Once we have collected all of this information, we can create long-term asset management plans for the services we operate. These plans will identify our assets, their existing condition and any known risks to service delivery. They will present the costs and required resources to maintain, operate and replace each asset based on a predetermined level of service, and will include a planning time frame to support the ongoing preparation of our financial plans. Asset management plans will provide clear direction on what to do, when to do it and how much it will cost.

## COMING SOON! Critical Emergency Services' Asset Replacements

The aging Northside Volunteer Fire Department (NVFD) firehall on Larson Road is in need of replacement. Due to significant structural issues, the NVFD is in the planning stages to build a new two-bay structure to serve Lund and its surrounding area.

The Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) must replace two aging fire apparatus - one fire engine and one water tender. These replacements are scheduled for late 2018. Replacing these apparatus is critical to maintain the fire protection insurance grading for property owners within the MVFD service area.

# PLANNING MATTERS

## Regional Trails Plan

Over the past year, the Regional District has been working with Brent Harley and Associates, the City of Powell River, the Tla'amin Nation, BC Recreation Sites and Trails, and community members to develop a Regional Trails Plan. The Plan celebrates the countless hours of volunteer effort that have gone into developing and maintaining recreational trails in the region. The Plan represents a fundamental move towards recognizing and valuing our regional trails network as a significant and important public asset.

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in the Regional Trails Plan Workshops and Survey, the Landslide and Fluvial Hazard Areas Information Sessions, and the Lund Watershed Zoning Update Community Meeting. **Your feedback is valuable and your ideas are important for shaping regional and electoral area planning initiatives.**

Community feedback has been integral to the development of the Regional Trails Plan. The Plan builds on public feedback received during previous planning processes such as the Parks and Greenspace Plan, Official Community Plans and Land Use Plans.

The process to develop the Regional Trails Plan included a series of six community workshops and an online survey. Feedback was received from over 437 people, representing different ages and a diverse range of trail user groups including walkers, hikers, bike riders, horseback riders, ATV riders, motocross riders, climbers, and skiers.

The intent of the Regional Trails Plan will be to guide the development and management of a sustainable regional trails network. The draft Regional Trails Plan will be presented to the Regional Board in December and the final Plan will be made available to the public in the new year. To learn more about the Plan: [www.powellriverrd.bc.ca/regional-trails-plan/](http://www.powellriverrd.bc.ca/regional-trails-plan/)

## Benefits of Trails

Enhance **COMMUNITY** quality of life by providing opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors together.

Provide an **EDUCATIONAL** learning environment for nature, culture, and history.

Enhance **ENVIRONMENTAL** awareness, understanding of our natural heritage, and encouraging environmental stewardship.

Improve **HEALTH** and physical well-being for individuals and communities, reducing health care costs and enhancing productivity.

Enhance **CULTURAL** aspects, improving understanding and respect of First Nations' cultural heritage values.

Increase **ECONOMIC** development by attracting tourists and residents, providing opportunities for business investment.

Support active **TRANSPORTATION** alternatives, providing connectivity between neighbourhoods for walkers and cyclists.

## GREEN SHORES FOR HOMES

Since 2014, the Regional District has been collaborating with the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia as one of four local governments selected to join the Green Shores for Homes Pilot Program. Green Shores for Homes is a voluntary and incentive-based program designed to help communities restore natural shorelines and enjoy the many environmental, recreational, scenic, and shoreline protection benefits they bring.

The Green Shores for Homes Program was incorporated into the 2015 Official Community Plan for Electoral Area A to promote sustainable practices along the region's shorelines and promote soft shore approaches to mitigate coastal erosion and support climate change adaptation.

The program will be incorporated into the upcoming Texada Island Official Community Plan review and update in the new year.

If you **own waterfront property** and want to learn more about the Green Shores approach, the Regional District can help you connect with professionals and resources to make this cost-effective solution work for you.

Do not miss the next Green Shores Workshop hosted in Powell River on January 18, 2017. Registration is required online at: [www.bit.ly/PRRDgreentraining](http://www.bit.ly/PRRDgreentraining)



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Emergency Service Agreements

The Regional District has entered into an agreement with the Canadian Red Cross to deliver disaster relief services throughout the region including emergency lodging, food, clothing, and other services for individuals or families impacted by emergencies or disasters. They will also conduct training and recruiting for disaster assistance volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to serve the Red Cross in this capacity, contact Gary:  
gary.carleton@redcross.ca  
or 250-995-3525.

There are eight local fire departments operating within the boundaries of the Regional District including the City of Powell River, Tla'amin

Nation, the Gillies Bay and Van Anda Improvement Districts on Texada Island, and the Northside, Malaspina, Savary Island and Lasqueti Island departments.

A new Regional Fire Departments' Emergency Services Agreement will enable the efficient sharing of local area department resources required for response to major fire department incidents.

To support improved emergency responses and service efficiencies, a Fire Chief or officer in charge at an emergency can now request resources from any of the other fire departments including personnel, apparatus or equipment.

Sign-up online to receive important emergency notifications via phone, email or text:



[www.bit.ly/prrdens](http://www.bit.ly/prrdens)

@EmergencyPRREP

## Emergency Back-up Power Now in Place

In the event that the region loses power, the Regional District has invested in a mobile diesel generator that can provide electrical power for the main office and the Board Room, which also serves as the Emergency Operation Centre. The generator will allow for regular office operations and emergency management during times of power outages. The generator is also available to provide emergency power at other facilities in the region.

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PROGRESS

The Regional District took possession of our new Interface Wildfire Structure Protection Unit (SPU) in September. This mobile unit is equipped with numerous different types of sprinkler units specially designed to protect structures from wildfires. The SPU will be made available to all fire departments operating within the region. Thank you to Powell River Community Forest Ltd. for their generous donation towards the purchase of this valuable asset. This purchase was made in response to one of many recommendations laid out in the 2015 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which studied the wildland urban interface fire concerns in Electoral Areas A, B, C, Tla'amin Nation, and the City of Powell River. Other initiatives resulting from the CWPP recommendations are highlighted below.

Provincial Wildfire Management Branch (WMB) Powell River and Sechelt Fire Bases have given hundreds of staff hours toward reducing wildfire potential on Pentiction Trails (in March) and Millennium Park (in October). The CWPP defines vegetation management as "the planned manipulation and/or reduction of living and dead forest fuels for land management objectives (e.g., hazard reduction)".

These projects significantly reduced ground and ladder fuels in a 10 metre buffer along the trail edges, producing a shaded fuel break. These projects have only scratched the surface of the necessary mitigation work. An application has been submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities to fund more fuel reduction work in priority areas.

In April, 2016, the Regional Emergency Service and WMB staff jointly hosted a wildfire mitigation for trail builders workshop. This workshop was attended by City and Regional District parks crews along with representatives from numerous trails organizations including the Bloody Old Men's Brigade (BOMB) Squad, Forestry Museum, Chain Gang, ATV club, and Western Forest Products. The workshop delivered a classroom session promoting best practices toward trail building and maintenance that reduces forest fuel loading. The workshop included a visit to the site of the Pentiction Trails pilot project area for hands-on viewing of effective fuel mitigation work.

The Regional District will continue to make progress to meet further recommendations from the CWPP.

## Cemetery Options Increase

For those who seek to minimize your impact on the environment, the Powell River Regional Cemetery now offers an alternative to conventional burials. The Green Burial movement is beginning to take hold in North America. Green Burial is an environmentally sensitive practice where a body is returned to the earth to decompose naturally and contribute to new life. A new Green Burial section has been developed at the Powell River Regional Cemetery in Cranberry. As burials occur and according to an established plan, a selection of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be planted. A small marker is permitted on each grave site or a plaque with a simple inscription can be installed on one of two new communal monument stones located in the Green Burial section.

Cement curbing is now available again at our cemeteries. It has been recognized that patrons want to be able to protect their loved ones' markers from grass encroachment. As such, the Regional District amended the Cemetery Bylaw in 2016 to include the availability of high quality cement curbing. The Powell River Regional Cemetery in Cranberry will also now have staff available on-site year-round to assist you.

Contact the Regional District office at 604-485-2260 to make an appointment to discuss burial options, curbing purchases and all other cemetery related inquiries.



## Reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Powell River Regional District, along with 96% of other BC communities, has signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter to take actions to become carbon neutral in our corporate operations and to report on our climate adaptation actions. Our 2015 - 2018 Strategic Plan identifies climate change mitigation and adaptation as one of our five corporate strategic priorities.

Many of the initiatives in this newsletter will make a measurable difference in our progress towards reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions including:

- development of the Resource Recovery Centre;
- organics pilot project;
- addition of industrial, commercial and institutional recycling options;
- solid waste management plan update;
- Green Shores for Homes initiative; and
- development of a Green Burial section.

In 2017, the Regional District will initiate a study to develop a corporate GHG reduction strategy, in which GHG reduction qualified professionals will assess all Regional District properties and infrastructure, and will recommend improvements.

## Improvements to Regional Parks

### Craig Park

The first two holes of a nine-hole disc golf course have been installed. The remaining seven holes are planned for installation in spring 2017. The park now boasts new playground equipment as well.

### Haywire Bay Park

Features six new campsites, new playground equipment and a new coin operated shower stall.

### Shelter Point Park

Upgrades have been made to the Nature and Big Loop trails. Thanks to Imperial Limestone Co. Ltd. for their generous donation of a portion of the required gravel.

### Palm Beach Park

A new timber-framed covered area is being built by Sunshine Music Fest Committee volunteers with funding from Powell River Community Forest Ltd. There will be a removable stage that can be installed for performances under the covered area and removed for other events. Site preparation has begun with construction scheduled for spring 2017.

### Diver's Rock Park

A new fire pit has been installed and a new sign has been erected at the park entrance.

### Beach Accesses

New stairs, a foot bridge and a gravel pathway were constructed on the Broom Road beach access.

# Contact Us!

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