

qathet Regional District
ELECTORAL AREA 'A' NEWSLETTER
for June 2019
from Patrick Brabazon, Director

This newsletter is being sent to all residents of Electoral Area 'A' of the qathet Regional District. At the end of this newsletter you will find my telephone number and my e-mail address. I welcome your comments.

FIRE!

The exclamation mark is there because this is a time sensitive matter; if you wish to object you must do so by **July 8th**. So, now for the details. The Fire Hall in Lund is decrepit and collapsing. It is also small. A certified fire truck has a normal life span of twenty years which may be extended to twenty-five years. Given that the Fire Hall was built some forty-odd years ago and that fire trucks have greatly extended their capabilities, and size, it is not surprising that we can no longer fit a truck through the door. Even if we could, the building is collapsing.

Now for the good news. In previous Green Sheets, I have referred to the generosity of local residents who donated a tract of land for a new fire hall. This land is less than a kilometre south of the current site and in addition to being free, moves the Fire Hall to a more central location. This is important for some of you because the distance from the Fire Hall to homes will be extended further out into Okeover. So? This change means that more homes may benefit from fire insurance coverage by being closer to the Hall. As well, no home presently benefitting will lose by the change in site.

OK, now what? The land is donated but the building is going to cost us and the Regional District will have to borrow the money to build it. I say Regional District, but I am really talking about those of us in Area 'A' who presently benefit from the protection provided by the volunteers of the Northside Volunteer Fire Department. Is this you? Check the rural tax notice recently mailed out by the province. Look at line two under local services. If Northside Fire is there this matters to you.

To borrow the required money the Regional District must have approval from those of us who will pay the bill. A referendum costs a lot of money. One way to reduce the cost is to employ the *Alternate Approval Process* which is a long way of saying, "If you don't agree, you have to say so". Under this method, the plan for a new fire hall proceeds, unless ten per cent or (98) of the affected residents say, "No" to borrowing the money. If 98 or more residents say, "No", I expect that we will go to referendum.

Full details on the *Alternate Approval Process* and how you may respond re found at <http://www.powellriverrd.bc.ca/2019/05/alternate-approval-process-lund-firehall-borrowing/>

Note the deadline requirement to use the proper form and submit it to the Regional District office is no later than **Monday July 8th**.

Only in Lund you say . . .

So what's wrong with this picture? At first glance we have a local government sign directing you to a regional park. But, appended to the official marker is a notice that communing with nature might be more "au natural" than you would expect. Since regional parks are governed by Regional District bylaws under the authority of the *Local Government Act*, the Bylaw would have to be amended by the Regional Board to allow this and that brings us to the *Criminal Code of Canada* and that brings us to ... Oh well, the offending appendage has been removed. And yes, we do indeed know about Wreck Beach. Please do not alter qRD signs.



Summer

I know that I have gone on at length about the risk of fires, but we do live in the forest and summer drought is a fixture of our climate. So here I go again. The Coastal Fire Centre has banned all open burning and this includes burn barrels. Small campfires are allowed with restrictions (<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>). The next step may be to restrict access to the woods. On Savary, the new outdoor fires bylaw can prohibit high risk activities like chainsaw use during times of extreme fire danger. This is serious stuff. Please be careful and enjoy the sun.

Patrick Brabazon
Regional Director, Area 'A'

Cell Telephone: 604-414-5673 — e-mail: pbrabazon@qathet.ca
qathet Regional District
202 - 4675 Marine Avenue, Powell River, B.C. V8A 2L2
Telephone: 604-485-2260 - e-mail: administration@qathet.ca