

Electoral Area A Community Update

February 2020
Issue 2

WELCOME

Welcome to the second issue of your Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area A Community Update. This newsletter offers updates on topics of interest for your community and the CVRD. This issue will be posted to the webpage for your electoral area, along with other ongoing updates throughout the year.

Watch www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/electoralareaa for more info.



Area A Director
Daniel Arbour

YOUR COMMUNITY'S UPDATES

Wastewater management to Royston/Union Bay to be considered in 2020

The CVRD continues to assess options for improved wastewater management in Royston and Union Bay. Options for possible future projects and development work will be presented to the Electoral Area Services Committee for consideration in the coming weeks. There is still more assessment and planning work to do – and the CVRD is committed to engaging with the community moving forward. Stay tuned for updates.

Septic education program continues

Thank you to all who came out last summer and fall to the septic workshops on Hornby Island and in Royston. This year, residents can continue to learn about how to care for their septic systems with a series of new workshops and online resources. A workshop is being planned for Denman Island this spring with date and location still to be confirmed. Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/septic for more information.

Union Bay Improvement District Conversion Study

In 2019, the Union Bay Improvement District (UBID) and the CVRD obtained a grant from the Province of BC to initiate a governance study. While initially UBID asked for three options to be considered – a) status quo, b) conversion to CVRD, and c) pursuing Municipal incorporation, the Province only supported exploring the first two options. The study will provide information about the pros and cons of future governance and service delivery for water, fire protection services, and street lighting in Union Bay.

That study is now underway and is expected to be back before the UBID board of trustees in late spring/early summer. UBID trustees will at that time choose to continue on as an improvement district or go to a referendum, in order to convert the UBID services to be delivered and governed by the CVRD.

This initiative was started by the UBID, and next steps will be up to those trustees. The CVRD is supporting the work of the study, which is funded by the province. More information will be provided to residents of Union Bay as it becomes available – through both the UBID and CVRD. For more information: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/ubid



Congratulations

Congratulations to the volunteers of the Fallen Alders Community Hall in Royston who completed an important update for the building with the installation of a new roof in the fall. We were glad to support this with a grant-in-aid from the electoral area. Over 15 Grant-in-Aid projects were funded in Area A in 2019, and deadline for applications for 2020 is at the end of February



Interested in the latest from Director Arbour? Follow me on Facebook! Just search Daniel Arbour, Director Comox Valley Area A.





Roadside Recycling and Garbage Pick-Up Service Under Consideration

Later this year, residents in some electoral area communities will be asked whether they'd like to see roadside recycling and garbage pick-up service at their homes.

Electoral area directors have been hearing from residents who are interested in having the CVRD provide roadside garbage and recycling pick-up in the rural areas. While this service is available to municipal residents and funded by municipal taxes, rural residents must hire a private company if they wish to have this service provided.

CVRD staff are currently working to assess whether neighbourhoods within the rural areas meet new criteria being developed by Recycle BC. Once identified, those communities will be consulted to assess their level of interest and to identify any barriers. If roadside pick up appears to have support, a formal assent process will be planned, giving communities the chance to vote on adding the new service.

More information will be shared in the coming months – watch for news updates this summer/fall.

WE'VE MOVED





The Comox Valley Regional District has now moved into its new office at 770 Harmston Ave. Courtenay. This new building redirects expensive lease payments to a debt repayment and community-owned asset, and relocates critical services, including emergency operations, out of a floodplain. Watch for info about an opening celebration this spring. Visit the website for more info: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/regionaloffice

Questions?

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our Let's Hear From You events in the fall. It was great meeting in your community to hear about what's most important to you and your neighbours. We hope we were able to answer a few of your questions along the way as well. Stay tuned for plans about our next events to come later this year.

Planning for our future



The services and programs delivered by the Comox Valley Regional District are paid for by the people who use them – and making sure those services have enough money for both short and long-term plans while recognizing the impacts of rising costs on ratepayers, is a constant challenge for CVRD directors and staff.

This is why the Comox Valley Regional District is formalizing their approach to be able to deliver services sustainably, for the long-term.

Decision makers have to weigh the level of service being provided, with the risks we take on and the cost to current and future tax payers. To make those difficult decisions as responsible and transparent as possible, local governments are using the process of Asset Management to put systems in place that collect, analyze, and communicate the information we need to make informed decisions.

To start the work of implementing these processes staff will be working together to build up a program framework to move the organization towards Sustainable Service Delivery.

While this is largely work happening within the organization at this time, the results of analysis and planning will help to ensure a sustainable service delivery model for years to come.

