

# Electoral Area B Community Update

February 2022  
Issue 7

## WELCOME - LAZO NORTH AREA

Welcome to the first Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Electoral Area B Community Update of 2022. Our last update was in October, and since then we have a variety of new plans and projects to share with you. Feel free to contact us regarding any questions or comments about CVRD business. Public input is always welcomed.



## Free guided nature walks for Comox Valley families

With winter behind us it's time to get outside and walk in nature with the Comox Valley Regional District's free guided walks and interpretive talks held in nearby community parks and shorelines.

Two programs are beginning this month: Family Trails (meet ups for family walks on CVRD trails) and Guided Naturalist Park walks, learning about local flora and fauna with monthly guided interpretative walk. Join us for these free programs: Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothes for changing weather conditions and check age suggestions (5-14) before attending. Length of programs may vary, from 1-2.5 hours. No pets allowed at this time. BC COVID-19 outdoor sport standards will be in place.



### Family Trails:

Monday, May 2, 2022, 10 AM  
Seal Bay Nature Park

### Guided Naturalist Walk:

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 10 AM  
Tsolum River (meet at curling rink)

Check out [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/natureprograms](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/natureprograms) for more information.

## New bylaw dispute system in place

On December 31, the CVRD launched a new streamlined bylaw adjudication system with the goal of taking the bylaw process out of the Provincial court system and managing disputes directly by local government. Bylaw violations such as minor zoning, building violations, animal control and other issues will be dealt with closer to home, avoiding costly legal council and unnecessary attendance of witnesses.

Bylaw infractions resulting in fines can be paid within 14 days, or a dispute can be registered with the CVRD office. Disputes will be overseen by a provincially appointed and independent adjudicator to determine if an offence occurred.

To learn more about the new bylaw dispute system, visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawcomplaints](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/bylawcomplaints).



## Sewer route plan confirmed

Planning for the new Comox Valley Sewer Conveyance Project is continuing – with an update provided to Area B residents in early February about routes, impacts and groundwater protection.

The project for the Comox Valley Sewer Service includes infrastructure to be located within Electoral Area B. In the latest update to residents, the CVRD project team gave an overview of the plan for a drilled pipe route under Lazo Hill and the related lay down area expected in this stage of planning. The sewage commission is considering the final project scope in February 2022, which will secure approval to initiate the procurement process for the design-build component of the project.

Residents who missed the update and would like to learn more can view the webinar at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerconveyance](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/sewerconveyance)



## Merville Fire Hall close to completion

The construction on the Merville Fire Hall is nearing completion and is expected to be up and running by the end of March this year. Work began in August 2021 by Kinetic Construction Ltd. on the facility which is designed to meet post-disaster building standards and will include two truck bays, a radio room, new safety equipment, storage, and adequate training space for volunteers.

The building site is located in the Greater Merville area at the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society at Williams Beach Road and the Island Highway.

The fire hall now has 20 trained members ready to serve when the facility opens, and a fire engine is expected to arrive in February. The new service will create quicker response times for both fire and medical first responders and may lead to lower fire insurance premiums for those within 8 km of the new fire hall.

To stay up to date on this project visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mervillefire](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mervillefire).



## AREA B BRIEFS

### It's an election year!

Mark your calendar: Local General Elections will be held on October 15, 2022. The CVRD will share more information about running for office, voter registration and voting in the coming months. Watch for more information through the spring and summer.

### New burning bylaws improve safety

Two new burning bylaws approved in January will provide consistency in rules for the CVRD's electoral areas, and provide fire departments with authority to manage burning in Black Creek, Merville, Mount Washington and Union Bay. The bylaws make burning rules the same throughout the electoral areas (outside of the municipal boundaries) and give Fire Chiefs authority to put on fire bans and control other burns. Residents will also need permits for fires over 50 cm in diameter.

### Snow/ice road maintenance Comox Valley

Road problems? Mainroad North Island Contracting at 1-877-215-7122 is the company in charge of all road maintenance and snow plowing for the roads and highways outside municipal boundaries in the Comox Valley. Call 1-877-215-7122 to report any problems. These calls are monitored 24/7.

## BC Safe Restart grant funds awarded

Community halls, emergency preparation programs and food security initiatives were among the successful recipients of the CVRD's second grant funding installment from the BC Safe Restart grant fund. The province provided \$402,000 to support volunteer and CVRD programs in response to economic and social issues that arose as a result of the pandemic. To date, CVRD has received over \$1,125,000 million in COVID-19 safe restart grant money.

## Bates Road parking lot now open



The upgraded Bates Road parking lot at Seal Bay Park has now reopened with more space and safer access for park users. Improvements include a safer single entry/exit point for vehicles and a new pedestrian entrance area with kiosk. Parking has increased from 35 stalls to 71 stalls, including five accessible parking spots. Other amenities added include a new accessible outhouse, new bike rack, and new garbage and recycling bins. For more information about the upgrades, visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/batesparking](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/batesparking)

## Have your say: CVRD's budget planning open to public



The public is encouraged to get involved with the CVRD's budget planning process which is now underway. The CVRD currently provides over 90 services including parks, arts and culture and core services like fire and water. There are many ways to have your say before the March 31 deadline:

- Submit comments online
- Present as a delegation
- Directly contact a CVRD board member
- Call 250-334-6000 for comments/questions

Did you know? All budget presentations are open to the public and are posted on the CVRD website at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget)

## Questions?

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