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## ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA B | GABRIOLA & SURROUNDING ISLANDS

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### Huxley Community Park Update

The Huxley Community Park preferred concept plan is finalized, and will be used as a



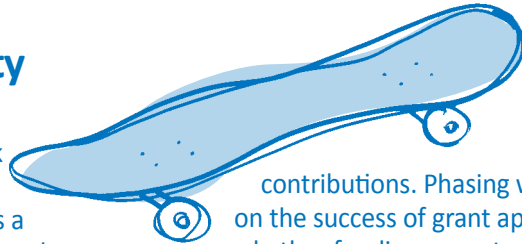
Director Howard Houle

guiding document for long-term park development. The plan is designed to provide an inviting space and a mix of recreational possibilities for the whole community, including children, youth, adults and seniors.

To create the plan, RDN Recreation and Parks completed a community consultation process, including two community open houses, two questionnaires, and discussions with Park neighbours, users and other stakeholders. Key requests from the community were for improvements to the sport courts, a skateboard/bike park, public washrooms, a playground, an expanded trail network and community gathering and special event spaces.

Based on community input, the existing park elements to remain are the tennis courts, sport court and parking areas. New elements will include a cast-in-place skate park and flow track, a plaza that can also be used as a community performance space, and a playground.

The improvements to the park will be completed in a phased approach funded through a mixture of grants, taxation, Community Works Funds and community



contributions. Phasing will depend on the success of grant applications and other funding opportunities.

The next step of the plan is to move ahead with the detailed concept plan and costing for the Skate Park and Flow Path elements of the park.

*I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Huxley Community Park community consultation process. I look forward to seeing how the park develops from here.*

### Village Trail

Design consultants are working to finalize the trail plan for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure approval (anticipated for the end of April). Once the approval is in place we can move ahead with the tender process, hopefully in May. Construction on the trail will begin as soon as possible after the tender is awarded.



### RDN Rebates

The RDN is offering new rebates in Spring 2015.



#### DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION REBATES

The Rainwater Harvesting Incentive provides up to \$750 to install a cistern (min. 1000 imperial gallons) and other rainwater harvesting system components.

#### RURAL WATER QUALITY STEWARDSHIP REBATES

**Water Quality Testing:** 50 per cent of the cost of comprehensive water quality tests for private well owners.

**Wellhead Protection Upgrades:** \$50 to \$500 for upgrades to existing well construction to improve groundwater protection, including upgrades to well cap, well casing stick-up, surface seal or well closure.

*These rebates are available to all RDN residents. Applications may be submitted beginning on April 1, 2015.*

#### SEPTIC MAINTENANCE REBATE

Starting in June 2015, RDN residents may claim up to \$600 to help maintain their onsite (septic) system. The RDN will provide 75 per cent of the costs, up to a maximum of \$200 each for:

- A Custom Maintenance Plan
- Installing an Effluent Filter
- Installing a Riser

To qualify for the rebate, maintenance must be performed by an authorized person (a registered onsite wastewater >

## highlights

- \* Huxley Community Park Update
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practitioner or a professional engineer or geoscientist) between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2015.

The RDN is offering free SepticSmart workshops in May and June to review septic care and maintenance tips. Rebates are limited in number, and some are reserved for SepticSmart participants.

*If you would like to attend, please pre-register by calling (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069.*

## GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

### Home Energy Assessments (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners who complete a home energy assessment can receive a \$150 to \$200 rebate. An additional rebate is available if the follow-up assessment shows an increase in your home's EnerGuide rating.



### Woodstove Exchange Program

Homeowners can receive \$250 by replacing an old wood-burning appliance with an EPA-certified wood burning, pellet, or gas stove or insert.

### Graded Site-Cut Timber

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners who have site-cut timber graded for use in a structure requiring a building permit can receive a rebate up to \$250.

### Renewable Energy Systems

(Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

A \$250 rebate is available to residents who purchase and install an eligible renewable energy system.

### Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Residents who install an eligible Level 2 EV Charging Station can apply for this \$250 rebate.

### Sustainable Development Checklist (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Homeowners and owner-builders can receive between \$500 and \$1000 for achieving a high Checklist score when building an efficient home.

### NEW IN 2015

### ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Incentive (Electoral Areas and Lantzville)

Residents who purchase an eligible ENERGY STAR® clothes washer in May and June 2015 can access a \$100 - \$200 rebate from BC Hydro.

### Oil Furnace Replacement Incentive

The Province is developing a program to encourage residents to exchange oil furnaces for electric heat pumps. Watch the RDN website for more information.

See [www.rdnrebates.ca](http://www.rdnrebates.ca) for details on how to claim your rebates. Rebates are first-come first-served until funds are exhausted.

## Changes to Septage Fees

The RDN is transitioning to a user-pay system for septage disposal as of July 1, 2015.

Septage, which is the sewage from septic tanks, is taken to RDN wastewater facilities for treatment and disposal. It costs 23 cents per gallon to treat septage, but users pay 18 cents per gallon. Once the transition to a fully user-pay system takes effect, septage costs will go up to 23 cents per gallon. This increase is necessary to fully cover the costs of processing as the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre is upgraded to secondary treatment.

## Curbside Collection App

Simplify your life with the RDN curbside collection reminder feature and mobile app! In November, 2014, the RDN launched this new feature to help our curbside collection customers remember their specific collection day and which bins to put out.



- EMAIL
- VOICEMAIL
- TWITTER
- ICALENDAR
- DOWNLOAD THE APP

Check out the app on our Facebook page or visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the Curbside Collection image at the top right side of the page.



If you haven't heard about the RDN's popular Team WaterSmart program yet, visit [www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca)

for this spring's free workshop series, tips on water conservation and water quality protection and the Team WaterSmart KidsZone.