

C

ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA C | EXTENSION | ARROWSMITH-BENSON | EAST WELLINGTON-PLEASANT VALLEY

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Benson Meadows Path

Work on the Benson Meadows Path is now complete and I have received many positive comments about the improvements. The Meadow Drive and Ridgeview Place trails were put in by the area developer along



Director Maureen Young

the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road allowance and in recent years had become overgrown and quite degraded. The RDN has now taken over formal management and maintenance of the trails by way of a permit with

MOTI. As part of the same agreement the RDN now manages and maintains the nature trail that runs north from the end of Ridgeview Place to West Road within the Friday Road right-of-way.



Thanks to funding made available through the Community Works Fund (Federal Gas Tax Fund) the RDN has been able to make significant improvements to these trails, also known as the

Benson Meadows Path. The trails are now thoroughly cleaned up, with fresh gravel, widened walking area and a new culvert on the east side of Meadow Drive at the Ridgeview intersection. There are also two new pedestrian crossing signs on Meadow Drive and new directional signs at the trail junctions.

I would like to thank RDN Parks and Trails staff and Graf Excavating for the improvements to this community trail.

Ammonite Falls Parking

Visitors hiking in the Ammonite Falls area at Benson Creek Falls Regional Park are now making regular use of the free Regional District of Nanaimo parking lot at Creekside Place Community Park. This is a positive change for residents.

When park users park illegally in no parking and tow away zones along the roadsides on Jameson Road and Creekside Place, their actions cause traffic congestion and safety issues for residents and visitors. The new parking lot at Creekside Place Community Park is conveniently located about a minute's walk from the Jameson Road end trail access.

Nanaimo RCMP have been authorized to ticket and tow all illegally parked vehicles on Jameson Road and Creekside Place.

Anders and Dorrit's Community Park

The gate to Anders and Dorrit's Community Park was closed periodically last winter, while work crews were removing the former residence located on the property. The residence was removed in December, 2014, and the park is now open daily for public use.

Extension Miners Community Park

Congratulations and thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the new covered bridge in Extension Miners Community Park a reality. This bridge was completed in the Fall of 2014 and is reminiscent of some of the old mining structures once seen in this area. It was designed and built largely due to the efforts of Gary Britt and the group of volunteers who worked with him.

Improvements to this community park will continue in the summer of 2015, when the RDN and community volunteers will collaborate on trail work.

Transit Update

As the result of a request from the RDN Board of Directors, BC Transit is currently analyzing potential transit markets between regions, including the RDN and Ladysmith and the RDN and the Comox Valley. This work will help BC Transit and RDN Transit to understand if transit services between these areas could be possible at some point in the future. BC Transit has hired SNC Lavalin to conduct a market research report to look at potential transit ridership markets between the RDN and these two areas.

All of the Transit Future Plans on Vancouver Island identify the need for future transit connections between regions including, Victoria, the Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, the Comox Valley and Campbell River. With this in mind, BC Transit's analysis will include Campbell River and Victoria as this information may be needed for other inter-regional connections at a future date.

RDN Rebates

The RDN is offering new rebates in Spring 2015.

DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION REBA

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



This flyer is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area C. Overlapping postal routes could result in some City of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.

highlights

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- * Transit Update

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER.



RDN AREA C ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

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 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 for details on how to claim your rebates. Rebates are first-come first-served until funds are exhausted.

Upcoming SepticSmart Workshop

Free SepticSmart workshops are available this spring through the RDN's Wastewater Services department. The workshops offer septic system care and maintenance tips, information about the RDN's Septic Maintenance Rebates, and the opportunity

to ask questions of industry experts. The workshop scheduled in this area of the region is on Monday, May 25, from 6-8 pm at the Jonanco Hobby Shop in Extension (2745 White Rapids Road).

If you would like to attend, please pre-register by calling (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069. For more information visit www.septicmart.ca.

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



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