



# Comox News

November 2009

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## Official Community Plan update

The Town of Comox will begin an update of its Official Community Plan (OCP) this month. The OCP sets the general direction for land use and development in the Town of Comox.

The Arlington Group will be the lead consultant for the OCP project, which will address a wide range of issues including servicing, sustainability, urban design, economic development, greenhouse gases, seniors and youth involvement. Specific challenges include planning to meet anticipated population and demographic changes, diversifying the Town's housing stock, providing affordable housing, adopting land use plans for newly incorporated areas and addressing climate change.

Mayor Paul Ives indicated that public consultation will form an important part of the OCP process. Since the OCP effectively outlines a decision making process for managing growth, it will affect all residents. It is important for the public to know they are able and encouraged to take an active role.

The new OCP will begin with a kick-off public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on



November 16, 2009. All residents are invited. This meeting will review the OCP process and invite residents to identify key issues of concern. Following this, a meeting the following afternoon will be held at 2:15 p.m. to focus on Age-Friendly Community Planning initiatives that will be of particular interest to seniors. Both meetings will take place at the d'Esterre Seniors' Centre at 1801 Beaufort Avenue.

Following the initial two meetings, there will be opportunities for residents to participate at the local neighbourhood level.

Please see the website noted at the end of this article, which will provide information throughout the 18 month OCP update.

It is important for residents, businesses, investors and developers to participate in the OCP process. Please join us in setting Comox's direction for the future. Completion of the new OCP is anticipated in the spring of 2011.

### Initial Public Meetings:

#### **Kick-off meeting**

November 16, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
d'Esterre Seniors' Centre  
1801 Beaufort Avenue

#### **Age-Friendly Community Planning meeting**

November 17, 2009  
2:15 p.m.  
d'Esterre Seniors' Centre  
1801 Beaufort Avenue

For up to date information, look for a link on the Town's website coming soon.

### *Inside:*

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- **New staff member**
- **Snow and ice control**
- **Update on beverage recycling containers**
- **Brooklyn Creek channel enhancements completed**
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## New solar hot water system



This past summer, the Town of Comox commissioned TerraTek Energy Solutions Inc. to install a solar hot water system in the Marina Park public restroom facility. This project, funded in part through Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services, Solar B.C. and Natural Resources Canada, is this first project of this

type constructed in one of our municipal facilities.

This initiative is an important step forward in embracing new technologies that will ultimately lead to energy savings and improved climate stewardship. The solar collection system gathers energy from the sun to heat fluids that, in turn,

## Snow and ice control

During snow and ice events, the Town will make every effort to provide for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Roads will be ploughed upon accumulations of 10 cm of snow, or when lesser accumulations result in dangerous conditions.

Roads will be ploughed in the following order: arterial roads, collector roads, local roads, cul-de-sacs and lanes. In addition, priority is given to routes serving public facilities such as the fire hall, hospital, Town hall, school zones, bus routes and the Comox Recreation Centre.

Ploughing will result in a channel of snow across driveways and accesses. The Town regrets that we simply do not have the resources to clear these channels afterwards.

Removal of snow from sidewalks in the downtown

area is the responsibility of commercial and multifamily property owners. Please have your sidewalks cleared by 10:00 a.m., and we encourage you to help others who can't.

Snow and ice removal from sidewalks along arterial and major collector roads outside of the downtown area will be undertaken by the Town. Please note that priority will first be given to clearing one side only. Staff will also endeavour to clear snow and ice from sidewalks fronting municipal properties.

Homeowners, please do not block sidewalks when clearing driveways. We also encourage you to clear sidewalks fronting your properties and ***to help others who are not able to clear their own driveways and sidewalks.***

heat water in a solar storage tank using a heat exchanger. The collectors are mounted on the south facing rooftop.

In effect, the water being used in the restrooms is pre-heated water coming from the solar storage tank. The pre-heated water being dispensed has been produced by more energy efficient means rather than conventional electric hot water supply methods.

## New staff member

The Town has hired an Engineering Technician to help out with project management, utilities inventory, mapping and updates to the Town's geographical information system (GIS). Shelley Ashfield brings to the Town a wealth of skills and knowledge in the field of civil engineering, and holds a Professional Engineering designation. Welcome to the Town, Shelley, and we're very glad to have you join our team!

## Update on beverage recycling containers

The beverage recycling containers are working out very well. Generally speaking, the public are using the containers for their recommended use, as we are finding little contamination with garbage in them. The containers are emptied twice a week, with the proceeds from cans and bottles going to Y.A.N.A.

for the remainder of 2009 and 2010.

In addition to the container located on the north side of Comox Avenue by the Mall, two additional ones have now been installed in Marina Park – one on the pier and one near the eastern boat ramp of the Municipal Marina.



## Brooklyn Creek channel enhancements completed

Channel enhancements in the lower portion of Brooklyn Creek were completed in September. Last year, the Town and the Brooklyn Creek Streamkeepers Society, along with volunteers and biologists targeted areas of the path and stream between Balmoral and Comox Avenues that had been adversely impacted by erosion and encroachment. This year, the recently completed upgrades were to the 215m long channel section to the south of Comox Avenue.

Various volunteer groups and programs, as well as key funding partners and local businesses helped with the installation of instream fish habitat, bank revetment, relocation of the popular footpath and the replanting of native species in areas disturbed during construction. In addition, volunteers helped with plant salvage and relocation, site isolation and fish/amphibian salvage, installation of new riparian stock, placement of spawning gravel and the removal of debris from the enhancement area.

The Town of Comox thanks all parties involved with the project, and invites all down to the lower portion of Brooklyn Creek to take a stroll along the rebuilt footpath.



## Comox Fire Department

Did you know that most of our fire department's important emergency services are delivered to you by forty very dedicated and well-trained volunteer firefighters? Our five full-time staff augments this volunteer service and assists the fire department with many other activities like fire prevention, training, administration and maintenance. While we pay our volunteer firefighters for attending some of the required training and for some of their emergency responses, together they donate thousands of hours of unpaid work to our community each year.

Our fire department responds to about seven hundred calls for assistance

each year with half of these being medical in nature. The fire department operates out of a single fire station, located on Noel Ave. which was built in 1978. The fire station has been well maintained, is in a good location and should be suitable for us for many more years.

The fire department maintains a fleet of three fire engines and retires its fire engines when they reach twenty years in age. It replaces one of the three engines approximately every seven years and will replace its oldest engine (1990) next year. The fire department provides services to almost twenty thousand citizens including the Town of Comox, the Comox Fire

Protection District, the Bates Huband service area and the Comox Indian Reserve. The fire department is also a partner in a mutual aid agreement with all the other Comox Valley Fire Departments as well as the Campbell River Fire Department.

We are very fortunate to have such a great group of firefighters and an outstanding fire department. In fact we have one of the best trained fire departments in the province, with all of our firefighters trained to an internationally recognized standard. Many of our firefighters go on to higher training and several have completed various levels of the provincial Fire Officer program. Several are also

instructors in various fire service topics.

Much of this training is done in-house as our fire department also operates a firefighter training centre located behind the fire station. Firefighters from all over Vancouver Island come here for training, which is delivered using a combination of full-time and volunteer firefighters. Most weekends if you drive by the Comox Fire Station you would see fire department vehicles from several other fire departments in the parking lot.

For more information about the Department contact Fire Chief Gord Schreiner at 250-339-2432 or [firehall@comox.ca](mailto:firehall@comox.ca).

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### Staff Contacts

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Gord Schreiner  
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Public Works Superintendent

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### Council

Paul Ives  
Mayor

Russ Arnott  
Councillor

Ray Crossley  
Councillor

Patti Fletcher  
Councillor

Ken Grant  
Councillor

Tom Grant  
Councillor

Marcia Turner  
Councillor

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.comox.ca](http://www.comox.ca)

## Completed and ongoing road projects

The Town has recently completed and nearly completed a number of road works projects, as follows:

- Guthrie Road between the crosswalk and Pritchard has been widened to allow for the extension of the bike lane along the south side.
- Audible pedestrian crossing signals have been installed at the light at Comox Avenue and Rodello Street.
- A pavement overlay was added along Church Street between Linden and Noel Avenues. In addition, sidewalk was installed along the west side of this section of Church Street.
- Sidewalk will be extended west along the south side of Beaufort Avenue between Ellis and Rodello Streets. Anticipated completion for this project is mid-November.
- Sidewalk will be installed along the south side of Buena Vista Avenue between Anderton and Ivy Roads. Anticipated completion for this project is mid-November.

### Guthrie Road bike lane extension

The extension of the bike lane along the south side of Guthrie Road was completed in late August, just in time for the school year. Partial funding for this project came from a Local Motion grant through the Provincial government. The project consisted of moving a drainage ditch southward in order to allow for the bike lane to

be extended adjacent to the road.

The Town would like to thank McElhanney for their efforts in preserving as many trees as possible along this section.



### Notices

#### Stage 2 Watering Restrictions

Please be advised that Stage 2 Watering Restrictions are still in effect.

People living at an even numbered address can use a sprinkler to water lawns on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 4:00 to 7:00 a.m. and from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. People living at an odd numbered address can do likewise on Wednesdays and Sundays.

During the Stage 2 restrictions, no washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots or exterior windows and building surfaces is permitted.

For more information, see our website.

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#### Did you know ...

*... that London Drugs will recycle much of your purchase's product packaging, including Styrofoam? Customers can simply leave product packaging at the customer service desk after purchasing, or return the packaging to the store afterwards with purchase receipt. Over the last 18 months, London Drugs claims to have diverted 50,000 pounds of Styrofoam alone from going to landfills. For more information, check out this website – [www.greendeal.ca](http://www.greendeal.ca) – or call the store.*

#### OCP OPEN HOUSE

**Don't miss the initial open house for the Official Community Plan! You will learn about the Plan, the process, how you can participate and lots of other important information.**

See Page 1 of this newsletter and our website [www.comox.ca](http://www.comox.ca) for more information.

*This newsletter is a result of Council's initiative to increase communication with residents. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to see anything in particular in upcoming editions, please contact us.*