

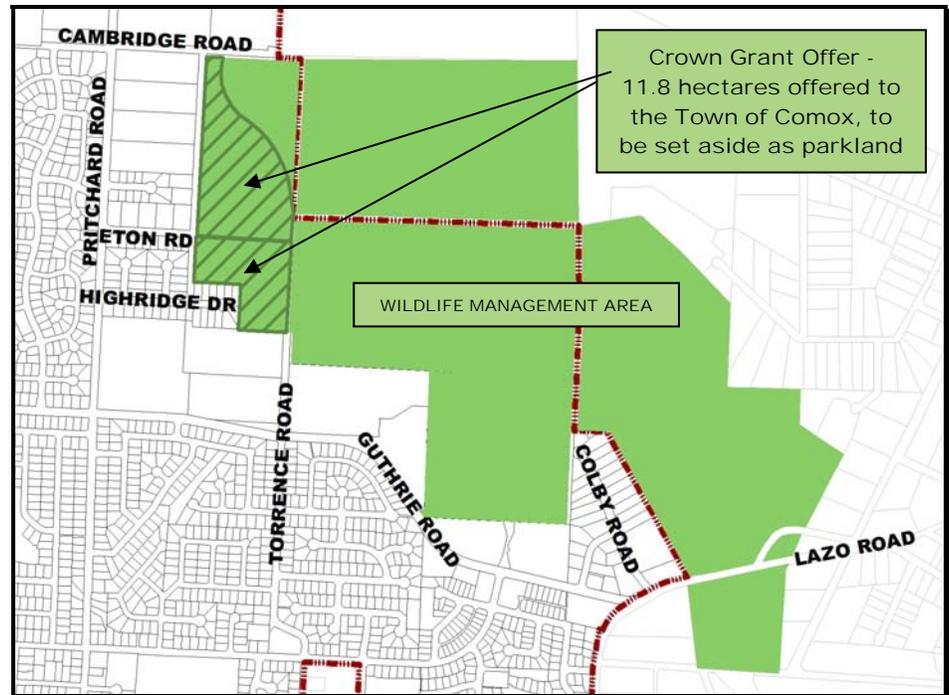


# Comox News

April 2013

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## Crown land application



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In the August 2012 newsletter, we published an article stating that the Town had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the K'omoks First Nation (KFN), regarding a joint application for several pieces of Crown land. The MOU specified that KFN would receive the Crown grant, and that some of the land (adjacent to the North-east Comox / Lazo Marsh Wildlife Management Area and known locally as DL

194) would be leased back to the Town as parkland.

After the submission, the Town was advised that First Nations' are not eligible for Crown Grants. A separate application in the name of the Town was subsequently submitted for the portion of lands that were to be leased for parkland.

We are excited to advise that the Provincial government has now

offered a Crown grant for these lands. At its Regular Meeting of April 17, 2013, Council accepted the terms of the offer and at the same time gave First and Second Readings to a zoning amendment bylaw that will rezone the lands from residential to park and nature conservation. It is expected that the zoning amendment bylaw will be adopted at the May 15, 2013 Regular Meeting of Council.

## Council meeting videos

Did you know that you now have the option of enjoying Council meetings from the comfort of your

home? Meeting videos are now posted on our website as soon as the meetings have finished.

To view the videos, go to:

[www.comox.ca/council/council-meeting-videos/](http://www.comox.ca/council/council-meeting-videos/)

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals



Two very deserving members of the Town of Comox were recipients of Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals on February 8, 2013. Mayor Paul Ives and Fire Chief Gord Schreiner were presented medals at a local fire safety event at the Comox Fire Hall by Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond, as well as our local MLA and Minister of Education Don McRae. They were awarded in recognition of both Mayor Ives' and Chief

Schreiner's exemplary civic service and community involvement. Congratulations to both!

Four very deserving members of the community, who were nominated by Comox Council, also received the awards at Council's February 27, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting. Pam Moughton, Dave Talbot, Audrey Craig and Pat Halliday were awarded medals for their significant and generous contributions to the community.

## Road projects

The 2013 – 2017 Financial Plan includes many road resurfacing projects. In addition to widening Military Row for bike lanes, we are hoping to resurface the following roads this year: Guthrie Road (from Shamrock Place to Linshart Road), Beach Drive, Cedar Avenue, Cortez Crescent, Denman Street, Fir Avenue, Hawthorn Place, Hemlock Avenue, Holly Place,

Murphy Avenue, Robb Avenue (Davis to Condor Streets), and Walnut Avenue.

Notification will be provided to homeowners before construction starts, as well as provided in the newspaper and posted on our Website and Facebook pages. All paving work is expected to be completed by the end of July.

## d'Esterre Seniors' Centre

d'Esterre Seniors' Centre is undergoing more upgrades. Currently, the stairs off Wilcox Street are being replaced with a new staircase closer to the front entrance. In addition, a scooter parking pad is being

installed on the upper level near the entrance, with additional storage built below on the ground level. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of May.

## Marina Park parking lot

The west parking lot at Marina Park will be repaved this summer. At the same time, the trees will be removed as their roots are damaging the pavement. The trees will be replaced with tree wells and a more suitable species.

Users can expect parking to be restricted during construction which is anticipated to be completed by June.

Please check our Website and Facebook pages for updates.

## Anderton Park tennis courts

The project to reconstruct four of the six tennis courts at Anderton Park is currently out to tender, with construction expected to begin in June. The courts will be completely rebuilt, with new fencing and landscaping. This will complete phase 2 of a \$700,000 project, funded partly through a provincial grant from the Community Recreation Program.

New HealthBeat outdoor fitness circuit.

Reconstruction of the courts is expected to be complete by the end of August.



On October 15, 2012, phase 1 was completed with a

## Organics Compost Program



Starting the week of June 17<sup>th</sup>, residents currently receiving yard waste pickup in the Town of Comox will see this service expanded to include kitchen scraps (organics). The Regional District will begin a pilot program to compost organics collected from the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland at a new composting site located at the existing Comox Valley Waste Management Centre.

Studies (and practice in other municipalities) have shown that the amount of waste going to a landfill can

be significantly reduced by the implementation of a curbside organics program. This, in turn, extends the life of a landfill, resulting in deferred costs to residents in the long term.

Kitchen scraps should be placed in a separate curbside container that has a secure lid to keep animals out. Residents will be provided with a label for their curbside container.

For more information, see:

[www.cswm.ca/organic\\_composting](http://www.cswm.ca/organic_composting).

## Adoption of Financial Plan

Council has adopted its 2013 – 2017 Financial Plan, based on its four strategic priorities of downtown vitalization; fiscal balance and infrastructure asset management; improving planning application timelines and processes; and Official Community Plan implementation. This year, Council will spend over \$22 million on Town services.

In the past several years, Council has spent an increased amount on road resurfacing in order to reduce the “infrastructure gap”. This year, road

resurfacing makes up the largest component of Town spending, at nearly \$3 million. Water and sewer also continue to be large components of the budget this year, at \$2.7 and \$2.3 million, respectively.

For more information on the Financial Plan, see our website at [www.comox.ca](http://www.comox.ca). More details will also be provided in the next newsletter focused on finances, which will be mailed with your tax notices once the tax rates have been set, before May 31, 2013.

## Ellis Street crosswalk

JR Edgett Excavating Ltd. is now working on the Ellis Street Crosswalk Project, installing a crosswalk across Comox Avenue at the east side of Ellis Street. A sidewalk will also be installed along the west side of Ellis Street so that

pedestrians from Comox Avenue can access the west leg of Beaufort Avenue without having to cross in an unmarked crosswalk at Beaufort Avenue and Ellis Street. The \$90,000 project is expected to be completed by the middle of May.

## Pedestrian-activated crosswalk beacons

Pedestrian-activated crosswalk beacons have now been installed at the crosswalk on Beaufort Avenue, linking the pathway on the north side of the street to d'Estre Seniors' Centre and Marina Park. They will also be installed at the new crosswalk across Comox Avenue at Ellis Street.

With more of these beacons in use, it is important to understand how they work. Once the beacons are activated, (i.e., once the

walk button is pushed), the lights begin to flash, alerting drivers that someone wishes to cross the road. However, they do not stop traffic in the same manner as traffic lights would and, therefore, a “walk” signal for pedestrians cannot be implemented.

**NOTE that it is still your responsibility to ensure that all drivers have seen you and stopped before crossing the road. Please use care.**



## Town of Comox

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Recreation Director

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### Council

Paul Ives  
Mayor

Patti Fletcher  
Councillor

Ken Grant  
Councillor

Tom Grant  
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon  
Councillor

Barbara Price  
Councillor

Maureen Swift  
Councillor

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
**comox.ca**

## Accessory buildings, decks and sunrooms

With the good weather arriving, people are considering smaller construction projects on their property. There are a few things to consider with respect to building permit requirements.

The first is that a building permit is required for construction and renovation of accessory buildings, decks and sunrooms. This is to ensure that your project meets appropriate safety standards, as well as location and size requirements. Ensuring that you have all of the proper permits in place before beginning your construction project also helps eliminate potential issues when selling your home.

### Cottonwood Greenway

Now that the weather is more favourable, crews will soon begin working on the Cottonwood Greenway project again. This greenway will run from Noel Avenue just east of Church Street, south to meet up with an existing pathway that connects Church Street to Dogwood Avenue, and then head southeast parallel with Dogwood Avenue to Cottonwood Lane. The surface of the pathway was changed from a paved surface to one that is permeable, which will allow it to meander through the existing trees, thereby requiring fewer trees to be removed.

Please note that building permit requirements differ depending on the proposed size of your building. Patio slabs on grade (at ground level) do not require a permit; however, any raised deck, no matter how high or whether attached to the house, requires a building permit. All roof type structures or sunrooms installed over a patio or deck, or constructed as an addition to a house, also require a building permit.

If you are considering any of the above projects, or any other type, please call the Building Inspector at 250 339-2259 for permit requirements or other general information.



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## Notices

### Locating underground services

Every time you dig in the ground, wherever it may be, you run the risk of loss of life or damage to property if you hit any of the many buried cables, conduits, gas or oil pipelines and/or other underground facilities that serve our cities, towns, and rural areas.

**BEFORE you dig please call the [CALL BEFORE YOU DIG](tel:18004746886) service (1 (800) 474-6886) to request location information.**

This is a free service.

*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.*

### Facebook site

The Town of Comox is on Facebook! Please check our site often for updates, and provide your comments –

[www.facebook.com/TownofComox](http://www.facebook.com/TownofComox).