



# Comox News

*We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q' a'*

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## Town of Comox election results



*From left to right: Councillor Bissinger, Councillor Grant, Councillor Minions, Mayor Arnott, Councillor McGowan, Councillor Swift, Councillor McKenna*

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Voter turnout continued to be strong in the Town, with nearly 4,400 voters (just over 39% of eligible voters) casting ballots in the municipal election last October. This compared with an average turnout of nearly 36% for all local governments in BC.

Congratulations to newly elected Mayor Russ Arnott, who was a former Council-

lor with the Town for seven years; returning Councillors Ken Grant and Maureen Swift; and newly elected Councillors Alex Bissinger, Stephanie McGowan, Pat McKenna and Nicole Minions.

Mayor and Council were sworn in on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by former Mayor Paul R. Ives, QC. The new Council will be in office for

a four-year period from November 2018 to November 2022.

Also, we give a special thank you for many years of dedicated service to outgoing Paul Ives, who served as Mayor for ten years and Councillor for six years prior to that; and to former Councillors Marg Grant, Hugh MacKinnon and Barbara Price.

## Online Registration – Comox recreation programs

**REGISTER NOW!**

Remember, online registration is now available for all programs! To register in a program online, go to <http://comox.ca/recreation> and click on the blue **REGISTER NOW!** button. Search for programs or use your Recreation Guide to

enter the five-digit barcode for the program you want. Visit <http://comox.ca/rec-guide> if you do not have a recreation guide handy.

Once you have selected your program of choice, click on the blue **REGISTER NOW!** button again. You will then be taken to a Log In screen, where you must

log in to your account, or create a new account if you do not already have one. After logging in to your account, you will be prompted to choose the participant and enter your payment information. If you need assistance, call the Community Centre at 250 339-2255.

## Other Flexible Plastic Packaging



Up until January 1, 2019, residents have been able to recycle plastic bags, such as grocery and produce bags, and plastic product overwrapping, such as for bread, diapers or drink flats, at Return-It Centres in both Comox (Anderton Road) and Courtenay (Puntledge Road). However, “other flexible plastic packaging” was not recyclable.

As of January 1, 2019, residents can now recycle Other Flexible Plastic Packaging, which is one of the fastest growing packaging types in the market today, at Return-It Centres in Comox and Courtenay.

Other Flexible Plastic Packaging includes film and flexible plastic that is often composed of multiple layers, such as:

- Stand up and Ziploc® type plastic pouches for granola, frozen berries, pet foods, etc.;
- Crinkly wrap packaging and bags for potato chips, dried pasta, coffee, cereal, cheese, etc.;

- Ziploc® type and other sealable flexible packaging for bulk food, pre-packaged deli meat, sandwich or freezer bags;
- Woven and net plastic bags for avocados, rice, onions, oranges, etc., and
- Non-food protective packaging for shipping envelopes, plastic air packets and bubble-wrap.

Please remember that not all flexible plastic can be recycled. At this time, plastic squeeze tubes, plastic-lined paper, paper-lined plastic, plastic strapping, 6-pack rings, biodegradable or oxo plastic, PVC/vinyl or squishy foam cannot be recycled.

If you are unsure, check Recycle BC’s What Can I Recycle? website at <https://recyclebc.ca/what-can-i-recycle/>.

## Dedicated pickleball courts

The Comox Valley’s first dedicated pickleball courts, the Rotary Highland Pickleball Courts, opened October 2018 next to the roller hockey rink at Highland’s school field property. The partnership between the Town and the school district will benefit both the students and the greater community, enabling all to participate in the popular and quickly growing lifetime sport. The five-month construction project brought together partners throughout the Comox Valley, who donated their time and resources to provide these facilities. Our thanks go out to the Courtenay Rotary Club, the Comox Valley Regional District, the Comox Valley Pickleball Association, Edgett

Excavating and Tayco Paving.

The six courts are located at Highland Park (at the corner of Guthrie Road and Torrence Road). They are open to the public weekdays before 8:30 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m., and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Schools have priority booking weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; however, the public may use the courts if they are not in use. The Town will post weekly schedules starting in the spring when the weather improves at <http://www.comox.ca/racquet-sports/>. For more information on the facilities please contact the Comox Community Centre at 250 339-2255



Marina Park Willow loses major limb. See back page for more...

## Home fire safety

Comox Fire Chief Gord Schreiner would like to remind residents that working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors really do save lives. A working smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector could very well be the best investment you ever make to protect your family and

property. After installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, please ensure that the batteries and the units themselves are replaced regularly. Residents can contact the fire department at 250 339-2432 or [firehall@comox.ca](mailto:firehall@comox.ca) if assistance is needed with smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.

## Provincial wildfire deployment

In the summer of 2018, members of the Comox Fire Department were deployed on two separate occasions to assist the Province in combating larger wildfires, both on Vancouver Island. The crew spent three days providing structure protection to several cabins at the Nanaimo Lakes fire, and nineteen days providing protection to several homes in the Zeballos area.

Comox Fire used one of two special Structure Protection trailers, which are specifically designed and equipped to provide structure protection in areas threatened by wildfires. The trailers include high-pressure pumps, approximately 150 sprinklers and miles of hose. The firefighters also have additional

training in order to be able to provide this important service

Compensation is received from the Province for this type of deployment, which goes towards both the Fire Department and the community. Funds from 2018 will go towards providing:

- enhancements to our wildfire equipment and our fire training centre,
- free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to our residents,
- a dry standpipe on the promenade (for firefighting), and
- capital reserves.

In addition, through these deployments, our firefighters gain valuable experience.

## Pesticide use in the Town

As spring approaches, many will soon start thinking about their lawns and gardens. We would like to remind residents that the Town of Comox has a bylaw regulating the non-essential use of pesticides (also referred to as the 'cosmetic' use). The Comox Pesticide Use Bylaw states that no person shall apply a pesticide on private or public land within the Town for the purpose of maintaining outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, other ornamental plants and turf. Pesticides are defined as anything used to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate a pest, which is an injurious, noxious or troublesome living organism. Traditional

chemical-based products, such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, are all considered pesticides under the Bylaw.

An education and awareness program by the Comox Valley Regional District encourages the use of pesticide alternatives, and spreads awareness about creating pesticide-free lawns and gardens. To learn more about the use of pesticide alternatives visit <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca> and search for pesticides.

To view the Comox Pesticide Use Bylaw, see <http://comox.ca/bylaws/>.



## Wayfinding Program

As the community grows, so does the need to more thoughtfully direct residents and visitors to the wide range of attractions and amenities the Town of Comox has to offer. In order to achieve this objective, a wayfinding program has been established to more clearly identify and direct people to key destinations.

Three types of signs will be used - those for identification of landmarks

and features, those for directional information and those for interpretive information.

The Town of Comox Wayfinding Program, along with other elements of community planning can be considered key components of our community infrastructure, all of which reinforce economic development opportunities while creating more sustainable and livable communities.



## Town of Comox

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Gord Schreiner  
Fire Chief

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### Council

Russ Arnott  
Mayor

Alex Bissinger  
Councillor

Ken Grant  
Councillor

Stephanie McGowan  
Councillor

Pat McKenna  
Councillor

Nicole Minions  
Councillor

Maureen Swift  
Councillor

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### We're on the Web!

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

## Removal of Marina Park Willow

Following a December snowstorm, the nearly 100 year old Willow tree in Marina Park displayed signs of deterioration by losing a 'major' limb.

Following this occurrence, construction fencing was placed around the area until the Town was able to carry out an assessment. On January 30, 2019, a professional arborist assessed the tree and determined that it is showing signs of over maturity and is in complete decline. Given the professional assessment and due to the safety of park visitors, it was decided that the best course of action was to remove the tree. It was hoped that the retained stump would sprout over time.

After removing the one trunk and a majority of limbs on the other, it appeared that the remainder of the tree was solid. At this point, the stem of the tree has been left as the Town awaits further assessment from the arborist on whether it can remain and be permitted to regrow.



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## Notices

### 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. Priority will be given to routes serving public facilities. 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. 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.

### Dog Licences

As a reminder, all dogs in the Town must have a valid dog licence, which must be renewed each year. Dog licences can be purchased anytime at Town hall or at the SPCA on Ryan Road.

### Tax Notices

Tax notices will be mailed out in May. If you have not received your tax notice by May 31, please contact the office. More information on your property tax and utility rates will be provided with your tax notice.

### Business licence renewal

Changes have been made to the process for renewing business licences. All businesses owners must now sign and submit a "Renewal Form" each year if you wish to continue operating your business in the Town. The form and applicable fees are due January 31 of each year. If you have outstanding fees, please ensure they are paid as soon as possible.

*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.*