



Comox News

October 2011

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

PLEASE, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2011 General Local Election for the Town of Comox is almost upon us so please mark your calendars with these three voting opportunities:

- **Wednesday November 9**
Advanced Poll
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Comox Community Centre
- **Wednesday November 16**
Advanced Poll
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Comox Community Centre
- **Saturday November 19**
General Voting Day
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Comox Community Centre

Electors can vote in any of the three voting opportunities, choosing the one that is most convenient.

In addition, those who expect to be away during all of the voting opportunities, or those who are unable to attend the voting place due to physical disability, illness or injury, can request a vote by mail package (note, you must be on the voter's list in order to do this). Please contact Town Hall or check our website. Out of town electors wishing to use this option must apply by November 4; those in town but unable to attend the voting place can apply at any time up until the close of voting on general voting day (November 19).

Advance voter registration is now closed and the voter's list prepared. If you would like to check whether you are registered to vote, please contact us. If you would like to view the voter's list, please visit Town Hall.

If you are not on the voter's list, you can register to vote at the time you come in to vote. In order to be eligible to register (and vote), you must:

- be 18 years of age or older by November 19;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of BC for at least 6 months before registering;
- have been a resident of Comox, or a property owner in Comox, for at least 30 days before registering;
- not be disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Those who are on the voter's list do not need to show identification at the voting place. Those that register on voting day must show two pieces of identification showing your name and address, with at least one showing your signature.

For examples of acceptable identification, see page 2.



The following have submitted nomination documents to run in this term's election:

Mayor (one to be elected)

IVES, Paul
POOLE, Bernie

Councillor (six to be elected)

PRICE, Barbara
SWIFT, Maureen
FLETCHER, Patti
CHESTER, Terry
GRANT, Ken
DAVIS, Don
PROCTOR, Dave
TURNER, Marcia
GRANT, Tom
MACKINNON, Hugh
JACKSON, Dan
ARNOTT, Russ

School Trustee (one to be elected)

COLEMAN, Peter

Estimated voter turnout in 2008 was 43.4%, up 9% over 2005. Let's all come out to vote this year, and increase turnout even more!

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Port Augusta Park pathway



A new walkway has been installed in Port Augusta Park, running along the tree line on the west side from Beaufort Avenue down to the waterfront. The new walkway is in line with Council's strategic priorities of increasing environmental responsibility as well as improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.



The gravel pathway uses a new system of honeycombed panels that interconnect as a stabilizing base. The underside of the panels is made of a durable geotextile that allows water to drain easily and prevents weed growth. When used properly, the surface is porous, helping rainwater infiltrate the soil to replenish groundwater, allowing tree roots to breathe and reducing total runoff.

For more information on this system, please contact Mr. Al Fraser, Parks Superintendent.

Acceptable forms of ID for registration

When registering to vote on voting day, you must provide two pieces of identification showing your name and address, with at least one showing your signature. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- a BC Driver's Licence,
- a BCID Card,
- an Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle Licence issued by ICBC,
- a BC Care Card or BC Gold Care Card,
- a Monthly Report Form EA181 from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance,
- a Social Insurance Card issued by Human Resources Development Canada,
- a Citizenship Card issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada,
- a property tax notice issued by the Town of Comox,
- a credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution, or
- a utility bill issued for the supply of electricity, natural gas, water, telephone services or coaxial cable services.

Guthrie Road overlay

A second layer of pavement has been added to Guthrie Road between McDonald and Aspen Roads. Also included in the project was approximately 130 metres of sidewalk along the southwest side of Guthrie Road, completing the pedestrian link along this side past McDonald Bog and towards McDonald

Road. The \$640,000 project was complete by the end of September.

Bike lanes were added along both sides of Guthrie Road, with similar green strips and road markings as along Comox Avenue.

Please remember that bikes have the right of way along the green strips.

Fall cleanup

With the arrival of this year's storm season, the Town of Comox is requesting the assistance of the public in clearing leaves and debris from catch basin grates.

The public is also reminded to not deposit or blow leaves on to the road way as our limited staff and equipment resources do not allow for prompt removal

from our road, sidewalk and catch basin surfaces.

Thank you for your cooperation!



New fire engine in service



Comox Fire Rescue purchased a new fire engine in June of this year, and is pleased that it is now in full service. The department has been busy training fire-fighters on its use as well as equipping it to fully operate safely and effectively. The new engine (Engine 34) replaces a twenty-one year old engine and is expected to service the community for the next twenty years. It will be the department's "first out" engine for most emergencies and incidents.

Engine 34 was designed by the firefighters in Comox to be much more user friendly and safer, and to allow for the rapid deployment of hose and equipment in emergencies. It has almost twice the pumping capacity as the older one and carries much more equipment. It also carries more firefighters than the two other fire engines in the Comox fleet. Whereas the others only carry five each, the new engine will carry seven.

On July 8, Comox Fire Rescue dedicated Engine 34 to former Comox Fire Chief

Frank Grogan. Frank was chief from 1974 to 1986, during which time he worked tirelessly to improve service, mentor others and increase awareness of fire safety issues. Chief Grogan was forced to leave in 1986 due to a medical condition.

The new fire engine was competitively priced and was built by Hub Fire Engines of Abbotsford, the only fire truck builder in BC. Chief Gord Schreiner states, "We are very pleased with the way this new engine has turned out. We put a lot of time and effort into making sure we got this right. We are also very pleased that we were able to purchase a fire engine in BC, which has many advantages including streamlining the design and building process."

Comox Fire Rescue is proud that their entire fleet of three engines has been built in BC by Hub Fire Engines. The fire department is also proud that all of their smaller vehicles have been purchased locally.

Comox Cultural Centre

In February of this year, the Pearl Ellis Gallery and the Comox Archives and Museum Society inquired into the use of the recently vacated space on the top floor of the old library building (1729 Comox Avenue) in order to create a cultural centre that would be more accessible

and visible, and would build community pride.

On September 10, the Pearl Ellis Gallery and the Comox Archives and Museum Society held their official opening ceremony at this new site. Please drop by to check out their expanded location!

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 drive-ways 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.

We encourage you to please help others who are not able to clear their own driveways and sidewalks.



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Glenn Westendorp
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Jim Stevenson
Recreation Manager

Council

Paul Ives
Mayor

Russ Arnott
Councillor

Patti Fletcher
Councillor

Ken Grant
Councillor

Tom Grant
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon
Councillor

Marcia Turner
Councillor

We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

Water metering update

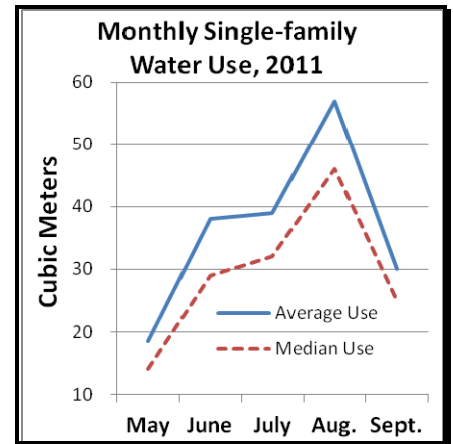
Water meters have now been installed at over 30% of the single-family homes in Town (over 1,300 homes). Meter readings since May have been posted to our website, and the results have been both useful and very interesting (see chart to the right).

For each month measured, we note that there were some customers with very high water use, particularly in August. In addition, during August, more than half of the metered homes used over 51 m³ of water, which we consider to be excessive use under our Water Use Bylaw.

In over 50 cases, excess water use has led to the identification and repair of leaks. Once we see patterns of water use that indicate leaks may exist, we have contacted and advised customers, who then may choose to inspect their system and make necessary repairs.

Some homeowners have asked us to provide a detailed breakdown of their water use in order to help determine what may be causing high use. Not surprisingly, it is often in the lawn and garden during the permitted sprinkling days and times. We have seen some properties use over 9 m³ of water per day irrigating lawns and gardens.

While we have found the water use from metered single-family homes both useful and



interesting, we have not assumed that these results are typical since they are from mostly newer homes in Comox. Comox residential customers are charged \$303 per year for water. We believe that typical single-family water use is between 250 and 350 m³ of water per residence per year.

In 2010, Council approved the metering program and agreed that metered customers would be offered the choice of continuing to pay the residential flat rate or to pay by their meter for the water they use.

For more information, see <http://comox.ca/water> or contact us.

Notices

Refuse collection

With fall upon us, we would like to remind residents of the refuse collection options available. Did you know that you are permitted unlimited weekly collection of yard waste, helping with your fall cleanup needs? Please use either compostable or biodegradable bags, or clearly marked refuse containers. Also, please ensure that prunings and branches are tied in secure bundles. For more information on refuse collection, see our website.

Recycling boxes

As the winds start to pick up, please ensure that your blue recycle bin is either loaded with the heavy items on top or covered with some kind of weighted cover. This will help to prevent recyclables from being blown around the neighbourhood.



"Official opening of Comox Ave bike lane"

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.