



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' September 2014

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

PLEASE, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2014 General Local Election for the Town of Comox is coming up quickly so please mark your calendars with these three voting opportunities:

COMOX *Votes*
NOVEMBER 15, 2014

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- *Chimney fires*
- *New lighting on the promenade*
- *New Recreation Director*

- **Wednesday November 5**
Advanced Poll
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Comox Community Centre
- **Wednesday November 12**
Advanced Poll
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Comox Community Centre
- **Saturday November 15**
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 5; 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 15).

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

If you are not on the voter's list, you can register to vote at the time that 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 15;
- 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; and
- 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 acceptable identification, see <http://comox.ca/hall/municipal-elections/>.

Scooter Rodeo

Did you know that when you drive your scooter, you are still considered to be a pedestrian? On September 9th, 17 residents took part in a Scooter Rodeo, put on by Berwick Comox Valley and Comox Recreation. Residents learned the rules, regulations, obligations and advantages of driving a scooter on Town streets. For tips on scooter safety, see the following link: <http://comox.ca/services/transportation/scooter-safety/>.

Invasive weed control



The Town of Comox has joined forces with other local governments in the Comox Valley to identify and eradicate one of the most invasive and destructive plant species. Knotweed is a hollow-stemmed shrub that resembles bamboo, and is an extremely aggressive and invasive plant that can destroy fish and wildlife habitat, penetrate pavement and potentially reduce property values. Cutting, mowing and pulling shoots stimulate more growth, and may cause roots to spread further resulting in new infestations up to 20 metres away.

Currently, knotweed populations are still small in the Comox Valley, meaning that there is the opportunity for effective and cost-effective control. Last year, the regional district launched the program, which was very

Brooklyn streamkeepers

A big thank you to more than 30 volunteers who helped rehabilitate and stabilize riffles and pools that will benefit coho salmon and cutthroat trout in Brooklyn Creek:



successful in treating select knotweed locations. This year, a knotweed alert sheet, providing information on identification, proper disposal, and reporting options has been developed and is available on the CVRD website at:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/invasiveplants.

In Comox, knotweed treatments will occur this fall on public lands located at the end of

Beach Drive, in Lions Park off Coastview Drive, on recently acquired parkland off Orchard Park Drive and along the Cottonwood Greenway.

For more information on identification of this plant and its damaging impacts; as well as other invasive species that are being managed in your area please visit:

<http://www.coastalisc.com> and click on the "Invasive Species" tab.

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!



Marina Park Vitalization Plan



The Town has engaged Cohlmeier Architecture and the Algis Corporation to help plan for the redevelopment of Marina Park. Improving the park and waterfront area, as well as improving the connections between the park and Comox Avenue, will lead to increased downtown vitality, which is one of Council's top priorities.

The consultants have been working with stakeholders, Council and staff over the past several months in order to come up with a vision. Once plans are finalized, grants from the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Western Economic Diversification Canada will be sought to partially fund the re-development.

Chimney fires

As you snuggle in front of a cozy fire or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, you are taking part in a ritual of comfort and enjoyment handed down through the centuries. The last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires, your enjoyment may be very short-lived. Why?

Dirty chimneys cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people.

Indications of a chimney fire have been described as

loud cracking and popping noises, lots of dense smoke, and an intense, hot smell. Chimney fires can also burn explosively – noisy and dramatic enough to be detected by neighbors. Flames or dense smoke may shoot from the top of the chimney. Homeowners report being startled by a low rumbling sound that reminds them of a freight train or a low flying plane.

However, those are only the chimney fires you *know* about. Slow-burning chimney fires don't get enough air or have fuel to be dramatic or visible. However, the temperatures they reach are still very high

and can cause as much damage to the chimney structure – and nearby parts of the house – as their more spectacular cousins.

Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a certified chimney sweep inspects yours, and cleans and repairs it whenever needed. Your sweep may have other recommendations depending on how you use your fireplace or stove.

Now is a good time to have your chimney inspected and cleaned, even if you have already started your winter warmth ritual. With proper care, chimney fires are entirely preventable.

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Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon
Councillor

Barbara Price
Councillor

Maureen Swift
Councillor

We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

New lighting on the promenade

In 2013, Mayor and Council received a letter from a local resident, suggesting a better lighting system for the Comox promenade. The existing system was a series of 30 sodium lighting units, set at approximately knee height, along the length of the pier. While the lower halves of the lights did a great job in lighting up the wooden deck and railings of the pier, the upper halves shone into walker's eyes and contributed to light pollution.

The resident's ideal solution was to replace the current lights with a series of downward-reflecting light emitting diodes (or LEDs), which would reduce the shine toward eyes, eliminate light pollution, save energy and reduce maintenance. It was a potential win-win-win-win all around.

Come fall, this is exactly what we will be doing. Thank you to the resident for your suggestion!

New Recreation Director

After several years of being a fabulous Recreation Director for the Town, we are sorry to see Jim Stevenson retire. Jim brought about several important changes to the Comox Recreation Centre, including a new accessible reception area, new and expanded programming for the award-winning fitness centre, and many other significant and well-received changes.

In Jim's place, former Manager of Recreation Services Mandy Johns has stepped up to the plate. We welcome Mandy to her new role and look forward to her enthusiasm and dedication to



improving recreational opportunities for residents. Mandy has recently completed many leadership courses as well as a Certificate in Local Government Service Delivery, so is well-equipped for the job. Congratulations Mandy!

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 paper bags or clearly marked refuse containers. Also, please ensure that prunings and branches are tied in secure bundles. Did you know that you can also throw your kitchen scraps into your yard waste container? Why not give it a try this winter?

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.



*Scooter Rodeo at Berwick Comox Valley,
September 9th*

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.