



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'

October 2016

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

Lazo Road foreshore protection

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Foreshore protection along a 700 metre section of Lazo Road is now substantially complete. The \$1.8 million project to protect the foreshore and road is a blend of soft engineering (anchored logs and other woody debris) and hard armoring (rip rap) methods, necessary due to the direct exposure to southeast storms and accompanying high energy waves.

The project design included many elements to mitigate the negative impacts to the shoreline and ecological processes, including:

- use of logs instead of rock in areas where waves hit with lower intensity,

- limited machinery access on the sensitive areas,
- salvage, replacement and re-vegetation of all impacted plant communities, and
- a shallow slope to the placed rock, allowing waves to roll up, rather than directly hit, the shore.

The dunegrass and beach pea species were salvaged and re-planted during construction. In addition, large pieces of driftwood were set aside and replaced in the same location as prior to construction.

The project includes an intensive re-vegetation

plan to provide for a softer, more natural appearance, with this part of the project being completed next spring. This will allow sediment to settle over the course of winter storms and give the planted vegetation a longer growing season to establish roots before winter storms hit.

The project will be completed within budget and on time. It has already proven to be very successful, and the multi-use path is already highly popular.

Thanks to Bike BC and Emergency Management BC for grants towards this project, which combined, contributed over 65% of the total cost.

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 Community 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 deposit snow onto sidewalks and/or the roadway when clearing driveways. In most cases, we will have little choice but to redirect it back to where it came from. Please remove all parked vehicles from the streets until ploughing has been completed, and help to

reduce flooding problems by keeping catch basins free from snow and debris. 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.

Readers' Choice Awards



In this year's Readers' Choice Awards, the Town of Comox was recognized for:

- Best Place to Workout (Comox Community Centre) – WINNER!
- Best Local Free Event (Nautical Days) – WINNER!
- Best Bike Friendly Community - Finalist

- Best Place to be a Tourist (Comox Marina) – Finalist
- Best Playground (Comox Marina Park) – Finalist
- Best Sports Facility (Comox Community Centre) – Finalist
- Best Local Kids Event (Easter Egg Hunt at Marina Park) – Finalist
- Best Local Event (Nautical Days) – Finalist

Thank you for your support, and congratulations to all Winners and Finalists!

Thanks also to all who contribute to making Comox a true winner!

Thank you for paying on time!

You may not realize it, but there are a few who do not pay their property taxes or claim their Home Owner Grant on time. This year, at the July 4th property tax deadline, a record high number of people had. In fact, taxes owing after the deadline were the lowest they have been since 2006.

On time collections this year were helped by a record number of online Home Owner Grants (e-HOGs) claimed. Over one thousand property owners (nearly a quarter of all) claimed their Home Owner Grant electronically by the July 4th deadline.

If you missed claiming your Home Owner Grant, you

may have taxes still owing. You still can claim it (and should, if you are eligible) until the end of 2016. No further penalties or interest will be added to the current taxes owing in this calendar year; however, any balances that remain unpaid at year-end will become interest bearing tax arrears in 2017.

Owners with questions about the property tax process, BC Home Owner Grants or their tax account balance can contact staff in the Finance Department.

Again, thank you Comox taxpayers for making this a very successful property tax collection season!

Gaglardi Academy basketball courts

The reconstruction of the basketball courts at Gaglardi Academy has now been completed, with a new, repaved surface and line painting, as well as new backstops and hoops.

This project was a very successful partnership between the Gaglardi Academy, the MacKinnon brothers, the Comox Firefighters and the Town. The refurbished courts have proven to be very popular, thanks to all who contributed!



Fort McMurray

The Community Centre engaged in a fundraiser to support the efforts of the Red Cross for those affected by the wildfire in Fort McMurray. Donations for the Red Cross were accepted at the Community Centre's front desk until May 28th. Thank you to all patrons who generously donated.

Council also provided a grant of \$1000 to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in order to help in responding to the wildfire destruction.

Brooklyn Creek wetland construction

The Brooklyn Creek wetland construction project for this year has now been completed. This year's project involved building a 60 metre long off-channel pond and wetland just south of the former

Brooklyn School, now Gaglardi Academy. This was the location of a historical wetland.

The newly created wetland connects with the main portion of Brooklyn Creek

at the southwest corner of the Gaglardi Academy property. This phase of the project has added 600 square metres of off-channel juvenile salmonid rearing habitat to the Brooklyn Creek watershed, as well as created habitat for

amphibians, reptiles, aquatic insects, birds and mammals.

The riparian areas of this new section will be restored and planted with native vegetation in late October of this year.



Hector-Aspen boundary extension

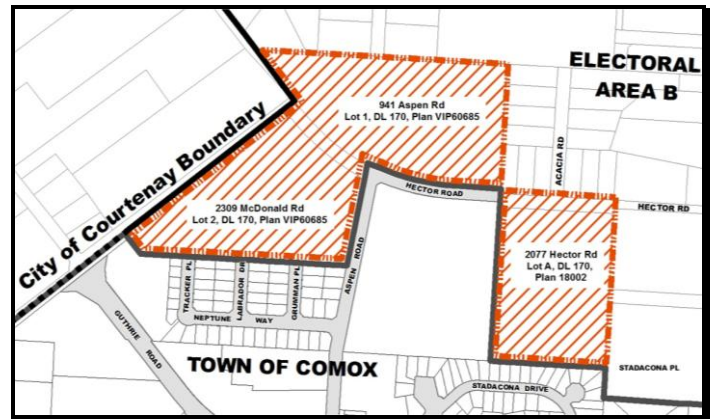
The Lieutenant Governor in Council has approved the Town of Comox's boundary extension request for three parcels of land in the Hector-Aspen Roads area.

Owners from two of the parcels approached Council in late 2013, requesting to have their lands incorporated into the Town's municipal boundary. Council agreed to forward the request to the Provincial government for processing, based on current strategic priorities.

The parcels are ideally located close to commercial centres and municipal services, and are identified in the Town's Official Community Plan as an area suited for accommodating new long-term growth

opportunities for single- and multi-family housing. Incorporating the parcels within the Town's municipal boundary is also consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy's long-term growth management principles for areas within settlement expansion areas.

Due to its proximity to Brooklyn Creek, it is important to apply best practices with respect to storm water management, and the Town will be applying some of the innovative and comprehensive methods learned in the Pritchard-Cambridge Roads area in order to ensure that the critical habitat of Brooklyn Creek is maintained.



Thanks to the Comox Valley Tennis Club

This past spring, the Town completed some landscaping work in Anderton Park, which included the installation of a drip irrigation system to service a number of trees and shrub beds. Since the installation of this micro-drip system,

thousands of labour cost dollars have been saved, and staff have noticed a dramatic improvement in overall plant health. The Town thanks the Comox Valley Tennis Club for its financial contribution to this project.



Some of the anchored logs in the Lazo Road restoration project

Robb Avenue – Phase 1



Phase 1 of the Robb Avenue reconstruction (Anderton Road to Church Street) has now been substantially completed, on time and within budget. The improvements have been appreciated by both the

community and school district, and the project is overall an excellent upgrade to the Town's infrastructure.

Phase 2 of the project (Church Street to Pritchard Road) is planned for 2017.

Public Works Building

The recently completed Public Works/Parks facility was nominated as a finalist for the 9th Annual Vancouver Island Real Estate Board Commercial Building Awards.

Mayor Ives and Harvey Goodman, project manager, attended the event and accepted an award of merit for the facility.



From left to right: Glenn Westendorp, Public Works Superintendent; Mayor Paul Ives; Shelley Ashfield, Municipal Engineer; Al Fraser, Parks Superintendent

Comox Fire Training saves water

Starting this fall, the Comox Fire Training Centre began recycling most of the water it uses for training. In addition to this, they will be capturing rain water for use in the training centre. It is expected that they will save approximately one million litres of drinking water per year.

Comox Chief Gord Schreiner had been thinking about this project for years, and is excited and pleased with the results.

The modest project was co-funded between the Town of Comox and the Comox Firefighters' Association. Hyland Precast Inc. also assisted by making a donation and supplying some of the materials.

Labour to put the project together came mostly from the firefighters themselves.



2016 Financial Plan – debt and capital projects

The final three years of the financial plan – 2018 to 2020 - proposes to reallocate tax revenue from debt repayment to capital projects, as the last of the Town's general debt issues are paid off in 2017 and 2018. As a result, the final three years of the plan show greater pavement resurfacing (2 kilometers in 2018, 2.5 km in 2019 and 3 km in 2020).

Since road surfaces are expected to last at least 30 years, a good rule to follow in order to keep roads in good condition is to re-surface 1/30th, or about 3% per year. Since the Town has over 80 km of paved roads, this would result in approximately 2.67 km per year. Reaching 3.0 km by 2020 shows that we expect to reduce the number of roads that are overdue (the "infrastructure deficit").

Town of Comox

1809 Beaufort Avenue
Comox, BC V9M 1R9

PHONE:
(250) 339-2202

FAX:
(250) 339-7110

E-MAIL:
town@comox.ca

Staff Contacts

Richard Kanigan
Chief Administrative Officer

Shelley Ashfield
Municipal Engineer

Al Fraser
Parks Superintendent

Don Jacquest
Treasurer

Mandy Johns
Recreation Director

Marvin Kamenz
Municipal Planner

Shelly Russwurm
Deputy Corporate Administrator

Gord Schreiner
Fire Chief

Council

Paul Ives
Mayor

Russ Arnott
Councillor

Ken Grant
Councillor

Marg Grant
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon
Councillor

Barbara Price
Councillor

Maureen Swift
Councillor

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See us at:
comox.ca

Easter Eggstravaganza at Marina Park



Thank you to all who participated in the successful Easter Eggstravaganza on March 28, 2016 at Marina Park! The Eggstravaganza was able to host over 1000 people at Marina Park for some face painting, chocolate candy eating, thrilling games and activities, all to support a great local cause, YANA! Together with the Investors Group, The Town of Comox was able to raise over \$3000 for local families in need.

Thanks to numerous local sponsors – Quality Foods, McDonalds, Superstore, The Eagle, Comox Fire Rescue, Mountain City Cycle, Marc Villanueva Realty, LePage Realty, RCMP, Citizens on Patrol and Relay Event Rentals – who helped provide a fun, exciting and colourful day for the entire Community. We would also like to thank all the kids who came out, with Easter baskets in tow, to enjoy the beautiful weather and fun.

Notices

Fall cleanup

With the arrival of this year's storm season, once again the Town of Comox is requesting your assistance in clearing leaves and debris from catch basin grates. This is the best way to prevent flooding.

Please also do not deposit or blow leaves on to the road way as our limited staff and equipment do not allow for prompt removal.

Thank you for your cooperation!



911 Emergency: Help us help you

1 2 3 4 5

In the case of an emergency, such as a fire, medical or policing issue, the difference of a few minutes can mean the difference between life and death. **We need to be able to find you!**

Fire Chief Gord Schreiner recommends checking your own house numbers from the street on a dark raining night. Numbers should be highly visible, at least 3" in height and preferably reflective.

Reflective numbers are available at various retailers as well as the Comox Valley Monarch Lions Club. For more information, contact the fire department.

Marina Park washrooms

Due to construction activity in and around the washrooms at Marina Park, the facility will be closed for an undetermined amount of time.

Two Handi Portable restrooms have been located in the park – one is located in the East parking lot near the front walkway and grids, the other is located next to the life jacket stand near the boat launch walkway.

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.