

# Perspectives

A REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO PUBLICATION

## RDN Camping

It's camping season again! We look forward to welcoming you to our RDN campgrounds at Descanso Bay Regional Park and Horne Lake Regional Park. Both campgrounds offer spectacular water views, year-round camping and all the peace and quiet you could wish for.

Descanso Bay Regional Park is a beautiful 40-acre oceanfront property on Gabriola Island, easy walking or cycling distance from the ferry. The park has 32 campsites and is next door to the 113-acre Cox Community Park with its delightful network of forested trails. High season camping rates (April through September) are \$17 per night. Year-round, the non-profit youth group camping rate is \$2.50 per person per night. Call (250) 247-8255 to book a site.

Horne Lake Regional Park covers over 269 acres of lake and riverfront and is located next to Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park. The Regional Park features forest, lake and mountain views, as well as a boat ramp, canoe and kayak rentals, programming and a day-use picnic area. There are wooded and lakefront campsites available as well as two large group sites (minimum of 15 people and maximum 64 people per group site per night). High season camping rates are \$20 per night for wooded sites, \$24 for lakefront sites, \$40 for shared sites and \$75 for group sites. The special rate for non-profit youth groups using the group sites is \$2.50 per person per night. To book a site call (250) 248-0500.

*For more information about RDN parks and campgrounds visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and search Camping, or call (250) 248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069.*

## RDN Parks and Trails –Wildlife Tips

Many of our Regional Parks are home to large mammals like cougars and black bears. For centuries these majestic creatures have hunted and foraged, mated, and raised kittens and cubs in the lands and waters we now call our parks.

Protection of the natural habitat for wildlife is a high priority for the RDN Parks Department and all of our partnering agencies. Balancing recreational enjoyment with conservation means we must respect the natural environment and realize that as park visitors, we are stepping into the home of these beautiful and wild animals.

While an encounter with a bear or cougar is unlikely, here are some simple tips to help ensure a safe and enjoyable park visit.

### While Visiting Wilderness Parks

- Do not litter - use the garbage cans provided, or take out what you bring in.
- Do not feed any wildlife, including birds and squirrels.
- Avoid hiking alone.
- Talk, sing or make noise to prevent surprising an animal.
- Keep children close to you and pets under control at all times.
- Be alert and watch for tracks or other signs of wildlife, especially at dusk or dawn.

#### If you see a: BLACK BEAR

- STAY CALM
- Do not approach it.
- Do not look it in the eyes.
- Back away slowly, keep it in view.
- Talk in a calm, soft voice.



#### COUGAR

- STAY CALM
- Do not approach it.
- Pick up children immediately.
- Back away slowly.
- Do not turn your back to it.



- Do not play dead.
- Do not run.
- Remember: Black Bears can run quickly, climb trees and swim.
- Do not bend down low.
- No sudden movements.
- Make yourself look big.
- Do not run.

*If you observe an animal that appears threatening, persistent or aggressive call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.*

## Vancouver Island Rail Trail Update

Design work is continuing on the RDN's first section of the Vancouver Island Rail Trail within the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway corridor. Over 150 people attended a project open house on Oct. 9, 2014, and overall there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm about the trail.

The RDN received \$2.6 million in funding support for this project through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. When completed, this 10km section of trail will serve as a pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian route connecting the City of Parksville, Coombs and French Creek.

Various approvals are required prior to the start of construction. A phased construction process for the trail will likely begin in early 2016, pending required approvals.

## Morden Colliery Trail and Bridge

In 2014, the RDN retained Herold Engineering to complete a feasibility study for a bridge over the Nanaimo River within the Morden Colliery Regional Trail corridor. This study was completed in September, 2014, and will be used as a guide for future bridge development.

The RDN identified the need for this crossing in both the 2005 Regional Parks and Trails Plan and the 2009 Electoral Area A Active Transportation Plan. A bridge and trail connector between the communities of South Wellington and Cedar would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle use, enhance local recreational opportunities and provide an important active transportation link between the communities of South Wellington and Cedar.

The RDN currently holds a non-exclusive, 20-year License of Occupation (1995-2015) for the six Crown parcels that constitute the Morden Colliery Regional Trail. An application to the Province for an exclusive, 30-year lease (2015-2045) is now in progress. The RDN and area First Nations are actively involved in this process. Future bridge development and trail expansion will only proceed if the Crown Lease is secured.

FIRE  
SEASON  
PAGE 4

## What's Inside:

- 2 RDN TRANSIT EXPANSION
- 2 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW
- 3 SECONDARY TREATMENT PROJECT

[www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

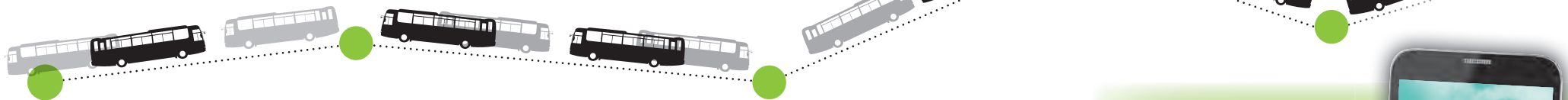


## RDN Transit Update

### Transit Expansion

Big changes are underway at RDN Transit. In September, transit service will increase by 5000 hours. As a result of the expansion, a new route called the #40 Express will be implemented. This route will connect Woodgrove Centre, Nanaimo North Town Centre, Country Club Centre, Vancouver Island University and downtown Nanaimo with 10-to-15-minute service for most of the day. Other transit changes include improved service to the route 25 - Ferry Shuttle.

In addition to the expanded service, RDN Transit is also introducing a new route numbering system. Starting in September, all routes that operate between the Woodgrove exchange and the Prideaux exchange will use double digit numbers ending in zero (0). For example route 2 will become route 20, route 3 will become route 30, and route 8 and 9 will become route 50 (both directions).

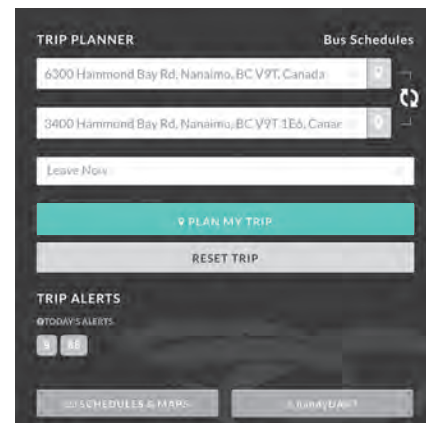


As part of the September transit expansion, Parkville's route 88 will be receiving expanded service and a small community bus. Also, RDN Transit has worked with the City of Parkville to relocate its transit stops from Wembley Mall to the area along the highway in front of the mall. This change includes both the route 88 - Parkville and the route 90 - Intercity, and will make travel more efficient for transit riders. RDN Transit has also added new and improved bus shelters in this location for the convenience of our riders.

### Google Trip Planner

Planning a trip on RDN Transit is a snap with the Google Trip Planner. This **new tool launched in February, 2015** can tell you how to reach your destination by transit, walking, cycling or a combination of the three. Just tell the system where you'd like to go and it will do the work for you!

To get started on the Google Trip Planner, visit <http://bctransit.com/nanaimo>



### Solid Waste Management Plan Review

The RDN is updating its Solid Waste Management Plan to identify ways to increase waste diversion and dispose of the waste that is left over in an effective, economical and environmentally responsible manner. The Plan determines how we will reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of our leftover waste for the next 10 to 20 years.



The Solid Waste Management Plan Review is a three-stage process. During Stage 1, we reviewed our existing system for managing solid waste. The Stage 1 report is available at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca). In Stage 2, the current stage, we are exploring innovative ways to manage discarded items that can't be diverted yet, looking at new ideas for reducing, reusing, recycling and composting, and analyzing our current system to identify areas for improvement. We will also be considering ways to extend the life of the region's landfill beyond its current 20-year capacity.

Stage 3 of the SWMP Review will offer opportunities for public input and provide information on a variety of approaches to waste reduction. At this stage, we will work with the community to set a new waste diversion target for the region.

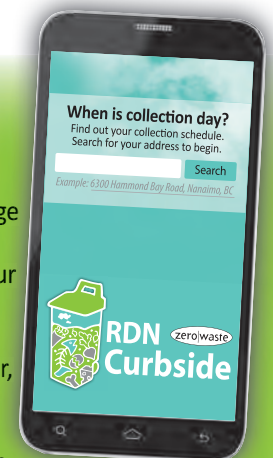
As part of the review, the RDN will be consulting with the community

to gather feedback about solid waste management. Earlier this spring, 437 residents responded to a survey about our solid waste management. There will be more opportunities to get involved as the review progresses. If you are interested in participating, watch for information on the Solid Waste and Recycling page at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca), follow us on Twitter (@RDNanaimo) or like the Regional District of Nanaimo on Facebook. This will help you keep up-to-date on upcoming public open houses and presentations about the draft Plan.

*Your input is valuable in creating an updated plan that will meet the region's waste management needs in a sustainable manner. For more information about the Solid Waste Management Plan Review, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) / Services / Solid Waste or call the Solid Waste Department at (250) 390-6560 or 1-877-607-4111.*

### Curbside Collection App

If you receive curbside garbage and recycling collection from the RDN, you can simplify your life with the RDN curbside collection reminder feature and mobile app! In November, 2014, the RDN launched this new feature to help our curbside collection customers remember their specific collection day and which bins to put out. Our customers can now set up email, phone and online calendar reminders as well as download the reminder app. No more rushing to the curb at the last minute!



Check out the app on our Facebook page or visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the Curbside Collection image at the top right side of the page.

- EMAIL
- VOICEMAIL
- TWITTER
- ICALENDAR
- DOWNLOAD THE APP

City of Nanaimo residents can check collection schedules and set up email collection day reminders by visiting the City website [www.nanaimo.ca](http://www.nanaimo.ca).

## Wastewater Services – Secondary Treatment Project

Wastewater treatment is necessary to protect the health of our region. Efficient sewer service is one of the fundamental qualities which allow an area to evolve into a complete community. The Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre on Hammond Bay Road in Nanaimo provides chemically-enhanced primary wastewater treatment services for approximately 93,000 people and businesses in the City of Nanaimo, the District of Lantzville, and on Snuneymuxw First Nation IR #1.

The Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre must be expanded and upgraded to provide secondary-level wastewater treatment. This project is necessary to:

increase capacity and meet the demand from growth

Site preparation and detailed engineering design for this project are underway. Construction is scheduled to begin mid-2016 and should be complete in the fall of 2018. This project will cost an estimated \$62 million. About 50 per cent of the costs will facilitate growth and will be funded with Development Cost Charges, monies collected from land developers as new buildings are added to the service area to offset the cost of adding capacity. The remaining 50 per cent will be funded through tax requisition.

replace ageing infrastructure

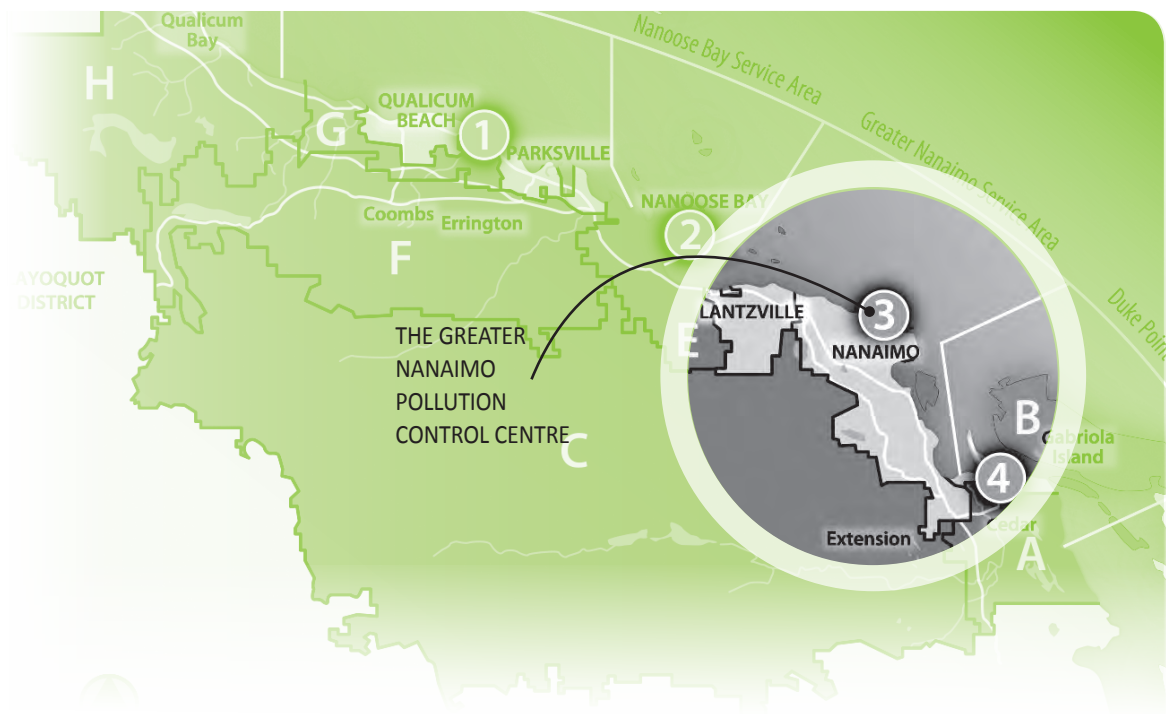
The RDN continues to apply for federal and provincial grants to minimize the need for taxation and borrowing and to reduce the amount required from DCCs. The RDN Board recently selected the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Secondary Treatment Upgrade Project as one of its two priority projects for application to the federal Gas Tax –

improve effluent quality and meet federal and provincial regulations that require secondary treatment

meet commitments in our Liquid Waste Management Plan

Strategic Priorities Fund. The Union of BC Municipalities will announce the successful projects and grant amounts in the fall of 2015.

Please contact the Wastewater Services Department by email at [rcu@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:rcu@rdn.bc.ca) or by phone at (250) 390-6560 or (250) 954-3792 if you would like more information on this project.



**Compliance** with Provincial and Federal regulations.



**Reduce toxins** entering the marine environment.



Reduce potential **health and environmental** risks.



Help **protect fishery** resources.



Provide potential opportunities to **economically recover** resources.

### Changes to Septage Fees

Septage is the sewage pumped out of septic tanks. The RDN accepts, treats, and disposes of septage at both the French Creek Pollution Control Centre and the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (via the Chase River Pump Station). The RDN currently recovers the cost of treating septage through a combination of user fees and property tax. The RDN is phasing out the property tax.

Until June 30, 2015, the septage disposal user fee is 18 cents per gallon. The RDN septage disposal fee will go up to 23 cents per gallon on July 1, 2015 to balance the phased out property tax.

This change will not affect the Pump and Haul disposal rate of 1 cent per gallon for approved customers.



**LIQUID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### Preparing for Fire Season

Fire season is approaching and the RDN and its emergency management partners are preparing for a busy summer. On April 7, the RDN Emergency Program met with representatives from the Coastal Fire Centre, local fire departments, RCMP, search and rescue and local government staff involved in emergency management. The goal of this pre-fire season meeting was to review wildfire concerns and to enhance partnerships between the people and organizations working in this area of emergency management.



A weak El Nino system may result in warmer temperatures and less rainfall in the summer of 2015 –



this is all the more reason to be careful while in RDN Parks or other wilderness areas.

Preparing for your home and property in advance of the hot, dry summer season can reduce your risk. For example, creating a fuel-free space around your home can assist firefighters in protecting your home and other structures on your property. It is also important to make sure your address is clearly visible from the roadside so that firefighters can locate your property quickly.

For more information, visit <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/firesmart.htm> and [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca). To learn the fire hazard rating for your property, visit <http://www.rdn.bc.ca> and search Fire Hazard Rating.

 BCForestFire  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
  
 @BCGovFireInfo  
@EmergencyInfoBC  
@RDNaNaimo

### Agriculture Bylaw and Policy Update Project

The RDN is working on several projects to support agriculture in the region, including an update of RDN regulatory bylaws and policies to remove barriers to agriculture.

In the fall of 2014, the RDN conducted a public survey to seek community feedback on a list of draft obstacles to agriculture and potential ways to remove or reduce obstacles. Results of this survey are available on the project website, [www.growingourfuture.ca](http://www.growingourfuture.ca).



During the next phase of the project, the RDN will seek community feedback on potential changes to its regulatory bylaws to remove barriers to agriculture. The RDN will be especially interested in hearing from members of the farming community, but all

residents will be invited to get involved and learn more about this project. Updates will be posted regularly at [www.growingourfuture.ca](http://www.growingourfuture.ca), on the RDN website at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca), and on Facebook and Twitter.



### Sustainable Site Planning Guidebook

The Regional District of Nanaimo is preparing a Sustainable Site Planning Guidebook for release in the summer of 2015. This free guidebook is intended for existing and prospective land owners and developers who are interested in developing and improving their properties.



The guidebook will provide guidance on the best practices of site planning and subdivision within the RDN's rural residential areas. It will illustrate and explain strategies that help retain rural character, maintain ecological functions, minimize risks from natural hazards, and provide opportunities to become more independent and resilient.

The Sustainable Site Planning Guidebook is the third volume in the RDN's guidebook series. The guidebooks are available through the RDN's Energy and Sustainability Department, and are produced as a free resource to support residents in addressing regional sustainability priorities. Previous guidebooks provide information on rainwater harvesting and residential renewable energy systems.

For more information, contact the RDN Energy and Sustainability Department at (250) 390-6510 or (250) 954-3798.

