

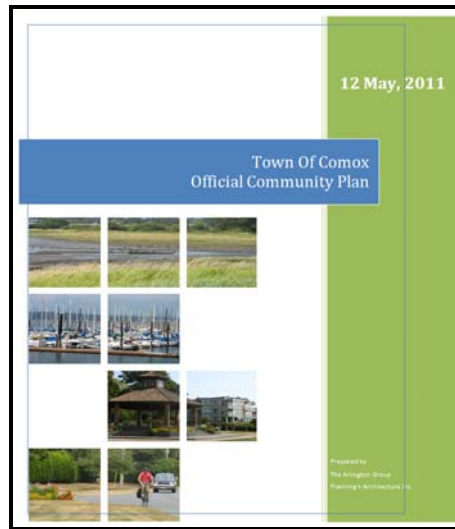


# Comox News

September 2011

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## New Official Community Plan adopted



consultation, including neighbourhood meetings and background research into such issues as population growth, demographic trends, the natural environment and sustainability.

With the OCP's adoption, the Town is in full

compliance with the recently adopted Comox Valley Regional Growth Management Plan, Provincial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Requirements and the Climate Action Charter.

Core principles of the OCP:

1. Protection and Enhancement of the Urban Environment, including urban design, transportation alternatives (pedestrian,

bike and transit), and a strong vibrant Downtown.

2. Protection of the Natural Environment, including riparian areas, eagle and blue heron nesting sites, Garry Oak habitat and wildlife movement.
3. Sustainability and Greenhouse Gas Reduction: Land use designations and transportation policies form the implementing backbone for sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction. In comparison to the existing land use pattern, the new OCP is projected to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 28%.

A copy of the OCP is available for viewing on the Town's Website at <http://comox.ca/hall/bylaws/official-community-plan-ocp-bylaw-1685-consolidated/>.

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An Official Community Plan is the primary planning document for guiding future development, as well as regulating urban design and environmental protection.

In the winter of 2009, the Town embarked on a comprehensive process to create a new Official Community Plan (OCP). The new OCP is based on extensive public

## Brooklyn Creek salmon habitat restoration

Salmon habitat restoration in Brooklyn Creek continues this summer, with the Town again working with the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society. The work, conducted on the lower

section of the Creek, includes surveying, relocating fish, creek rehabilitation and revegetation with native species. The project is intended to improve habitat quality for native

salmon species and increase their productivity. Channel enhancement work is also expected to have a positive effect on the pedestrian walkways by preventing erosion.

## Comox Avenue bike lane project



The Comox Avenue Bike Lane Project is now complete, and the Town would like to thank the residents and other users of Comox Avenue for their patience while the project was ongoing. Bike lanes have been created on both sides of Comox Avenue from the west boundary of the Town to Rodello Street. They were also created on both sides of Rodello Street between Comox and Beaufort Avenues to meet up with existing lanes on Beaufort Avenue.

Council has received many positive comments, and it is great to see so many bikers using the new lanes. The \$934,000 project was funded partially through a "Towns for Tomorrow" grant in the amount of \$375,000 as well as Community Works Funds in the amount of 175,000.



Along the new bike lane is a couple of road markings new to Comox. Drivers should be aware that the bike lane only symbol indicates that the lane is reserved for bikes only. A similar sharrow bike symbol is used to indicate to drivers that bikes will be sharing the lane or roadway. See samples to the right of this page.

Portions of the bike lane along Comox Avenue have had a bright green, reflective coating added. The intent of these sections is to identify areas where vehicles can and will be passing through the bike lane, such as along right-hand-turn lanes. Along the green strips, it is important to remember that bikes still have the right-of-way.

## Local government elections 2011

Local government elections occur again this year, with general voting day on Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be two advance polls again this year, on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note that advance polls will occur at the Comox Recreation Centre this year.

Information has now been added to our website, useful for both candidates and electors. See

<http://comox.ca/hall/municipal-elections/2011-general-local-election/>.

Nomination packages are also now available for candidates who are considering running. Please drop by Town Hall to pick up a package or download from the website.

Also, don't forget to order your mail-in ballot package if you expect to be absent on voting days or otherwise qualify for a mail-in ballot.

## Guthrie Road overlay

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

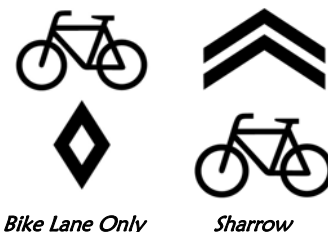
and towards McDonald Road. The \$640,000 project should be complete by the end of September, with future phases complete in 2012 (Aspen to Anderton Roads) and 2013 (Anderton to Linshart Roads).

## Lazo Road foreshore protection

The Town has identified approximately 700 metres of shoreline along Lazo Road between Sandpines Drive and Southwind Road that is highly susceptible to rapid erosion. In order to protect the safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, as well as protect municipal infrastructure and public lands, the Town has retained the services of Wedler Engineering to determine erosion protection requirements and to complete preliminary designs of necessary works. Also, as part of the project, a preliminary design and

concept will be completed with respect to a possible multi-use path along Lazo Road.

The \$23,000 project will be completed during the month of September 2011, and will include archaeological monitoring and reporting. For more information, contact Town Hall.



Bike Lane Only

Sharrow



## New water-wise rock garden



Xeriscaping refers to a method of landscape design that minimizes or eliminates water use. Xeriscaping lowers the use of treated drinking water, which is in line with Council's strategic priority to increase sustainability and livability in the Town. The Town's Parks Department has designed and created a beautiful rock garden that, once established, will not need additional water.

Plants have been chosen that are able to survive and flourish on rainfall alone.

The new rock garden is located at the newly completed addition to the Recreation Centre. A complete list of plant species included in the rock garden can be found on our website at <http://comox.ca/discover/outdoor>.

## Update on water meters

In 2010, Council approved a program to install residential water meters at multi-family developments, as well as at homes that were meter ready. Homeowners could also volunteer to receive a water meter. The meters were to be installed at no additional cost to homeowners, as already existing funds came from federal gas tax funding, water capital reserves and current revenue.

The purpose of the project was to learn how much water is being used – from the Town's perspective, how much on average; from the homeowner's

perspective, how much individually. In the future, homeowners will have the option of converting to being billed by the meter instead of continuing to pay the flat-rate water fee (currently \$303 per residence per year).

The Town has now installed over 1,000 meters with units that can be read electronically. Almost one-quarter of our single family homes now have water meters, and we continue to install them at multi-family developments.

We have now begun reading the meters monthly

## Torrence Road resurfacing

A section of Torrence Road (between Ridgemount and Guthrie Roads) has been repaired and repaved ahead of schedule. The Torrence Road surface has been identified in the recently completed Transportation

Study as poor, and repair initially scheduled for 2015. Surplus funds left over from repaving Elm Avenue west of Stewart Street earlier this summer were used to complete the \$112,000 project

## Beach accesses in Comox

The Town of Comox is blessed with over 7.5 km of coastline along its south and east boundaries. Along this coastline, there are at least 25 accessible beach access points. Over the summer, parks crews have been installing "Beach Access" signs at each of these locations.

To see maps showing the locations of these beach accesses, please see our website at <http://comox.ca/discover/outdoor>.



and posting the readings to our website. If your home had a meter installed, you should have received a letter from us advising of your meter number so that you can look up your usage.

Overall, typical (median) use of single family households was 14 m<sup>3</sup> in May, 29 m<sup>3</sup> in June and 32 m<sup>3</sup> in July. We will continue to read meters monthly and post the usage on our website. In early 2012, homeowners will have the option of converting their annual flat rate billing to quarterly billings based on usage.

We are still able to install water meters. If you would like to have one installed, please contact Town Hall at 250 339-2202. For more information on our water system please go to <http://comox.ca/water>.



*New rock garden at Recreation Centre*

## Town of Comox

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### Council

Paul Ives  
Mayor

Russ Arnott  
Councillor

Patti Fletcher  
Councillor

Ken Grant  
Councillor

Tom Grant  
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon  
Councillor

Marcia Turner  
Councillor

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### We're on the Web!

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

## Off-leash dog park



At a recent Committee of the Whole meeting, Council heard from a resident who would like to see an off leash dog park established in Comox. Since then, Council has been hearing from residents both for and against off leash dog parks, and is willing to investigate both sides of this issue.

An off leash dog park is one where all dogs, within the control and sight of their responsible owners, can run freely off leash. Such a park is not meant to be for the exclusive use of dogs and

their owners, and may or may not be fenced. While many communities of all sizes in BC do have off leash dog parks, currently in Comox parks, all dogs must be on a leash.

There are many good arguments both for and against off leash dog parks and we would like to hear your thoughts. Please use the contact information at the left side of this page to send or bring us your comments.

## New website

Our newly designed website is now live! Please take some time to explore some of the new features. We think that it is a great improvement over the old site, and from our perspective is much easier to maintain and keep up to date. Content-wise, it is very similar; however it is much quicker with a new, fixed header and drop-down menus.

## Boat launch rebuild

The Comox marine boat launch has been resurfaced. The \$120,000 project was necessary due to age and deterioration. In addition to the complete rebuild of the surface, a sidewalk has been added across the top of the boat launch, connecting with the walkways on either side.

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## Notices

### Refuse collection

Starting this September, Emterra (your refuse collector) will be making a change to some of the Tuesday collection routes.

Homes north of Guthrie Road along both sides of Pritchard Road will switch to a Wednesday collection day starting September 21<sup>st</sup>. Portions of the Beckton neighbourhood south of Noel Avenue and the whole of the Butchers road area will switch to a Friday collection day starting September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Affected residents should receive a letter from Emterra in early September.

### Watering Restrictions

Currently, all users of the Comox Valley Water System (including all of the Town) are in Stage 2 of watering restrictions. For more information on what is and isn't allowed, click on the "Water Stage 2 Alert" box on the home page of our website (<http://comox.ca>).

### Recreation Programs



Program registration has now begun for fall activities. Please check out Comox programs in the Comox Valley Recreation Reporter or our website at <http://comox.ca/recreation>.