



# Comox News

November 2012

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## Open house on upcoming major projects



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In the fall of each year, Council begins its annual strategic planning and budgeting process, identifying services to be provided and projects to be completed for the following calendar year.

Council has begun this process for next year, and an open house is being held

on Monday November 5, 2012, highlighting upcoming major projects.

General information, design plans and proposed budgets will be highlighted for major projects such as road resurfacing, parks development and installation of bike lanes.

Senior staff will also be available to provide more detailed information and answer questions.

This is your opportunity to learn about, and provide input on, proposed major projects that are planned for next year. Please come out and join us during the following sessions –

**Monday November 5, 2012**

**2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
and  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**d'Esterre Seniors' Centre**

**1801 Beaufort Avenue**

## Curbside organics collection

Did you know that up to 50% of a household's waste stream is compostable? Yard waste (tree and shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) forms up to 10%, while kitchen waste accounts for up to an additional 40%.

The Town of Comox is currently exploring an initiative that will result in the expansion of the Town's yard waste program to also include kitchen waste. Residents with yard waste collection will be given a "kitchen catcher" plus a green curbside cart in

order to place all kitchen organic and paper waste.

The Town of Comox will participate in a one-year pilot in order to learn about the community interest in participating, and the volume and composition of organics collected. The waste collected will be composted at the landfill into a product that is acceptable for use in organic gardening. It is anticipated that the start date will be February 2013.

Many communities have begun an organics collection program and we are excited to be bringing this service to residents in Comox.

For more information on this program, please call Town hall.



## Anderton Park

A new HealthBeat outdoor fitness circuit at Anderton Park officially opened on October 15, 2012.

HealthBeat's philosophy is to "provide a unique, interesting, progressively challenging way to integrate exercise within a natural, outdoor environment", and we are excited to be able to bring this philosophy to Comox. Even the layout of the equipment within the park reflects these values and the priorities of the Town of Comox.

The new equipment is designed for people of all

fitness levels aged 13 and over, and clear signage with graphics can be found at each station. Please drop by and check it out!

The outdoor fitness circuit completes phase one of the revitalization of Anderton Park. In 2013, four of the six tennis courts will be completely rebuilt, with new fencing and landscaping. The \$700,000 project is funded partly through the assistance of a \$400,000 provincial grant from the Community Recreation Program.



## Comox Fire Training Centre! Amazing!!

Did you know that the fire department, as well as delivering excellent service to the community, also operates a Fire Training Centre?

Over the years, Comox firefighters have been busy developing the Comox Fire Training Centre, with the latest building now nearing completion. Most of the labour, as well as thousands of dollars, has been donated by our firefighters. The result is a truly impressive

Training Centre, used by firefighters from all over Vancouver Island and other parts of BC.

Comox Fire Chief Gord Schreiner states, "We are very pleased to not only offer our own firefighters great training opportunities, but also other firefighters from other departments. Our training centre has everything a firefighter needs to learn their trade and keep their skills sharp.

## Fireworks Bylaw



In response to a request from the RCMP, the Town's Fireworks Regulation Bylaw has been updated. The main change applicable to the general public is that fireworks permits will now only be issued for community events open to the general public, and film and television events requiring the use of pyrotechnics and special effects. The previous bylaw allowed residents to apply for a permit to set off fireworks on their own property, which is now no longer permitted.

Also included in the updated Bylaw are municipal ticketing provisions. This means that municipal tickets can now be issued for any actions related to the use of fireworks that are not permitted in the Bylaw. Please note that the penalty fee for each ticket issued is \$500.

If you have any questions regarding the updated Bylaw, please call Town Hall.

We know we are doing things right as we have many departments contacting us on a regular basis to book training and to come and tour our site."

While impressive, Chief Schreiner states that the Training Centre could not operate as it does without the excellent staff delivering the training. The net result is a win-win for both Comox firefighters and those from other communities.

Another huge advantage of the Training Centre is its formal agreement with the Justice Institute of BC. This partnership allows local firefighters to receive accredited training at significant cost savings and without having to travel too far.

Since 2002, the Training Centre, now ranked as one of the best in the province, has seen over 2000 firefighters attending their various training courses.

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal



Photo: Comox Valley Echo

For the past 28 years, Bob McQuillan has organized and run the annual Nautical Days Celebrations in the Town of Comox. For over 50 years, this family-friendly event (originally called the Comox Days Celebrations) has celebrated summertime fun and community living.

On August 15, 2012, Mayor Ives presented a Queen's

Diamond Jubilee medal to Bob McQuillan for his outstanding contribution to the residents and visitors of the Comox Valley. Mayor Ives thanked Bob for his 28 years of organizing and coordinating the annual Nautical Days events in the Town of Comox.

## Ellis Street crosswalk

Due to budget considerations, the Ellis Street crosswalk was deferred until 2013. In the spring, a crosswalk will be installed across Comox Avenue at the east side of Ellis Street. A sidewalk will also be installed along

the west side of Ellis Street so that pedestrians from Comox Avenue can access the west leg of Beaufort Avenue without having to cross in an unmarked crosswalk at Beaufort Avenue and Ellis Street.

## d'Esterre House renovations

The d'Esterre House recently underwent further renovation, with a full energy efficient lighting retrofit completed in both the upper and lower lounge areas. Comox Rotary Club volunteers and associated contractors also refreshed the upper lounge area, with the same general design theme as was applied to the

main ballroom renovation last year. This project was the result of a combined effort between the Town and volunteer groups to enhance our facilities – something that has worked very successfully on many projects, and for which the Town is thankful and appreciative.

## Brooklyn Creek Channel Enhancement

Over the past several years, the Town, along with many local organizations, has been involved with the Brooklyn Creek Channel Enhancement Project. This Project has the aim of increasing the productivity of wild salmon stocks in the Brooklyn Creek as well as improving pedestrian access along the Creek and within Mack Laing Park.

Brooklyn Creek is an important fish producing watershed, historically supporting chum, coho and pink salmon, as well as cutthroat trout. Although the Brooklyn Creek system presently supports a relatively small run of coho, chum and cutthroat trout, small wild stocks collectively

play an important role in the survival of the species.

A multi-year enhancement strategy was implemented for Brooklyn Creek in 2005 following completion of storm water mitigation measures, which included installation of a flow diversion structure and construction of a wetland. Enhancement work includes installation of pool complexes, control of bank erosion, improving fish passage, planting riparian species and improving public access.

The Town is grateful for the involvement of all involved. Work continues along the lower reaches of the Brooklyn Creek this fall.



## Town of Comox

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Ken Grant  
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Tom Grant  
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon  
Councillor

Barbara Price  
Councillor

Maureen Swift  
Councillor

We're on the Web!

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

## News from the Comox BIA

### Win a Trip to Vegas!

Contest sponsored by the Comox BIA, Jan's Travel and the Comox Valley Record. Visit downtown businesses to enter to win a trip for two to Vegas – prize includes 4 night's accommodation in Vegas and return airfare (from Vancouver). The contest will run from November 15 – 30th.

Check out [www.comoxbythesea.com](http://www.comoxbythesea.com) for more details.

### Rockin' with Santa!

**Saturday December 1st** – Comox BIA is partnering with the Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association & the Comox Mall to host a fun and frolicking family Christmas event. Join us at Filberg Park to meet Santa and the elves, Saturday December 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Details available at [www.comoxbythesea.com](http://www.comoxbythesea.com).



*Comox Fire Training Centre*

## Notices

### Fall cleanup

With the arrival of this year's storm season, once again 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!*



### 911 Emergency: Help us help you

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.

*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.*