



Comox News

January 2013

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

Town purchases fully electric car



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As part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Town has purchased its first zero emission vehicle. The Nissan Leaf, which is a medium-sized hatchback with seating for five adults comfortably, operates solely on battery power.

Its lithium-ion battery pack generates 107 horsepower and 207 lb-ft of torque, providing a “highly responsive, fun-to-drive experience”. It has a range of 160 kilometres on a full charge, which can be achieved in 7 hours with

a 240-volt home charging dock or 26 minutes with a Level 3 Quick Charger.

The vehicle will be added to the fleet and be utilized by staff for site visits, bylaw enforcement and attendance at local meetings.

Ray Crossley Youth Achievement Awards



On December 5, 2012, Council presented its first round of Ray Crossley Youth Achievement Awards to worthy recipients. The initiative for Ray Crossley Youth Achievement Awards

came from Councillor Hugh MacKinnon, who felt that it would be a good way to honour the late Councillor Ray Crossley as well as recognize the exemplary achievements of youth in the community. Councillor Crossley was a big ad-vocate for our youth and so the honour was fitting.

The first recipients of the awards were:

- Martin Reader – athletics;
- Carle Brenneman – athletics;
- Trent Freeman – music;
- Darcy Sharpe – athletics;
- Mathieu Leduc – athletics;
- Noah Lewis – academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities; and
- Cassie Sharpe – athletics.

Hats off to all of the well-deserving recipients!

Fats, oils and grease

Fats, oils and grease are not good for sewers. In fact, fats, oils and grease cause sewer backups, which are not good for our health, homes, businesses or the environment. And keeping the sewer system flowing can be a very costly and time consuming effort.

In the sewers fats, oil and grease turn into hardened deposits of a soap-like substance as they travel from your home or business to the treatment plant (see photo). These soap-like substances build up on the walls of the sewer pipes, restricting their flow and causing backups.

While businesses are required to have traps that stop most of the fats, oils and grease from entering the sewers, homes are not. And, surprisingly, homes can deposit a fair amount that, over time, will contribute to the soap-like buildup. In order to prevent fats, oils and grease from going down the drain, please consider the following:

- Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain.

For ones that solidify when cool, pour while warm into a can with a lid – such as a coffee can – and store. When the can is full, toss into the garbage. For fats, oils and grease that do not solidify, allow them to cool first and then pour into a disposal container – such as a lidded glass jar or can – that can be tossed into the garbage.

- Thoroughly scrape plates and cookware into the garbage to remove leftover fats, oils, grease and food waste before dishwashing. Use paper towels, if needed, to wipe greasy dishes before dishwashing and dispose into the garbage.
- Use sink strainers to catch food waste during dishwashing and dispose into the garbage.
- Avoid using garburators, which not only add to fats, oils and grease in the sewers, but also waste clean drinking water and unnecessarily add to the load at the treatment plant.



Free training courses by Comox Rescue

Comox Fire Rescue is offering two FREE courses this spring:

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP)

Experience has shown that after a disaster, it may take three or more days for emergency services to reach many of the neighborhoods and individuals. The NEPP program is designed to provide information, training and skills necessary for individuals and neighbourhoods to be self-sufficient after a disaster.

The two hour NEPP programs are scheduled at the Comox Fire Station on February 16, March 23, April 12 and May 17, 2013.

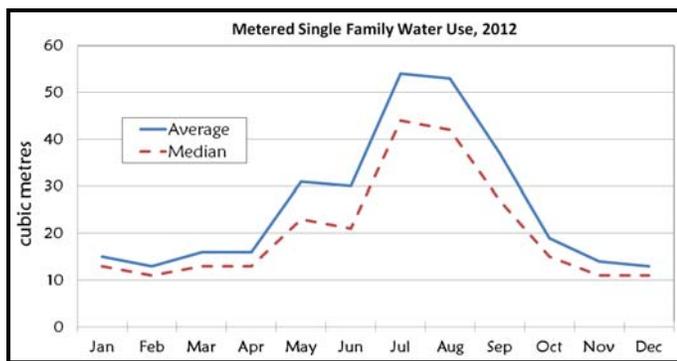
Contact the Comox Community Centre at 250-339-2255 to register.

CPR (A) Courses

Recognizing and responding quickly to someone having a heart attack or choking can mean the difference between life and death. Comox Fire Rescue is offering free CPR (A) courses. CPR (A) covers the skills needed to recognize and respond to cardiovascular and choking emergencies of people aged eight and over. Sessions also cover the use of a public access Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

The CPR (A) courses are scheduled at the Comox Fire Station on February 16, March 23, April 12 and May 17, 2013. Sessions start at 1:00 p.m. and are three hours in length.

Contact the Comox Community Centre at 250-339-2255 to register.



Did you know that in each month since we began reading meters in 2011, 28% of total water use is consumed by 10% of users?

Urban Forest Management Plan



A healthy and abundant urban forest can contribute to achieving many community goals, such as enhancing livability, protecting the environment, maintaining vibrant public areas and creating recreational opportunities. In 2011, the Town commissioned Mumby's Aborigiculture Consulting to complete an Urban Forest Management Plan for Comox, thereby ensuring that our urban forest continues to provide us with these invaluable benefits. The Plan includes an inventory of all publicly owned trees and priorities for maintaining those trees over the next 5 years.

The Plan concludes that there are approximately 3,500 publicly owned trees in Comox (excluding the large natural park areas such as Northeast Woods, McDonald Wood and Mack Laing Parks), including 44 heritage trees. The Plan also

estimates the overall canopy cover in Comox. Canopy cover is important as it provides environmental benefits such as maintaining air quality, reducing energy to heat and cool homes, reducing rainwater runoff and flooding, and providing a favourable aesthetic environment for residents. While a canopy cover of greater than 25% is recommended, Comox's estimated overall tree cover is 50%!

Eight goals were established for Comox's Urban Forest Management Plan, including ones to establish and maintain optimal levels of tree cover, maintain trees in a healthy condition through good cultural practices, establishing and maintaining optimal age and species diversity, and encouraging good tree management on privately-owned lands.

The full document can be found on our website, at www.comox.ca/discover/outdoor.

Working smoke alarms save lives

Comox Fire Chief Gord Schreiner would like to remind you that working smoke alarms really do save lives. A working smoke alarm could very well be the best investment you ever make to protect your family and property, as every second counts if a fire were to start in your home. Surprisingly, many homes

have smoke alarms that do not work because the batteries are dead or have been removed.

Remember ... SMOKE ALARMS REALLY DO SAVE LIVES!

If you need help with your smoke alarm call our fire station at 250-339-2432.

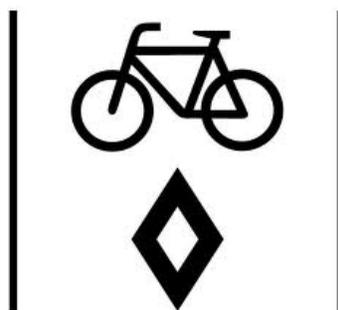
Bike lanes in Comox

As you may have noticed, there are a number of new, dedicated bike lanes in Comox, including those along Comox Avenue, Anderton Road and Guthrie Road. Dedicated bike lanes are separate lanes painted on the road, to be used by cyclists only. Section 153(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act states that if a roadway has a designated use lane (such as a bike lane), a person must not drive, operate, stand or park a motor vehicle in that lane except as authorized by regulation, bylaw or resolution.

Drivers are asked to please respect these rules in order to ensure the safety of cyclists. If you need to cross

over a bike lane in order to move into a turn lane or prepare to park, make sure that you check for, and yield to, bikes in the lane or coming up behind you before crossing.

Shared lanes (for vehicles and bikes) are what drivers are most familiar with. Please be courteous and remember that cyclists have the same rights and duties as other drivers. As bicycles travel faster than you may think, yield to cyclists in the same manner as you would to any other vehicle. Also, remember when parking to first check for bikes coming up next to you before opening your door.



Dedicated Bike Lane road markings



Shared Lane (sharrow) road markings

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Tom Grant
Councillor

Hugh MacKinnon
Councillor

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Councillor

Maureen Swift
Councillor

We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

Dumping of yard waste

As part of the recently completed Urban Forest Management Plan, an assessment of tree and plant species in each park was completed. A common characteristic noted in many of the parks was the extent of yard waste dumping from adjacent residents.

Residents are advised that dumping of yard waste is prohibited in parks (as well as adjacent vacant lots). Not only does this practice lead to unsightliness in our parks, but it also leads to the proliferation of invasive species and rats!

Please do not dump your yard waste in adjacent parks or vacant land. The Town has weekly, year-round yard waste collection whereby residents can place all yard waste at the curbside for collection. An added benefit in having your yard waste collected is that it is then composted into a valuable product for others.

If you need more information on our yard waste program, please see our website at

www.comox.ca/services/waste.



Notices

Business licence renewal

Business licences must be renewed each year your business is operating in the Town. Business licence fees for 2013 can be paid at any time after January 31, 2013.

Dog Licences

Just a reminder that all dogs in the Town must have a valid dog licence, which must be renewed each year. Dog licences can be purchased anytime at Town hall or at the SPCA on Ryan Road.

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. Priority will be given to routes serving public facilities.

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. Staff will also endeavour to clear snow and ice from sidewalks fronting municipal properties.

Homeowners, please do not block sidewalks when clearing driveways. We also encourage you to clear sidewalks fronting your properties.

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.