



# 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' a'

July 2014

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

## 19 Wing Comox signs on to Comox Valley Fire and Rescue



19 Wing Comox Fire Department has recently signed onto the Comox Valley Fire and Rescue Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU, which has been in effect among many central island communities for several years, provides for

assistance on a cost-recovery basis.

Through the MOU, fire services personnel hope to strengthen the bonds between the fire departments and make better use of local resources as they work together to save lives, protect property and

preserve the environment. The MOU allows local fire departments to benefit from specialized equipment found in other jurisdictions, as well as cooperate in the event of a situation involving multiple fires that may quickly exhaust the abilities of one fire department.

Fire Services taking part in the MOU include: the Comox Valley Regional District (Denman Island, Hornby Island, Fanny Bay, Black Creek/Oyster River), Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Union Bay, Ships Point, Campbell River and 19 Wing Comox.

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## COMOX *Votes*

**NOVEMBER 15, 2014**

It's election year again for local government in BC, and preparations are well under way in Comox. Electors will be voting for one mayor, six councillors and one school district trustee this fall, who will hold office for four years. General voting day is **Saturday November 15, 2014** at the Comox Recreation Centre, 1855 Noel Avenue, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Once again this year, we will be using the Provincial Voters' List from Elections BC as the Town's list of registered electors. If you were registered with Elections BC before July 1<sup>st</sup>, you will automatically be placed on the Town's List.

Those who are not on the Voters' List may still register in advance of the election as long as you do so by Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please see our website at

<http://comox.ca/hall/municipal-elections/2014-election> for the registration form. After September 23<sup>rd</sup>, you will only be able to register at the time that you come in to vote.

Please remember, if you have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects your ability to vote at the voting places, or if you expect to be out of town during all voting opportunities, you can request a mail ballot voting package.

For more information on the election process, see our website noted above.

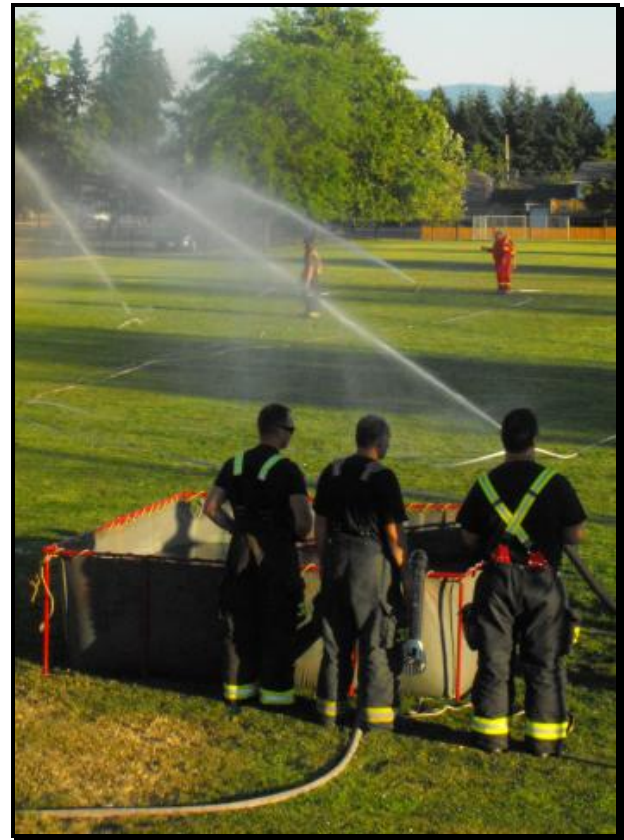
## Fire Department prepares for interface fires

At the edges of Town, where residential homes meet the surrounding forest, the Comox Fire Department has to be ready for interface fires (fires which put people and communities at risk). Recently they practiced setting up and using special sprinkler systems, which can wet down surrounding homes and land if an interface fire is approaching. If they can get to a property in time and wet it down, a fire that is moving at a slow to medium speed is likely to move around the wet property.

This technique was adopted province-wide after the 2003 Okanagan Mountain (Kelowna) interface fire. Comox has a number of these sprinkler systems ready to deploy, if required.

Before an interface fire breaks out, there are steps that home owners should take to minimize the risk: clear your roof and gutters of dry leaves, needles and twigs, remove unmanaged vegetation or other fuel sources from within 10 metres of your home, be careful about leaving anything hot near flammable materials, and do not light any fires or have open flames when the fire risk is high.

Our Fire Chief Gord Schreiner warns that the Fire Department is very concerned about the hot dry weather. We do not want to be fighting a major forest fire in our area. We need the public's help to keep Comox safe from fires.



## Beware of “soaker” hoses

Despite its name, a “soaker” hose can use much more water than people might think. Each hose, run with a tap on at full pressure, can use as much as 400 litres of water per hour. As some people leave them running for many hours (or even days) at a time, this can add up to a huge amount of water used. For example, if run for many days, each day (24 hour period) would consume 9.6 cubic metres.

Please remember that soaker hoses are an irrigation system, and can only be operated during the hours and days designated by the current watering stage that we are in. They should be

used in accordance with the water use bylaw, either by hand or by timer, otherwise home-owners may be ticketed.

We encourage anyone using a soaker hose to run it at low pressure, or use a pressure-reducing valve or disc. Water should slowly seep, not squirt, from the pores and if you can hear the water running through, then you are using more water than needed.

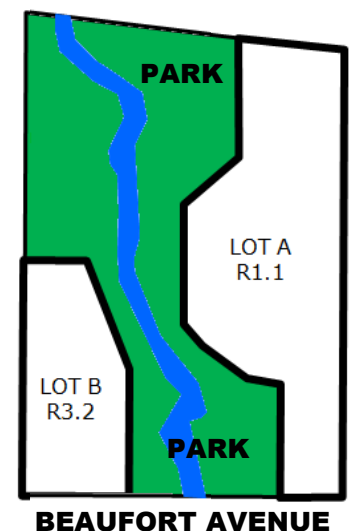
Comox spends over \$1.4 million per year on water. This is the largest expense of our water system and we encourage all to conserve water, in order to keep rates low.

## Beaufort Greenway

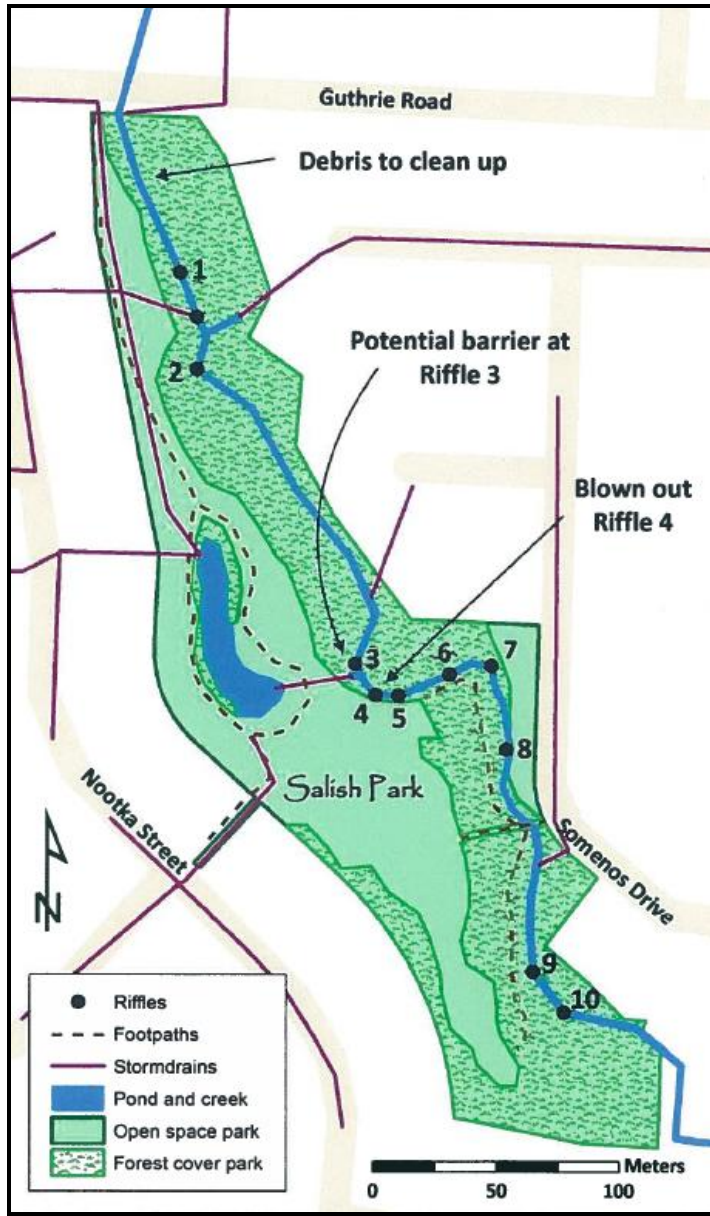
Last fall, the Town purchased two parcels of land at 1988 Beaufort Avenue, across from Port Augusta Park and Carthew Street. The parcels contain a portion of Carthew Creek, and it is the Town's intent to dedicate a portion as parkland.

In accordance with the Official Community Plan, the land surrounding Carthew Creek has been identified for future greenway trail development, connecting a proposed waterfront walkway, Port Augusta Park and Beaufort Avenue to the Anderton Road / Comox Avenue intersection.

The two parcels are now in the process of being re-subdivided in order to create the parkland plus two infill parcels. Greenway trail development will occur at a future time.



## 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 Town parks.

This year, channel enhancement will occur along a 370 metre section of Brooklyn Creek within Salish Park. The work will include the reconstruction of six rock riffles, which are short, relatively shallow and coarse-graveled lengths that reduce upstream slope and velocity, and increase downstream oxygen levels. A 185 metre section of trail along the Creek will also be resurfaced as part of this project. The development of engineering designs to restore a 278 metre off-channel section in lower Brooklyn Creek, and the realignment of an estimated 165 metre section of trail, will also be completed.

## E-TC TreadClimber

The Comox Community Centre is the first on the Island to purchase the new E-TC TreadClimber by Star Trac. The TreadClimber's patented design and movement pattern maximizes caloric burn and motivates users to work harder, burning up to two times more calories than traditional cardio equipment.

The E-TC TreadClimber captures all the benefits of a Treadmill, Elliptical and Stepper. It is completely user friendly, has user-specific workout programs and even has its own personal adjustable fans! Drop in during an "Ask A Trainer" session this summer (Tuesday – Friday 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm) and our qualified trainer will get you started.

For further information on this new equipment or any of our fabulous summer programs, please give us a call at 250-339-2255 or visit our web site at <http://comox.ca/recreation>.

## How much is enough?



How much water does your lawn really need? It is generally accepted that one inch (25 mm) of water per week is enough. If you water more than once per week, then use only a fraction of an inch each time (for instance, 1/3 inch or 8 mm if you water three times weekly).

Since every irrigation system is different, the only way to know how long to run your sprinklers is to use a gauge to measure how much your system applies per hour.

Please also remember to check the Town's website for the days and times that you are able to water.



## Town of Comox

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### Council

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Mayor

Patti Fletcher  
Councillor

Ken Grant  
Councillor

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)

## Fun, family events in downtown Comox this summer!

The downtown Comox Business in Action group, known as Comox by the Sea, has organized and sponsored a full slate of family fun events this summer:

- **"Third Thursday" Night Markets** are up and running! The June market got off to a very windy start with musical guest, Anela Kahiamoe providing fantastic entertainment. There are three more Night Markets scheduled for the 3rd Thursdays of July, August and September. Hours are from 4 to 7pm. Special guests are the Comox Valley Farmers Market, and each month a different musical guest will be featured. Come on down to Comox Avene for live music, locally grown food, treats, artisan crafts and more. Visit the Comox by the Sea Facebook page for more updates.
- Don't miss the **Sunday Street Market** scheduled for Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to noon. The Comox by the Sea Sunday Street Market is proud to be a 2014 Festival Partner celebrating the BC Day Festival long weekend with Nautical Days, the Filberg Festival and the IHOS Night Market.

- The **Tuesday Evening Paddle** is a weekly paddle night for kayakers, canoeists, and standup paddle-boarders of all ages and abilities. Sponsored by Comox by the Sea and Compass Adventures, this is a family friendly event that gets started at 6pm at Comox Marina every Tuesday until September. Bring your own equipment or some rentals are available on a first come first served basis. Beginners welcome. A tasty barbeque follows the paddle for only \$5.00 per person. Visit [www.compassadventure.ca](http://www.compassadventure.ca) for more information.

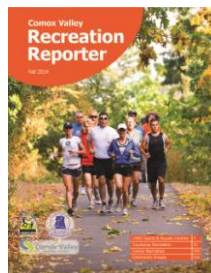
Don't forget the 56th Annual Comox **Nautical Days Festival** - BC Day Long Weekend, August 2 - 4, 2014 in Comox Marina Park. The Festival returns with all the games, nautical competitions, outstanding entertainment and great food you've come to love and expect. Whether you're cheering on the competitors or taking part in one of the many events, Comox Nautical Days Festival has something for everyone.

It's FREE, family friendly, and fun-filled!



## Notices

### Enter to Win! Fall Registration Prizes



Registration will soon start for Comox Valley Recreation programs. Enter to win a \$50 Gift Certificate or a ten punch pass, by going to [comoxvalleyrecord.com](http://comoxvalleyrecord.com) and clicking "Contests" in the top right corner (after August 12).

To learn more about fall programs, pick up a copy of the Fall Recreation Reporter or check the following websites:

[comox.ca/recreation](http://comox.ca/recreation)

[courtenay.ca/recreation](http://courtenay.ca/recreation)

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rec](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rec)

### Marina Park and boat ramp

Comox Nautical Days events will result in the temporary closure of the east and west Marina Park parking lots, as well as the municipal boat launch, from

**Friday, August 1 midnight to Monday, August 4 midnight.**

### NOTE THAT VEHICLES LEFT IN THE PARKING LOTS AT THE TIME OF CLOSURE WILL BE TOWED.

Comox Avenue will also be closed from Aitken Street to Stewart Avenue on Monday August 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Water Restrictions

The Town of Comox will be moving to **Stage Two** watering restrictions on Friday July 25, due to the lowest precipitation on record at the Comox Lake watershed and the persistent warm and dry weather. See [comox.ca](http://comox.ca) for details on the restrictions.