



**NOTICE OF
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday
November 24, 2009
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC**

1:00 pm

A G E N D A

		<u>Pages</u>
1:00 pm	START OF MEETING	
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	1 – 2
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
	M1 Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting of August 12, 2009	3 – 5
3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>	
4.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>	
	SR1 Staff Report from Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, regarding Job Opportunities Program – JOP Work Crew Projects update	6 - 9
	SR2 Staff Report from Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, regarding Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area Update – Fall 2009	10 - 11
	SR3 Staff Report from Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Construction Initiative – Fall 2009 Update	12 - 15
	SR4 Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician regarding Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park – Crown Tenure Permit Access and Interim Management Plan Preparation	16 - 17
	SR5 Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician regarding Timberwest Forest Corporation Trail Licence Agreements for two segments of the Cowichan Valley Trail	18 - 21

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- SR6** Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager 22 - 25
regarding Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program Trail
Funding Approval
- SR7** Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager 26 - 33
regarding 2010 Working Paper Budgets: Regional Parks (280)
and Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285)

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- C1** Correspondence from Sandra Whiting regarding the Ceevacs 34 - 35
Roadrunners half marathon – Thank you

6. **INFORMATION**

- IN1** October 13, 2009, *Globe and Mail* article by Rebecca Lindell, 36 - 37
“BC moves to regulate recreational off-road vehicles”
- IN2** October 15, 2009, *CVRD News Release* article by Brian 38 - 39
Farquhar, Parks Manager “Cowichan Valley Regional District
Acquires new Regional Park; Stocking Lake/Heart Lake
Regional Park”
- IN3** September 22, 2009, *Times Colonist* article by Bill Cleverley 40
“Parks Crackdown works”
- IN4** November 19, 2009, *Times Colonist* article by Bill Cleverley 41
“Parks levy should be doubled: CRD committee”

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS**

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

- CSM1** Minutes of Closed Session Parks Committee Meeting of August 42 - 43
12, 2009

10. **NEXT MEETING**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website www.cvr.bc.ca

Director M. Dorey, Chair	Director G. Giles	Director D. Haywood
Director L. Iannidinardo, Vice Chair	Director K. Kuhn	Director P. Kent
Director L. Duncan		

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M1

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
Director Lori Iannidinardo, Vice-Chair
Director Gerry Giles
Director Loren Duncan
Director Klaus Kuhn
Alternate Director Ray Cadorette

Also: Director Tom Walker (4:00 p.m.)

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division
Warren Jones, Administrator
Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

It was Moved and Seconded
That the agenda (as amended) be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

M1 - MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded
That the Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of June 10, 2009, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Brian Farquhar reported (Minutes of June 10, 2009, Page 2, Report R-3) that the Nature Conservancy of Canada has accepted an invitation to attend a Parks Committee Meeting to provide an update on initiatives, activities and programs the Conservancy is engaged in within the Cowichan Region.

STAFF REPORTS

**R1 – Cobble Hill Mtn
Recreation Area
Interpretive Forest
Designation**

Staff report from Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, informing the Parks Committee of the Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area agreement pertaining to land recently designated as Interpretive Forest by the Ministry of Forests.

It was Moved and Seconded
That a letter be sent to the Ministry of Forests requesting that Forest Recreation Reserve #020, within the designated Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area, remain excluded from permitted provincial woodlot activities as allowed within Interpretive Forest designated areas due to the high outdoor recreation, ecological and aesthetic values provided within this 275 acre parcel adjacent to the community of Cobble Hill.

MOTION CARRIED

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R2 – Cowichan Valley Trail – 2009 Summer Progress

Staff report from Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, to provide a 2009 summer progress report on the Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative.

It was Moved and Seconded

That staff prepare a report regarding the status of the E & N Corridor and work toward expanding the current agreement so that the Committee and Board can provide direction for this to be included in the year-end budget plan for 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

Loren Duncan would like the small piece behind Keating Farm to be taken into consideration along with this.

R3 – Regional Parks Brochure

Staff report from Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician, and attached sample of the Regional Parks brochure template created by the Parks Planning summer student to be used as the standard for the creation of all Regional Park Site Brochures.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the template layout for the preparation of all Regional Park and Regional Recreation Area brochures be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Director Giles would like etiquette signage on the mountain trails that would bring to the attention of dog and horse owners the need to clean up droppings left on the trail by their animals.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – Nature Conservancy

Correspondence received from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (Katie Blake) regarding Chase Woods property purchase.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Chair send a letter on behalf of the Parks Committee congratulating the Nature Conservancy of Canada on its successful campaign to purchase the Chase Woods property.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION

IN1 – Newspaper Article

Cowichan News Leader Pictorial article by Mike D'Amour, "Duncan connecting to Trans-Canada Trail"

Received for information purposes

IN2 – Newspaper Article

Times Colonist article by Robert Barron (*Canwest News Service*), "TimberWest will require liability insurance for back-country access".

Received for information purposes.

**IN3 – Newspaper
Article**

Cowichan News Leader Pictorial article (*Alberni Valley News*), “Close to \$1 million dedicated to western half of a trail linking the Alberni and Cowichan Valleys”.

Received for information purposes.

BUSINESS ARISING

No business arising.

NEW BUSINESS

**NB1 – Fuel
Management
Reduction**

Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician, regarding Grant Funding for an Operational Fuel Treatment Program in Five Regional Parks and for the preparation of Fuel Management Prescriptions for these Parks.

It was Moved and Seconded

That applications to the “Community Operational Fuel Treatment Program” and the “Fuel Management Prescriptions Program” for grant funding, available through the Ministry of Forests and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to undertake work in five (5) Regional Park sites, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

CLOSED SESSION

It was Moved and Seconded

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

MOTION CARRIED

The Committee moved into Closed Session at 4:10 p.m.

RISE

The Committee rose without report.

NEXT MEETING:

To be held Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded

That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

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SRI

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 17, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Job Opportunities Program – Work Crew Projects Update

Recommendation:

That a letter of appreciation be sent to Cowichan Tribes (Khowutzun Forest Services) acknowledging their efforts to bring together the working partnerships to successfully achieve approval of the Job Opportunities Program work crews and for administering a successful program.

Purpose:

To update the Regional Parks Committee on the work completed by the Job Opportunities Program (JOP) Work Crews over the past 3 months in partnership with Cowichan Tribes (Khowutzun Forest Services), Municipality of North Cowichan and the Ministry of Sport, Tourism and the Arts.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Background:

The Job Opportunities Program (JOP) creates short-term (up to six months) work in or near resource-dependent communities in order to assist laid-off resource workers. The program is funded through the federal government's Community Development Trust, with additional support by the Province of British Columbia and the Island Coastal Economic Trust to assist in re-training and providing short-term employment for locally laid off forest workers. As previously reported to the Regional Parks Committee and Board, the Job Opportunities Program approved this year a joint application by Cowichan Tribes (Khowutzun Forest Services), Municipality of North Cowichan, the Ministry of Sport, Tourism and the Arts and the Cowichan Valley Regional District to fund work crews to work on a variety of projects, including work on the Cowichan Valley Trail, within the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area and select Electoral Area community parks.

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The JOP Crews are usually comprised of 4-6 members and hold a variety of forestry related experience. Their knowledge of forest management, hazard tree management, along with their excellent work ethic and adaptability has been incredibly beneficial to the CVRD Parks program. Over the course of their 100 days with us (one day equals one crew day) they have completed a significant amount of work at a number of CVRD parks and trail sites. The following is a summary of the work the JOP crews have performed at these sites:

Cowichan Valley Trail:

- Hazard tree removal, brushing/limbing, culvert clearing, and chipping of all woody debris along the ~ 32km of trail within the former CNR railway right of way between Holt Creek Trestle and Sooke Lake Road in Shawnigan Lake, and between the Town of Lake Cowichan and Cowichan River Provincial Park.
- Removal of all previously downed woody debris from around the historic Kinsol Trestle. This wood is being made available to the Rotary Club for their fundraising efforts.



Removing woody debris from around the Kinsol Trestle using modified cable logging

Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area:

- Trail maintenance and renovations on approximately 15km of trail. Work included grading of the trail surface, drainage improvements, brushing, limbing, and deactivation of unsustainable and unauthorized trails.
- Hazard tree removal on 15km of trails as well as main access roads.
- Planting of trees within deactivated areas to kick start the restoration process.



JOP Crew Trail Construction on Cobble Hill Mountain

Community and Other Parks:

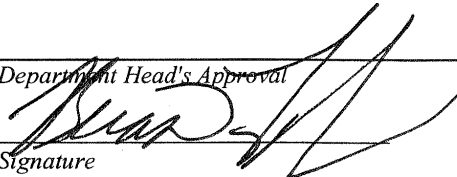
- Fuel Management Pilot Project in Silvermine Park in Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake. Removing flammable materials along the length of trail within the park using prescriptions developed by a registered professional forester under the direction of the Ministry of Forests.
- Construction of a walking trails within Hollings Creek Park in Electoral Area A – Mill Bay/Malahat, which will link Kerry Village with Deloume Road and eventual trail extensions to Mill Bay Village.



Silvermine Park Fuel Reduction Pilot Project

The majority of the work completed through the JOP Program would not otherwise have been undertaken due to the cost of the labour. The value of the contributions by the work crews provided by the Job Opportunities Program has been significant, both in terms of the immediate benefits to the our trail users on the Cowichan Valley Trail and within the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area and the local Electoral Area park sites selected out to benefit from the work by the crews. The work ethics and commitments of the workers on these crews while working on the trails and in the local community parks is also commendable. The efforts of Cowichan Tribes (Khowutzun Forest Services) is also recognized in bringing together the working partnerships of the various levels of government to successfully achieve approval of the Job Opportunities Program funding to provide for these work crews, as well as the ongoing administrative role of Khowutzun Forest Services to coordinate the crew schedules for the duration of the program

Submitted by,

Department Head's Approval

Signature

Dan Brown,
Parks Trails Technician
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/lag



SR2

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 17, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area Update – Fall 2009

Recommendation:

Staff Report is for information purposes only.

Purpose:

To provide an update on developments regarding Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area, specifically the Interpretive Forest designation by the Ministry of Forests and 2009 volunteer trail building efforts.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Background:

2009 Volunteer Trail Building Program:

The Volunteer Trail Building program in 2009 was very successful, as the construction of the Cleasby Bike Park within Quarry Nature Park, has brought forth a whole new batch of keen volunteers interested in participating in the trail building program. This group, ranging in age from 12 years old to 47 years old (most were aged 12-17 years old), is comprised primarily of mountain bikers who hold a great deal of interest in improving the conditions of the trail network within the Regional Recreation Area.

A total of four trail building sessions were held in 2009. The first drew seven participants, the second drew eight participants, the third drew 12 participants, and the final build day of the year drew 14 participants. Their work included re-routing an old, steep skid road and replacing it with a more sustainable trail designed primarily for mountain bikers. In the end, the volunteers completed approximately 450m of new trail.

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The hard work put in by these volunteers this year is very admirable (especially considering the younger age of the majority of the participants) and should be taken as a reflection of community values and importance attributed to the opportunity to recreate within the lands on and around Cobble Hill Mountain.

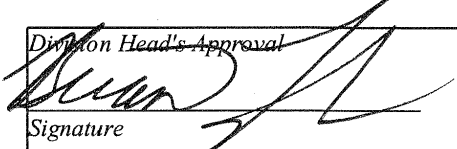


2009 Volunteer Trail Building on Cobble Hill Mountain

Cobble Hill Mountain Interpretive Forest Designation – Update:

The Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts Regional Recreation Officer for the South Island District has requested a meeting with CVRD Parks and the two woodlot licensees operating within the recently re-designated Cobble Hill Mountain Interpretive Forest provincial forest lands (which also encompass the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area) to update all parties with respect to the designation. It is the understanding of CVRD Parks staff that the Interpretive Forest designation was required in order for the license area for the Regional Recreation Area to be expanded to jointly include the woodlot license areas. Parks and Trails staff also look forward to this meeting as a means to have further discussions with the woodlot licensees about coordinating future Regional Recreation Area trail plans (based on the Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan adopted by the CVRD Board in 2003) with woodlot management. Parks and Trails staff have already had a preliminary site meeting with one of the woodlot licensees to initiate this trail planning work.

Submitted by,

Division Head's Approval

 Signature

Dan Brown,
 Parks Trails Technician
 Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
 DB/lag

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SR3

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 17, 2009 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative – Fall 2009 Update

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to organize an official trail opening event for the first section of the Cowichan Valley Trail constructed within the E & N Railway corridor in Chemainus.

Purpose:

To inform the Parks Committee on the progress of the 2009 Cowichan Valley Trail initiative.

Financial Implications:

n/a

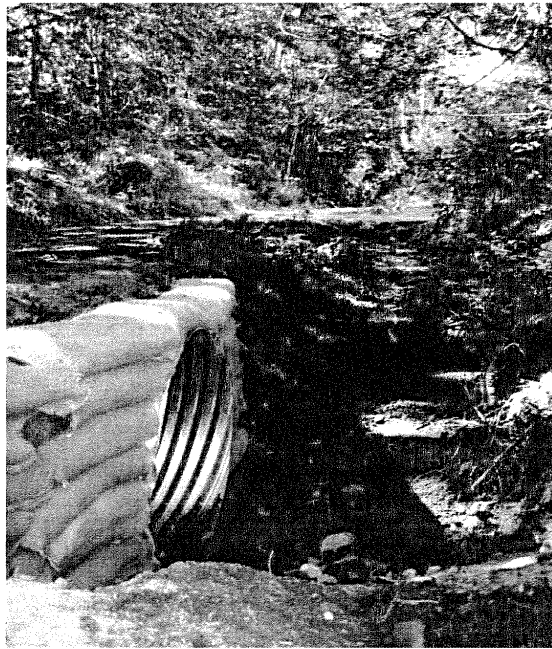
Background:

Since the previous Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative progress report received by the Parks Committee at the August 12, 2009, meeting, a great deal of trail work has been completed, focused on three areas: the “rail to trail” section from the Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan, Bings Creek Bridge, and the Chemainus Rail-with-Trail.

A. Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan (26 km rail to trail section of the CVT)

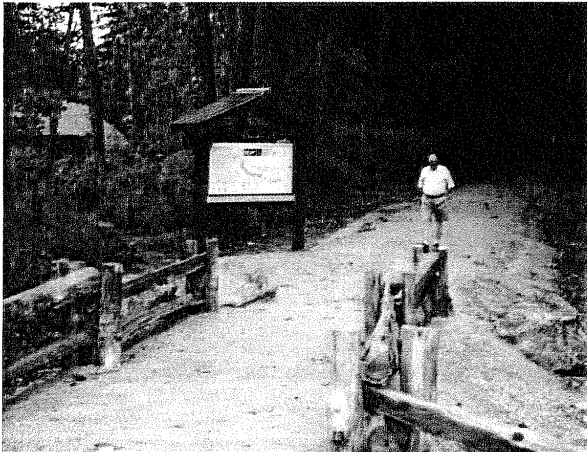
CVRD Parks and Trails has coordinated with Telus, who maintains the Teleglobe fiber optic line contained within the rail bed, on much of the rail corridor improvement work completed this fall to facilitate development of the “rail to trail”. As a condition of their license agreement for use of the rail corridor for the telecommunications line, Telus is responsible for maintaining the ditches and culverts along the corridor. Telus has proceeded, in cooperation with CVRD Parks and Trails, to replace approximately 35 culverts along the trail as well as surfacing of wet and rutted areas. The benefits of this work by Telus to the overall condition of the corridor are already very noticeable. This same prescription will be applied in the future to other sections of the 26km that have not received remediation work.

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Telus Ditching and Culvert Repair – Cowichan Valley Trail (Duncan to Lake Cowichan)

The upgrades performed to the trailheads at Sherman Road in Duncan and Greendale Road in Lake Cowichan have been completed:



Sherman Road Trailhead



Greendale Road Improvements

Sherman Road:

- Trail surfacing gravel has been placed and compacted from Sherman Road to Agira Road (225m) to create a level trail surface for walkers, cyclists and equestrians.
- A gate has been installed and rock has been placed at Agira Road to prevent unauthorized vehicle access.
- A large kiosk/sign, split rail fencing, and rock armoring has been installed at Sherman Road.

Greendale Road

- Trail surfacing gravel has been placed and compacted from Rockland Road to Pine Street (1000m) to create a level trail surface for walkers, cyclists and equestrians.

- A large kiosk/sign, split rail fencing, and rock armoring has been placed at Greendale Road.
- Signs have been installed along Pine Street that direct users south along the trail.

These upgrades have been very popular with trail users and CVRD Parks has received a number of positive comments.

In 2010, through use of Island Coastal Economic Trust funding, Gas Tax funding, and Regional Parks funding, improvements will continue to be made to the rail trail between Duncan and Lake Cowichan trail. This will include trail grading and surfacing to mitigate drainage issues and improve user experience, formalization of road crossings including signage and armoring, continued drainage improvements in cooperation with Telus, and maintenance work to completed trail sections.

B. Bings Creek Bridge Crossing

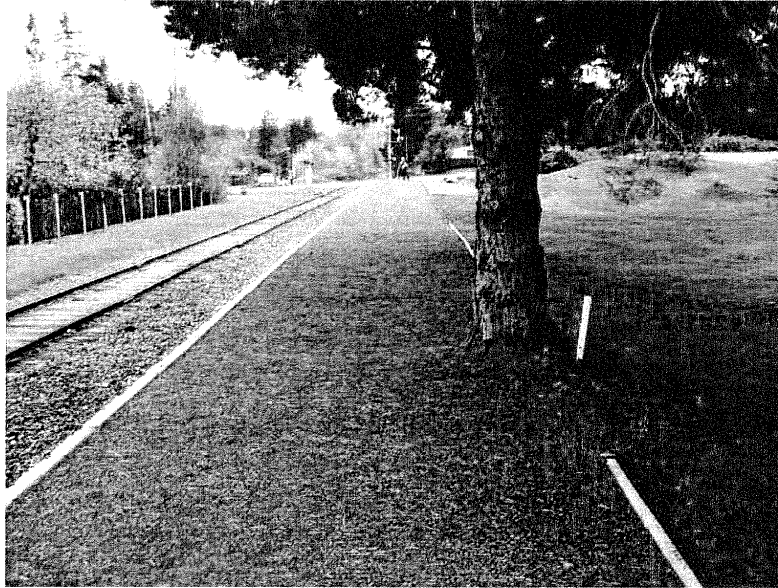
The construction of the Bings Creek Bridge has been put on hold until summer 2010. This fall, a hydrology report was completed to determine the best placement for the bridge. The bridge drawings have been updated and the crossing design details are being completed for final approval by the environmental regulatory agencies and the Municipality of North Cowichan. The bridge is located where historically a low-elevation wooden rail trestle existed; however due to the historical length of the rail trestle (over 100 metres), it is not functionally or financially possible to replicate such a crossing. The new bridge will be built to a standard to support cyclists, hikers and equestrians along the Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan/North Cowichan section of the Cowichan Valley Trail.

C. Chemainus Rail with Trail

The first section of the Cowichan Valley Trail - Chemainus Rail with Trail project between the Chemainus Road/Crozier Road intersection and Henri Road is nearing completion. The rail with trail is located within the E&N Railway corridor and is aligned between the railway tracks and the Mt. Brenton Golf Course on the west side of the rail corridor. The Chemainus Rotary Club is an active partner in this rail with trail project, involved both with contributing funds to the project (\$10,000 to date) and facilitating discussions with representatives of the Mt. Brenton Golf Club in the early days of the project to work out details of trail alignment to minimize conflicts with the adjoining fairways. In addition to completing the trail construction within the corridor, additional work in early spring will be undertaken with the Chemainus Rotary Club and Mount Brenton Golf Club to enhance natural vegetation screening at key locations between the golf course fairways and the trail.

Parks and Trails staff have also worked closely with Southern Rail to ensure the trail route complies with Federal railway safety standards and the rail with trail standards put forth by the Island Corridor Foundation. The resulting trail provides a safe, enjoyable route (up to now people have walked along the centerline of the railway tracks) and sets a standard for further rail with trail work within the E & N Railway corridor for extension of the Cowichan Valley Trail north and south of Chemainus, and for other rail with trail projects within the region.

It is estimated that this section of trail will be complete in early December, depending on weather conditions over the next few weeks. As this is the first section of the Cowichan Valley Trail to be completed within the member Municipality of North Cowichan, it is suggested that an official trail opening event be considered either in early December or early next year to recognize the many funding partners and supporters of this trail project, including Island Coastal Economic Trust, Island Corridor Foundation, Southern Rail, Chemainus Rotary Club and the Municipality of North Cowichan.

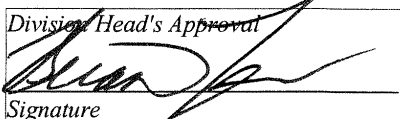


Completed trail surface – Chemainus RWT Project (November 2009)

Submitted by,

Dan Brown,
Parks Trails Technician
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/lag

Division Head's Approval

Signature



SR4

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 24, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician **BYLAW NO:**

SUBJECT: Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park – Crown Tenure Permit Access and Interim Management Plan Preparation

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to prepare in early 2010, an interim Park Management Plan for the newly acquired 93 hectares (230 acres) Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park and that the Board Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to execute the necessary documents to secure access to the regional park across adjoining crown lands legally described as Lot A, Blocks 1 and 731, District Lot 121, and Part of the Unnumbered part, Oyster District, Plan VIP78445 (PID 026-313-031).

Purpose:

To request approval to apply for a Crown Land Tenure to access the newly acquired Heart and Stocking Lake Regional Park property acquisition and to request direction on preparation of an interim Park Management Plan for these lands to guide public outdoor recreation use and stewardship management of these lands.

Financial Implications:

The Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park Interim Management Plan will identify for Regional Parks Committee and Board consideration the financial resource implications to implement public use improvements and overall site management within this new regional park.

Background:

In September 2009, the Cowichan Valley Regional District achieved the first major regional parkland acquisition with funding under the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund with the purchase of 93 hectares (230 acres) incorporating strategic lands towards establishment of Heart and Stocking Lakes Regional Park. This new regional park contains significant older, second growth forest containing provincially red-listed ecological plant communities, inclusive of remnant old growth forest characteristics, which are rare on south-eastern Vancouver Island. In addition to ecological values the site has the short-term capacity to provide an expanded trail network for hiking and possibly mountain biking, through interconnection with an adjoining trail system established by the Town of Ladysmith.

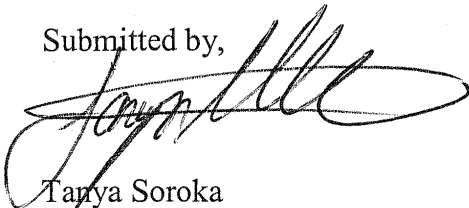
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The Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, adopted by the Board in 2007, provides that each newly acquired regional park site have prepared a site specific regional park management plan to provide guidance and direction on the development, operations/maintenance and stewardship of each regional park. As there are additional land acquisitions anticipated to complete Heart and Stocking Lake Regional Park as envisioned in the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, an interim park management plan is proposed for the acquired property at this time to establish opportunities for basic outdoor recreation access and site management. Preparation of the interim Park Management Plan is proposed through use of in-house CVRD Parks and Trails staff resources, with availability of such resources to undertake the works being confirmed as part of the 2010 budget approval process.


In the interim, the first priority for the new regional park is to apply for a Crown Land Tenure to establish formal access in favour of the Regional District across existing crown lands to the Regional Park from the end of the Banon Creek Forest Service Road, upon which the Regional District already has an existing road use permit in place granting authority to use this forest service road to access Stocking Lake.

A separate gravel access road from the end of Banon Creek Forest Service Road across provincial forest lands to CVRD's newly acquired property currently exists and historically was the formal access to the property through a Special Use Permit issued by the Ministry of Forests in accordance with provisions of the Provincial Forest Use Regulation. However, as the intended use of the lands is for regional parks purposes (not forestry), it has been indicated by Ministry staff that issuance of a land tenure permit by the Provincial Integrated Land Management Bureau will be required, as Special Use Permits are typically limited to forestry-related access requirements to lands beyond Provincial Forest Lands. The land tenure permit in favour of the Regional District will ensure continued access to the property from the end of the Banon Creek Forest Serve Road.

Submitted by,



Tanya Soroka
Parks Planning Technician
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Division Head's Approval

Signature

TS/lag



SR5

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 24, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Timberwest Forest Corporation Trail Licence Agreements for two segments of the Cowichan Valley Trail

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to prepare the documents necessary to enter into an agreement with Timberwest Forest Corporation (Timberwest) for two segments of the Cowichan Valley Trail (CVT) and that the Board Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to execute these documents to secure access across Timberwests' privately owned lands legally described as Lot 691, Block 5, Bright and Oyster Land Districts as well as the property Block 1242, Malahat Land District, VIP 78495.

Purpose:

To request approval to enter into an agreement with Timberwest for the section of trail that crosses lands owned by Timberwest in Electoral Area H, following the recommended route identified in 2003, from the Town of Ladysmith north to Haslam Creek suspension bridge, as well as the section of trail which travels through Timberwests' Block 1242 which links the Cowichan Valley Trail south with the Galloping Goose Trail in the Capital Regional District.

Financial Implications:

Funding for construction of these sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail have been secured through various grants including the recently approved Recreational Infrastructure Canada Grant in the amount of \$650,000 for the completion of the Northern Section of the Trail. The southern section of trail will be primarily funded through the Trans Canada Trail Relocation Fund established by the Province and the Capital Regional District, which currently sits at 1.1 million dollars.

Background:

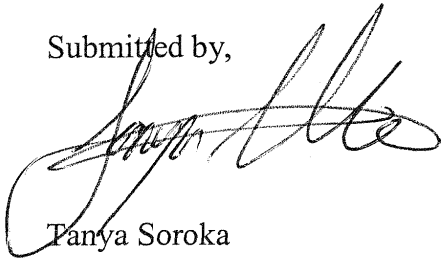
In 2003 a report titled "Trans Canada Trail Route Options – Town of Ladysmith to Haslam Creek Suspension Bridge" was completed identifying the recommended route for the Cowichan Valley Trail through Electoral Area H to the Nanaimo Regional District. As part of the approved 2010 Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) grant funding program, completion of the CVT Northern section requires the documents to be executed and signed between the CVRD and Timberwest prior to any work beginning on the trail.

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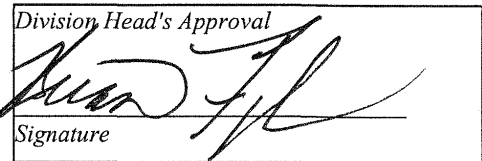
Completion of this segment of trail is a priority for CVRD Parks, and planned trail improvements, including the trail bridge crossing over Bush Creek near the Ladysmith Fish and Game Club hatchery, requires the non-exclusive license agreement with Timberwest to be in place.

As outlined in the 2005 report titled "Detailed Route Selection – TCT Connector Trail", the recommended trail route linking the Cowichan Valley Trail to the Galloping Goose Trail also travels through Timberwests' Block 1242, therefore this section of trail also requires an executed agreement between the CVRD and Timberwest for the rights of access across their private property for approximately 300 metres. A draft non-exclusive trail license agreement provided by Timberwest includes terms permitting Timberwest to temporarily interrupt trail access rights for either planned business activities carried out on private lands or extreme wildfire hazard.

Submitted by,

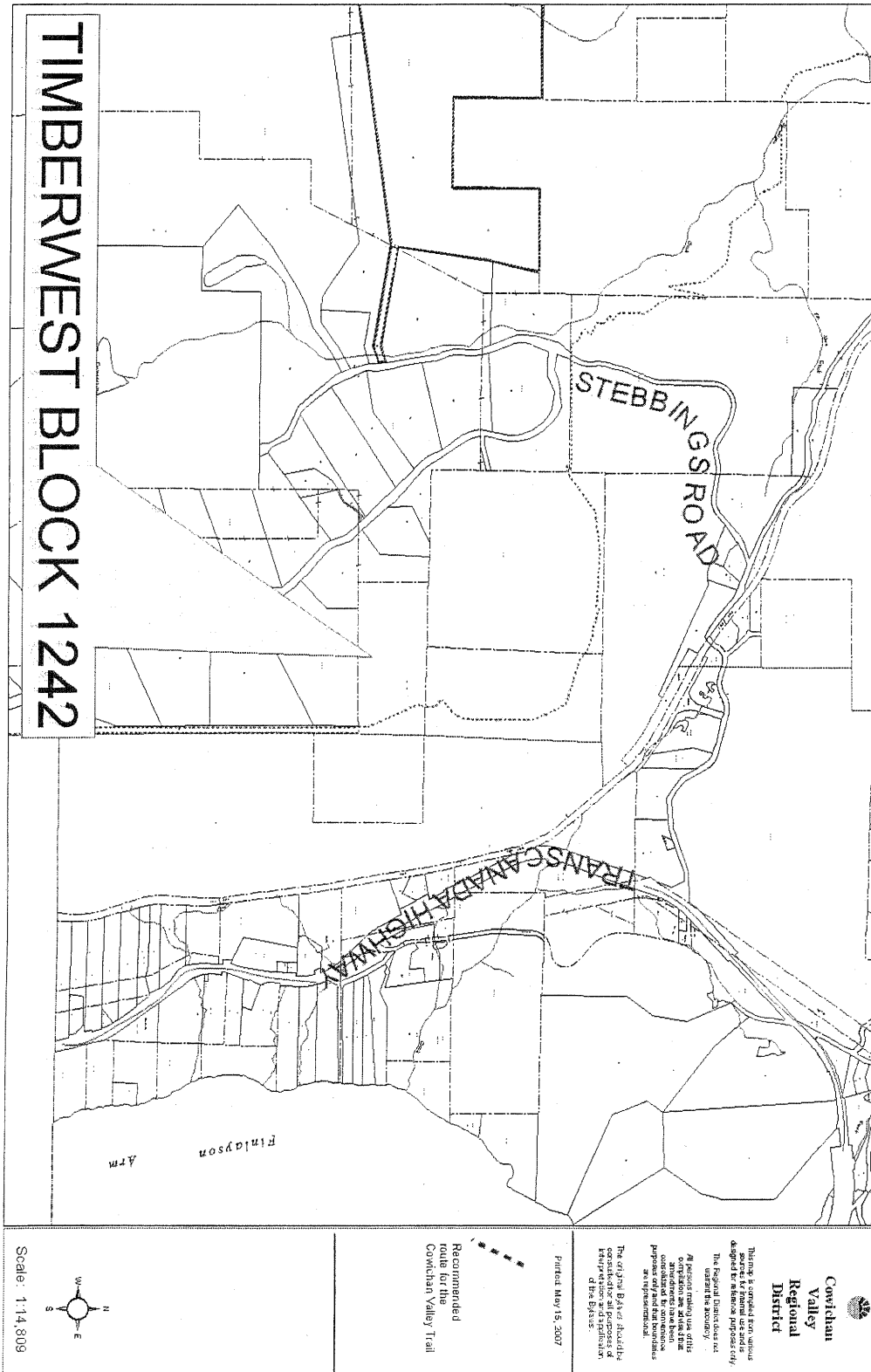


Tanya Soroka
Parks Planning Technician
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

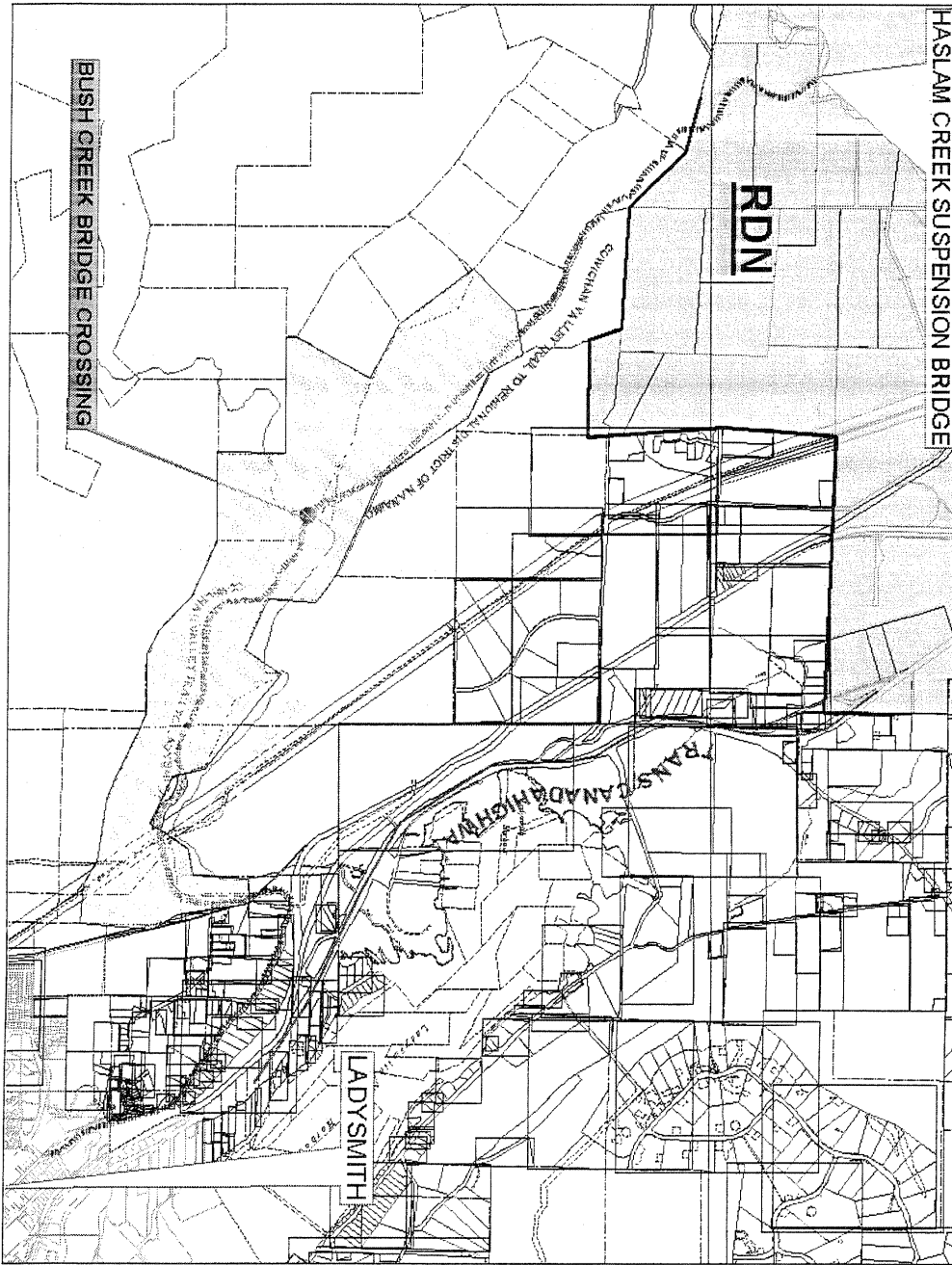
Division Head's Approval

Signature

TS/lag

Attachments



Proposed Cowichan Valley Trail on Timberwest Lands between Sooke Lake Road and the Capital Regional District



Cowichan Valley Regional District

The map is compiled from various sources for information and is not intended to be used for legal purposes. The Regional District of Nanaimo is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

All roads shown are the same as shown on the latest official map of the Regional District of Nanaimo. The map is not intended to be used for legal purposes. The Regional District of Nanaimo is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

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Printed May 16, 2007

Legend

- TRANS CANADA HWY
- COWICHAN VALLEY TRAIL
- BUSH CREEK BRIDGE CROSSING
- TIMBERWEST OWNED LANDS

Scale: 1:25,479

Proposed Cowichan Valley Trail on Timberwest Lands between Ladysmith and the Regional District of Nanaimo



SR6

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

DATE: November 17, 2009 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program Trail Funding Approval

Recommendation:

That the Board Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to execute the necessary documents applicable to approved Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program's \$650,000 funding assistance to the expansion and construction of major sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail.

Purpose:

To inform the Committee and Board of the approval of \$650,000 in financial assistance from the Federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program for trail expansion and construction work on the Cowichan Valley Trail route between the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Regional District of Nanaimo boundary.

Financial Implications:

Conditions of the approved \$650,000 funding for the Cowichan Valley Trail project under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RIInC) is dependent upon two-thirds matching funding of \$1,300,000 through the Regional District and other funding partners.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

Background:

The Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative is currently focused on the completion of three outstanding section of the 120 km overall regional trail route through the Cowichan region, which when completed will link with the Capital Regional District's Galloping Goose Trail and Nanaimo Regional District's Trans Canada Trail. Interconnected, these three regional trail systems complete the approximately 200 km portion of the designated Trans Canada Trail route on Southern Vancouver Island, with the Mile 'O' starting at Beaconhill Park in Victoria and the crossing point to the Lower Mainland occurring at Departure Bay in Nanaimo. The Town of Lake Cowichan has the distinction of being the westernmost point of the Trans Canada Trail in Canada.

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The three outstanding sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail (CVT) to be completed are:

- Malahat Connection to the Galloping Goose Trail in Victoria
- Historic Kinsol Trestle Crossing Rehabilitation over the Koksilah River
- CVT – Northern Completion (Lake Cowichan to Regional District of Nanaimo boundary)

The Malahat Connection initiative is currently underway as a joint initiative with the Capital Regional District with previous funding commitments in place for this project through the Trans Canada Trail Relocation Fund, a \$1 million fund established for this effort back in 1997. Final route planning and trail corridor acquisition efforts are proceeding, for which a further update will be brought forward to the Committee in the near future.

The historic Kinsol Trestle Crossing Rehabilitation project is also underway and is the basis for a major capital fundraising drive to raise the funds necessary to rehabilitate the structure and establish a new deck atop the structure for use by Cowichan Valley Trail users to cross over the Koksilah River. This effort is being guided by the Board's appointed Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Committee.

The third outstanding section of the Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative is the section of trail required between the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Nanaimo Regional District's (RDN) boundary just west of the Nanaimo Airport, where the RDN has constructed their section of the Trans Canada Trail to link with the Cowichan Valley Trail. Core funding to undertake basic work on the trail corridor over a four year period (2009 – 2012) from the Lake Cowichan to RDN boundary is currently committed through several sources of funding, as follows:

Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) approved Grant	- \$743,891
Federal Gas Tax Funding (Board approved)	- \$400,000
CVRD Board Resolution Reaffirming Funding Commitment	- \$743,691
Other Funding (undefined) to Match ICET Grant	- \$344,055
<i>(Board resolution 09-317 from June 10, 2009 meeting)</i>	

Total Core Project	<u>\$2,231,637</u>
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When the grant application to the Island Coastal Economic Trust was submitted in 2007/08 for, the Board's approval of the application was based on expectations that other sources of funding would be secured for the Other Funding amount of \$344,055 noted above. ICET subsequently approved the total value of the grant application, inclusive of expectations that the \$344,055 in Other Funding would be secured by the Regional District.

In response to the expectations of the Board, several applications to various grant funding programs over the past year have been submitted, including an application to the federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC) through Western Economic Diversification. The one-third/two-third financial assistance parameters of the grant program enabled an application to be submitted based on previously secured funding in place and funding parameters under which project funds would have to be expended by March 2011. In favourably reviewing the application submitted for financial assistance for the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion Project, on November 3, 2009, the Regional District was formally notified of

approval of \$650,000 in financial assistance for the project, on the basis the Regional District provide \$1,300,000 in matching funding (2/3 funding) for the project, with the condition the trail works be completed no later than March 2011.

The overall \$1,950,000 project funding breaks down as follows between 2009 and 2011 (project completion March 2011 notwithstanding), based on the application approved by the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program:

	2009	2010	2011	Funding Total
Federal Gas Tax	\$63,758	\$267,971		\$331,729
ICET	\$67,671	\$303,974	\$164,169	\$535,814
Regional Parks	\$63,758	\$217,971 (includes \$42,971 surplus)	\$150,728	\$432,457
RInC Funding	\$97,666	\$384,474	\$167,860	\$650,000
FUNDING TOTAL	\$292,853	\$1,174,390	\$482,757	\$1,950,000

As noted above, for 2009 expenses incurred on the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion project on the Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan and the Chemainus Rail Trail section that have been incurred since October 6, 2009, are eligible expenses for one-third matching funding from RInC. This allows for expenditure of \$97,666 in RInC funding by yearend, which will be undertaken to complete additional work on these two sections of the trail in the coming weeks.

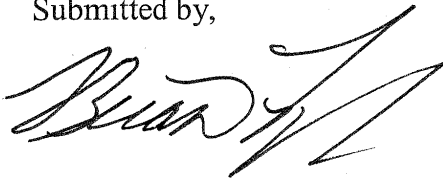
For 2010, there is an anticipated surplus carry forward of approximately \$43,000 from the Regional Parks budget, which will require a Capital requisition amount under Regional Parks (function 280) of \$175,000 to provide the matching funds required to maximize the grant funding commitments of the approved RInC funding and previously approved grant funding from the Island Coastal Economic Trust for this project. As noted above, the Regional Board at its meeting of June passed a resolution reaffirming funding support for the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion Project in the order of \$743,691 between 2009-2012. This was at the request of the Island Coastal Economic Trust, given ICET's commitment of matching funds for the project during this period. Both grant funders have indicated that the funding commitments are predicated on the Regional District's portion of funding being in place annually or risk the loss of that year's or potentially all of the grant funding committed to the project, due to overprescribed grant applications to both programs to which unspent funding would be diverted.

Inclusion of the \$175,000 in capital funding under the 2010 Regional Parks requisition for the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion project is therefore imperative to meet the matching funding requirements of both the RInC grant and the ICET grant. If such capital funding is not in place for 2010, the Regional District would be at risk at having one or both grants cancelled at a potential total loss of over \$1,185,814 in approved grant funding for this project.

In future years to complete the regional trail project these costs would either need to be funded entirely under the Regional Parks budget or through other grant programs, if made available again in future. This would also extend the timeframe to complete the Cowichan Valley Trail between the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Nanaimo Regional District boundary.

For 2011, \$150,728 in Regional Parks Capital funding will be required, unless another source of funding is secured to provide for part or all of this funding commitment requirement. One possible source of funding that the Parks Committee and Board may wish to consider is the allocation of additional Federal Gas Tax funding to the Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Project, in addition to the \$400,000 already committed to the project. Decisions with regards to Gas Tax Funding by the Board is expected to be brought forward at some point in the new year for consideration for the next round of funding allocations.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Farquhar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Farquhar,
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/lag



SR7

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

OF November 24, 2009

DATE: November 18, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager **BYLAW NO:**

SUBJECT: 2010 Working Paper Budgets: Regional Parks (280) and Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285)

Recommendation:

That the Regional Parks Committee provide direction on the 2010 budgets for the Regional Parks Service (280) and the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285).

Purpose:

To request direction from the Committee on preparation of 2010 budgets for Regional Parks (280) and the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285).

Financial Implications:

N/A

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

Background:

The Regional Parks program is supported by two functional budgets, the Regional Parks (280) budget which provides funding for the operation, maintenance and capital development of regional parks and regional trails (notably the Cowichan Valley Trail) and the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285), established by the Regional Board in 2008 to fund the acquisition of lands for regional park purposes as guided by the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan adopted by the Board in March 2007.

In recent years the Regional Parks program has grown to a complement of five (5) regional park sites (Spectacle Lake, Sandy Pool, Chemainus River, Osborne Bay, Heart/Stocking Lake), one (1) Regional Recreation Area (Cobble Hill Mountain) and a lengthening Cowichan Valley Trail.

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Current priorities of the Regional Parks program as established by the Board include:

- Assessing strategic acquisition of additional lands to complement existing regional parks or establishment of new sites as guided by the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan;
- Supporting the Board's Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee and the Cowichan Foundation towards fundraising targets for the rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle and ongoing work with respect to establishing rehabilitation work program details and specific requirements of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (owners of the structure and rail corridor);
- Securing remaining trail corridor segments to link the Cowichan Valley Trail from the south end of Shawnigan Lake with the Galloping Goose Trail in Langford and initiating detailed route layout and design jointly with Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks. Funding to initiate construction the approximately 20 km regional trail connection is already in place by way of the Trans Canada Trail Relocation Fund established by CRD and the Province in 1997, which currently has about \$1.1 million available for the project.
- Completing the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Initiative, which is focused on securing remaining trail corridor segments and constructing the regional trail between the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Nanaimo Regional District boundary, a length of over 55 kilometres. Major sections of the trail route are aligned within the E & N Railway Corridor under agreement with Island Corridor Foundation. Progress to complete these trail segments is supported through significant grant funding commitments received from the Island Coastal Economic Trust and the federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program, as well as Federal Gas Tax Funding allocated to the project by the Board.

Regional Parks Budget (280)

For 2010, the core budget proposed for the Regional Parks service is \$519,163, which would be funded entirely through tax requisition. This is an increase from the \$316,996 tax requisition for the Regional Parks Service approved by the Board both in 2008 and 2009; however the 2009 Regional Parks budget also included a surplus carryforward of \$170,503 and a Transfer from Reserves of \$140,000 in additional funding support for the approved services and projects carried out under the Regional Parks Program in 2009.

The attached CVRD 2010 Requisition Review for the Regional Parks Service (280) provides a summary of the increases to the core budget for this function. A key core cost is the previously approved Board commitment under a signed agreement with the Cowichan Foundation to fund the administrative and capital campaign costs for the Historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Fundraising Campaign. In 2010 the costs for the campaign to raise the remaining funds targeted for the project is budgeted for \$155,500. The other core cost increases to Regional Parks are yearly wage and benefit increases to existing staff funded under Regional Parks and increases service costs from other CVRD departments which support the Regional Parks program.

In addition to the core budget recommendation for the Regional Parks Service in 2010, the Corporate Leadership Team is recommending two additional items to the Regional Parks budget, specific to achieving current priorities of the Board for the Regional Parks Program, specifically:

1. Funding 1/3 Parks & Trails Planner Position (New)
2. Matching Funding for the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion

1. Funding 1/3 Parks & Trails Planner Position

The Parks & Trails Planner position is required to provide the staffing resource support for the continued growth and increased demands of the Regional Parks program, in particular advancing the regional parkland acquisition strategy in assessing acquisition opportunities and building partnerships with other funding partners. The growing inventory of Regional Park sites and expanding Cowichan Valley Trail requires preparation of park management & site plans to guide appropriate regional park development, manage site use, engage public participation in the management and stewardship of these site and ensure that appropriate environmental management prescriptions are developed to enhance the ecological attributes of these significant sites and protect from degradation through inappropriate use or activities.

This position will lead the Parks and Trails coordination responsibilities within the Parks and Trails Division under the direction of the Manager, Parks and Trails. Funding for the position is proposed to be split, with 1/3 the position funded under Regional Parks budget (280) and the remaining 2/3 of the position to be funded under the Community Parks and Trails budget (279). Annual review of the level of effort of the Parks & Trails Planner position between these two functions would occur subsequent to 2010 to reaffirm funding support levels from the Community and Regional Parks programs.

The impacts to the Regional Parks and Trails program in 2010 if no new staffing resources are applied to the program would include limited capacity to advance the regional parkland acquisition program, reduced planned major capital development of the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion (which could result in a loss of approved major grants if there are timing delays), limited parks staff resource support historic Kinsol Trestle Fundraising Campaign by the Cowichan Foundation, reduced capacity to support implementation of the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project pending approval by the Board, and the need to re-assess capacity to maintain the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area as well as Spectacle Lake and Chemainus River Parks under Provincial Agreements.

2. Matching Funding for the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion

As detailed in the earlier staff report entitled “Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program Trail Funding Approval” in the November 24, 2009, Regional Parks Committee Agenda, the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion Initiative has received a total of over \$1.185 million in grant funding for the trail project from the Island Coastal Economic Trust and the federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC). Conditions of the grant funding approved from these agencies require matching funding from the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

A portion of the matching funding through the Regional District is in place through previous of the Board of Federal Gas Tax Funding for the regional trail project; however in order to maximize the grant funding, the remaining portion of the Regional District's contribution to the project to ensure total grant dollars are available is \$175,000 in requisition funding from the Regional Parks budget in 2010 and approximately \$150,000 from the Regional Parks budget in 2011.

As noted in the earlier staff report, the risk to the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion project if the total matching funding is not provided by the Regional District under the Regional Parks Program budget in 2010, is cancellation of the grant funding to the project by RInC and loss of part or all of the grant funding approved for this project by the Island Coastal Economic Trust. The loss of this significant grant funding for the project would require the funds to complete the project would need to be derived entirely from the Regional Parks budget in future years, as it is uncertain whether similar grant funding programs from senior levels of government will be forthcoming in the near future or whether such consideration would again be given to the Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion project.

Additional Program Funding Consideration

In addition to the two funding recommendations of the Corporate Leadership Team, the Regional Parks Committee is also requested to give consideration to funding options for a Parks Coordinator – Capital Projects position to move major capital projects forward under the Regional Parks and Trails Program. As outlined above, the Regional Parks Program has three major multi-year capital projects identified by the Board (historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project, Cowichan Valley Trail Connection to the CRD's Galloping Goose Trail, Cowichan Valley Trail – Northern Completion). It is also expected with continued acquisition of new regional park sites guided by the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan that development of existing and new park sites will be a priority to ensure quality experiences of regional park visitors, protection of environmentally sensitive features within the parks and addressing risk management issues.

The role of the Parks and Trails Planner position above is not inclusive of project management and development of regional parks or regional trails. The Parks Coordinator – Capital Projects position does entail these skill sets and requirements to oversee capital project development within regional parks and for the regional trail initiative. Funding options for the position identified would be to establish a shared funding between Regional Parks (280) and the Community Parks and Trails Program (279) similar to proposed for the Parks and Trails Planner position, or to establish the position on the basis that approved capital budgets under the regional parks program would fund the position with no requisition increase (with a similar provision for funding the position through approved capital budgets for those community parks functions that annually provide capital funding for new community park development projects). Approval of this position under either scenario would require inclusion of an additional parks vehicle as this position would be regularly working in the field directing capital projects. The annual costs of the 1/3 Parks Coordinator – Capital Projects is shown on the attached Requisition Review Summary for Regional Parks (280).

Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund

The region-wide referendum held in November 2008, to establish a Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund as a separate tax requisition in the amount was supported by approximately 71 percent of the voters, based on an approximately \$20 taxation per household average across the region. This level of support was similar to the region-wide sample household survey conducted in 2006 as part of the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan public consultation process, which found approximately 76 percent of households sampled supported establishment of the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund through a new tax.

The Regional Board in December 2008, approved establishment of the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund as a new region-wide taxed service, with a maximum taxation level in 2008 of \$715,000. For 2009, due to a number of considerations faced by the Board, the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund was only taxed a total of \$300,000 for the 2009 budget year. In August of this year the Regional Parks Committee and Board approved acquisition of the first regional park site with these funds, the purchase of 93.0 hectares (230 acres) of strategically positioned lands within the Heart and Stocking Lake Uplands, as supported by the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Public support across the region for securing and protecting high value lands for outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship was also reaffirmed earlier this year as expressed through the 2009 Strategic Planning Survey conducted for the CVRD by Ipsos Reid. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of residents surveyed identified the investment in securing more parks and hiking or walking trails as their highest priorities (expressed as either the highest or second highest priority) when asked what parks and recreation priorities should be over the next five years. On a similar question in the survey, investing in the protection of environmentally sensitive areas was identified as the survey respondent's highest priorities (expressed as either the highest or second highest priority), with a ninety-four percent (94%) response combined total.

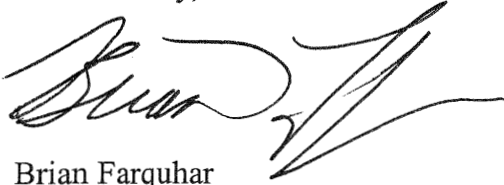
At this time available funds within the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund are limited as the purchase of the Heart and Stocking Lake Uplands property involved a short term loan which must be paid back over the next five years, with annual loan re-payments of \$132,000. If the Parkland Acquisition Fund taxation level for 2010 remains at the same level as approved in 2009 (\$300,000), only \$150,000 will be available for funding for regional parkland purchase, as the balance will be put towards the loan repayment and administrative costs. The attached CVRD 2010 Requisition Review – Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund (285) therefore identifies for consideration increasing the core budget for this function from the \$300,000 approved by the Board in 2009 to \$715,000 in 2010.

The adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan recognizes the strategic sites within the plan supported by the regional community for acquisition are beyond the financial capacity of the CVRD taxpayer alone to fund the purchase of all the sites. The plan acknowledges that establishing land acquisition partnerships with other agencies and organizations which share common objectives and interests in the site identified in the Master Plan will be the key to securing these sites.

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The Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund is a key to this objective through establishing within the Regional District's Regional Parks Program the financial resources broker these land purchasing partnerships and to provide the capacity to be responsive to land acquisition opportunities as such opportunities arise. The Regional Parks Committee and Board will therefore need to give consideration to the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan with respect to the funding support to be provided through the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund to achieving the regional park site acquisition objectives of the adopted Master Plan.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Farquhar', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Brian Farquhar
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/lag

Attachments

CVRD 2010 Requisition Review

Function 280

<u>Description</u>		2008 <u>Tax Requisition</u>	2009 <u>Tax Requisition</u>	2009 % Increase (Decrease)	Proposed 2010 <u>Tax Requisition</u>	\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
A) Core Budget		\$316,996	\$316,996	0.0%	\$519,163	\$202,167	63.8%
Main Reasons for 2010 increase:							
- Decrease in surplus carried forward						\$119,165	37.6%
- Increase in yearly wage and benefits						\$12,071	3.8%
- Increase in service from other CVRD depts.						\$79,030	24.9%
- Increase in net capital expenditures						\$26,418	8.3%
- Decrease in other expenditures						(\$34,517)	-10.9%
						\$202,167	63.8%
<u>Plus Supplemental Items</u>							
			<u>Anticipated Funding Method</u>				
			<u>Reserves</u>	<u>S.T. borrow</u>	<u>Operating</u>		
B) Recommended by Corporate Leadership Team	1) Parks and Trails Planner (35%)				\$37,586	\$37,586	11.9%
	2) Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative				\$175,000	\$175,000	55.2%
	3) 20% of surplus to Operating Reserve				\$10,268	\$10,268	3.2%
					Subtotal	\$222,854	70.3%
Total tax requisition increase recommended by CLT						\$425,021	134.1%
			<u>Anticipated Funding Method</u>				
			<u>Reserves</u>	<u>S.T. borrow</u>	<u>Operating</u>		
C) Additional items to be discussed	1) Parks Coordinator - Capital (35%)				\$37,586	\$37,586	11.9%
	2) Parks Vehicle (35%)				\$12,250	\$12,250	3.9%
					Subtotal	\$49,836	15.7%
Total tax increase including all supplemental items						\$474,857	149.8%

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CVRD 2010 Requisition Review

Function 285

<u>Description</u>	2008		2009		Proposed 2010	
	<u>Tax Requisition</u>		<u>Tax Requisition</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Tax Requisition</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>
A) Core Budget	\$0	\$300,000	N/A		\$300,000	\$0 0.0%
Main Reasons for 2010 increase: - N/A						
Plus Supplemental Items						
B) Recommended by Corporate Leadership Team	Anticipated Funding Method					
	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>S.T. borrow</u>	<u>Operating</u>			\$0 0.0%
				Subtotal	\$0	0.0%
				Total tax requisition increase recommended by CLT	\$0	0.0%
C) Additional items to be discussed	Anticipated Funding Method					
	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>S.T. borrow</u>	<u>Operating</u>			
1) Set Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund at \$715,000 as approved during Fall 2008 Referendum				\$415,000	\$415,000	138.3%
				Subtotal	\$415,000	138.3%
				Total tax increase including all supplemental items	\$415,000	138.3%

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November 8, 2009

CVRD Parks and Recreation Committee
c/o Brian Farquhar
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Shawnigan – Kinsol Half Marathon

On Sunday November 1st, Ceevacs Roadrunners hosted a half marathon running event which started at Shawnigan Lake School, and included portions of the Trans Canada Trail up to the Kinsol Trestle. We were very fortunate to have great weather for our event.

Interest in the new course generated an increase in participation. We had 247 runners registered. Race day had a few no-shows, so we ended up with 226 finishers. While runners faced a challenging hill at the finish, most were very enthusiastic about the new course. A few even stopped to have their picture taken by the Kinsol Trestle!

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the CVRD for allowing us to use the trail for our half marathon event. Most of the runners are keen to come back next year and do it again.

Sincerely,

Sandra Whiting
Race Director, Shawnigan-Kinsol Half 2009

000034

Via

OCTOBER 13/09

LICENSING

B.C. moves to regulate recreational off-road vehicles

BY REBECCA LINDELL VANCOUVER

For the first time, British Columbia is drafting a set of regulations to rein in irresponsible users of recreational off-road vehicles and ensure that riders are accountable for how they treat the trails they traverse.

"With B.C. as one of the only jurisdictions where there is no obligatory licensing and regulations and no real clear guidelines on how to operate an [all-terrain vehicle], we have just had huge environmental damage from uncontrolled and unmonitored off-road vehicle use," said Dave Quinn, spokesman for conservation organization Wildsight.

The changes have been in the works for the past few years. In 2006, a stakeholders group called the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles made 47 recommendations to the province. Tourism Minister Kevin Krueger is now looking at instituting a new regulatory framework for managing off-road vehicle use, the ministry said.

The exact components of the regulations, which could include registration and licensing for off-road vehicles, as well as education and safety measures, are still being discussed. British Columbians, however, could see new legislation introduced in the coming weeks.

B.C.'s current regulations on off-road vehicles are minimal: Only snowmobiles, golf carts, and ATVs used on farms or for industrial purposes must be registered with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. That leaves owners of dirt bikes, recreational ATVs and dune buggies off the hook.

Every other province requires off-road vehicle users to have some combination of safety training, licensing, registration and insurance.

Most people follow guidelines and basic common-sense rules, but the province needs to spell regulations out, said Zan Boyle, president of the Quad Riders Association of British Columbia, a member of the stakeholder group.

Mr. Boyle said the organization wants to see the province adopt a licence and registration system with a one-time fee that would be invested in safety and training.

"Certainly nobody wants to pay out more money in licensing or registration fees, but if they can see the end result being a positive aspect of it, that should be okay.

Mr. Quinn was emphatic about the need for change, calling the situation "totally out of control all across the province."

"Licensing and registration is an important first step for coming up with some designated trails, some signage, and for really protecting this world-class recreational opportunity we have," he said.

Cal Kaytor, an ATV owner in Port Coquitlam, said licensing and registration regulations could help keep trails open.

"If you see someone being a terrain terrorist tearing up the landscape there's nothing you can do about it. Until we get [licensing] in and some way to actually track people who are destroying the environment, areas are going to continue to be closed."

INI



NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

Cowichan Valley Regional District Acquires new Regional Park; Stocking Lake/Heart Lake Regional Park

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has made its first major Regional Park acquisition since the regional community supported establishment of the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund in 2008. This fund was established to achieve the objectives of the adopted 2007 Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan which is to acquire 10 Regional Park sites. The 93 hectare site was purchased through a combination of the parkland acquisition fund and through a significant donation by the landowner.

“The timing and opportunity to acquire this key property within the Heart and Stocking Lake Uplands could not have happened without the support of the regional community in establishing the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund”, says Mel Dorey, CVRD Regional Parks Committee Chair. “The site links with the well established Ladysmith trail network and through careful site planning and trail development will greatly expand the trail system while at the same time protecting extensive sensitive habitats.”

The Regional Park site contains significant older second growth forest containing provincially red-listed ecological plant communities, inclusive of remnant old growth forest characteristics, which are rare on south-eastern Vancouver Island.

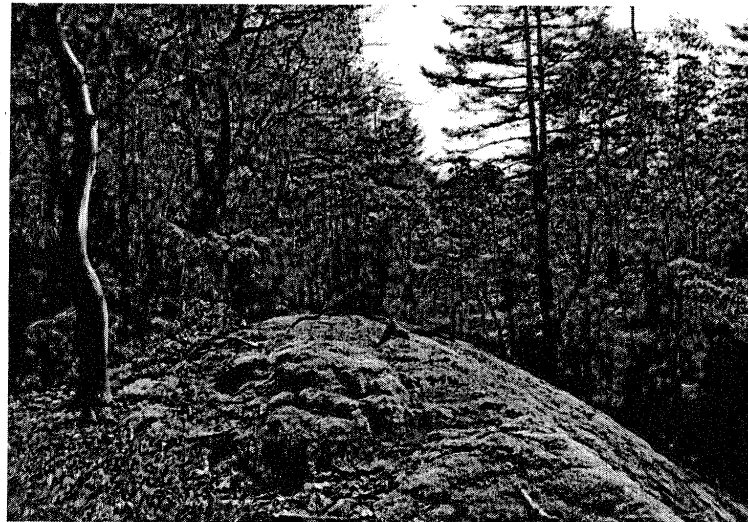
“These ecological attributes contribute to the environmental values of the overall park, both in terms of the opportunity to preserve and protect high valued, ecologically sensitive at-risk plant communities and public-values in terms of the environmental education, awareness and appreciation of these important landscapes”, states Parks and Trails Manager Brian Farquhar. In addition to ecological values the site will, in the future, provide for an expanded trail network for hiking and, possibly mountain biking, following preparation of a park management plan which will need to balance both the outdoor recreation opportunities with sustainable management of the ecological values and characteristics of this newly acquired regional park. Interpretive opportunities highlighting the Cowichan Region’s logging heritage will also be an important component of future opportunities for the site.

This acquisition supports key objectives of the CVRD’s adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan to “acquire and manage regionally-significant lands of high outdoor recreational and



environmental value to the regional community.” Involvement of the public in planning for the future management of this regional park will also be key to the values the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, as intended by the CVRD Board with adoption of the plan in 2007.

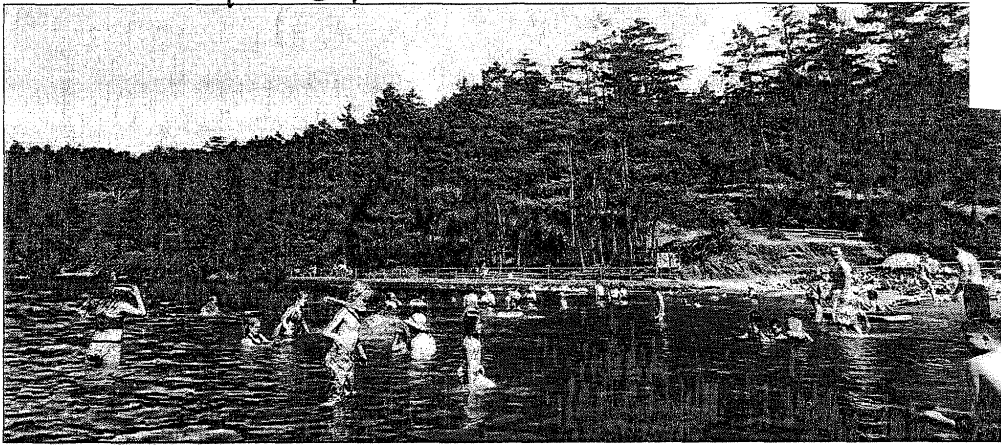
Brian Farquhar
Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Cowichan Valley Regional District
250.746.2620
bfarquhar@cprd.bc.ca



Photos of Newly acquired Stocking Lake/Heart Lake Regional Park

SEPT 22, 2009

IN 3



DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

Say so long to the sensational summer of 2009 with this memory of bathers frolicking at a more family-friendly Thetis Lake on Aug. 1. Autumn sweeps in today at 2:18 p.m.

Parks crackdown works

Stepped-up enforcement reduces number of booze-related incidents

BILL CLEVERLEY
Times Colonist

With fall officially arriving today, officials looking back at the summer are crediting stepped-up enforcement for a drop in booze-related incidents in Capital Regional District parks.

"There's still lots of issues with alcohol and dogs, but certainly the problems are not as serious this year and the response we're getting from the public is far more positive," said CRD parks administrator Lloyd Rushton. "Families that have not been going there as much in recent years are returning."

Statistics show that as of Aug. 4, alcohol-related incidents in CRD parks had fallen to just under 7,000, with 169 evictions. That compared to almost 8,400 incidents and a whopping 930 evictions the previous year. While there were fewer incidents and evictions, officials did write more alcohol-related tickets — 54 compared to 34 the previous summer.

Final numbers on the season won't be tabulated until next month, but both Rushton and parks committee chairman Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton said they are pleased with the early results.

Rushton, in a report to the CRD parks committee, said the reduction in alcohol violations and evictions is probably the result of three years of increased bylaw enforcement.

"We have had excellent co-operation between ourselves, the RCMP, and local police forces and our bylaw-enforcement officers. We have been getting lots of comments from the public, and the flavour of many of them around Thetis Lake is we have a much more family [oriented] beach at Thetis now."

CRD bylaw officers coordinated efforts this summer with local police forces to make their presence known, especially in the heavily used Thetis Lake Regional Park.

"What I'm hearing anecdotally both from staff and from elected people is that things have greatly improved," Causton said.

Dog violations to early August are on the upswing, however: up to 1,719 from 1,029 last year and 636 in 2007. Almost half of those were for failure to remove dog feces, while others were for offences such as dogs in prohibited areas, off-leash on a beach or not under control.

The increase is probably due to a greater emphasis

by staff in reporting incidents, Rushton said.

Rushton said that given the hot, dry summer, the CRD dodged a bullet when it came to wildfires in parks. As of Sept. 4, regional parks fire crews had responded to 10 fires, five of which grew to about half a hectare. Two were at Thetis Lake, two at East Sooke Regional Park and one was at Mount Work Regional Park.

Meanwhile, the CRD parks committee members decided it would be better to let sleeping dogs lie than awaken the local dog lobby.

Juan de Fuca electoral area director Mike Hicks, whose acreage abuts the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, said he's been having a problem with a pit bull wandering from the trail onto his property. He suggested the committee might want to consider requiring dogs on the trail to be leashed.

But other committee members weren't keen on the idea, and parks staff said there haven't been significant problems with dogs on the trail. Current regulations call for dogs to be under control at all times in regional parks, including trails.

Rushton said bylaws are under review and that staff would take note of Hicks's comments.

For the record, fall begins at 2:18 p.m. today with the autumnal equinox. bcleverley@tc.canwest.com

000040

Parks levy should be doubled: CRD committee

\$10-per-household average rate would rise to \$20 over five years

BILL CLEVERLEY
Times Colonist

Capital Regional District parks committee members are recommending the \$10-per-household parks-acquisition levy be doubled over the next five years.

Considered so controversial when it was introduced a decade ago that some municipalities even polled their residents before agreeing to it, the levy has proven successful beyond most people's dreams.

Between January 2000 and December 2008, the fund enabled the CRD, working with partners such as The Land Conservancy, to acquire 2,970 hectares of land worth almost \$28 million, including gems like the Sooke Hills wilderness area and Sooke Potholes Regional Park. The CRD contributed more than 60 per cent of that sum, while partners provided the balance.

The committee is recommending increasing the levy from \$10 per \$500,000 assessed value by \$2 a year for the next five years, and then holding it at \$20 until 2019.

Doubling the levy will raise between \$2 million and \$3.2 million a year, or \$30 million over the next decade.

While she supports the levy, Sooke Mayor Janet Evans noted that it was introduced as a temporary measure 10 years ago and suggested directors poll their councils.

"If we just go to the board with this recommendation without our councils having a say, I don't know if that's a proper way to represent the public," Evans said.

But other committee members said the recommendation won't go to the board for a month and that's plenty of time to consult with local councils.

Most agreed the public is firmly behind the parks levy.

"I've never been asked so many times to increase taxes," said Victoria Coun. Philippe Lucas. Even if the board agrees with the recommendation, it has to be ratified annually at budget time, said committee chair-

man Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton.

Metchosin Mayor John Ranns said the levy is so critical, the region should

make its intentions clear.

"It's always easy to take away from parks [budgets]," Ranns said. "If we nail it down now it will be harder to change and if we don't then we're going to be an easy target."

Land Conservancy executive director Bill Turner told

the committee that committing to the levy and specifying how much it will be allows organizations like his to plan and help with acquisitions. "People will look back on what the CRD board has done and its vision of creating this parks system and be truly thankful to

you," Turner said.

CRD directors have also decided to extend the \$6.50-per-household levy for affordable housing. Begun as an experiment five years ago, the Regional Housing Trust Fund has generated almost 300 units of affordable housing.

In the past 4 1/2 years, the fund has raised \$3.5 million that has been leveraged at a rate of about 15 to one, creating \$51 million worth of affordable housing.

About 281 units in 17 new projects have been built. bcleverley@tc.canwest.com

000041

IN 4