

## 'Namgis First Nation & RDMW - C2C Meeting, March 15, 2018

Regional Directors met recently with the Namgis First Nation Council in a Community to Community forum to discuss several shared services and areas of common interest. The day's agenda included a review by the Regional District of the Regional Services as well as a discussion of several of economic development projects that will offer opportunities for participation by the 'Namgis. 'Namgis representatives provided an overview of their discussions with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada and shared their understanding of some of the implications for traditional rights and titles that flow from recent court cases and the evolving policy environment.

The representatives from both communities agreed that the North Island Regional Protocol Agreement, that was signed by 5 communities and 7 First Nations in 2010, formed a useful framework within which they could move forward to collaborating in several areas such as signage at the Woss Memorial Gazebo and the Hatchery Fire Agreement. As a first step, 'Namgis Council and the Regional District Board will consider a common resolution endorsing the collaborative approach and a commitment to reach consensus on common projects. To ensure continuity for engagement, political leaders will establish a schedule of meetings, at least annually, that would provide a forum for ongoing discussion and reconciliation.

## GROUNDWATER & WATER WELLS WORKSHOP

Interested in learning about groundwater and well water? Join staff of the Province of BC (Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations), Island Health, and the RDMW for a **FREE** workshop!

### Workshop Highlights

~ Wells ~ Well Water ~ Groundwater ~ Water Conservation

### Where & When

April 25th, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Chilton Regional Arena Image Room, 2205 Campbell Way, Port McNeill

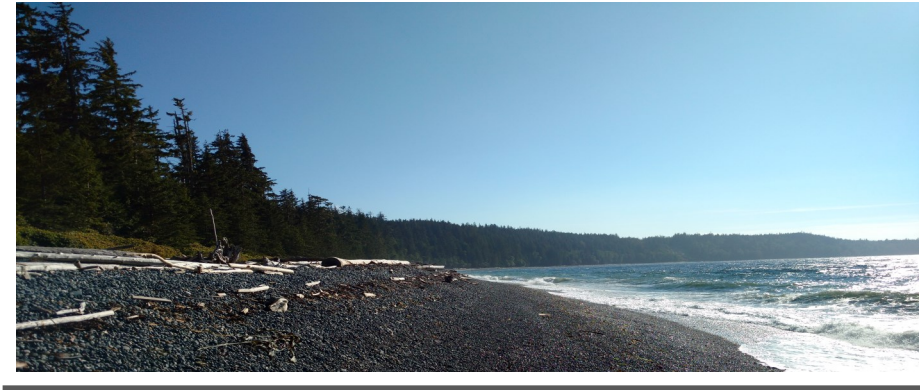
## SOINTULA FIRE DEPARTMENT — NEW RECRUITS WANTED!

Calling all interested men and women! The Sointula Volunteer Fire Department is seeking new recruits. Operating through the volunteer efforts of fellow community members, new recruits train with and learn from experienced members and have an opportunity to provide fire protection services to the local community. Contact your local fire chief today to learn more!



# "Malcolm Island Mailout"

APRIL 2018



## UTILITIES BILLING 2018

Accompanying this newsletter is your annual utility bill for 2018. Households will assume a minimal \$3 increase garbage collection fees to \$91.00 and a \$2 increase to \$65.00/month for 3 yard bins. As a gentle reminder to all:

- Bills not paid by July 1st, 2018 will be charged interest at 1%/month
- Outstanding fees not paid by Dec 31st, 2018 will be added to your Property Tax Account
- If using online banking to pay your utilities bill, please use your property's folio number as the account number. *A mistake could make your neighbour's day!*

Visit the following link & ensure your address is correct <https://info.bcassessment.ca/Services-products/update-your-property-information>

\*If you would like to receive invoices/notices regarding your account via email, please email [bsinclair@rdmw.bc.ca](mailto:bsinclair@rdmw.bc.ca) along with the name on your account and the email address you would like to have on file. Enjoy the day!

## RURAL TOURISM ACTION GRANT - NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

The Regional District is now accepting applications for the 2018 Rural Tourism Action Grant. Community groups can apply for up to \$2,500.00 of funding to support projects including trail head signage, festival and events promotion, and community tourism initiatives. Application deadline is September 30th, 2018. For grant guidelines and application package visit: <http://www.rdmw.bc.ca/regional-services/regional-economic-development/>

## Tsunami Warnings and How to Respond

The recent experience in the early morning of January 23, 2018 has once again emphasized the need for knowing how to respond to a tsunami warning. If you are alerted by the Sointula Fire Dept. about a tsunami warning stay calm and proceed to a location at a higher elevation. To find Tsunami Area maps for Malcolm Island, go to the Regional District web page ([www.rdmw.bc.ca](http://www.rdmw.bc.ca)) and select "Our Communities", then "Malcolm Island/ Area A." and look under "About". The Malcolm Island section of the North Island Regional Emergency Plan is also located here.

AJ Elliott School will act as an emergency reception center for the residents of Sointula.

Your local Emergency Planning Group, headed by Linda Sowden, will be putting out a newsletter with more Emergency information later this Spring.

## Illegal dumping / Information Regarding Garden and Yard Waste

The Regional District is constructing a non-food (no compost) garden/yard waste management area at the Sointula Recycling Depot. Garden/yard waste, small brush and untreated wood can be dropped off in a separate holding area where these material types will eventually be ground up into chips and made available to the public. This effort should result in less material being shipped off Malcolm Island and also reduce illegal dumping on Malcolm Island.

Many people feel that garden and yard waste have little risk when dumped compared to other types of garbage and that it is green and natural and will break down and turn into beautiful organic soil. Actually, it's the complete opposite. Garden/yard waste is better described as a biohazard because plant debris dumped on the ground has a very real chance of taking root and spreading multiplying its biomass many times over. Furthermore, some of these plant species are very difficult to get rid of once established. The classic example is knotweed - a common invasive weed on the North Island which will establish itself when a small cutting is discarded onto the ground. If you cut it or try and up root it, it actually responds by spreading further and choking out native vegetation severely impacting the native ecosystem. Experience has shown that only repetitive spraying with glyphosate will actually kill it. The best way of preventing invasive species problems is to dispose of garden/yard waste **properly. It is particularly important that garden/yard waste be carefully managed for invasive plant species to avoid having them spread along Malcolm Island. When using this new area, it is very important that the depot attendant review what is being placed in it so that problem plant types can be diverted to a safer way of disposal.** Please help prevent the spread of invasive species. Do not dump garden/yard waste along a logging road or in Art Swanson's pit. *If you witness illegal dumping activities, please take photos and contact the Provincial Conservation Service through its RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.*

The Regional District will provide further information at the depot site as our project gets closer to completion.

The 2018 Garbage Collection Schedule is online!

Visit [www.rdmw.bc.ca](http://www.rdmw.bc.ca)

MI Transfer Station Hours:

Tues 10-1PM ~ Wed 6-8PM ~ Saturdays 10-3PM



## Solid Waste Facility Upgrades

The upgrades carried out on the sewer system should be completed by the end of March. The new control systems for the lift stations and the wastewater treatment plant will allow better management of the system. The sludge dewatering infrastructure project should result in several thousand dollars of annual operating costs savings which can help keep rate increases lower. The majority of the project's cost were covered by Federal and Provincial grants under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund.

## Sewer System Upgrades Almost Complete

The upgrades carried out on the sewer system should be completed by the end of March. Control systems for the lift stations and the wastewater treatment plant will allow better management of the system. The sludge dewatering infrastructure should result in several thousand dollars of annual operating costs savings which can help keep rate increases lower. The majority of the project's cost were covered by Federal and Provincial grants under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund.

## Public Restroom

With contributions from the Sointula Co-op and BC Ferries, the Regional District has built, what many consider, the most elegant restroom on all of Malcolm Island, if not the world- complete with art on the walls. Not only is it cat's meow for aesthetics, it's a technological marvel that automatically manages its operating hours from 6 AM to 11 PM daily.

## Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN)

Thanks to local volunteers, the VTN Service is available to Malcolm Island residents who may have mobility issues. Call 250-956-3134 for further information.

## Local General Elections

2018 is a General Local Election year. On October 20, 2018 eligible electors of the Regional District of Mount Waddington will have an opportunity to vote for the positions of Electoral Area Director and School Board Trustee unless these positions have been acclaimed. Visit <http://www.rdmw.bc.ca/> for more information on the general local election. Below are key dates of interest:

September 4 – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Nomination period

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Declaration of candidates elected by acclamation/general election

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Advanced voting (if required)

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – General election day

Electoral Area A Director:	Sointula Fire Dept.:	Water/Sewer Service:	Sointula Streetlight Service:	Planning & Dev. Services
Heidi Soltau (250)-973-6520	Tom Trimmer (250)-973-6840	Alden Barnett (250)-974-7074	Patrick Donaghy (250)-956-3301	Jeff Long (250)-956-3301