

North Island Recycling Depots



Your North Island Recycling Depots provide differing levels of service. Eco-Depots allow users to bring a wide variety of materials from packaging/ printed paper to tires and electronics. Other depots just focus on packaging and printed paper. For a detailed list of what materials your local depots can accept, go to www.rdmw.bc.ca and check out the Recycling Page.

The new packaging recycling program requires glass, polystyrene foam and plastic film materials to be taken to a depot.

Glass



- Keep your returnable beverage bottles out of recycling for charitable functions or for your own benefit.
- Take caps and lids off, recycle metal ones.

Polystyrene



- We cannot recycle packing peanuts

Plastic Film



- We cannot recycle stretch wrap

“Woss Woss ‘up”



APRIL 2020



COVID19 IMPACT ON WOSS SERVICES

The COVID 19 Pandemic has had an enormous impact across the globe, including on the services provided to Woss by the RDMW. In this issue of “Woss’up” we will provide you with an outline of the status of various Woss services and how they may have been impacted, as well as news of any changes that were already in the works. In addition, the newsletter includes updates on important RDMW initiatives that are still ongoing, but at a slower pace, including the Waste Management Planning Process and the Regional Housing Needs Report.

Like most organizations, the RDMW is having a challenging time to adapt to the necessary changes in practices to deal with the emergency, including less in-person meetings and new protocols related to greater physical separation for staff, cleaning etc. While the main office is now closed to the public, we are endeavouring to continue to provide essential services with minimal impact to the public who depend on them. Please continue to follow the advice of Island Health, <https://www.islandhealth.ca/> to keep yourselves and the community healthy and safe. Now more than ever we will all need to continue the North Island tradition of resilience in times of need coupled with generosity to friends and neighbours while, for now, keeping physical distance. -Greg Fletcher, CAO

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The North Island Regional Emergency Plan (<http://www.rdmw.bc.ca/our-communities/woss/>) calls for Emergency Social Service (ESS) Volunteers in each community. To find out more or to volunteer, please call REPC Coordinator Cathy Denham @250-230-1519.

Rural Tourism Action Grant – Now Accepting Applications!

The Regional District is now accepting applications for the 2020 Rural Tourism Action Grant. Community groups and organizations can apply for up to \$2,500. in funding to support projects including trail head signage, festival and events promotion, and community tourism initiatives. Application deadline is September 30th, 2020. For grant guidelines and application package, please visit: <http://www.rdmw.bc.ca/regional-services/regional-economic>

Woss Transfer Station— Hours: Wed 4-7pm & Sun 12-4pm

UTILITIES BILLING 2020

Accompanying this newsletter is your annual utility bill. Residents are reminded of the following:

- ♦ Avoid in person payments, please use online banking with CIBC, CCCU or Scotiabank. E-Transfer to bsinclair@rdmw.bc.ca (be sure to phone or send an email with the password). Call 250-956-3301 to pay using a credit card.
 - ♦ When paying your bill, please make sure to reference the account number on your invoice.
 - ♦ Our mailing information comes from BC Assessment. If we did not send your invoice to your current address, you need to update your info. Please go to https://eforms.bcasessment.ca/address_change_form.asp
 - ♦ Outstanding amounts as of Dec 31, 2020 are transferred over to your Rural Property account with the Province of BC.
- *If you have questions or concerns regarding your invoices or would like to receive your invoice via email, please email bsinclair@rdmw.bc.ca. Please include your name and folio number along with the email address you would like to have on file. Enjoy the day!**



Mount Waddington Transit/Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN)

COVID19 Service Impacts: To keep Transit operating as an essential service BC Transit has eliminated fares for until at least April 30th. Thanks to Len, Lee and other volunteers, the VTN Service is available to

Woss residents who may have mobility issues. More volunteers are always welcome. Call 250-956-3151 for further information.

WOSS RECREATION

Currently, most Woss recreation facilities are limited due to the necessity of physical distancing. This includes any team sports as well as social events. A decision about the potential opening of the Woss pool will be made prior to June 1st.

STREETLIGHTS

The planned BC Hydro conversion of streetlights to low energy LED technology will be delayed due the COVID19 emergency.

MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS REPORT PROJECT

The Province of British Columbia now requires each local government to collect data, analyze trends and prepare a report that identifies current and anticipated housing needs, for the purpose of considering these needs when creating policy and making decisions about development. The housing needs report process will examine such things as:

- Population trends (Who is living in our communities? How fast is the population increasing?)
- Affordability (How much does it cost to live here?)
- Future demand (Who will live here in the future, where will they live and in what types of housing will they live?)

The Regional District of Mount Waddington and its four municipal partners (District of Port Hardy, Town of Port McNeill, Village of Alert Bay and Village of Port Alice) were awarded a grant of \$120,000 to undertake the project jointly. A project steering committee has been established and consultants, Urban Matters CCC Ltd. and M'akola Development Services, have been chosen to undertake the project. They are currently undertaking phases 1 and 2 of the project which includes the following four phases:

- 1) Data Collection, Compilation & Analysis: Conduct background document review, collect and review available data, conduct need, demand and supply analyses of the spectrum of housing types, tenures and affordability, including market and non-market housing.
- 2) Community Consultation & Public Engagement: Prepare and implement a consultation and engagement strategy to achieve collaboration with a variety of stakeholders
- 3) Preparation of the Mount Waddington Regional Housing Needs Report and community profiles for the eight planning areas (four municipalities and four electoral areas of the RDMW).
- 4) Capacity Building: Capacity building with local government staff on: a) implementation measures that are designed to satisfy housing needs; b) planning for subsequent housing needs updates in order to undertake future housing needs assessments and reports; and, c) connection with provincial housing entities and initiatives.

The project was originally expected to be completed by the end of July, 2020. However, due to the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, project completion will be late. See the RDMW's website at www.rdmw.bc.ca for updated information on the project as it unfolds. Be on the lookout for an upcoming housing questionnaire and public engagement opportunities associated with this project.

WATER SERVICE

The RDMW is planning on making some more investments in the water system in 2020. To make the community's water safer for all its users and reduce the possibility of chlorination, we are investigating the possibility of installing back flow prevention devices on all connections. This measure would prevent temporary pressure drops in the distribution system from sucking water into the water mains creating the chance of dangerous bacteria contamination the service. The RDMW is also considering installing system meters to help track leaks in the system. This improvement helps to pin point any leakage in the system, reducing costs, while improving supply and quality performance. Fixing leaks also means that water systems can last far longer during emergencies as water supplies will not disappear into the ground leaving everyone thirsty. Like the backflow prevention project, Regional District staff will be seeking Gas Tax funding for this work meaning rate payers will not be impacted.

WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING NEWS

The RDMW continues to operate the Woss Recycling Depot (WRD) at its normal operating hours. Given the risks associated with COVID-19, the attendants have been instructed to adjust how they interact with the public for the safety of all involved. Depending upon how busy the depot is, to keep with in the safe 2 m distancing visitors may have to wait outside of the recycling shed until sufficient spacing allows for safe entry. The attendants have also been instructed to not correct misplaced items in the recycling bags. Given this limitation, users of the recycling depot are being asked to be especially diligent in how they sort their recyclables. Finally, the attendants have been provided with sanitizer for personal use and disinfecting the facility. Given the limited supply, these materials are not available for public use. It is strongly recommended that all visitors to the WRD carry out thorough sanitizing efforts upon returning home or bring their own sanitizer with them if they wish to sanitize their person at the depot.

In regards to the [Regional Solid Waste Management Plan \(RSWMP\)](#) update, some Woss residents submitted responses to the community questionnaire, which are posted on our website <http://www.rdmw.bc.ca/regional-services/solid-waste/>.

The Regional District is committed to continuing the RSWMP process with meetings of the Advisory Committee to resume in a manner that is safe for participants given the COVID-19 situation. For updates, including meeting minutes and other information go to the link noted above.



Woss Volunteer Fire Department—Recruits Wanted! FIRE PROTECTION

Woss Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) members have worked hard to achieve accreditation as "First Responders". This ensures that the department will always be dispatched by 911 in the event of a medical emergency meaning care can be initiated prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

In 2019, the Regional District upgraded the fire hall with solar panels using Gas Tax funds. This will make the hall better able to function during power disruptions by having reliable power to allow for communications and lighting to function. Anchoring the solar panels will be a Tesla Powerwall, a lithium battery system. Because it was funded by Gas Tax, there will not be a hit to the fire department's budget! 2019 also marked the elimination of the service debt for the last fire truck.

2020 is an important year for the fire department if we can persuade the FUS to approve the fire truck's service life being extended an extra five years till 2030. This extra service life is critical as the community needs to build up its reserves for the current truck's replacement. The capital reserve is just over \$20,000 and it is projected that a pumper with no customization costing about \$570,000 in 2030.

Operational funding requirements for the department are also under pressure from requirements for additional training and ever increasing equipment costs. To meet these needs, Regional District staff have proposed a financial plan that doubles the current tax requisition over six years. The current funding bylaw for the fire department is insufficient to allow for this increase so it will need to be updated in 2020 after community consultation.

Finally, with COVID-19 raging, demands on WVFD could be immense so more volunteers are critical to spread the load. Whether you are 19 years old or recently retired, there is a need for the extra help. Contact Chief Glass to see what you can do support the Woss volunteers.

Electoral Area D Director
Rod Sherrell
(250)-956-4763

Volunteer Fire Department:
Chief Rob Glass
(250)-281-3455

Water & Sewer Services
Karl Sinclair
(250)-230-2601

Planning & Development Services
Jeff Long
(250)-956-3301

Operations Manager
Patrick Donaghy
(250)-230-1505