

Directors Report - April 2026

This has been a busy month for the Regional District, marked by significant progress on several major projects, as the improved weather has allowed us to achieve considerable milestones:

1. **Aquatic Centre**: The new aquatic centre is on track for its planned opening in September 2026. Over the coming months, several tradespeople will be onsite to finalize the interior work. To maintain community engagement throughout the completion process, the Regional District will produce a series of small video sneak peeks. I'm pleased to report that this project remains within budget.

2. **Home Away from Home Lodge and Workforce Housing**: Construction is progressing well on the lodge and new workforce housing. During the last Regional Board meeting, we shared photos showcasing that the framing has been completed. This facility, which is expected to open in September 2026, is funded through extensive fundraising efforts and the Strathcona Regional Housing Service. It's important to note that the City of Campbell River covers 70% of the costs, with the remaining 30% shared by Gold River, Tahsis, Sayward, Zeballos, and Areas A, B, C, and D.

Both of these projects represent significant milestones for our Regional District, enhancing local amenities and providing numerous benefits to our community.

3. **Water Meter Project**: I'm pleased to announce that the water meter project has been successfully completed. At the recent Regional Board meeting, I was delighted to secure the Board's support for issuing the final payment to the contractor, Edgett. They performed excellently, completing the project ahead of schedule and within budget. The SRD will be sending out further information to residents regarding the next steps. If you're not receiving these updates with your water bills, please contact the SRD or reach out to me directly.

4. **Traffic Study on Highway 19A**: The traffic study has now been completed. I recently met with Ministry staff to discuss the findings, and we agreed to release a media statement to keep the public informed, given the importance of this issue to our community.

5. **Meetings with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit**: This month, I convened meetings with Ministry officials to address long-standing community concerns, particularly regarding planning, subdivision approvals, and stormwater management issues that persist in our region. As this topic is extensive, I have scheduled further discussions for May 2026. Our MLA, Anna Kindy, is also

participating in these talks, which aim to tackle unresolved issues that have affected our community for many years.

6. ****Oyster Bay Rest Stop Concerns****: As the weather improves and more residents enjoy our parks and outdoor spaces, I recognize the ongoing issues with extended stays at the Oyster Bay rest stop. While it may seem that no action is being taken, I assure residents that the province, along with SRD bylaw and the RCMP, is actively engaged in addressing these complex situations. I encourage anyone with concerns to contact SRD bylaw, as keeping them informed will facilitate a more proactive approach and enable us to seek RCMP support as needed.

7. ****Oyster River Enhancement Society****: I had the pleasure of hosting Terry Lawrence, President of the Oyster River Enhancement Society, at our Regional Board Meeting. He delivered an engaging presentation on their invaluable work with the hatchery and salmon enhancement efforts in our region. The returns of Coho, Pinks, Chinook, and Chums to the Oyster River have been improving annually. As noted in their presentation, financial support from the Federal and Provincial governments for such small hatcheries is minimal. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that Area D will provide a grant of \$5,000 from our grants and aid budget. Additionally, the Regional Board has approved a further \$20,000 to aid the Society in funding a new roof for their main building, which is estimated to cost approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000.

8. **** New Bus Stops and Shelters****: I am sure many have seen in the community the new bus stops being created on Highway 19A between Shelter Bay Resorts and Engles Rd. This project is being funded through the community works fund and not tax payers dollars. Both bus stops will be getting shelters to further enhance our transit service in the community.

This month's accomplishments and ongoing efforts exemplify the hard work of SRD staff and my commitment to residents in this community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

John Rice

Director Area D Oyster Bay – Buttle Lake

Strathcona Regional District