

Directors Report Feb 2026

On March 7th at the Oyster Bay Resort Hall I will be having a townhall meeting to discuss the following;

- detailed break down of the 2026 taxes as it relates to Area D services
- the current state of the communities finances as we head to Elections in the fall
- update on water meters and the next steps
- round table open discussion

There are still seats so please email me jrice@srd.ca

Strathcona Gardens Ice Rink Update

The gardens commission has been taking their time and reviewing what are the next best steps that meets the needs of the users groups, and addresses all the concerns raised through the AAP last year. Those meetings which have been in-camera have been very productive and I am expecting that a final decisions will be reached very soon.

I would also like to note that the construction work on the new Aquatic Centre is progressing very well and later this month I will be touring the new facility with other members of the Gardens Commission.

Strathcona Regional District 2026 Budget

The Board did approve the 2026 budget at its last Board Meeting on Feb 25th 2026. While I will be giving a detailed breakdown at my Townhall Meeting on March 7th 2026 .

Here are the quick points

- For SRD Services there is no change from last year. That is quite remarkable considering that there is a new service running this year and increases for the Strathcona Gardens anticipated ice rink construction were also included . ***So the tax requisition remains the same as last year.***
- For folks on the South End their parcel tax for water infrastructure replacement did increase.
- Both Campbell River Fire and Oyster River Fire remain the same as last year costs.
- Solid Waste Service – (management of the landfills) will see a 2.5% increase across the Region.

Keep in mind that property assessments in Area D did increase more than the average so I do expect other taxes that are beyond the control of the SRD to increase.

As some may be aware the Province is struggling with its finances. One of the biggest impacts to our Region is the loss of funding to move forward with the long promised ... ***long term care beds for seniors***. The Comox Strathcona Hospital Board is trying to salvage these projects and I do expect that over the next few months more information will be coming to light.

If you have questions or concerns call me 250.203.1598 or email me jrice@srd.ca