

Directors Report May 2025

Strathcona Gardens AAP Process for Ice Rink

The Regional Board did approve going to an AAP process to seek voter approval for the extra construction costs for the ice rink.

For those that are new to the area, or may not be familiar with the Strathcona Gardens this facility has been in need of serious upgrades for the past 15 plus years. Previous decision makers made the decision to explore grants to offset construction costs, however after how many grant applications that did not succeed the new decision makers who were elected in Nov 2022 have moved forward with the much needed Strathcona Gardens Construction.

This AAP is seeking approval of a further \$54 million to rebuild the ice rinks.

How is the Strathcona Gardens Funded

For those that attended my last town hall meeting I discussed in detail the Strathcona Gardens and the fact that it is a two participate service with The City of Campbell River and Area D. Both the City and Area D pay the same rate per household based on assessed value.

During the past several months for those that follow the Board Meetings and Local News such as the Campbell River Mirror you would have noticed that Area C which is Quadra Island and their Outer Islands are very concerned with the prospect that they might be asked to join the Strathcona Gardens Service. Without getting into a lengthy report, it is a known fact that the Strathcona Gardens does have programs including pickup and drop off at the ferries which has been setup for Quadra Island Residents. Of course these programs are funded by the two participates of the service which is Campbell River and Area D.

While the Board continues with their investigation into the Strathcona Gardens Service and how it is used verses who pays the funding I will continue to advocate that in fairness considering that the Strathcona Gardens is enjoyed by far more than just Area D and the City of Campbell River additional participates pay such as Area A and Area C should be paying for this service.

Should Area A and Area C whose residents have enjoyed this facility over the years pay into the service or should the status quo remain which means The City of Campbell River and Area D will continue to pay all costs for this facility?

Let me know your thoughts, please email me jrice@srd.ca

Wood Chipping Bylaw

This bylaw is back to the Electoral Area Committee for final consideration of the bylaw itself. Some of the key items that I will be looking at implementing in this bylaw are;

- limiting access to the service to insure this is only for residential properties.
- Allowing reuse of the woodchips in the community through a variety of methods.

This service will be functional for the 2026 tax season.

Animal Control Survey

As discussed at my townhall meeting earlier this year due to the rising costs of this service I thought it was important to engage the community to determine how the community ;

- values this service considering the rising costs
- what are the levels of service they would like to see
- or are we better with no service

For those wondering how much this service has increased here is the budget since 2022

2022 — \$42,242 (Actual)

2023 — \$42,630 (Actual), 0.9% Increase

2024 — \$57,983 (Budget), 36.0% Increase

2025 — \$68,541 (Budget) + \$12,689 2024 Budget Variance = \$81,230, 40.1% Increase

Over the next few months the SRD will be developing a online survey. I will keep the community informed as to when this survey launches. It is important that in order to have your voice heard you need to participate in the survey.

What is the SRD working on for the Community

I have listed the various projects that are in the works for 2025 and 2026.

- Hagel Park Drainage May 2025 to September 2025
- Mitlenatch Fence Replacement May 2025 October 2025
- Hagel Park Washroom Upgrade March 2025 August 2025
- Salmon Point Trailhead Development March 2025 December 2026
- Hagel Greenway North / Stone Creek Trail March 2025 December 2026

- Development Cost Charges Policy Considerations In Progress July 2025
- Planning Procedures and Fees Bylaw Review In Progress August 2025
- Business Licence Implementation Considerations In Progress August 2025
- Floodplain Management Bylaw Review In Progress
- December 2025 Universal water meters – water meter installations and Bylaw Review
- Universal Water Meter – Phase 2 cost estimate Q1 2025 to Q3 2025
- Area D Parks and Trails Master Plan In Progress June 2025
- Area D Zoning Bylaw Review May 2025 to March 2026
- Area D Water Bulk Water contract renewal — Negotiations were completed in Q4 2024, now waiting for City of Campbell River Mayor and Council review. 03 2024 02 2025
- Stormwater Management Study — Phase 2 — Detailed design TBD
- Transit Exchange Upgrades at Oyster River - Collaboration with BC Transit, CVRD and MoTT to improve the transit exchange between the CVRD and Campbell River systems 04 2023 Q3 2026
- Traffic study for Highway 19A — being delivered by MoTT Q3 2023 TBD
- Additional Bus shelters — Shelter Bay and Engles Road — Waiting for Minor Betterments Grant funding announcement 04 2024 02 2026
- Transportation Master Services Agreement with City of Campbell River - Negotiate new Transit Service agreement, incorporating Bus Shelter Maintenance — On Hold due to lack of resources at CCR 02 2023 On Hold
- Area D Street light Service — Review of lighting along Glenmore Road - waiting for feedback from BC Hydro 03 2024 to 02 2026
- Water pressure improvements - alternative options study 04 2025 TBD

As the summer fast approaches I ask that if you have concerns or questions please contact me at cell 250-203-1598 – voice mail or text message, and I do answer my cell phone when I am able or a detailed email @jrice@srd.ca.

Please do not contact via Facebook if you are expecting a timely response.