

# Directors Report May 2024

May has been a busy month so this report is longer than normal.

Please note with the FCM conference being held in Calgary June 6<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup> my Alternate **Terry Browne** will be attending the June 6<sup>th</sup> EASC Board meeting.

## City of Campbell River Urban Containment Boundary Extension Update

As many may know there was a Public Hearing May 1 2024 allowing the public to weigh in on should the current City of Campbell River OCP be amended to approve the extension of the Urban Containment Boundary.

This public hearing was well attended and there was a number of speakers including myself who spoke.

My comments that were captured in the written record of the public hearing are as follows.

John Rice, Area D Director, 2929 York Road, attended on behalf of Area D residents and spoke in opposition to the application, citing environmental concerns and concerns with the application process, and noting there needs to be collaboration between Area D and the City.

All of the speakers did oppose the Urban Containment Boundary being extended at this time. Many cited environmental concerns and the fact that the City of Campbell River is currently engaged in updating their Official Community Plan. There was many comments signifying the importance of updating the Official Community Plan first before any considerations to extent the Urban Containment Boundary.

I am confident that when the City of Campbell River Mayor and Council make their decision that the results of the public hearing will play an important role in that decision.

# Open Burning Bylaw Update

This item was on the **Electoral Board Meeting Agenda of May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024** as staff had prepared a brief report for the Board to consider and discuss.

## **Some Back Ground Info**

The request for more information from SRD staff exploring a potential Open Burning Bylaw comes from two concerns expressed to me by residents.

1. The Campbell River Fire Department does not respond to calls from Area D residents regarding smoke, or large yard fires. They only respond when a building is burning. Residents who get their Fire Protection Service from Campbell River need to contact the province for any enforcement on calls of smoke or concerns with large yard fires. The biggest issue with this arrangement is who has the authority to actually put out the fire and the fact that it can take hours to get a response or even a resolution.
2. Open Burning can create problems in the community. As things stand Area D requires the Province to create Fire Bans. In the meantime there are the nuisance open burning issues that continue to create hardships for some in the community.

***Unfortunately the path towards any potential bylaw has significant hurdles. Those hurdles are***

1. Area D contracts Fire Protection Services from both the City of Campbell River and the Oyster Bay Fire Department.
2. The Comox Valley Regional District would have to create any bylaws for their Fire Department and this would also increase the costs of the fire services agreement to Area D.
3. The Campbell River Fire Department is a contractor to the SRD. As a contractor they do not have the authority to enforce bylaws on behalf of the SRD.
4. There is an option to convert the service from a Contractor to a Regional Service.
5. As the SRD will also be reviewing the existing fire Service contract this year I believe it is more important to focus attention on improving the agreement with Campbell River before adding more complexities to it and before any considerations to make this a Regional Service.
6. Like the Oyster River Fire Service adding an open burning bylaw will also increase the costs for those those that are in the Campbell River Fire Service Protection Area.

Given the complexities of each service and the potential increases of the existing Fire Service Agreements there is certainly more research required on potential options before moving forward with any bylaw exploration.

***For the meantime this item will not be moving forward***, but I do recognize the importance of both concerns and will continue to explore options.

On a good note this years Provincial Ban on open burning has come far earlier than previous years. As of May 17<sup>th</sup> thru to Oct 31 2024 there will be a Provincial Wide Burn Ban while still allowing campfires, and cooking stoves and BBQs for the time being.

# Area D Zoning Amendments in Response to Bill 44 From the Province

I can appreciate for some in the community making heads or tails of the new Provincial Legislation regarding housing can be daunting. This new legislation is aimed at adding more density to each new home built.

Bill 44 is the Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023, also known as Small-Scale, Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) legislation. This new legislation requires local government and Regional Districts to permit at a minimum of one secondary suite or a detached accessory dwelling in all residential zonings.

To be in compliance with this new Legislation Area D has made a number of amendments to all its Residential, Country and Rural zoning.

If you would like to know more about the zoning amendments that have been made in Area D please contact me [jrice@srd.ca](mailto:jrice@srd.ca) and I will be happy to forward you this information.

## Emergency Preparedness Week

For those that missed the two open information events on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Oyster Bay Resort many thanks to the SRD and the Fire Smart Coordinator Bonny Logan for hosting this event.

Thank you to those that attended. I hope you are spreading the word with your neighbours on how informative this event was.

Its no secret that wild fires are happening all over the province. As a rural community with significant wooded area's how can home owners insure their property stand the best chance to survive in the event of a Wild Fire.

Call the SRD main switch board @ 250-830-6700 and book a FREE Firesmart assessment. This free assessment will help you the home owner determine where your property risks are.

And of course ... thank you to Fire Chief Bruce Green ..., Oyster River Fire Department for being at both sessions to field questions and address concerns.

One of the questions that was asked in both sessions was the Wood Chipping Program.

It was nice to hear positive feedback on this program. Some of the Directors myself included are exploring options for an Electoral Area Chipping program with the hopes that this would create a more flexible program to meet the growing demands for this service.

More details will be coming soon!

**Friendly Reminder Stage 1 Water Restrictions are in affect for those connected to the Campbell River Water System**

Those restrictions are

Under stage 1, lawn and garden watering with a sprinkler, soaker, or weeper hose is permitted between the hours of 5 am – 8 am and 7 pm – 10 pm. Watering days for even-number addresses are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and odd-number addresses are Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

**For those on the Black Creek Oyster Bay Water System They are also in Stage 1 Restrictions**

## Comox Valley Water System Watering Schedule

Residential lawn and garden watering is permitted with a sprinkler during the specified days and hours as follows:

Stage	Starts	Hours	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	Starting May 1	5-8 am & 7-10 pm	No Watering	Even Address	Odd Address	Even Address	Odd Address	Even Address	Odd Address
2	Starting July 1	6-8 am & 8-10 pm	No Watering	Even Address	Odd Address	No Watering	No Watering	Even Address	Odd Address
3	When Notified	Any day or time	No lawn watering permitted. Hand watering or micro/drip irrigation of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables only.						
4	When Notified	N/A	No watering						

Hand watering or micro/drip irrigation of trees, shrubs and vegetables is permitted anytime during Stage 1 and 2.

For more information, call: **250-334-6000** or visit: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions)

**If you have concerns or would like to schedule a face to face meeting to with me please call 250-203-1598 or send me an email [jrice@srd.ca](mailto:jrice@srd.ca)**