



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting - Jan. 29, 2000

About Those BC Gas Rate Increases

Donald C. Fairbairn, Vice-President, Business Development for B.C. Gas Inc. made a presentation to the Regional Board on the increase in natural gas rates. The presentation was delivered in response to the Board's concerns over the reasons for and effects of recent natural gas price hikes. Mr. Fairbairn reported that the increase in gas prices is due to the higher price of gas as a commodity. BC Gas buys the gas and delivers it to its customers. The price they pay for gas, on behalf of their customers, is the price they pass on to their customers without being marked up. Mr. Fairbairn also indicated that the price of gas has increased by 6 times the amount it was last year. For more information, visit their web site at www.bcgas.com

Contact: *Donald C. Fairbairn* 604-293-8888
Vice President, B.C. Gas Inc.

Partners in Climate Protection

The Regional Board lent its support to the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) aimed at reducing green house gases. Beth Johnson of PCP presented the program as an initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. The program calls for commitment towards reducing green house gas emissions in municipal operations by 20% below 1990 levels, and a reduction of 6% below 1990 levels throughout the committee overall. The PCP program provides a forum for municipal governments to demonstrate their leadership on climate change issues, and to share their knowledge and experience with others.

Contact: *Corey Davis* 763-6011
Environmental Technician, City of Kelowna

Weed Bylaw Amended

The Regional Board gave three readings to the amendment to the Weed Control Bylaw. Noxious Weed Control is a service provided by the Regional District. This Bylaw, enforced by complaint, helps to control the spread of certain noxious weeds and controls the appearance of properties by restricting grasses and other weeds to 20 cm. in height. The amendments allow the property owner to mulch weeds and grasses and leave them on the property.

It also requires that weeds treated with herbicides need to be cut down and mulched or removed, rather than leaving the dead stalks standing.

Contact: *Kelly Roth* 868-5211
Director of Inspection Services

Properties Commission Appointments

The following individuals have been re-appointed as the current representatives to the Johnson-Bentley Civic Properties Commission. This commission currently oversees the operation of the Johnson-Bentley Aquatic Centre. However, in future, the new Westside Parks and Recreation Commission will assume responsibilities for this facility as well as other parks and recreation services on the Westside. The members re-appointed to the Commission for the time being are:

- Mark Coleman - Glenrosa Neighbourhood Association
- Barry Yeats - Westbank Neighbourhood Association
- David Knowles - Westbank Neighbourhood Association
- Doug Findlater - Glenrosa Neighbourhood Association

Contact: *Annette Beaudreau* 868-5232
Community Relations Coordinator - Recreation

Westside Recreation Commission Appointments

The Regional Board gave approval to re-appointing the existing Westside Recreation Commission for the remainder of the 2001 term. In future the Westside Recreation Commission will join with the Johnson-Bentley Civic Properties Commission to form one group called the Westside Parks and Recreation Commission. In the interim the Board has re-appointed the following:

- Michael Smith - Westbank Neighbourhood Association
- Lorelee Taylor - Area 'G' Youth Representative
- Alice Hargreaves - Casa Loma Neighbourhood Association
- Shannon Smith - Area 'Westbank' Youth Representative

- Paula Thorburn – School District Representative
- Lloyd Eli Jr. – Westbank First Nation Representative

Contact: *Annette Beaudreau* 868-5232
Community Relations Coordinator – Recreation

Board Supports Affordable Housing

The Regional Board gave its support to the Society of Hope Affordable Housing Proposal being submitted to B.C. Housing with the hopes of winning the 2001 bid for funding. The proposal calls for the construction of 40 family town homes on Gellatly Road in Westbank. It complies with the appropriate Official Community Plan and zoning designations and meets policies in the Westbank Town Centre Plan to provide this type of special needs housing. Staff have also been directed to prepare a report identifying and evaluating options available to local government for providing support to affordable housing proposals.

Contact: *Ken Arcuri* 868-5227
Director of Planning

New Policy Protects Volunteers & RDCO

Volunteers make many things happen in our communities, and the Regional District recognizes and values this role. As a way to protect volunteers, and the interests of the regional District, the Board gave approval to a new volunteer policy. The objective of the policy is to provide safe and healthful working conditions in all facilities and activities where volunteers are acting on behalf of the Regional District.

Contact: *Gary Leier* 868-5249
Director of Human Resources

Taking the “Dress Red” Challenge

On Valentines Day the Regional District Staff will be dressing red to show their support for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. In the past, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan won as the reddest decorated business in Kelowna. The staff are volunteering their time to decorate the Regional District “red” in response to the challenge issued by the Heart and Stroke Foundation to all business and local governments.



Contact: *Jan Enns* 868-5250
Communications Coordinator

Grant-in-Aid

Rutland Senior Secondary Dry Grad - \$100 – from Electoral Area ‘I’, Director Mary-Ann Graham.