



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting—Mar. 26, 2001

Hospital District Annual Budget Approved

The same members that make up the Regional District Board form the Regional Hospital District Board. This Board makes decisions relating to capital expenditures for hospital facility construction and major equipment. Hospital District meetings are held just prior to the regular meeting of the Regional Board, as necessary, to allocate funding for various projects. For more information on the Okanagan Similkameen Health Region in general, visit their website at www.oshr.org

At the Hospital District meeting, held prior to the Regional Board meeting last night, the bylaw to adopt the 2001 Annual Budget was approved. Expenditures on behalf of residents in the Regional District will fund 40% of capital expenditures and the purchase of major equipment in the year 2001. Funding for the remaining portion of these projects will come from the Provincial and Federal governments.

Contact: *Harold Reay* 763-4918
Director of Financial Services

Board Supports Restorative Justice

Dawn Wilkinson, Coordinator for the Central Okanagan Restorative Justice System, gave the Regional Board an overview of this regional approach to justice. Restorative justice is a non-court alternative that handles referred cases involving youth who have committed minor crimes for the first time. The youth, guardian, person harmed, and respective supporters meet face to face to discuss what happened, how each person was affected, and what can be done to repair the harm caused by the youth's behaviour. The process is comparatively quick compared to the traditional system and helps rebuild relationships. As of March, 2000 a total of 37 volunteers from Lake Country, Mission, South East Kelowna, Downtown Kelowna, Rutland/Black Mountain and Westbank have been screened and trained to act as co-facilitators.

Contact: *Dawn Wilkinson* 762-3914
Coordinator, Central Okanagan Restorative Justice

SPCA Seeks Funding

A delegation from the SPCA, including President, Chris Ward and Kelowna Manager, Russell Forand gave a presentation to the Board about the ongoing services provided by the SPCA. The Board gave approval of a \$50,000 Grant In Aid for the year 2001. The SPCA assists the community in many ways, such as the investigation of complaints relating to mistreatment of animals and providing shelter for homeless or unwanted animals.

The SPCA also works proactively to educate the public about responsible pet ownership.

Contact: *Russell Forand* 861-7722
Manager, SPCA

2001 Annual Budget Approved

The Regional Board gave approval to the 2001 Annual Budget. The overall impact varies by area and the services provided to that area. Aside from a few minor adjustments, the year 2001 Budget remains the same as the 2001 Provisional Budget approved by the Board in November of 2000. Overall, the average tax impact for the Regional District portion of taxes on a home assessed at \$175,000 works out to the following:

Kelowna	\$ 0.61
Peachland	(7.69)
Lake Country	0.58
Area G North	(0.73)
Area G South	1.75
Westbank	(0.42)
Area I	5.17

It should be noted that the Regional District taxes represent a relatively small portion of local government taxes for the municipalities of Kelowna, Peachland and Lake Country. In Electoral Areas, Regional District taxes are the major portion of local government taxes.

The Electoral Areas are home to over 32,000 people. These areas are divided into three Electoral Areas: Area Westbank (Westbank, Glenrosa, Shannon Lake), Electoral Area G (Lakeview Heights, West Kelowna, Westside Road, North Westside Road, Casa Loma), and Electoral Area I (Ellison, Joe Rich). As a form of local government, the Regional District provides services such as water, sewers, parks, and planning to the Electoral Areas as described. The Regional District also provides services of a regional nature to the Electoral Areas and the municipalities of Kelowna, Peachland, and Lake Country. These regional services include 911, dog control, regional parks, recycling, to name a few.

Contact: *Harold Reay* 763-4918
Director of Financial Services

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Parks Bylaw Amended

The Regional Board gave approval to amending the Parks Bylaw to include sports field user fees and an increase in rental fees for the Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO Centre) to reflect the rising cost of utilities. The user fee structure for adults and youth for the use of sports fields was adopted by the Regional Board at previous meetings based on feedback from a variety of sources, including the City of Kelowna and various user groups. The funds will be placed in a reserve for the development and redevelopment of sports fields.

Contact: *Bill Vos* 868-5232
Director of Parks & Facilities

New Westside Parks and Recreation Commission Formed

Residents on the Westside will have more say in how parks and recreational facilities are delivered to their communities. The Regional Board gave approval to the Bylaw to form the Westside Parks and Recreation Commission. This Commission replaces two previous advisory groups, the Johnson-Bentley Aquatic Centre Civic Properties Commission and the Westside Recreation Commission. This single commission will oversee all parks and recreation functions and service areas on the Westside as one comprehensive area. In a related motion, the Regional Board appointed the following members to the Commission:

Mark Coleman	1 year
Michael Smith	1 year
Robert Gunther	1 year
David Knowles	2 years
Alice Hargreaves	2 years
Martha Dagg	2 years
Raphael McKittrick	2 years

The new Commission will have responsibilities for establishing policies and providing direction to the Regional Board on services such as the Johnson-Bentley Aquatic Centre, Westside Parks, Westside Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Westside Recreation Services and Activities for Youth, Mount Boucherie and any new or expanded Parks & Recreation Services and Facilities on the Westside.

Contact: *Bill Vos* 868-5232
Director of Parks & Facilities

Gaming Commission Changes Create Challenges

The Regional Board is sending a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities and to the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association in response to recent changes in what can be done with the proceeds from charitable gaming. Many community groups use bingo and other forms of charitable gaming to raise funds for various community projects. Recent changes made by the BC Gaming Commission have now restricted what can be done with these funds. As a result several community projects that require charitable donations for capital projects such as kiosks or safe harbours are now in jeopardy. The changes state that the funds raised by volunteer groups cannot be used for capital projects. The Regional Board will be asking local governments across the Province to lobby for changes to allow this to take place. Without these funds many community projects would not exist.

Contact: *Bill Vos* 868-5232
Director of Parks & Facilities

Lakeview Village Concept Plan Approved

The Regional Board gave approval to the Lakeview Village Concept Plan. The goal of the Lakeview Village Concept Plan is to express a vision and a framework creating a village area that is a comfortable, usable, visually pleasant, and provides a cohesive neighbourhood centre. The Plan was developed as a result of extensive consultation with the public. The Concept Plan will be used to guide future development in the Lakeview Village area located off Anders Road in Lakeview Heights.

Contact: *Ilene Watson,* 868-5240
Planner, RDCO
