



# The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan  
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## Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting—Aug.26, 2002

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### Hospital District Meeting Held

A meeting of the Central Okanagan Regional District was held prior to the regular meeting of the Regional Board. The same members that make up the Regional Board also make up the Regional Hospital District Board. The Hospital District Board makes decisions pertaining to funding of capital expenditures.

At last night's meeting the Regional Board gave approval to funding their 40% share of a new Gamma Ray Camera System in the amount of \$252,000. They also gave approval to funding their 40% share of a renovation expansion to the Renal unit in the amount of \$302,532.

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

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### Victim Witness Update

Cary Berger, Coordinator for the Regional Victim Witness Services gave an informative presentation to the Regional Board providing a brief overview of the program. Working on a cost sharing agreement with the Province, the Regional Board instituted the Victim Witness Services Program in 1989. The program provides practical information and emotional support to victims and witnesses of crime situations throughout the Central Okanagan. Forty volunteers have undergone extensive training and security clearances to offer assistance to those affected. Special services include court accompaniments, referrals to other agencies, assistance in completing forms, police updates, as well as personal and emotional support. The Board viewed a new eight minute video that outlines all of the services undertaken by this dedicated group of volunteers.

Contact: *Cary Berger* 470-6242  
*Coordinator Victim Witness Services*

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### Report from the Ombudsman

The Regional Board received correspondence from Howard Kushner, the Provincial Ombudsman, regarding a change to their format for quarterly reporting. In future, quarterly reports will contain primarily statistical data for files closed during the previous three months. For the period from April 1 to June 30 there were two investigations. One found to have an available remedy and the other investigation indicated that the complaint was not substantiated.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum* 763-4918  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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### Resolution Supported

The Regional Board threw its weight behind a proposed resolution from the North Central Municipal Association (NCMA) regarding Alcan Power Sales. The resolution states that the NCMA petition the Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro to establish an economic development policy that states electricity from Kemano be used in, and solely in, Northern BC as per the spirit and intent of the 1952 (sic 1950) agreement with Alcan. Recently, Alcan has been progressively pursuing power sales to the BC Hydro Grid and power exports to the USA, reducing capacity to the Kitamat smelter, as well as terminating its contract to supply electricity to local industry. The resolution will proceed to the Union of BC Municipalities Conference this Fall.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum* 763-4918  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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### Letter on Forest Service Roads Received

The Regional Board heard back from the Province regarding assistance for funding of road maintenance on the Myra Forest Service Road and the Little White Forest Service Road. In essence, the Ministry of Forests indicates they are under tight financial constraints and unable to vary from their policy of only funding the maintenance of forest service roads actively used for industrial forest operations. The Province recommends funding for maintenance of these popular recreation access roads be found among a partnership with affected stakeholders.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum* 763-4918  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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### Building Permits Booming

July proved to be a popular month for building permits with 103 construction permits issued for a total value of \$5,350,944.61. During this period there were 85 permits completed for a total construction value of \$6,003,169.00.

By comparison, in July 2001 there were only 50 permits issued during the month.

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

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### Upgrade In Store for East Boundary Road

The Regional Board gave approval to awarding a contract to Matcon Construction Ltd. in the value of \$93,365 plus GST for offsite improvements to the East Boundary Road.

The contract was upgraded to include \$30,000 for street lighting and minor drainage works. The road improvements will increase public safety on East Boundary Road with the installation of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street lighting and a student drop-off area on the portion of East Boundary Road immediately adjacent to Chief Tomat Elementary. The works would be installed in conjunction with Victor Projects and paid for by funds received from Victor Projects at the time of rezoning.

Contact: *Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng. 868-5241*  
*Director of Engineering Services*

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### **Population Increases Changes Voting Weights**

The new census figures come into effect September 1, 2002 for local governments, changing the weight of the votes around the Regional Board table. Kelowna moves from 23 votes to 25 votes. Area 'Westbank' moves from five votes to six votes while all the other areas stay the same. However, on the Westside as of the election on November 16, the two Electoral Areas of Area 'Westbank' and Area 'G' will be merged into one new Electoral Area. Westside voters will vote for three area directors to represent them at large as compared to the current system where one area director represents one Electoral Area. This is the first time in BC that this system has been put into place to provide greater representation for a growing population.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum 763-4918*  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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### **New Grant In Aid Policy**

After extensive review in the granting of Grant In Aids, the Regional Board adopted a new policy. Effective 2003, the Regional Board will budget for a certain number of Grants In Aid and at that point each municipality or electoral area can decide whether or not to participate in a specific Grant In Aid. Part of the policy also includes requirements for organizations in search of a Grant In Aid. The most important requirement for organizations to be aware of is the application deadline of the third Friday in October.

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

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### **Cultural Tourism Project Moves Ahead**

The Regional Board appointed Wayne Wilson of the Kelowna Museum to the Steering Committee for the Okanagan Cultural Tourism Project. Other representatives on the Steering Committee include:

- Western Economic Diversification
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- BC Wine Institute
- BC Wine Festivals
- 3 Cultural Representatives (one appointed by each Regional District)
- Okanagan University College

The first task at hand for the Steering Committee will be to hire a replacement for Steven Thorne who has led the initiative for the past two years and has left the project to pursue other interests.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum 763-4918*  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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