



# The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan  
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## Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting– September 8, 2003

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### Forest Fire Report

The Regional Board has received an initial report about the Okanagan Mountain Park forest fire. The Regional District Emergency Plan was brought into action, with staff from all emergency service agencies, the City of Kelowna, Districts of Peachland and Lake Country and the Regional District, as well as volunteers managing the crisis from the Emergency Operations Centre. In all, more than 40 employees of the Regional District have been involved in the operation. With the worst of the fire hopefully behind, the City of Kelowna is coordinating the Recovery Plan as the community rebuilds and recovers.

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

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### Fire Sparks Letters To Province

The Regional Board has agreed to write two letters to the Provincial Government. The first, to the Ministry of Forests, thanks it for its quick emergency response to the Okanagan Mountain Park forest fire. The second letter to the government expresses concern that the Regional Board has about the Floating Bridge and its capacity to handle traffic during an emergency, like the forest fire. The Board is concerned that if the liftspan had been raised and couldn't be lowered, that a key evacuation route would be blocked. In light of that, the Board suggests the need for a new bridge should be given urgent priority.

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

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### Interface Fire Fuel Concerns

The Regional Board thanks a local resident for bringing concerns forward about dumping of materials in Public Reserve lands, especially those in interface areas. The Parks Department has also received many calls about the danger it presents by increasing fire fuels on the ground. The Regional Board agrees a regional interface strategy needs to be developed and has asked staff to begin the process which will also involve other agencies.

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

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### Westside Parks Commission Chair Resigns

The Regional Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of the Chair of the Westside Parks and Recreation Commission. Mark Coleman headed the Commission for the past three years and cites increasing family and work commitments as his reason for resigning. A letter of thanks will be sent to Coleman on behalf of the Regional Board for his seven years of service and contribution to the Westside community. Vice Chair Alice Hargraves will temporarily act as Commission Chair. The process of filling the Commission vacancy is underway and youth are encouraged to apply.

Contact: *Bill Vos* 868-5232  
*Director of Parks and Recreation*

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### Cultural Tourism Supported

The Regional Board will write a letter supporting a unique initiative that promotes and markets cultural tourism in the Okanagan-Similkameen. Over the past three years the Okanagan Cultural Corridor Project has compiled a catalogue of more than 200 cultural attractions, printed and distributed a full color guide for over 120 attractions and developed a website. The letter from the Regional District will be used to help secure \$200,000 in additional funding for the project from the Softwoods Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative.

Contact: *Sandra Kochan* 860-1988  
*Coordinator*

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### Rebuild KVR Trestles

The Regional Board supports the Regional District's participation in the planning process for restoring the Kettle Valley Railway trestles, destroyed and damaged by the Okanagan Mountain Park forest fire. It adopted a resolution that also says the District will investigate potential local government funding options to help with the costs associated with the project. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have stated their goal is to have the trestles restored.

Contact: *Bill Vos* 868-5232  
*Director of Parks and Recreation*

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The Board Report is a bi-weekly publication of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.  
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The public is welcome to attend.

*For copies of this publication or more information contact*

Bruce Smith, Communications Coordinator  
979-7339

### **Townhouse Development Permit**

The Regional Board has approved a Development Permit application in the Rose Valley Properties subdivision. Rose Valley Ventures proposes 14 units in four buildings off McDougall Road. The Board approval is subject to the condition that the developer provides a \$43,750 letter of credit or a bank draft to cover the cost of landscaping and irrigation. The money will be refunded if the work is completed within a year of issuing the permit.

Contact: Jason Johnson 868-5227  
Manager of Current Planning

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### **Next Regional Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Regional Board will be Monday September 29, 2003 at 7 pm in the Woodhaven Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna.

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### **Additional Board Meeting**

Due to the high number of planning applications, the Regional Board has decided to hold an additional meeting on Monday October 6, 2003 at 7 pm in the Woodhaven Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna.

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