

NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NEWSLETTER 2017

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Pursuant to the Letters Patent of the North Cedar Improvement District and the *Local Government Act*, the Board of Trustees has called for the:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the LANDOWNERS of the NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT to be held at **7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the Fire Hall, 2100 Yellow Point Road, Cedar, BC** for the following purposes:

- to receive from the trustees reports on the condition of the works and a statement of the financial condition of the District;
- to fix trustee remuneration for the ensuing year;
- to elect **three (3)** trustees to succeed those whose terms of office expire and to elect a trustee or trustees to fill any other vacancy;
- to discuss with the trustees any matter relating to the business of the District.

****The names of the candidates will be posted on the district website after April 4, 2017, as well a list will be posted at the district office. Meeting packages will be available on the website and for pick up at the office April 19, 2017.**

ADMINISTRATOR RETIREMENT

The board would like to thank Heather Sarchuck for her years of dedicated service. Her passion and commitment to our community has been remarkable. She proved this on numerous occasions, doing what was right in balancing the needs of the community with the mandates of the Regional District, VIHA and the Board.

Heather is one of those rare individuals who always looks for compromise in working out solutions. We will miss her guidance and leadership. Please join us in wishing her well as she enters a new phase in her life and turns her time and energy to retirement.

The Board of Trustees

WEBSITE

Did you know the district website has many of the forms you may need to download, as well as copies of prior year financial statements, meeting minutes, bylaws, policies, water quality reports and information on burning regulations. Also, at the bottom of the home page you can subscribe for updates via email. AS well you can follow the district on facebook to receive updates.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

Bills can be paid by online or telephone banking through your financial institution. Also, direct debit is available, the forms can be found on the district website (Finance/Forms). Cheque, cash or debit is accepted at the office. After hours payments can be dropped in the mail box outside the main door.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions begin April 1st. Restrictions are available to view on the district website at www.ncid.bc.ca/water-restrictions or www.teamwatersmart.ca.



PARCEL BILL DUE DATE

The district office **will be open**
Friday June 30th 8:30am – 4:00pm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Dives, Chairperson	
Andrea Rosato-Taylor	Rosmy Jean Louis
Henrietta Murdoch	Rick Hyne
Sharon Thomson	Vacant

Please remember to keep the water meter box clear of debris for easy access at meter reading.

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday

WATER EMERGENCIES

For water main breaks outside office hours please call the emergency pager at **250-716-0223 (enter your phone number after tone on touch tone phone)**

New: you may also call **250-722-4786** to reach the district's answering service.

WATER SHUT OFF VALVE

A reminder that home owners should make sure they have shut off valves installed at the house for emergencies that may arise in the home, such as a broken pipe or hot water tank leak.

BUDGET MEETING FALL 2017

The North Cedar Improvement District will be holding budget meetings in the fall. Please watch the district website and Take 5 for notification. The public is invited to attend, should a resident wish to make a presentation at the budget meeting they must contact the office one week prior to be added as a speaker at the meeting. There is a question and answer period that is open to the public.

BEFORE YOU BURN – CHECK VENTING

You may burn on days when the venting index is 55 or better (Good). Burning when the index is poor or fair can make poor air quality issues worse. Before you burn, please check the Ministry of Environment:

- Provincial toll-free line: 1-888-281-2992 (press 2 for Vancouver Island Region)
- <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html>
- NCID: 250-722-3711 (Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:00 except holidays) or www.ncid.bc.ca (link on fire page)

Be a good neighbor when you burn – make sure that smoke and ash from your fire is not impacting your neighbors.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the Fire Department

Now that the time has changed and the days are getting longer, many residents are busy with spring cleaning their property. No doubt you have noticed an increase in smoke from burn piles as people go about getting rid of branches, leaves and other wood waste from around their property.

District Bylaw 359 – Fire Regulations Bylaw, provides the regulation for category 2 open air fires within our District. The Bylaw contains language that clearly defines what materials are allowed and are not allowed to be burned, when an open air fire is allowed, fire size, fire safety and the requirement to obtain a burning permit.

In 2016 the fire department attended a record breaking 70 burning complaints. Most of these complaints were reported between April and October. When a burning complaint is reported, a fire department member will attend and determine what course of action is necessary as related to the fire. This can range from having the fire extinguished to taking no action.

While attending a burning complaint and speaking with property owners, the department generally finds that most residents are in compliance with the burning regulations including the possession of a valid permit. We do however find that some property owners disregard the regulations and burn garbage or other prohibited materials, are burning during a burning ban or are not in possession of a permit. Sometimes it is a simple case of not knowing the regulations but common sense should prevail; is it a good idea to burn garbage, start a fire when it is hot and dry in August or when the wind is blowing the smoke directly towards a neighbour's house? Common sense should provide the answer.

The department encourages compliance with the burning regulations and we are more than happy to answer questions about open burning. We can be reached at 250-722-3122 and burning permits are free

and can be obtained from the District office Monday to Thursday between 8:30am and 4:00pm. If residents need to make a burning complaint after hours, please call the non emergency number for fire dispatch at 250-753-7311 and a fire department member will be notified. Residents are also encouraged to regularly check the sign boards located at the Nanaimo River bridge and fire hall to see what the current fire danger rating is. This information can also be found on our web site at www.ncid.bc.ca.

On the topic of open burning, the North Cedar Improvement District does not regulate category 3 fires. These are the large burn piles that are burned when land is cleared for building or development. These fires are regulated under the British Columbia Wildfire Act and the regulations contained within.

The District office receives many calls throughout the year from ratepayers expressing concern over these types of fires and I can say that I will be raising the subject of altering our current Bylaws to include the regulation of category 3 open burning. As this is in the preliminary stages I am not optimistic that we will see an updated Bylaw until later in the year. I can however mention some of the proposed changes that will be discussed. The changes may include as mentioned, including the regulation of category 3 open burning and restricting category 3 fires so they are only permitted on properties that are greater than 1 acre in size as well as implementing a total burning ban of all categories of fires from May to October regardless of the fire danger ratings.

Now is also a good time to remind area residents about being proactive and reducing the risk of damage from a fire during the upcoming warm season. The fire season of 2016 turned out to be another busy one with several significant wildland events. The fire department encourages all residents to "Fire Smart" their properties and I have included some links to information on the Fire Smart program. Fire Smart pamphlets are also available at the District Office. Please take the time to read the material as it contains some useful tips for property owners to help reduce the risks to their properties.

<http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/docs/homeowner-firesmart.pdf>

<https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/protecting-your-community-from-wildfire>

<http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/firesmart.htm>

Until next time, stay safe.

Percy Tipping
Fire Chief
North Cedar Fire Department