



**NOTICE OF
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday
June 10, 2009
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC**

3:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

		<u>Pages</u>
3:30 p.m.	START OF MEETING	
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
	M1 Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting of February 11, 2009	1 – 3
	M2 Minutes of the Special Parks Committee Meeting of February 25, 2009	4 – 5
3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>	
4.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>	
	R1 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager, regarding request for Letter of Support for the Ditidaht Runners Trail – Nitinaht Valley Section.	6 – 9
	R2 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager, regarding proposed Half Marathon Event – Cowichan Valley Trail.	10 – 14
	R3 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager, regarding Nature Conservancy of Canada update.	15 – 16
	R4 Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician, regarding 2009 Grant Applications for the Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative.	17– 18
	R5 Staff Report from Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendant, regarding the Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative Program	19 – 21

R6	Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager, regarding Island Coastal Economic Trust Grant <i>(for distribution at meeting)</i> .	N/A
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5. INFORMATION

IN1	Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society letter regarding Parks Tax Cut.	22
IN2	<i>Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial</i> article "Residents Demand CVRD Tax them Full Amount"	23 – 25
IN3	<i>Canada.com</i> article, "Parks Fund Cut Lacks Vision"	26
IN4	<i>Times Colonist</i> article, "Crackdown on Rowdies has quiet start at Thetis"	27

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS

8. CLOSED SESSION

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

CSM1	Minutes of Closed Session Parks Committee meeting of February 11, 2009	28
CSR1	Staff report regarding Subsection (1)(e)	29 – 31
CSR2	Staff report regarding Subsection (1)(e)	32 – 48

9. NEXT MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website www.cvrld.bc.ca

Director M. Dorey, Chair
 Director L. Iannidinardo, Vice Chair
 Director L. Duncan

Director G. Giles
 Director K. Kuhn

Director D. Haywood
 Director P. Kent

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
Director Lori Iannidinardo, Vice-Chair
Director Loren Duncan
Director Gerry Giles
Director Phil Kent
Director Dave Haywood
Director Klaus Kuhn

Also: Director Ian Morrison

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division
Warren Jones, Administrator
Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**It was Moved and Seconded
That the agenda be amended with the addition of:
Closed Session: CS(NB1) – Licence Agreement [Section 90(1)(e)]**

MOTION CARRIED

M1 - MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded
That the Minutes of the Special Parks Committee Meeting of October 22, 2008,
Be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee moved into Closed Session at 3:35 p.m.

It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

MOTION CARRIED

RISE

The Committee rose without report.

BUSINESS ARISING

Director L. Duncan requested an update on the status of the October 22, 2008, Motion regarding Eagle Heights Grasslands.

Brian Farquhar indicated that he will ensure that a letter of endorsement is sent to The Nature Conservancy.

An update on the status of the Eagle Heights Grasslands will be presented at the April 8th meeting of the Parks Committee.

STAFF REPORTS

**R1 – BEAT
Community Planning
Grant**

Report on funding available through the Built Environment and Active Transportation (BEAT) Community Grants Program.

Received for information purposes.

**R2 – Cobble Hill
Mountain Bike Race
Event**

It was Moved and Seconded:

That the application from The Experience Cycling Club to hold a cross-country mountain bike race on designated trails within the Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area on Sunday, May 10, 2009, be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Proof of the \$5,000,000 liability insurance that the company has to cover the event which also identifies the CVRD as an additional insured,
2. A damage deposit of \$500 must be provided to the CVRD for confirmation that the company will clean up all garbage and fix any damaged trails on the race route upon completion of the event and that all racers will stay on designated trails identified on CVRD parkland.
3. Confirmations that there will be notices of the even posted along the trail in advance of, and during the day of, the event that will advise other trail users of the race.
4. That Alpine Stables be notified, by registered mail at least 30 days in advance of the event, by Experience Cycling Club.
5. That the port-a-potties for this event be placed in a location as determined by the Cobble Hill Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

**R3 – Island Corridor
Foundation E&N Rail
Trail Standards and
Guidelines Update**

Update on the joint initiative of the five Regional Districts along the E&N Railway right-of-way in partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation and Southern Railway to establish “rail with trail” standards and guidelines specific to future trail development within the rail corridor.

Received for information purposes.

**R4 – Cowichan Valley
Trail Completion
Initiative**

Report on Trail work for 2009 under the Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative Program and outline of available funding.

Received for information purposes.

**R5 – BC Trails
Strategy Update**

Update on the progress of the Provincial Trails Strategy Committee work towards developing a Recreation Trails Strategy for British Columbia.

Received for information purposes.

**R6 – Regional
Parkland Acquisition
Fund** Summary of the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund Referendum process
and costs leading up to the referendum held on November 15, 2008.
Received for information purposes.

CORRESPONDENCE No correspondence received.

**INFORMATION
IN1 – Greenway
Conference** Greenway Conference (parks forum) June 8 – 12, 2009.
Received for information purposes.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS There were no questions from the public.

NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2009

ADJOURNMENT It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Special Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
Director Lori Iannidinardo, Vice-Chair
Director Loren Duncan
Director Gerry Giles
Director Klaus Kuhn

Also: Director Ian Morrison

Absent: Director Dave Haywood
Director Phil Kent

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division
Mark Kueber, General Manager, Corporate Services
Warren Jones, Administrator
Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded
That the agenda, as presented, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS

**R1
i) 2009 Regional Parks
Budget**

The Committee reviewed and discussed items related to the Regional Parks Budget.

It was Moved and Seconded
That the 2009 Regional Parks budget, Function No. 280, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**R-1
ii) Regional Parkland
Acquisition Fund**

The Committee reviewed and discussed items related to the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund Budget.

It was Moved and Seconded
That the 2009 Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund, Function No. 285, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC/PRESS
QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2009

DATE: June 3, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

SUBJECT: Letter of Support Ditidaht - Runners Trail - Nitinaht Valley Section

Recommendation:

That a letter of support be approved in support of the Ditidaht First Nation proposal for construction of the section of Runners Trail through the Nitinaht Valley.

Purpose:

To inform the Committee of a request from the Ditidaht First Nation for a Letter of Support for construction of a portion of the Runners Trail through the Nitinaht Valley.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

Background:

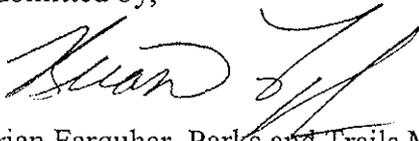
A trail construction partnership initiative involving several communities has objectives to establish a trail from Port Alberni to the western end of Cowichan Lake across public and private lands with connections to the Cowichan Valley Trail and the Galloping Goose Trail in Greater Victoria. The trail initiative partnership currently involves Alberni-Clayquot Regional District, the City of Port Alberni, Tseshah First Nation and Ditidaht First Nation. The general alignment of the proposed route extends south from Port Alberni (incorporating Log Train Trail Regional Park) along the Alberni Inlet to Headquarters Bay and from there to Francis Lake and on to the western end of Cowichan Lake. The Ditidaht First Nation is anticipating taking on construction of several sections of this trail route, as follows:

- Inlet Trail – Port Alberni to Headquarters Bay
- Runners Trail – Headquarters Bay to Francis Lake
- Nitinaht Trail – Francis Lake to Cowichan Lake (the proposed current project)

At this time the Ditidaht First Nation is seeking a written letter of support from the Cowichan Valley Regional District to attach to several funding applications to build a walking trail in the Nitinaht Valley (see attachment). The application activities include: finalizing the route; completion of trail use agreement and permitting; construction of up to 20 kilometres of trail with required stream crossings; development of a parking area and signage. The project would begin in late summer 2009 with anticipated completion before the end of 2011. From the Port Alberni end, trail work is currently underway to Headquarters Bay.

The trail objectives to connect to the Cowichan Valley Trail support the objectives of the Cowichan Lake community to establish a trail along one or both sides of the lake. The establishment of this trail route to the Alberni Valley would provide an alternative or extended trail route for users of the Cowichan Valley Trail, for which the westernmost point of the trail is in the Town of Lake Cowichan. Completion of this trail route would also achieve trail connections with the three regional districts which border the Cowichan Valley (current efforts are underway to complete trail connections with the Capital Regional District and Nanaimo Regional District).

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca
Attachment

000007

Hello Brian and Ryan,

Judi Thomas has asked me to forward this e-mail onto you in hopes of receiving support letters from the CVRD for the proposed "Runners Trail". Thank-you and

yu,

George Williams
Ditidaht First Nation
ph. 250-745-3333
fax 250-745-3332

From: Judi Lamb-Thomas [mailto:jude@islandnet.com]
Sent: June-02-09 11:18 PM
To: patrick_deakin@portalberni.ca; gwilliams@ditidaht.ca; libbyavis@shaw.ca;
Dave_Tremblay@portalberni.ca; mirg@acrd.bc.ca; rick.avis@shaw.ca; willow@alberni.net; Cindy Stern;
lessam@tshahat.com; treesurgeon2@hotmail.com; judyharoldc@shaw.ca; Ullmann, Frank TSA:EX
Subject: Support Letter Request for Ditidaht - Runners Trail - Nitinaht Valley Section
Importance: High

Ditidaht First Nation is seeking a written letter of support from you to attach to several funding applications to build a walking trail in the Nitinaht Valley.

Ditidaht anticipates to build a trail from to connect the following trails:

- Inlet Trail – Port Alberni to Headquarters Bay
- Runners Trail – Headquarters Bay to Francis Lake
- Nitinaht Trail – Francis Lake to Cowichan Lake (the proposed project)
- To Connect the Cowichan Valley trail systems and Galloping Goose Trail.

The application activities include: finalizing the route; completion of trail use agreement and permitting; construction of up to 20 kilometres of trail with required stream crossings; development of a parking area and signage.

The project will begin in late summer 2009 with anticipated completion before the end of 2011.

Please send a signed electronic copy back to jude@islandnet.com

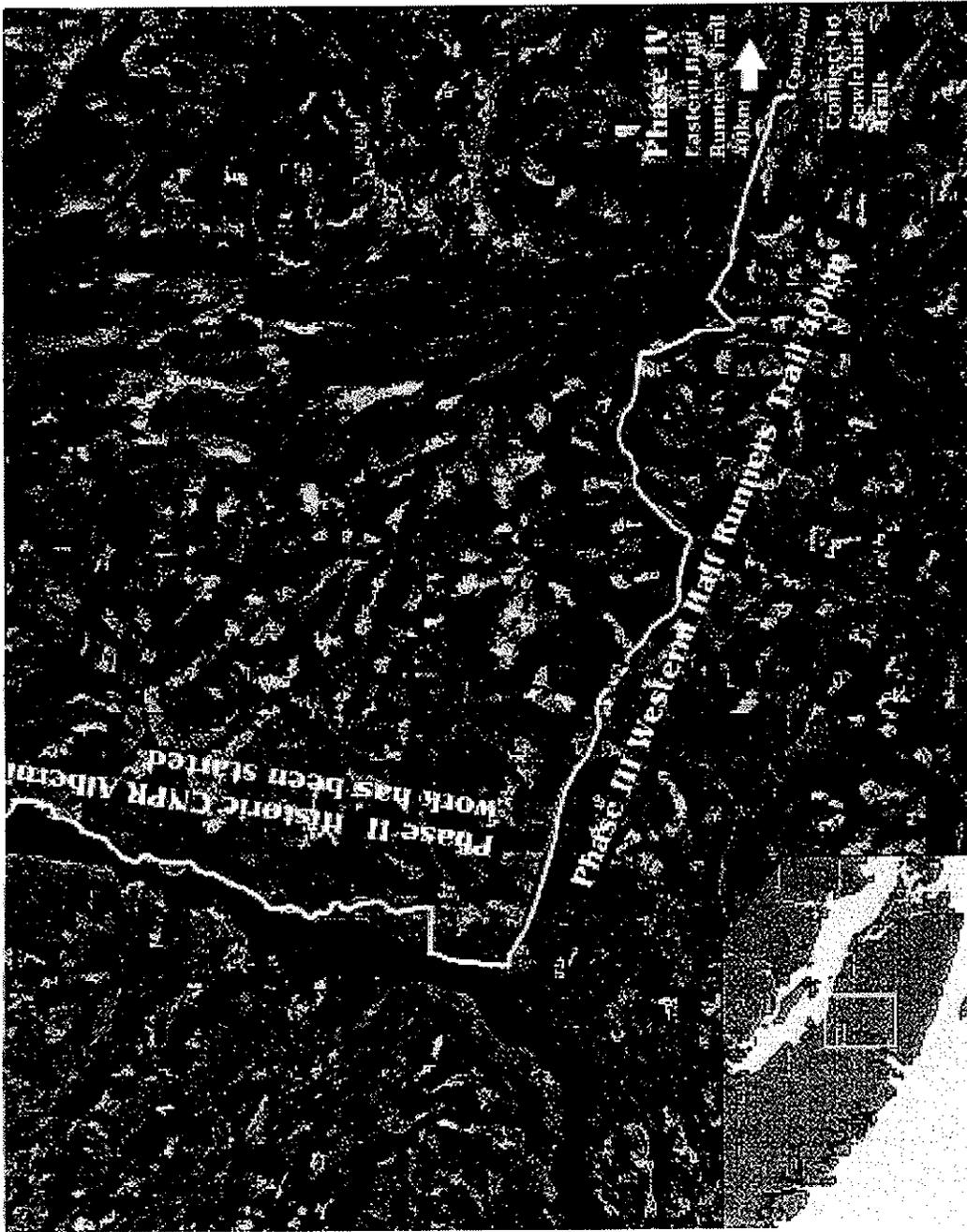
Your support is much appreciated!

Please address your letter to Ditidaht as we will be using your letter for three or four different funding agencies.

Kleco! Kleco!

Judi Thomas
Ditidaht First Nation
PO Box 340
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M8
Ph: 250-745-3333
Fx: 250-745-3332
Em: jude@islandnet.com

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R2

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2009

DATE: June 3, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

SUBJECT: Proposed Half Marathon Event – Cowichan Valley Trail

Recommendation:

That the application from the Ceevacs RoadRunners to hold a half marathon event on the Cowichan Valley Trail between Renfrew Road and the Kinsol Trestle on Sunday, November 1, 2009, be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Proof of a minimum \$2 million liability insurance coverage be provided by the organizers which covers the event and also includes the CVRD as an additional insured;
2. A Course Marshall Plan is submitted prior to the event for CVRD review and approval;
3. Confirmation that there will be appropriate flag persons at all road crossings along sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail corridor used for the event.
4. Confirmation that there will be notices of the event posted along the trail in advance of, and during the day of the event advising other trail users of the race, with such notice wording and locations pre-approved by the Regional District.
5. Agreement by the organizers that the Renfrew Road to Kinsol Trestle may not be available for the November 1, 2009, event if rehabilitation work has commenced on the structure at that time, and that alternatively, the portion of the Cowichan Valley Trail from Renfrew Road south for approximately 4 kilometres would be available as an alternate route for the event.

And that the request to incorporate “Kinsol” into the name of the Half Marathon Event be referred to the Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee for consideration.

Purpose:

To consider a request from the Ceevacs RoadRunners to host a half marathon event on portions of the Cowichan Valley Trail on November 1, 2009.

Financial Implications:

Any costs to prepare the sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail for the event and possible clean-up costs not undertaken by event organizers would need to be expensed to the Regional Parks budget. At this time no work is identified in 2009 for improvements or remedial work on the trail in this section.

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Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure owns the former CNR railway corridor upon which the Regional District has constructed and maintains the Cowichan Valley Trail under a permit issued by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in 1997.

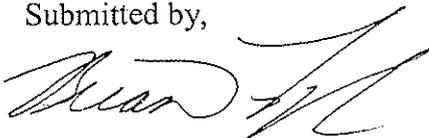
Background:

As noted in the attached proposal, the Ceevacs Roadrunners have hosted a Half Marathon in Shawnigan Lake for over 30 years and due to increasing local road traffic, the event organizers are pursuing route options which can lessen the length of the overall course on busy roads. For 2009, the Ceevacs are requesting use of the Cowichan Valley Trail between Renfrew Road and the historic Kinsol Trestle. Both the proposed Half Marathon event and a shorter 12-kilometre run event at the same time would incorporate the trail route. The organizers have indicated that both certified traffic officials and course marshalls will be stationed along the route for safety at intersections as well as aid/water stations. A post-course sweep to pick-up any litter would also be done by the organizers. In addition to approval by the Regional District, the Ceevacs will also be obtaining the necessary approvals from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for use of local public roads for the event.

Due to the time of year, public use of the section of trail between Renfrew Road and the Kinsol Trestle is expected to be minimal so as to not create potential conflicts between racers and trail users. In future years, with a rehabilitated trestle, consideration will need to be given to the level of public use on the trail in the vicinity of the trestle and proposals for race events such as this. One important aspect may be the level of rehabilitation work that may be underway on the structure in early November of this year, which could affect the ability to permit the running event between Renfrew Road and the structure. As a precaution, the event organizers should be made aware that use of this section of the trail may not be possible if rehabilitation-related work is underway at that time which would require access/mobilization from the trail on the south side of the trestle (Renfrew Road). In this event, the organizers can be offered an alternate route along the Cowichan Valley Trail from Renfrew Road south on the trail for the distance needed for the race.

In addition to the request for use of the Cowichan Valley Trail, the Ceevacs Roadrunners have also requested the use of "Kinsol" in the naming of the event. It is suggested that such requests would be suited for consideration by the Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee which is actively involved with all aspects of the trestle rehabilitation project, including promotion, public awareness and fundraising.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca
Attachment

000011

Ceevacs Roadrunners
c/o Sandra Whiting
6217 Lakes Road
Duncan, BC V9L 4J8

June 1, 2009

CVRD Parks and Recreation Committee
c/o Brian Farquhar
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Proposed Half Marathon – Trans Canada Trail

For over thirty years the local running club, CeeVacs Roadrunners, have hosted a Half Marathon running event around Shawnigan Lake. As the roads surrounding Shawnigan Lake have grown increasingly busy, we are looking at a new route which would be safer for runners, and are hoping we might be able to incorporate use of the Trans Canada Trail on Sunday November 1, 2009.

Our proposed new route will start at Shawnigan Lake School, exiting the school at the front onto Renfrew Road. We will have certified traffic marshals in place to coordinate this in the safest way for traffic and participants. Runners will proceed along Renfrew Road, turn left onto West Shawnigan Road, continue along West Shawnigan Road approximately 4 kilometres, then cut over from West Shawnigan Lake Road to the Trans Canada Trail. Runners will then run north along the trail as far as the Kinsol Trestle, where they will turn around, and come back to Renfrew Road, then run east along Renfrew Rd until Ceylon Road, where they will cut into the Shawnigan Beach Estates (Ravenhill, McIntosh, Meadowview, Hurley) and finally, enter the western (trail) entrance of Shawnigan Lk School to the finish. This route will be mapped out and certified this summer pending approval of our event. In the meantime the tentative route is located at: <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=2697051>

We are excited that this new route will not only be safer for runners but will take advantage of the wonderful trail virtually in our own backyard. In addition to the Half Marathon, we are considering the option of a 12K event as well. The 12K run would encompass a shorter version of the trail system (including the Kinsol Trestle portion) and would use the same course marshals who would be in place for the Half Marathon.

Insurance for runners would be in place through the Vancouver Island Running Association. As mentioned, certified traffic officials will be in place at strategic locations, course marshals will be stationed on route for safety at intersections as

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well as at aid/water stations. We will ensure that a sweep of the course is done to pick up any litter.

In the past our event has been called the Shawnigan Half Marathon. Should we be able to make use of the Trans Canada Trail and have runners proceed to the Kinsol Trestle, we are wondering if there is any objection from the Committee of incorporating the word "Kinsol" in our event. Suggestions have included: Kinsol Half Marathon and Kinsol 12K.

We look forward to hearing from you with regard to permission to use the Trans Canada Trail. Please let us know if there is any further information you require.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Whiting
For Ceevac Roadrunners

000013

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000014



R3

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2009

DATE: June 3, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

SUBJECT: Nature Conservancy of Canada Update

Recommendation:

That the Nature Conservancy of Canada be invited to make a presentation to the Parks Committee to provide an update on initiatives, activities and programs the Conservancy is engaged in within the Cowichan Region, and furthermore that members of the CVRD Environment Commission be invited to attend this meeting.

Purpose:

To propose that the Nature Conservancy of Canada be invited to make a presentation to a future Parks Committee meeting.

Financial Implications:

The adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan advocates establishing partnerships with other agencies and organizations with similar land values to realize potential joint acquisition strategies of lands of mutual interest.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

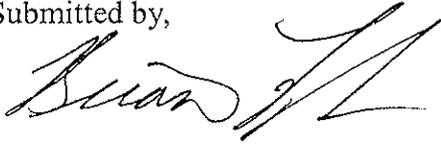
Background:

The Parks Committee, at its meeting of February 11, 2009, requested an update be brought forward on the initiatives and activities of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Subsequent to the meeting the Parks and Trails Division became aware of a tentative meeting with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the CVRD's Environment Commission, for which a request was made to the Regional Environmental Policy Division that a meeting invitation also be extended to the Parks Committee. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for the end of March/early April, but did not occur. At this time it is understood that no follow-up meeting dates are being discussed by the CVRD Environment Commission to meet with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and therefore at the discretion of the Parks Committee, it is suggested that a formal invitation be extended to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to attend a future Parks

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Committee meeting to provide an update on the NCC's initiatives, activities and programs within the Cowichan region. It may also be of value to extend an invitation to members of the CVRD Environment Commission to attend this meeting presentation, given similar interests in the activities and opportunities with the NCC.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Farquhar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "F".

Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca



R4

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF JUNE 10, 2009

DATE: June 10, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician, Parks and Trails Division
Parks Recreation and Culture Department

SUBJECT: Update on the Grant applications submitted in 2009 for the
Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information purposes.

Purpose:

To provide an update on the Grant applications CVRD staff submitted in 2009 for funding to complete northern sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail.

Financial Implications:

All three programs, in total, will provide up to 1/3 funding, with the CVRD providing 2/3 funding through other sources.

Background:

Community Development Trust Job Opportunities Program (JOP)

The application for this grant funding program was submitted in May 2009 by the Khowutzun Forest Service Limited (the applicant) who partnered with the CVRD, District of North Cowichan and the Ministry of Forests to put together a work program for unemployed forest workers. A portion of this application was for the completion of the section of the Cowichan Valley Trail from the Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan. The total funding amount requested from JOP for this section was \$178,000. In addition to the CVT, funding was also requested for trail work to take place on Cobble Hill Mountain Recreation Area in the amount of \$199,500. Matching funding through the CVRD Regional Parks program and other sources is in place.

Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC)

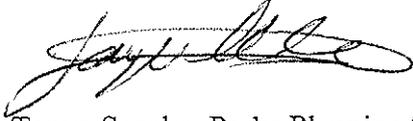
This application was submitted in May 2009 for the Cowichan Valley Trail section from the Town of Lake Cowichan to the Regional District of Nanaimo section of the Trans Canada Trail. The amount the CVRD requested from the RInC for this program was \$650,000. Matching funding through the CVRD Regional Parks Program and other sources is in place.

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BC Building Canada Fund – Recreation Component

This application was submitted in March 2009 for the Cowichan Valley Trail section from the Town of Lake Cowichan to the Regional District of Nanaimo section of the Trans Canada Trail. The amount the CVRD requested from the BC Building Canada Fund for this program was \$600,000. Matching funding through the CVRD Regional Parks Program and other sources is in place.

Submitted by,



Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

TS/mca

<i>Department Head Approval</i> 
<i>Signature</i>



R5

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2009

DATE: June 3, 2009 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent, Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative Program

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information purposes.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

n/a

Background:

Rail to Trail Section – Lake Cowichan to Duncan

The trail assessment report has recently been completed for the Lake Cowichan – Duncan section of the 2009 Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative. The assessment report completed by staff and Project Management staff has provided the necessary information to complete the trail layout to CVRD Type 1 Trail Standards. The assessment report is inclusive of the following: access point identification; gravel and ditching requirements; culvert locations and assessment details; a linear schematic of the trail; sketches for proposed trailheads; inventory of signs and small structures required; possible encroachment locations; and a listing of possible points of interest along the 26.5-kilometre route. This assessment report will guide the work program for this section of trail, completing the high priority sections in 2009.

Works to date include brushing and clearing of any dangerous trees, and potential hazards to trail users along the entire 26.5 kilometres. A site meeting was held with representatives from the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society (CVNS) to review our current work program and to inform staff of some key locations along the trail where sensitive plant species exist. The meeting proved to be a great opportunity for staff to inform the Naturalists Society of our trail standard for the Cowichan Valley Trail and the rationale for the clearing, brushing, and hazardous tree removal, as well as an opportunity to foster a relationship where the CVNS can be involved in future elements of trail improvement and enhancement.

In addition to the brushing, all access points along the Cowichan Valley Trail have been secured with lock-block barriers and signage to allow access control of these points during and after construction.

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Parks staff recently invited bids for the improvement of two key trailheads along this section. Improvements are scheduled to occur in the upcoming weeks at both Greendale and Sherman Road trailheads. Improvements will include gated access, ditching and culvert installation, signage, and trail surface upgrades to the finished type-1 trail standard.

All remaining improvements are scheduled to occur in the upcoming months and will be prioritized based on funding remaining, with water control, ditching, and access point improvements taking top priority based on the findings within our assessment report.

Bings Creek Bridge Crossing

Parks Staff are working with Herold Engineering to prepare preliminary drawings for the crossing. Initial surveying, topographical information, and underground fibre-optic line identification has all been completed and provided to the engineers to finalize the alignment of the bridge. Feedback from the local community, as well as representatives from the District of North Cowichan, indicates favourable support for a bridge that would also accommodate horse traffic; this would require a bridge width of 2 metres.

Initial cost estimates received from Herold Engineering indicated that the bridge will be more costly than estimated in the grant application. Several options are available for the crossing, depending on type of construction and load requirements. The two options that are best suited to handle horse traffic are as follows:

Option 1 – Aluminum truss structure with timber or concrete deck

Option 2 – Steel girders with timber or concrete deck

Each option has its own merits in terms of appearance, durability and strength. In general concrete is the most durable, followed by aluminum, then steel, and finally timber. Material costs are generally proportional to durability; concrete being the most durable and also the most expensive. Another significant factor influencing cost is constructability. Bings Creek is very restricted in terms of access, so delivery and installation of bridge components significantly affects cost. Our project engineers are suggesting that steel girders with wood decking would be the most cost effective and could easily be constructed on-site and installed in components rather than having to transport and install large items such as pre-cast concrete deck components. Options for the construction of the bridge foundation are also being explored at this time, with ideas such as screw piles being considered for lower installation cost and environmental benefit with respect to construction impact.

Parks Staff are working to finalize bridge costs at this time and will be constructing a bridge that is the most cost effective with the least amount of structure required to span Bings Creek, while utilizing earthworks to meet up with the structure on the west side and continue towards Lake Cowichan. Works are scheduled to commence within the fisheries window, and should wrap up by early fall.

Chemainus Section

Parks Staff are working with the District of North Cowichan, and Chemainus Rotary to finalize all construction plans for the route starting from Crozier Road and heading north to the Train Station. A trail assessment report has also been prepared for this section, which will serve to guide the elements of construction necessary for upgrade to CVRD Parks Trails Standards, as well as Island Corridor Foundation Rail with Trail standards.

Assessments have identified a “pinch point” south of the train station, with a 200-metre section of the rail grade with steep sloping terrain on either side of the tracks. Parks staff are working with Herold Engineering to review options for passage without impacting the structural integrity of the rail grade.

Works are intended to commence in July – August once all feedback from the District of North Cowichan is collected, and the tender process is complete.

Bush Creek

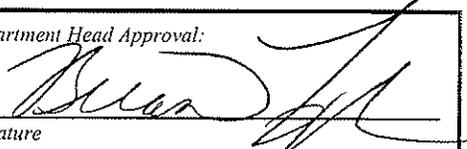
Options for a crossing are currently being explored, including alternate locations for the bridge.

Submitted by,



Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendant
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

RD/mca

Department Head Approval:

Signature



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Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society

BOX 361, DUNCAN, B.C. V9L 3X5

Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC
V9L1N8
9th April 2009

CVRD Chair and Directors,

RE: Parks Tax Cut.

We are writing to express our disgust at the unsolicited funding cuts to the CVRD Regional Park Budget. We are especially irate because the tax was won through a referendum process where the public overwhelmingly supported the CVRD initiative to tax up to \$750,000 for park acquisition. The \$300,000 you have allocated does not even buy two lots in Cobble Hill.

In conclusion when ever we see tourist promotions of the valley it is not the valley's developments that are featured but its natural assets the Cowichan River the Trans Canada Trail and its Parks. It is time to spend some money on preserving those assets before they are all buried under concrete.

Yours sincerely,

David Aldcroft
Cowichan Valley Naturalist' Conservation committee Chairman

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Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial

Residents demand CVRD tax them full amount

By Mike Damour - Cowichan News Leader and Pictorial

Published: March 10, 2009 6:00 PM

The Cowichan Valley Regional District's budget has come under fire by many taxpayers — who say they aren't paying enough.

There is a budget proposal before the board to collect less for the Parkland Acquisition fund than originally planned.

"The people who represent the public have been told we're willing to put in the money and it's not really up to them to say no," argues Warrick Whitehead, one of several valley residents who contacted the News Leader Pictorial with the concern.

"There are many other things on the budget the public has not said yes to and that's where they should be looking to make the cuts."

During a referendum last year, the majority of voters said yes to the fund, which allows the CVRD to collect a maximum of \$715,000 per year to purchase and maintain parklands.

The CVRD collected \$500,000 for the fund last year, and is proposing adding \$300,000 this year, for a total of \$800,000.

Ian Morrison, the CVRD's Cowichan Lake South director, said his constituents are upset with the lowered tax proposal.

"They're saying, 'We told you to go ahead and take the taxes, now why aren't you doing

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it?" the rookie director said.

"I am getting a consistent message and I'm getting e-mails and have had numerous discussions with people in my community and the message is the same: 'We told you to do one thing, why aren't you doing it?'"

But Gerry Giles, chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District and Cobble Hill director, said the move to cut the fund this year was meant to ease the overall tax burden for valley residents.

"This year we're proposing we only collect \$300,000, which would give the fund \$800,000, which is considered by the board to be a significant down payment on a piece of property that may come along," she said.

"It is in recognition that there are some difficult economic situations existing in the Cowichan Valley, particularly North Cowichan that has a challenge in front of it to deliver its services and try and balance its budget."

Giles said the CVRD, which must finalize its budget by the end of the month, would continue to build a reserve fund for the future.

"We looked at the acquisition fund as one thing that could be reduced without harm and we've just said this year, in recognition of the economic situation, should we be collecting the full amount or should we be reducing it to \$300,000?" she said.

"Not everyone is in the same situation as they were last November when (the parkland fund) was voted upon."

The 2009 budget is not yet final and CVRD directors will discuss it during a regular board meeting tonight.

But even if it decides to cap the acquisition fund at \$300,000 — which will cost taxpayers \$2.06 per every \$100,000 in assessed property value — that's plenty of money, said Giles.

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“There will be \$800,000 in the fund and it’s a significant amount of money and does represent a down payment should a piece of property come along that is regionally significant.”

The CVRD has identified 10 pieces of property that fit the criteria, but none have come up for sale yet.

Find this article at:

http://www.bciocalnews.com/vancouver_island_central/cowichannewsleader/news/41028469.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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Parks fund cut lacks vision

The Citizen

Friday, May 15, 2009

Dear Editor:

Another Earth Day has come and gone, with little to show for it from our present provincial government, who stubbornly ignore the mounting crises in unsustainable forestry policies and drinking water protection, whilst our municipal representatives senselessly erode our greenspace by approving subdivisions and voting to delay parkland acquisition.

The decision to downgrade the program in this year's budget demonstrates the lack of foresight and vision that we have now come to expect from the CVRD Board.

Apparently the parkland initiative fell victim to the recent economic downturn. Although times are undeniably hard for some, the addition of \$6.86 per year in taxes for a property appraised at \$500,000 is hardly a crushing burden. Moreover, the silver lining to the financial cloud is that property prices have fallen, making this a more desirable time to purchase land.

About a decade ago, a similar tax for a greenspace program was implemented in the CRD with tremendous success. The CRD partnered with The Land Conservancy and others to raise funds, and the result was an outstanding record of lands preserved for all time. There is no reason this can't happen here!

We would strongly recommend that the CVRD Board follow through on the wishes of its constituents (now there's a novel thought!) and begin to build a green legacy for this region by acquiring land for both conservation and ecoforestry. In the longterm, the latter would help build municipal coffers, and be of great benefit to the South Cowichan area, which lacks North Cowichan's large municipal forest reserve. With urban sprawl and clearcuts dominating the landscape, South Cowichan is in desperate need of such measures. When Earth Day rolls around next year, will the Board still be dithering and dickering over the greenspace funds, or will they finally act decisively and positively in the public interest? Thank you to the few directors who supported the parkland acquisition fund in its full capacity, and as for the rest, you can be sure this issue will resurface in November, 2011.

Mary Desmond, Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch

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CLOSE WINDOW

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Crackdown on rowdies has quiet start at Thetis

BY BILL CLEVERLEY, TIMES COLONIST JUNE 2, 2009

Only minor problems were reported at Thetis Lake Regional Park during the weekend -- the first real test of the Capital Regional District's plans to clamp down on rowdiness.

"I understand we've been pouring [out] some alcohol, but I also understand the vast majority of people have been co-operative," said CRD parks administrator Lloyd Rushton.

Parks officials are putting more bylaw officers on patrol during early summer's sunny weekends. During the weekend, six officers patrolled parks, with a focus on Thetis Lake.

Alcohol-fuelled rowdiness has been a growing problem in parks. Last year, there were almost 12,000 bylaw violations in regional parks, of which close to 8,400 involved alcohol.

While parks officers have in the past written few tickets -- fewer than 50 last year -- the number of people evicted from parks has steadily grown. Only 106 people were ejected in 2006, but that rose to 483 in 2007 and 930 last year.

Rushton didn't know how many tickets, if any, were written over the weekend.

bcleverley@tc.canwest.com

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