

QUARTERLY UPDATE



The Quarterly Update is released four times yearly to communicate progress on active projects and initiatives in the Fraser Valley Regional District.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff provided a Freedom of Information (FOI) update noting the volume of FOI requests increased by 32% in 2022. Of the FOI requests received in 2022:

- » 36% related to Animal Control
- » 26% were for E911 and fire services
- » 24% for building permits and bylaw enforcement
- » 14% for miscellaneous matters

A Privacy Breach Policy was adopted by the Board. The policy supports the FVRD's privacy management program and outlines the immediate steps for the FVRD's Privacy Officer to contain and manage any privacy breaches. Staff, elected officials, and service providers will undergo privacy awareness training in 2023.

The Board of Variance heard an application for a property at 2-8985 Shook Road in Area G, to allow the property owner to construct a covered area over the front deck, side deck, and main entrance. To learn more about the Board of Variance, visit fvrd.ca/bov.

A new FVRD Chair and Mayors Committee was created to provide a regional forum for the discussion of shared issues. The committee will meet quarterly, or at the request of the Chair.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Finance

The Finance team worked on the 2023-2027 Financial Plan through budget presentations, amendments, and adoption of the Plan.

Audit preparation started in December and increased in intensity throughout the first quarter. Finance is working alongside the auditor, providing testing documents and finalizing Financial Statements required for the Hospital District and Regional District.

The team also continued to move forward with insurance appraisals, fleet management, project management, process documentation, treasury dashboard updates, and joined in the Cultus Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant project validation process.

Human Resources

We welcomed a new Manager of Communications and a Human Resources Generalist along with many other new staff members to our Finance, Parks, Animal Control, Recreation Services and Bylaw teams.

BC has had a shortage of Lifeguards and fortunately, we have been able to staff two new lifeguards so far this year. We list our current job opportunities on our website at fvrd.ca/careers.

Respect in the Workplace training was held for all staff in February, which is important to maintaining our positive corporate culture.

Communications

The Communications team completed several projects this quarter, including the design of the Hope & Area Spring Recreation Guide, Vedder River Campground signage design, and the design and distribution of the FVRD Spotlight newsletter to electoral area residents.

We also worked on public engagement for the Financial Plan, designed a property tax insert, ran a successful Waste Wise social media campaign, implemented a new job module for our website and trained HR staff on the new module.

Have Your Say FVRD Statistics

- » Current Projects: 7
- » Total visits: 1.7k
- » New registrants: 24
- » Engaged visitors: 15
- » Informed visitors: 484
- » Aware visitors: 990



The Waste Wise video campaign was the top performing social media post during Q1 with 8,060 engaged users.

Social Media Statistics

The total number of social media posts in Q1:

- » FVRD: 127
- » Care Centre: 108
- » Hope Recreation: 46
- » Vedder River Campground: 6

Website Statistics

- » Users: 42,213
- » New visitors: 81%
- » Returning visitors: 19%
- » Page Views: 129,345

Media Relations

- » News Stories: 6

Fire Dispatch Management

Preventative maintenance for E911 Radio Infrastructure was planned and scheduled at 22 locations. This work will be completed in July.

Our team also installed a new PureFibre connection to the Yale utilities well pump and Yale firehall.

Mobile Radio Telephone Interconnect (MRTI) radio equipment was replaced at Chilliwack River Valley firehall to fix the ongoing problem of interference on the 9-1-1 radio channel serving eight fire agencies.

Information Technology (IT)

Hope Recreation server upgrades are in progress. The Windows servers' software versions are slated for

upgrades in preparation for the incoming data center hardware refresher.

In the server room, IT removed the radio equipment rack and rewired to accommodate new IT infrastructure.

IT conducted cyber security training for all staff in March.

The project planning is in progress for the iManage upgrade project.

We worked with Shaw to upgrade routers at various Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) sites.

GIS (Geographic Information Mapping)

The GIS team is revising the current Cultus Lake Zoning Bylaw to help manage building heights and parking restrictions.

We are working with Animal Control Staff to gather call statistics of the area it serves.

The team also revised a Fire Response Zone Map to ensure E-Comm 9-1-1 is utilizing the most up-to-date mapping data for fire dispatch services.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Electoral Area Planning

This quarter, the EA Planning department received three Agricultural Land Commission referrals, one Official Community Plan (OCP) and zoning amendment, five subdivisions, three development permits, three development variance permits, and five Crown referrals. Three development permits have been issued including the Sts'ailes Community Care Centre.

Staff initiated the Accessory Dwelling Unit implementation, the Floodplain Management Bylaw update, and the Development Fee Bylaw update.

Our ongoing projects include the Area C OCP, Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan, and Cultus Lake Zoning Bylaw.

Bylaw Enforcement

The Bylaw team opened 32 new files and conducted 94 inspections this quarter. We conducted 68 file reviews and mailed 26 letters to aid in closing or cancelling 28

files. The Bylaw department is currently managing 409 active bylaw files.

Our Bylaw team is also working with various provincial agencies to address the placement of significant amounts of fill in a floodplain in Area F.

A Bylaw Compliance & Enforcement Officer was recruited and is now working on complaint files. It is anticipated this new hire will help to improve time frames and decrease the workload.

Building Inspection

46 building permits were issued worth over \$12.4 million in construction value and 460 inspections were conducted.

The Building department has been preparing for the adoption of the BC Energy Step Code, effective May 1, 2023. This will improve energy efficiency in residential buildings. An information bulletin and guide have been developed to provide information to owners and builders.

Emergency Management

A Request for Proposals was issued seeking an external consultant to develop a hazard report and an emergency management plan by the end of 2023.

Alertable subscribers have increased. The stats below illustrate the importance of choosing to receive alerts that best suit your communication needs:

- » Text message alerts: 253 subscribers
- » Email alerts: 117 subscribers
- » Landline alerts: 20 subscribers

Emergency Management training was provided to Electoral Area Directors.

Recovery advocacy and coordination from the fall 2021 atmospheric river events is ongoing.

ENGINEERING & UTILITIES

Damaged during the 2021 atmospheric river events, the Guy Creek Debris Basin engineered slope located in Baker Trails in Area E had repairs completed this quarter.

An assessment of a section of the Fraser River shoreline near the end of Athey Road on Nicomen Island in Area G that has receded 27m since 2021 concluded that it is unlikely that the Nicomen Island Improvement District's setback dike will be compromised as a result of the 2023 freshet. The current trend of bank recession is expected to continue and some form of bank stabilization or training works will be required to prevent the ongoing bank recession from affecting the integrity of the dike.

A \$216,000 grant was awarded under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund–Disaster Risk Reduction–Climate Adaptation Program to complete a Flood



Workers install 950m² of geomattening and 24 soil anchors via high-angle rope work, at the Guy Creek Debris Basin engineered slope in the Chilliwack River Valley, Area E.

Protection Gap Assessment and Infrastructure Policy Framework.

\$9,979,996 was awarded to the FVRD in December 2022 for the North Cultus Wastewater Treatment Plant project under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program–Green Infrastructure–Environmental Quality. Following the announcement, a Request for Proposals was issued and Chandos Construction LP was awarded to act as the Integrated Project Delivery Contractor. The project validation is anticipated to be complete mid-May.

Annual maintenance of fire hydrants, valves, air releases, and manhole inspections was completed this quarter.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Animal Control

Animal Control officers have conducted nearly 400 patrols of local parks in our member municipalities so far in 2023.

On March 7th, Animal Control staff celebrated the first

anniversary of being staffed in-house by the FVRD.



Since January, 18 dogs have been adopted into new homes from the CARE Centre and 145 dogs were impounded.

Environmental Services

Waste reduction awareness and engagement within the multi-family sector (townhomes, condos, etc.) are a current focus of Waste Wise outreach and a new educational video was developed and released on bewastewise.com. A survey on [Have Your Say FVRD](#) helped with learning about current food waste and composting practices in multi-family complexes within the FVRD. Staff also attended a Chilliwack River Valley ratepayers meeting in March to discuss the FVRD's Source Separation Bylaw and made presentations to the University of the Fraser Valley.

We worked with *Take Action on Radon* to help to raise awareness and better understand radon levels within our communities. Along with several municipalities in the region, the FVRD distributed radon gas sensors to allow participating residents to install these sensors in their houses over the winter months. The radon kits were collected and returned to health authorities for analysis and the results are expected in early summer.

Fire Protective Services

Electoral Area Fire Departments attended 216 calls:

- » Fires: 44 calls
- » Medical emergencies: 92 calls
- » Assist public or other agencies: 17 calls
- » Motor vehicle incidents: 38 calls
- » Alarms: 23 calls
- » Mutual aid: 2 calls

The FVRD received grant funding from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC in January for the development of five fuel management prescriptions for priority fuel treatments recommended in the FVRD's Community Wildfire Protection Plans. A consultant will be contracted to develop these prescriptions, and subject to future grant funding, fuel treatment to reduce wildfire risk to communities will occur in the future.

Fraser Valley Regional Airpark

A request for Expression of Interest for agricultural land lease opportunities was advertised and awarded.

Integrated Planning and Engagement

The FVRD was successful in the application for the BC Active Transportation Network Planning (ATNP) Grant to develop a regional active transportation network plan with \$50,000 awarded in February 2023. The ATNP will create a network plan to connect communities in the electoral areas, provide safe options for active modes of transportation, and identify priority areas for developing active transportation.

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest began selective aerial logging west of Silver Lake in the Hope area.

Staff from both the Integrated Planning & Engagement and Communications Departments are participating in a UVF collaborative reconciliation program in partnership with Stó:lō agencies Xwelítem Siyáya: [Allyship and Reconciliation Building](#).

Regional Strategic Planning & Initiatives

This quarter, we held an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting with staff from member municipalities, adjacent regional districts, representatives from Indigenous communities and agencies, provincial agencies and ministries, and others to share the latest draft of the Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

Work continues with BC Transit to finalize the FVRD components of the Chilliwack and FVRD Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP). The focus of the TFAP is on ridership recovery and continued improvement of the Chilliwack, Agassiz-Harrison, Hope, and Fraser Valley Express (FVX)

transit systems over the next five years.

Work has started on the introduction of BC Transit's electronic fare collection system named Umo. More information will be coming over the next few months about this exciting initiative, which is expected to launch in the Fraser Valley in the fall of 2023.

We continue to monitor the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's planning work on the latest Highway 1 expansion project to widen Highway 1 from 232 Street in the Township of Langley to the Whatcom interchange in Abbotsford. The FVRD's interest lies in maintaining and expanding connections to the interregional FVX service.

Regional and Community Parks

The trail at Eagle Point Community Park in Area C received much-needed improvements.

In Area D, the boardwalk at the Popkum Community Trail is receiving a facelift including new decking and



Work continues at the Lakeside Trail in Area H between Sunnyside Campground and Entrance Bay. The segment is anticipated to be completed in April 2023.

an enlarged parking area. This is anticipated to be completed in April 2023.

Four new bridges were installed in Thacker Regional Park in Hope.

Street tree pruning was completed in Popkum (Area D) to over 500 street trees and 20 trees were planted in a newly established subdivision.

Recreation Services

We had the pleasure of hosting two successful events at the Hope Arena including the South Coast Women's Hockey Championships and an Adult Hockey League windup tournament, both involving 16 teams over three days.

Spring Break saw an increase in pool usage and our Spring Break Day Camps were well attended. Children enjoyed a range of activities, including making pizzas at Panago and a Friday movie showing at the Hope Cinema.

The transition from Red Cross Swim lessons to Lifesaving Society Swim for Life lessons has been smooth, and we are excited to be offering both Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross lifesaving courses to promote interest in lifeguarding.

Our Blended Aquafit program remains popular, with an average attendance of 20 people per session.

Our newest addition to our group fitness classes, TRX Fitness, is now available to individuals of all abilities. TRX is a versatile exercise that uses suspension straps to provide a total body workout.

Our Home Alone and Babysitting programs were fully booked, including people on a waitlist. We continue to look for ways to improve and expand our programming.

Vedder River Campground

Utility repairs to some campsites were completed before the campground opened for the season. This includes 58 full and partially serviced sites with new electrical, water, and sewer connections.

New vegetation and enhanced site surfacing have been added to enlarged sites to improve the camping experience. The play area and basketball court also received upgrades.



The new play area at the Vedder River Campground.