OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

Area H Fall Update

October 13, 2022

Hello Area H Residents,

I hope this finds you well. Here is an update of some of the activities and events in Area H.

1. **Election News**

   I have been acclaimed as the Area H Director and am looking forward to serving you for my third term. This means residents of Area H will not vote for a Director but do have an opportunity to vote for Chilliwack School Trustees. Election Day is Saturday October 15th and polls are open at Cultus Lake Community Hall from 8:00am-8:00pm.

   I have included links the school trustee debate. They split the candidates into two groups.

   School Trustee Debate #1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXV0sMlxA5w

   School Trustee Debate #2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuUnrYoATrw

2. **Important Columbia Valley Community Meeting- 9:00am-10:30 am Saturday October 22nd**

   The Columbia Valley Ratepayers Association will be hosting an informational meeting at the Columbia Valley Community Hall 1202 Kosikar Road. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss air quality and potential long-term effects on the aquifer from farming activities in Columbia Valley. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Agriculture Land Commission, Fraser Valley Renewables, 810 Iverson Road as well as MLA Paddon and I will be in attendance. All Area H residents are welcome.

3. **Summer Traffic Update**

   During Labour Day Weekend FVRD, RCMP and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) were able to organize an enforcement weekend involving extra RCMP officers and a Towing Company. We also had a large media blitz indicating there were changes at Cultus Lake on that weekend. While no vehicles were towed, many drivers were spoken to and chose to move along. Reliable Towing was contracted for the weekend. I have a follow up meeting next week and would be happy to receive feedback from residents. If you have any thoughts/suggestions to share, please email them to me. tdixon@fvrd.ca

   Additional delineators have been installed along certain parts of Columbia Valley Road and these are intended to prevent parking in the no parking zones.

4. **Tourism Stewardship Fall Meeting**

In the spring our first Tourism Stewardship meeting was held. Tourism Chilliwack is working with Area H to ensure that we have an avenue for communicating successes, concerns, ideas, and suggestions regarding tourism in our area. The theme is Protecting This Gift, and we are working hard to welcome tourists while protecting the health of Cultus Lake. Our fall meeting is on October 19th. If you would like to share your thoughts about tourism, please email them to me. tdixon@fvrd.ca

5. **Fire Smart**

The FireSmart Coordinator conducted 33 FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessments for electoral area residents. A $500 rebate was provided to six residents who spent over $1,000 on improvements to their property based on the FireSmart assessment. Six Neighbourhood Champion workshops were held for residents to learn about the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program. Community wood chipping programs were held for three neighbourhoods. A Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee is being organized.

For more information and to find quick easy ways to make your own property more fire smart look at the Fire Smart website. https://firesmartbc.ca

6. **Fire Department Updates**

Area H is served by two outstanding Fire Departments- Columbia Valley and Cultus Lake. The firefighters train hard and are dedicated to keeping our communities safe. Columbia Valley is in the process of purchasing a new truck for the department. Both Fire Departments are actively recruiting and in need of new members.

A Message from Deputy Chief Steven Van Geel Columbia Valley Fire Department

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED!!🔥🔥

Hello Neighbours! It's that time of year again! Your local Columbia Valley Fire Department is currently seeking and accepting new applications to join the Fire Department. Training for new recruits is starting up soon and the application process should start now to be a part of this new group. There are SEVERAL positions we need filled from Front Line Exterior Fire Fighters, First Responders, Admin Staff, Support & Drivers. Joining the hall does not mean you have to have to fight fires! Let us work with you to determine how involved you want to be, as your skill set could be just what we are looking for. For more information contact Steven 604-376-6445 or apply directly at FVRD https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/services/fire-protection/Volunteer-ff.html

Cultus Lake Fire Department serves the north end of Cultus Lake and are actively recruiting for new members, specifically local individuals available for daytime calls. More information and applications to the Cultus Lake Fire Department can be found here https://www.cultuslake.bc.ca/fire-services/

The Fire Departments remind you to check your smoke detectors and make sure your address is visible.

7. **Cultus Lake Zoning Bylaw Review**
   We have initiated the Cultus Lake Zoning Bylaw update with OTG Development Ltd. which was awarded the contract to lead a consultation process this fall according to the Board approved public and stakeholder engagement strategy. More information will be shared once dates have been set.

8. **Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy- CLASS**
   The Cultus Lake Stewards meet virtually Sept- June. It is a non-profit organization that shares a common vision for the future of Cultus Lake. The goal of CLASS is to preserve and protect the health of the lake and its watershed. The meetings are informative and often have guest speakers. To learn more, look at their website and/or sign up for more information.
   https://cultusstewards.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f262602a5791c2fcf9056f0de&id=2b8d49fa88

9. **Columbia Valley Halloween Monster Bash- Saturday October 28th 5:00pm-8:00pm**
   Fun for the whole family! Games, a spooky piñata, an outdoor bonfire, music, dancing, and a costume contest for the kids. Plus, a full concession with our local partners Jim's Pizza, a licensed boo's station featuring Lake Bottom Cider and Old Yale Brewing (19+) and a 50/50 draw for the adults 👻
   What's not to love about a fully immersive Halloween experience for the whole family right here in Columbia Valley! Have you grabbed your tickets yet? Get all the details and buy your tickets here 🎃
   https://bit.ly/CVRAmonsterbashtickets

As always if you have questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enjoy the fall.

Taryn

Taryn Dixon
Director, FVRD Electoral Area H