

July 22, 2025

Summer is now in full swing. Sunny days, long evenings, ice cream and fresh fruit and vegetables. I hope you manage to find time to enjoy some of the beautiful things found in our area.

Here are a few things that may be of interest to you.

**Green Shores Project-** Congratulations on a beautiful Green Shores project found on the west side of Cultus Lake, just across the bridge at Main Beach. This project was made possible with financial and in-kind support provided by the [BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund](#) through Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Province of BC, Cultus Lake Park Board, Soowahlie First Nation, Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe, CLASS, Environmental Committee, and Stewardship Centre for BC. This is the first project of its kind for a freshwater lake and is sure to be a demo site for other interested parties. The Green Shores project makes the shoreline more accessible, and beautifies the shoreline by adding native vegetation, wildlife habitat and accessible waterfront shorelines. It is intended to also help reduce erosion. A special thanks to Soowahlie and Cheam First Nations for opening the ceremony with drumming and song.

**Alertable/Wildfire-** I get many questions about emergency situations, campfire bans and wildfires. I try to let people know of situations as quickly as possible. But the best way to stay on top of things is to download the Alertable App. It provides quick emergency updates as events happen. <https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-management/emergency-notifications.html>

Some of you may also find the Wildfire App to be of interest. Information can be found here.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

**Fire Ban-Coastal Fire Centre** a Category 1 Open Fire Prohibition ( Campfires) is in effect .The full details can be found here. <https://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire/coastal-fire-centre-to-enact-category-1-open-fire-prohibition/>

The use of CSA-rated or ULC-rated cooking stoves and portable campfire apparatus that use briquettes, liquid fuel or gaseous fuel are still permitted, if the height of the flame is less than 15 cm tall.

To report any campfires or wildfires please call 911 or \*5555

**FireSmart-** If you are interested in learning a few ways to make your own property more fire safe, please look at the FireSmart website <https://firesmartbc.ca> There are many useful ideas such as keeping hedges watered and the grass short. If you'd like to speak to someone about a FireSmart assessment, please contact Andrew Schellenberg at FVRD. [firesmart@fvrd.ca](mailto:firesmart@fvrd.ca)

**Encampments in the Area-** There are encampments in the area. I attended recently attended two with CLFD Fire Chief, RCMP and representatives from Soowahlie First Nation and informed them of the Fire Ban. I am also on a Task Force which Director MacAhonic from Area E, began a few years ago. There are over 40 people on this Task Force trying to manage this issue throughout many areas. It is complex and not as simple as just moving them. They need to have a place to go to and don't always want to go to the available spaces. Outreach workers check on the camps on

a regular basis. Tow trucks are not to tow broken trailers/motor homes up to encampments. If you see one towing a vehicle up Vance Road, it would be helpful to take a picture of the tow truck and vehicle and contact RCMP non-emergency number. 604-792-4611. If you wish to report an unauthorized use of Crown Land, please call the RAPP line ( 1-877-952-7277), or submit a report. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/natural-resource-law-enforcement/conservation-officer-service/cos-rapp>

**Tourist Accommodation-** An application has been submitted to FVRD to build a Tourist Accommodation of about 74 units at the corner of Sleepy Hollow Road and CV Road. The property is zoned Highway Commercial 1 (HC-1) under FVRD Zoning Bylaw No. 1638, 2021. It has had this zoning for many years. Tourist Accommodation is a permitted use in the HC-1 zone. It is defined as "a commercial use providing for the temporary accommodation of the travelling public." Strata units in the proposed development can only be used for this purpose. At this time the application has been submitted and is circulating through various departments at FVRD. There is a checklist of items that must be completed before a building permit will be issued. This site will be able to hook into the new Cultus Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will be required to pay a late comer's fee and pay for the infrastructure required to hook into the system. Once that has happened, they will be part of the service area and will be billed in the same way as those currently in this Service Area. FVRD is considering a zoning amendment to introduce a new definition for tourist accommodation unit and permit tourist accommodation uses with interior access. More information can be found in the agenda package for the upcoming meeting. Item 11.13 <https://pub-fvrd.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=31675>

**Goose Management-** Our Goose Management Committee counts geese 4 times/ year. The purpose of this committee is to try and manage the goose population at Cultus Lake, not eradicate them. Geese are wonderful to look at and watch, but too many of them can also create unhealthy situations. We try to educate people too and ask that no one feeds the geese. They are wildlife and should be eating goose food, not people food . On July 11<sup>th</sup> we counted 164 geese at the lake. Here's a fun fact- The average goose produces about 2 pounds of poop/day. So those 164 geese managed to make over 300 pounds of poop in just one day. It's on the beaches, grass areas and in the water. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers who try and keep the numbers manageable to protect the lake and surrounding areas.

**Fire Departments-** Our Fire Departments train hard and do their very best to respond quickly to a variety of calls, all to help people out and keep us safe. I am grateful for both departments and to their families too. They drop everything to respond and leave their families to help others. Thank you so much for all you do for our area.

**Blue Creek Project-** This project should be wrapping up in 2-3 weeks. We are thankful for the funds the province provided to repair the damage from the Atmospheric River. The kettle size has been substantially increased and should infiltrate water more quickly for years to come. Armoring the banks in the creek will reduce sediment flow and the new culverts will allow more water to flow through in high water events, reducing the risk of overland flooding and culvert obstruction. The kettle can easily be seen on Maple Falls Road in Columbia Valley.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to help. Enjoy the summer.

Taryn

Taryn Dixon

FVRD Director- Area H

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