



# The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan  
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## Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting–July 10, 2000

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### Call for Free Calling

The Board received a report presented by Al Litynsky, Senior Project Manager with Telus, and Robert Fine of the Economic Development Commission on the expansion of the local calling area. Currently in the Central Okanagan, local distance charges apply to some areas, such as Peachland and Lake Country. Telus is seeking feedback from the Regional District on increasing the basic surcharge to all homes in order to fund toll free access to all areas within the Central Okanagan, and including Beaverdale. The Regional Board requested that the report be circulated to each municipal Council for comment. In addition, the report will be sent to the Economic Development Commission Board for review.

Contact: *Robert Fine* 868-5280  
*Executive Director, EDC*

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### June Building Statistics

During the month of June there were 68 permits issued for a total construction value of \$4,590,881. During this same period 75 permits were completed for a value of \$4,591,913.

Contact: *Kelly Roth* 868-5211  
*Director of Inspections*

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### Sign Bylaw Updated

A revised Sign Bylaw was given first reading by the Regional Board. The Bylaw is being updated to be compatible with the recently approved Zoning Bylaw. It also accommodates a court decision that allows portable signs, under certain conditions, real estate signs and other housekeeping changes. Copies are available for the public to review at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Inspections Counter. It will also be sent to the Westbank Chamber of Commerce for comment.

Contact: *Kelly Roth* 868-5211  
*Director of Inspections*

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### Official Parks Plan in the Works

Developing, protecting, and planning for green space are key components of the Official Regional Park Plan. The Regional Board gave the first three readings to the Parks Plan Bylaw. This Bylaw will provide strategic direction for acquiring and managing parks for the next 20 years. Prior to adoption, comments will be received from municipal partners and the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

Contact: *Murray Kopp* 868-5232  
*Planning and Design Manager*

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### Regional Parkland Legacy Fund

Planning for future parkland acquisition is part of the Official Regional Parks Plan, and the Legacy Fund will provide the means. The Regional Board adopted in principle the concept of the Regional Parkland Legacy Fund Bylaw at last night's meeting. The Legacy Fund is a financial model that provides direction for funding new parkland purchases. It will be forwarded to municipal partners for review and comment.

Contact: *Murray Kopp* 868-5232  
*Planning and Design Manager*

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### Grant Application In the Mail

The Regional Board gave approval to apply for a provincial planning grant for the coordination of the Regional Growth Strategy in the amount of \$199,386. The grant would assist in the preparation of issue discussion papers and coordination of activities for two years. Some of the topics for discussion are: water resource and environment protection, transportation and air quality. The Regional Growth Strategy is being created to provide a blueprint to guide future development in the Central Okanagan.

Contact: *Ken Arcuri* 868-5227  
*Director of Planning*

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### **Help for Volunteers**

Some Regional District Volunteer Firefighters are getting a boost, thanks to the Regional District's decision to standardize remuneration for volunteers. While all firefighters currently receive some level of remuneration for practice and call-outs, the Board has approved a report that standardizes the maximum rate that may be paid to fire fighters, based on their length of service and amount of training undertaken. In addition, Standard Operating Guidelines are being developed to ensure volunteers adhere to standards set for training and safety. There are four volunteer fire departments in the Regional District that provide service to the outlying areas.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng.868-5241  
Director of Engineering*

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### **New Way to Rate Proposals**

The Board gave approval to the new Proposal Evaluation Process developed by the Engineering Services Department. The new policy will provide guidance to staff and consulting firms on how proposals will be evaluated in the process of awarding a contract. The policy recognizes the importance of team experience, innovation, and historical performance instead of simply using a fee based selection process. It has been created with the assistance and support of the local chapter of the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng.868-5241  
Director of Engineering*

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### **No Thanks to New Tax**

The Regional Board gave its approval to a resolution received from the District of Sicamous on the subject of the imposition of a new tax on the storage of vessels and RV's. The new tax being proposed by the Province would place a 7% tax on boats and RV's left for storage in BC. The District of Sicamous is circulating the resolution to all local governments and will bring it forth for discussion at the Annual Conference of the Union of BC Municipalities in October. The resolution opposes the tax, claiming that it would negatively impact the economic stability of marinas and recreational parks.

*Contact: Wayne d'Easum 763-4918  
Administrator*

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### **Support for Not Smoking**

The Regional Board supported a recommendation received from the City of Vancouver in support of a private members Bill on cigarette smoking. The Bill aims to reduce the use of tobacco products by young people in Canada. It proposes to establish an independent Canadian Tobacco Youth Protection Foundation funded by a levy of \$0.75 cents per cigarette and would focus on creating programs to reduce tobacco smoking among young people.

*Contact: Wayne d'Easum 763-4918  
Administrator*

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### **Grant-in-Aid**

Eain Lamont Community Park - \$1000 – Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Electoral Area 'G'.