



Saltair District Residents Association  
(SDRA)

[www.sunnysaltair.ca](http://www.sunnysaltair.ca)

## January 2021 Newsletter

### Heads Up – Upcoming Members Meeting....



There are a number of issues for review and vote by the membership, including voting in the Board of Directors, so we're considering some combination of vote by email and a virtual meeting for our Annual General Meeting 2021. More info will be in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, the Board is reviewing whether all fees will be waived for 2021 – 2022 year due to COVID-19 issues. Stay tuned. Anyone in Ladysmith, Area G and Chemainus interested in our newsletter, or becoming a member in April 2021, please advise either [millder@shaw.ca](mailto:millder@shaw.ca) or [dianaholland@shaw.ca](mailto:dianaholland@shaw.ca) to join.

### Follow Up: Water Filtration Project for Saltair

A letter has gone out asking residents to fill out the response if they disagree with the loan to fix the water system as outlined in the presentation mentioned below; a copy of the form to use is attached. This is your opportunity to provide feedback so do take advantage, if you are so inclined.

Please note, however, that the Health Authority has the option to override any negative majority either in this process or a referendum (see also the presentation, approximately at minute 19; found at <https://cvrld.ca/2706/Saltair-Water-System> - scroll down the page). This upgrade is mandated by BC provincial legislation (Drinking Water Protection Act **2001**). And the CVRD has been procrastinating and twiddling for years. They've been warned twice to comply or else. No wonder the Health Authority has lost patience. They've given the CVRD a deadline that they **MUST** meet.

*(Editorializing: Just think, if the CVRD had acted within an even marginally reasonable timeframe, the facility would be built, costs would have been less, our water would be safer, and we'd be half way through paying for the thing. Hmphf.)*

A selection of critical dates follows, as per the Contravention Order; a link to the Order can be found on the website above; just scroll down past the presentation to the paragraph below it and click to read the whole thing:

**By February 4:** submit those Alternative Approval Process (AAP) forms to CVRD if you disagree with the loan

**February 24 – CVRD approves borrowing bylaw**

**March 2021** – Procurement – signs the contract to design/build the water filtration project; NOTE: if 100% self-financed, the project continues **with reduced scope**. (*What does THAT mean?!*)

**April 2021** – Contract awarded and design begins; must be completed by June

**June 29** – Final design and commissioning plan submitted to Island Health for approval

**October 2021** – Order Issued for modular treatment system

**January 2022** – Work commences

**August 2022** – Work complete and system commissioned

The letter states baldly that this timeline must be met. Status will be monitored very closely monthly from August 2021 to August 2022. Failure to comply with this order entails penalties: up to \$200,000 per day to the region and potentially prison time if any person(s) is/are found directly responsible for derailing progress.

This is serious folks.

**Please stay aware and involved.**

## CVRD “Regional” Recreation

No change; nothing new to report on this front – assuming deferral until budget stuff is finished.

## Potential Community Project: Summer Swap or Community Market

Another great idea that came up from some of our readers was to establish either a single or series of open air “swap” meets, yard sale-style markets or community market. The whole thing could actually be a combination of these ideas – people bring stuff to swap, or sell and we could invite folks to bring their own excess produce from their gardens. Maybe organizations like the Cowichan Green Community or local farms would like to set up a table if we get organized soon enough. Maybe someone would like to play music. If we did it every 4 or 6 weeks, sellers wouldn’t have to bring everything at once, they could spread out their offerings. Maybe you have other ideas to add to the mix. Apparently something like this was done before – if you remember such activities, I’d really like to hear from you.

We’ll need time to get organized, so if you like the suggestion and/or have ideas to contribute drop me a note please!

## Repeat – BE BEAR AWARE!

We mentioned this last month, but it bears repeating (yes, a pun). Please be aware that these guys are out there. There was a bear sighting at the dump. Not far from there to here.

And watch out for other wild neighbours such as cougar, raccoons, deer and other wildlife! Keep your garbage cans inside or protected/locked or you may have an unwelcome and destructive visitor. Make your presence known on trails or after dark. Keep an eye on pets and small children. Self-educate on common sites such as <https://wildsafebc.com/>

## OPINION:

*The content here is mine and mine alone. If you have a topic on which you’d like to express an opinion, or ideas to share, please do forward to me. Rules are simple: short (about 400 words or less), no expletives, or insults; if explaining a situation rather than an opinion, please quote facts (with sources).*



Between staying isolated from the BUG and being safe and limiting exposure and so on and so on, sometimes I look like this ALL DAY!!!

Don’t tell me you haven’t had days like this – you get up in the morning and forget some aspect of personal appearance..... or whatever.

Use everything and everyone within reach to stay on the brighter side of life because the end, though in sight, is still quite a distance away.

For example, some folks are spending more time with their pets (that’s a great one), and walking outdoors, weather permitting. Some folks are taking up hobbies they wouldn’t have considered prior to our forced cocooning, or returning to some they haven’t indulged in for a while- knitting, painting, home improvements, gardening, woodworking, scrap-booking, photography, and many, many more. Enjoy! Share!

Needless to say, with the urgency of the Saltair Water Project, growing public resolve not to waste this precious resource, and the rainy season in full fettle, I’ve been thinking about water.

And so have a LOT of other folks. For example, there is an excellent video series on the Shaw channel called Watershed Moments-BC Climate Change Reality, a trilogy which highlights partnerships across Vancouver Island focussed on retaining and rehabilitating watersheds, presented by NALT and the Partnership for Water Sustainability. GREAT stuff. (Viewable on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yrzEuAIJSM&ab\\_channel=waterbucket](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yrzEuAIJSM&ab_channel=waterbucket)). Public TV has rerun the Leonardo DiCaprio “Ice on Fire” documentary, which I found riveting. Commercials are running, pointing out that Canada has 20% of the planet’s fresh water and, with the rest of the planet either completely poisoning their supplies (China, Russia, India) or running out of glaciers, or both, we all have a higher and higher duty of stewardship. So, as always, I have questions.

Why do some politicians persist in such short-sightedness?? So what if growth projections today indicate our water system is good for the next 15 years?? Drop in the bucket, so to speak. What if projections are wrong and there's an influx of climate refugees, or higher temperatures than expected, or a 5 year drought (like California) or, or, or, or, or..... Why aren't we planning more reservoirs, capturing overspill, establishing programs to support capturing grey water and roof runoff to use on gardens (wow, would THAT reduce our water bills) and who knows what other ideas are coming up. Technology provides better jobs for individuals, quality of life for most of us and could help us preserve increasingly threatened resources. The solutions are out there – why aren't we using them? The \$\$bill just gets bigger for our children and grandchildren.

It is amazing to me how much, individually, we suffer from inertia – and how much of that and just outright procrastination from our elected officials. Just because we're "OK" today and things don't seem too different from yesterday does not mean change isn't going to sneak up on us tomorrow. I think I've said before that I'm the belt-and-braces type – secure and ready for what happens, not appalled and waiting for "somebody" to do "something" about a perfectly predictable crisis. Spoiler alert – the somebody is us.

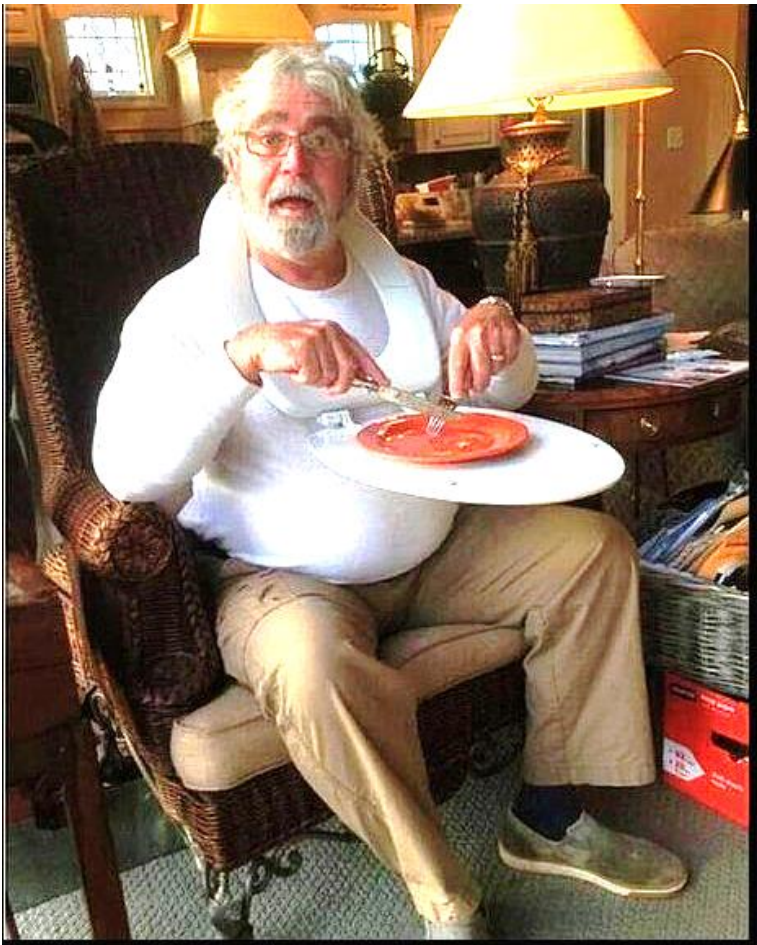
There you have my rant for today. Maybe it will start a conversation?

**Any and all feedback most welcome! Please reply by email to the sender.** Writer: S. Miller

### **Post-Script:**

**Stay safe, stay calm, stay home, stay separated and wear a mask – the COVID & Flu bugs are on the march..... Reach out for support when needed - your mental and emotional health is as important as your physical health.**

### **Post-Post-Script:**



Following up the theme of last month's newsletter Opinion piece, someone gave me this picture as an example of innovative (but extreme) recycling.....



**ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM  
BYLAW NUMBER 4328**

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is proposing to adopt "CVRD Bylaw No. 4328 – Saltair Water System Service Loan Authorization (Water Treatment Upgrades - \$3,700,000) Bylaw, 2020", which would allow the CVRD to borrow upon the credit of the Regional District a sum not exceeding Three Million, Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,700,000); to fund the estimated cost to carry out water treatment upgrades to the Saltair Water System works to current municipal standards for the supply, treatment, conveyance, storage and distribution of water within a portion of Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands. The estimated annual cost to residential property owners within the Saltair Water System Service Area would be approximately \$270 per parcel per annum, until the debt is retired. If you are opposed to the adoption of this bylaw, you may indicate your opposition by signing and returning this *Elector Response Form* to the Regional District office by 4:30 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021. If at least 10% of the eligible electors within the area defined in the AAP submit responses, the regional district board may not proceed with the matter unless elector approval is obtained by assent voting. Approval of the electors by alternative approval process is obtained if less than 146 elector responses are received by the stated deadline. Only those persons who live or own property within the service area and meet the following qualifications are eligible to submit an *Elector Response Form*.

I hereby certify that:

- I am a Canadian citizen;
- I am an individual who is age 18 or older;
- I have been a resident of British Columbia for at least the past six months;
- I have been a resident of the Saltair Water System Service Area for the past 30 days **or** I am entitled to register as a non-resident property elector;
- I am not disqualified by the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment, from voting in an election or am not otherwise disqualified by law.

I understand and acknowledge that I may not sign an *Elector Response Form* more than once in relation to this alternative approval process.

NAME OF ELECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print full name)

ELECTOR STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(residential address)

\*\*\*\*\*

**OR**

**(Non-Resident property electors only)**

Address of property in relation to which I \_\_\_\_\_  
am entitled to register as a non-resident (property address)

property elector.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(contact telephone number including area code)

\*\*\*\*\*

SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** The **signed** *Elector Response Form* must be returned to the CVRD Offices located at 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC, V9L 1N8 **on or before 4:30 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021**. Forms can be emailed to [aapresponse@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:aapresponse@cprd.bc.ca) or faxed to 250.746.2513, with the original to follow by mail. Regular office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

**Section 86(6) of the *Community Charter* requires all electors to submit their response on the form established by the CVRD, or an accurate copy of that form.**