



## Saltair District Residents Association (SDRA)

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

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

# January 2024

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### **Report on the BOTTLE DRIVE – held December 16 in partnership with Chemainus Rotary**

**Many thanks to all the contributors!** The folks at the Rotary Club reported that we had a better than average turnout – your contributions are very much appreciated. We are reported to have brought in about \$1100! Kerry McIntyre helped John and Jane (pictured) with the intake and sorting. We continue to build our high school bursary funds (and put a little toward our other events) and to aid that objective, partnered with the Chemainus Rotary Club whose ongoing bottle drives and other efforts benefit a great many local charities. We heartily thank them for allowing us to join them.



### **Community Conversations Meeting - #3**

**Saltair Community Centre – Sunday January 21, 2024 – 2 p.m.** Director Jesse McClinton has invited Ladysmith Mayor Aaron Stone, who is also the CVRD Board of Directors chairperson, to speak about what are priorities and key activities at the CVRD for 2024; he will also be available for questions. At this time, invitations have gone out to the Ministry of Transport and Mainroad Mid-Island Contracting to speak and take questions on roads/ditches maintenance and upgrades. These are also the folks with whom we must negotiate for remediation of storm water management issues. The names of the representatives have not been confirmed as of this date.

**NOTE – February 24 (Saturday) Community Conversations #4** meeting is tentatively being planned as a “Vision for Saltair” group session building on the Local Area Plan conversation – but focusing on what residents want Saltair to look like in 5, 10 and 20 years, given the rapidly changing times. Under discussion is a “Focus group” format – several groups discussing **4 primary topics**:

- What must be preserved to keep the rural atmosphere?
- What is needed locally for climate adaptation?
- What could be considered for and where should targeted densification be?
- What infrastructure is needed moving forward (e.g. roads, transportation, water services, power, etc.) in light of inevitable densification, climate change, and time

### **Re-zoning for recycling business in Area H**

If you were at the last Community Conversation, held by Jesse McClinton, you met Ben Maartman, director of North Oyster-Diamond (Area H) and heard him speak about this potential issue. Well, something happened.

Area directors of the Cowichan Valley Regional District **denied** a controversial re-zoning application that has been under consideration for more than seven years. At a CVRD regular board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13, area directors voted to deny a re-zoning application from Radius Recycling, formerly known as Schnitzer Steel, which is looking to continue operating a scrap metal recycling operation in Cassidy close to the Nanaimo Airport.

<https://www.ladysmithchronicle.com/local-news/> December 18

## A Worthy Cause – ReFeed Farm

<https://www.langleyadvancetimes.com/local-news/> Stuart Lilley, founder of ReFeed Farm in Langley, created the company to fill a gap in our food system by filtering food considered waste from grocery stores to food banks, and repurpose non-edible food through a worm farm. Not only did it bother him because of the amount of food wasted, but more because of the fact it was being wasted at all. So, in 2019, Lilley founded ReFeed Farm to address this issue.

**READ MORE:** [Langley's ReFeed Farm takes centre stage in documentary "Rethinking Food"](#)

A first of its kind, ReFeed Farm is a complete circular food system ensuring that food is rescued and used to its highest value, which is feeding people, Lilley said. The farm also helps farmers supply feed for their livestock.

**In 2022 alone, ReFeed Farm rescued 11 million pounds of food** that otherwise would have been sent to the landfill. Instead, Lilley explained that the food was 100 per cent utilized. More than 1.32 million pounds of rescued produce fed people and 9 million pounds fed livestock, which saved 5,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions and created 200 tonnes of nutrient rich soil amendments. People interested in learning more can visit [www.refeedcanada.ca](http://www.refeedcanada.ca)

## What was OLD is NEW Again

**Canada taps post-war era to bring back pre-approved home design catalogue – how many folks remember or learned about these?** <https://www.todayinbc.com/national-news/> December 12, 2023

It's a reboot of a federal policy from the post-Second World War era, when the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. developed straightforward blueprints to speed up construction of badly needed homes. (*Where I grew up these neighbourhoods were literally called 'wartime houses'*) The modern-day version of the catalogue will initially focus on low-rise builds, such as small multiplexes, student housing and seniors' residences, then explore a potential catalogue for higher-density construction. The goal is to better ensure housing builds can be fast-tracked for approval from the CMHC and others, while also promoting larger-scale production through factory-based construction. The government is aiming to have the catalogue ready sometime next year.

Housing Minister Sean Fraser said it will go hand-in-hand with the national building code. The code, which the minister said the government is planning to update, offers guidelines that are only enforceable if a province or territory chooses to adopt them.

## Did You Know....

That persistent drought conditions have forced **BC Hydro** to rely on costly energy imports this year for one-fifth of its domestic demand, while the Crown-owned utility has missed an opportunity to fill the Site C dam's reservoir this year, which could have mitigated the shortfall. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/> article - December 18, 2023

To date, BC Hydro has acquired a net 10,000 gigawatt hours of electricity this year from imports. In the first half of the fiscal year, Hydro added \$463-million to one of its deferral accounts "primarily due to higher net system imports," according to the utility's quarterly financial reports. BC Hydro uses deferral accounts, which track costs incurred that have not yet been recovered from ratepayers, to smooth rates. Hydro will be applying for a rate hike in 2024, but the hike is currently below the inflation rate.

## Revitalizing Community - a very short walk to the local library.....



December 15: <https://www.saanichnews.com/community/>

**Little lending libraries build community across Greater Victoria.**

Walkers, runners, bicyclists, even local tour buses stop at the growing number of "little libraries" springing up in neighbourhoods all over Victoria. The policy is "take one and leave one when you can. Local 'curators' pick up books they think will fit the local vibe and replenish shelves as needed. People stand in line and chat while someone chooses their next read. And the 800<sup>th</sup> little library (which started off as a discarded pallet) has just been opened. The Greater Victoria Placemaking Network maps and promotes the popular neighbourhood

book boxes through its Pocket Places Project (see [victoriaplacemaking.ca](http://victoriaplacemaking.ca)) for more info.

We have a few of these in Saltair and it would be great if there were more – they do promote neighbourly visiting. If you know a bored carpenter looking for a seriously different project, this might be the one.

## **More Details Released – New BC Housing Legislation: Policy Manuals and Regulations**

<https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/latest-news/provincial-housing-policy-manuals-and-regulations>

If you are interested in the details, there are now lots of them. The Province has issued guidelines, policy manuals, and regulations to implement Bill 35 – *Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act*, Bill 44 – *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* and Bill 47 – *Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act*.

### **New Housing Policy Framework**

- A Local government housing initiatives [webpage](#).
- [Details](#) on the recently released regulations and policy manuals, including a list of key upcoming timelines.
- A [regulation](#) specifying Ministers responsible for specific elements of the *Local Government Act* and *Vancouver Charter*.
- Scenario [modelling](#) for small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented areas scenarios.

### **Short-Term Rentals**

Materials pertaining to [Bill 35](#) - *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act* include:

- A policy guidance [document](#) detailing the new short-term rental framework
- Order in Council [679](#) – bringing into force specific provisions of the *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act*,

### **Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing and Pro-Active Planning**

Materials pertaining to [Bill 44](#) – *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* include:

- A Policy [Manual](#) & Site Standards document to guide updates to zoning bylaws, other regulatory bylaws, and policies undertaken to comply with SSMUH legislation.
- Order in Council [673](#) – bringing into force specific provisions of the *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act*. Order in Council [675](#) similarly brings into force provisions of the act and makes a Vancouver Zoning Bylaw Regulation.

### **Transit Oriented Areas (TOAs)**

Materials pertaining to [Bill 47](#) – *Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Development) Amendment Act* include:

- A Transit-Oriented Areas [Policy](#) Manual to support implementation of Provincial TOA requirements.
- Order in Council [674](#) bringing into force specific provisions of the *Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Development) Amendment Act* and making a Local Government Transit-Oriented Areas Regulation as does Order in Council [678](#), Order in Council [676](#) and by Order in Council [678](#) (Vancouver)
- Order in Council [677](#) makes a Designation of Transit-Oriented Areas Regulation, with corresponding maps.

**Please check out our new website ([www.saltairdra.ca](http://www.saltairdra.ca)) and try our new Monthly Quiz!**

**“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller**