

# RDKS Newsletter

Summer 2023



Regional District of  
**Kitimat-Stikine**

## Spring Freshet

The RDKS regional emergency operations centre (EOC) was quick to respond to spring flooding in New Remo, Old Remo and Usk. The EOC worked diligently with other organizations to ensure the residents were safe, providing updated information and resources to those affected. The State of Local Emergency for Electoral Area 'C' and 'B' and Evacuation Orders for these areas have now been rescinded. The RDKS would like to thank the Emergency Support Services (ESS) team consisting mostly of volunteers who dedicate their time to assist those evacuated from their homes. ESS services include registration and family reunification; referrals for basic necessities such as lodging, food, and clothing; emotional support; and emergency pet care.



## Thornhill Fire Department Recruitment

The Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department (TVFD) is recruiting new members. No previous experience necessary as training will be provided to the successful candidates and receive national accreditation as a professional firefighter. The TVFD is an active department responding to 550 calls a year. Firefighters will respond to a diverse array of calls including, wildland & house fires, car fires, vehicle extrications, rope rescue and medical calls.

If interested, please stop by the Thornhill Fire Department at 3128 HWY 16 East Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30 to pick up an application and talk to an officer.

Deadline for all application is set to June 30th, 2023. Recruitment is open year around for those who hold firefighting certification.

## Register For the RDKS's Alerting System, Voyent Alert!

Voyent Alert! allows residents, businesses or visitors to receive messages through an app, text message, voice call or email for critical events such as floods or wildfires.

Registration for the service is FREE, simple and totally anonymous. Residents can choose how they would like to receive alerts—either through a mobile app, email, text message or phone call. If you already have the app, you can register online to receive the alert type that suits you.

If further assistance is needed to register, call 250-638-1466 or email [rboehm@rdks.bc.ca](mailto:rboehm@rdks.bc.ca).

## FireSmart

As the RDKS enters into summer residents are reminded to be mindful of wildfires, take steps to protect their homes. Interested in learning more?

Visit-  
<https://firesmartcanada.ca/homeowners/homeowner-resources/>





## Update from the Chair

The RDKS is reaching the halfway point of 2023 and so far, this year it has been a busy one for RDKS Board members and staff. Since January, eight Directors have travelled to 20 events learning, networking, and advocating on behalf of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and residents. These events include, BC Natural Resource Forum, Minerals North, North Central Local Government Association annual meeting, Resource Benefit Alliance Meetings and representing the RDKS during treaty negotiations.

Monthly Board meetings have been a productive forum for discussions, presentations, and legislative work. Since the start of the year the Board has received 13 presentations from local organizations and individuals as well as from the province and private corporations. Seven bylaws came before the Board for consideration and nearly 50 reports were reviewed or actioned by the Board. This included several Notice's of Motion, which are director led motions at the Board table.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, the Board is preparing to attend the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in mid September. This is a unique opportunity for elected officials to advocate to the provincial government, network and learn from other local governments across the province. This year RDKS Board Directors will be requesting meetings with 10 Ministers to discuss 20 diverse topics. These include an update on the Resource Benefit Alliance revenue sharing agreement, an MOU was signed at UBCM 2022, Grant in Lieu of taxes for small communities, Cranberry Connector, and the need for a withdrawal management facility in the northwest.

Board meetings take place the third Friday of the month. See the RDKS website for more information on Board meetings, becoming a delegation or to review Agenda's and Minutes. All regular Board meetings are open to the public to attend and are also available for live streaming.



## Corporate

### Code of Conduct

The Board is currently in the process of updating their Code of Conduct. Codes of conduct provides guidance and sets shared expectations for elected officials on how they conduct themselves in their relationships with elected colleagues, staff and the public. Responsible conduct is grounded in elected officials conducting themselves according to principles such as integrity, accountability, respect, and leadership and collaboration in a way that furthers a local government's ability to provide good governance to their community.

### Protection of Privacy Program

The Board adopted its Privacy Management Program Policy. The purpose of the policy is to describe how the RDKS collects, uses, discloses and protects personal information. The policy provides a framework to set expectations for privacy accountability and support compliance with the privacy requirements of FIPPA. This policy will be the foundation of the RDKS's Privacy Management Program and will set the background for privacy to be a central component of our business practices and a built-in component of our day-to-day program operations. Additionally, the policy supports the RDKS's strategic plan of Organizational Effectiveness and the Board's goal to review and update Board policies.

## USRC

For the second year in a row, the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre will play host to an exciting summer event. On August 14-17 there will be former and current hockey players, coaches and talent agents from the National Hockey League in the Upper Skeena. There will be community events, skill development sessions and much more! Check the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Facebook page throughout the summer for more information.

This event is made possible through the generous financial support from Power to Give.

### Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Committee

The Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Committee elected Electoral Area B Director Cyra Yunkws as Chair. Committee meetings take place quarterly and there are still available committee member spots available. Contact [info@rdks.bc.ca](mailto:info@rdks.bc.ca) for more information.

## Electoral Area Spotlight

**Electoral Area C-** February 2023 the RDKS Board provided a letter of support to the Lakelse Lake Watershed Society for their Jackpine Wetland Interpretive Trail Project. The project would see the development of a 1.5km interpretive trail in cooperation with Recreation Sites and Trails Branch of the Ministry of Environment.

**Electoral Area D-** March 2023 the RDKS Board provided support for the Stikine Airport Society for their application to Northern Development Initiatives Trust. The Stikine Airport Society is hoping to purchase asphalt sealing equipment for repairs at the Stikine Airport and as a revenue generator.

**Electoral Area E-** April 2023 the RDKS Board approved the donation of \$10,000 from Area E (Thornhill) Grant-in-Aid to Tom and Eliza Thornhill Community Association to fund operations of the Community Association.

**Electoral Area A, D, F-** May 2023 the RDKS Board provided a letter of support to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for their application to Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund to replace 3 large culverts with Bridges on Highway 37 North.



## Rural Property Taxes

Residents are reminded that all Rural Property Taxes must be paid to the Province of British Columbia and not the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine. Taxes may be paid as follows:

- At Service BC
- In person at your bank, Credit Union or Trust Company
- By mail- payable to the Minister of Finance- Mailing address:
  - Surveyor of Taxes  
PO Box 9446 STN Prov Govt  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9V6
- Through your mortgage agreement
- By internet/telephone banking
- Pay online by registering to use eTaxBC

If you are using bill payment services through your bank you'll need to add a payee for Rural Property Taxation to your bank account. To add a new payer to your bank account you need to know the Province of BC's payee name and your folio number.

- Province of BC's Payee Name is **PROV BC- RURAL PROPERTY TAX**
- Your folio number is listed on your Rural Property Tax Notice. It must be entered without spaces or decimals.

Contact your bank if you are experiencing issues.

## Thornhill Water Restrictions

The Thornhill Water System experienced its first restriction of the year in May. As we approach warmer months, please be aware of the potential for further restrictions.

### Why are there restrictions?

The current water system is supplied by two wells that supply water via a pump at each site. During warmer temperatures when the water consumption goes up, the system can struggle to supply the necessary flow. By reducing non-essential loads, it ensures supply to the community and reduces the operating costs. Please ensure you observe restrictions when communicated as this has direct impact to costs and supply of your neighbours.

The RDKS is also looking to increase the capacity of the Thornhill Water system with the activation of Pumphouse 4 later this year.



## Are You Building?

We require property owners obtain a Building Declaration and Siting Approvals Permit prior to construction of any addition, principal structure or ancillary structure over 10 m<sup>2</sup>.

The purpose of this permit is to ensure all proposed new construction will meet the building requirements of the applicable zoning bylaw.

We do not provide building inspection services so the Permit does not confirm that the building you intend to construct (under the Permit) will meet BC Building or Fire Codes. This does not excuse the property owner from the responsibility of building according to these codes.

Visit our website for the permit and more information or contact [planning@rdks.bc.ca](mailto:planning@rdks.bc.ca).

## Contact Us



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[www.rdks.bc.ca](http://www.rdks.bc.ca)



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am to 4:30 pm