

Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Fall 2023 Newsletter



In this edition:

- Summer 2023 conservation
- Waste management update
- A message from the Chair
- Get ready for fall!

Summer 2023 Conservation

Summer 2023 saw higher than normal temperatures in our region, resulting in water restrictions for some residents and prohibitions for open burning and campfires for all. These measures are enacted to conserve critical resources and reduce the probability of accidental fires.

The RDKS Board of Directors and staff thank everyone who reduced their sprinkler usage or used a barbecue or camp stove instead of a campfire. Taking care of our neighbors and community is important, and we recognize our residents for taking that responsibility seriously.



Voyent Alert! is the RDKS emergency messaging service. Residents, businesses and visitors can receive messages about critical events, such as floods or wildfires.

Registration for this service is **free**, simple and anonymous. Residents can choose how they would like to receive alerts, either through email, text message, the mobile app, or phone call. If you already have the app, you can register online to receive the types of alert you prefer.

If you need further assistance to register, please call 250-638-1466 or email rboehm@rdks.bc.ca.

Keep informed!
Follow RDKS on social media.



Message from the Chair

After our break in July, myself and the RDKS Board of Directors and staff were pleased to have our August Board meeting at the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre (USRC) in Hazelton. The Board tries to have a meeting in another community once a year, and Director Yunkws of Area B volunteered the Hazeltons. It was a real treat to spend time in the Kispiox Valley, the District of New Hazelton, the Village of Hazelton and 'Ksan Historical Village – our regional district has some of the most spectacular scenery in the province. It was also great to see how much the communities are using the USCR. In our two days there we saw people of all ages playing hockey, practicing dance, exercising at the fitness centre, and playing other sports.

The August Board covered a lot of material after the July break. The meeting saw a presentation from the Suskwa Community Association. You can view the minutes or watch the webcast on the RDKS website.

One of the areas of focus in our strategic plan is Governance and Partnership with First Nations and we were honoured to be able to host a Community 2 Community event the day after our Board of Directors meeting. We thank those that attended and had prepared remarks – we welcome the opportunity to hear concerns and are moving forward to continue advocating for the nations in our regional district.

Board members (myself included) attended the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in



Touring the Upper Skeena Rec Centre - members of the RDKS Board and RDKS staff.

September. As elected officials, this was an opportunity for us to advocate to the provincial government for our regional district and to learn from other local governments across the province. This year the RDKS Board met with three Ministers to advocate for a withdrawal management centre in the Northwest, wildfire mitigation in Telegraph Creek, updated financial models for funding sharing with treaty and non-treaty nations, along with other topics.

As we move into the fall, I encourage interested residents to attend our Board meetings in person if they can, or again, to watch the livestream on our website. We also record the meetings for later viewing. And don't forget to follow RDKS on social media to keep informed about goings-on in our regional district.

Here's to a productive fall!

*Phil Germuth, Chair
RDKS Board of Directors*



'Ksan Historical Village

Waste Management Update

Diverting Waste

Recycling and composting are two ways to help reduce the impact of solid waste on our environment, otherwise called “diverting waste”. This means we’re diverting those types of solid waste away from our landfills and toward facilities that can process it correctly, easing the burden on the landfills.

Across Canada, most garbage collected for disposal ends up in landfills and a small amount is incinerated. If not correctly managed, this can lead to air emissions, land disturbance and water pollution. RDKS is committed to responsible waste management practices and we thank our residents for continuing to recycle and compost.



Preparing to visit the Hazelton Waste Management Facility.

792

The number of tonnes of solid waste diverted from the Hazelton and Highway 37 North Solid Waste Service Area landfills in 2022.

9,198

The number of tonnes of solid waste diverted from the Terrace Solid Waste Service Area landfills in 2022.

That’s the equivalent of **12 loaded railcars** diverted in the Hazelton area, and **141 loaded railcars** diverted in the Terrace area!



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP

New Hazelton & surrounding area

Saturday, August 19, 2023

New Hazelton Visitor Information Centre
Churchill Street & Highway 16 | 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



Dispose of your hazardous household goods for free!
Visit rdks.bc.ca for a detailed list of what to bring and what to leave at home.



Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine | 250-615-6100 | info@rdks.bc.ca

Over 4,000 kg of Household Hazardous Waste Collected

On August 19, the RDKS held a household hazardous waste round up event in partnership with the District of New Hazelton. Held at the New Hazelton Visitors Centre on Highway 16, the District of New Hazelton was key to the success of the event by donating both staff time and the location to host the roundup.

Other private and community sponsors provided both monetary and service-

based donations. Our donors were the CFNR Network, Seabridge Gold, Call2Recycle, and Product Care.

We’re pleased to announce that over **4,000 kg** of household hazardous waste were collected from the community for proper disposal. That’s 4,000 kg of hazardous material kept out of our wastewater and landfills - a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Seasonal Updates

Wood Smoke Reduction Programs

With winter just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about heat! If you have an older wood-burning stove and would like to upgrade or change your appliance, there are grants and rebates available for some residents in Electoral Areas A, B, C, and E.

The Kitimat Airshed Group and The Bulkley Valley Airshed Management Society offer rebates and other supports for residents that help improve the quality of our airsheds.



- If you're in Electoral Areas A, C, and E (Nass Valley, greater Terrace area, Thornhill, Kitimaat Village) visit kitimatairshedgroup.com or email kitimatairshedgroup@gmail.com for more information.
- If you're in Electoral Area B (Kispiox, Village of Hazelton, District of New Hazelton, Witset) visit cleanairplan.ca or contact The Bulkley Valley Airshed Management Society at **(250) 847-0678**.

Streetlight Outages

As the days get shorter, it's easier to notice when streetlights are out.

Our Works and Services department passes along reports to BCHydro regarding streetlights mounted on wooden poles in the areas of greater Thornhill, Copper Estates, South Hazelton and Witset. Works and Services also receives and manages requests for new streetlights.

If you've noticed an issue with a streetlight, including damage, malfunctioning, wires hanging out of a street pole, or a tree blocking a streetlight causing a safety concern, please take note of the following information:

- The streetlight location
- The pole number (on the pole, at approximately 1.5 m)
- Type of pole (wood, metal, concrete)

Visit the RDKS website www.rdks.bc.ca/services/utilities/streetlights and fill out the "Report a Streetlight Outage or Issue" form, or contact our office by phone at **(250) 615-6100**.

Are You Building?

Property owners are required to obtain a Building Declaration and Siting Approvals Permit prior to construction of any addition, principal structure, or ancillary structure over 10 m².

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 application. For more information, please contact our office at planning@rdks.bc.ca.

CONTACT Us



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Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm



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Kitimat-Stikine