

# QBRA NEWS

## QBRA Annual General Meeting: October 4

It is AGM time again! All members are asked to assemble on October 4, 2014 at 2:30 PM (doors open at 2:00) at the QB Community Centre (next to the curling club) on Memorial for the purpose of carrying out the business of electing a board of directors, approving the financial report and other business stipulated in our Bylaws.

The board of directors is pleased to present Mr. Andrew Brown as our guest speaker for the AGM. Andrew is long time Qualicum Beach resident and is currently a member of the Town's Advisory Planning Commission. He has recently published a thought provoking Op-Ed column in the PQB News which can be read on the QBRA website.

We look forward to seeing members at our Annual General Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Board Secretary, Mr. Bill Adkins at [badkins@shaw.ca](mailto:badkins@shaw.ca)



## TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The election for a Mayor and four Town Councillors will be held on November 15, 2014. The advance polls will be held on November 5 and 12. The election is for a four-year term of office.

To date, the local newspapers have reported that there are two candidates for the office of mayor: Mr. Teunis Westbroek and Mrs. Denyse Widdifield.

The QBRA sponsors an All Candidates Forum during the election period and for this election, we have selected November 4 at 7:00 PM at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Plans are being made to video record the proceedings and post them on our website the following day.

The deadline for nominations for Council is October 3, 2014. Interested citizens are urged to contact Town Hall as soon as possible to complete the necessary steps to run for election to our Town Council.

## Town Council Delays Consideration of Growth Containment Boundary Expansion

As reported in our local newspapers, the Town Council was supposed to consider recommended options for dealing with the growth containment boundary extension application that was rejected by the Regional District of Nanaimo Board in July. The request has been linked to the planned application by Pheasant Glen Resort for a new housing development. At the beginning of its August 11, 2014 meeting, Council voted to defer consideration of this matter because of correspondence received before the meeting concerning the alleged conflict of interest by Councillor Dave Willie. The board of directors of QBRA continues to take the view that any adjustments to boundaries must be the subject of a full review of the Official Community Plan in which residents of Qualicum Beach have an opportunity for meaningful input. It is unknown when the growth containment boundary issue will be addressed along with the Pheasant Glen matter. The next open meeting of Council is scheduled for



The Regional District of Nanaimo is asking residents for their thoughts on a set of measures to track progress towards the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy. The Strategy guides regional sustainability and land use decisions that impact quality of life for RDN residents in rural and urban communities.

"This confidential survey is an opportunity for residents to tell us what types of information they are interested in and to confirm that we are on the right track with these measures and targets," said RDN Chair Joe Stanhope. "The more participation we receive, the better we will be able to monitor our progress and guide the regional planning and decision-making that affects day-to-day life in our communities."

The survey can be completed online at [www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring). Paper copies are also available upon request.

The first part of the survey will take less than two minutes to complete. The second part is optional and will take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete.

The first 100 survey participants will receive a FortisBC compact expandable hand towel. Residents who complete both parts of the survey will also be entered into a draw for prizes including a BC Hydro Home Energy Saving Kit, a one-month RDN transit pass, and 10 RDN Transit day passes. To be eligible, residents must submit surveys before midnight on Oct. 16, 2014.

For more information about the survey or about the RDN's Regional Growth Strategy, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgsmonitoring) and click on Services/Long Range Planning, or call the Long Range Planning Department at (250) 390-6510 or (250) 954-3798.



## A Health Update from Dave Golson Our FORA Representative

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The Federation of Oceanside Residents Associations (FORA) of which QBRA is a member, meets with Island Health (formerly VIHA) on a bi-monthly basis to review health matters and progress in the Oceanside area. FORA delegates also meet quarterly with elected officials. Attending these meetings are the mayors of Parksville and Qualicum Beach and RDN Chairman Joe Stanhope. Michelle Stillwell is also expected to attend these meetings, but so far this year, she has not attended. Instead, she has been represented by a staff member.

Most recently, a meeting between FORA and Island Health was held at the OHC with Dr. Robert Burns, Island Health Medical Director and Allison Cutler, Chief Administrator. Also attending was Sujata Connors, Director of the Oceanside Health Centre (OHC).

The QBRA representative at these meetings is Dave Golson, our Vice President. Here are his observations from this most recent meeting:

### Primary Care (at the OHC and in Oceanside)

- Dr. Van Der Weyde practices at the OHC and now has an additional 582 new “Phase 1” patients, who were unassigned to any doctor in Oceanside. These patients have been added to her existing list of patients. Island Health will now to begin addressing the needs of those patients who have a doctor, but they are not located in Oceanside.
- Island Health will not staff a second primary care doctor until there is resolution as to how the new “integrated team approach” to the services provided in primary care has been determined. It was originally anticipated that as many as 5 of these teams would eventually be created when the OHC was planned in 2012. Progress has not been as quick as first thought. Discussion is now on-going with the local doctors to refine the "new model" that was originally defined for the OHC. It seems that the vision may be changing somewhat further to the experience of the first year of operation, making better use of the resources available, including the local doctors who may have been left out of the picture originally.
- Studies conducted by the Division of Family Practice (an organization of local physicians sponsored by Island Health) reveals that 30% of residents still do not have a primary care doctor because they do not believe they need one at this time, and trust they will be able to get the services that they need when the occasion arises. This study was part of the BC Health Ministry initiative, "A Doctor For Me". The Division will report on their findings and goals to help link some of these prospective patients to available doctors in a report due October 2014.

- Dr. Burns advised that most doctor offices have an answering service to inform patients of after hours back-up clinics, if their primary care doctor was not available. Residents should check this procedure and advise QBRA or their own doctor if it is not working properly.

#### Urgent Care (OHC and Qualicum Beach local walk in clinic service trial)

- The Urgent Care clinic has been open almost one year at the OHC, which is still experiencing challenges with staffing and therefore is making more use of nurse practitioners when a doctor is unavailable. Service otherwise seems to be gradually improving with lives being saved from time to time even though emergency cases are usually directed to NRGH. Dr. Claire Bigelow is the acting director of this clinic.
- Dr. Bigelow is also one of four medical practices in Qualicum Beach that is participating in a limited capacity “walk-in clinic” trial in August. These practices had 150 cases in 15 days, which should have alleviated the case load at the OHC during peak holiday/tourist season. The original plan was for 15 urgent cases a day at the OHC and it now averages 60. During August, the case load peaked at 80! The total yearly number of patients is expected to top 27,000, some of which would otherwise have gone to Nanaimo Regional General hospital.
- There is space for three urgent care teams at the OHC. Any prospective doctors interested in joining the staff at the OHC for the Urgent or Primary Care facilities will be directed to Dr. Bigelow for consideration of future positions as they arise. Island Health has an administrative centre at NRGH for staffing positions that are presently open on the register for the whole island.

#### Other Services at the OHC

- Experiences at the Blood Clinic and X Ray Imaging clinics seems to be improving each month, with some reports of occasional back up. Signage directing patients at entry to the OHC have been improved as has the voluntary staffing helping patients to the appropriate sections. A new coffee/snack kiosk is now planned and requests for project approval are under way.

#### Ambulance Service Relocation



- It seems that the move to relocate the ambulance service centre from Hirst Avenue in Parksville to the OHC is on hold due to recent changes in site location at the OHC and type of building, which will now be stick built rather than prebuild. It is not anticipated anything will happen until 2015 or perhaps later.

### Physiotherapist Services after Major Surgery

- Several FORA members have reported challenges finding Island Health physiotherapist services locally following major knee or hip surgery, when it is essential to get the proper treatment, conveniently and in a timely manner, without having to travel to NRGH. Sujata agreed to investigate the possible causes, and determine what local qualified private physiotherapist resourcing could be used when the public system seemed so challenging.

If any QBRA members have stories to tell please contact your FORA rep' Dave Golson at 250 738 0350.

### Palliative Care

- Island Health recently published several documents outlining the “End Of Life/Hospice Bed Plans” for the whole island, including the central areas of Oceanside, Comox and Campbell River. Go to IH's website <[www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca)> and look for news dated August 8th 2014. The plan is to double the number of beds on the Island from 32 to 64 by 2020. Presently, Oceanside has only one single bed for 48,000 residents, which is located at Eagle Park. The plans are for Oceanside to get 4 new beds allocated to some existing residential facility by 2016 and a further single bed by 2019. Members of FORA are skeptical about the prospects of these targets being met due to the present fiscal challenges of the present government and Health Ministry.

### General

You may have been one of 6,000 residents asked to fill out an Island Health survey in the Summer of 2013, asking for your input on local health services. The survey results are being analyzed by Island Health staff and a new survey will be sent out in October this year to both new residents and the 40% of residents who responded to the first survey, in order to measure any improvements that may have taken place.



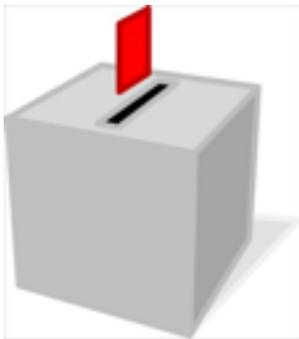
The Integrated Health network funding that was a trial service for several local doctors and selected patients will end March 2015 and will not be renewed. QBRA has previously asked for an evaluation of this trial in order that residents can learn whether there was an impact on health status and services as a result of this project. It is hoped that an expected report by local physicians in October may include these results.

## SOME QUESTIONS FOR RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING HOW TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER

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The following questions are offered for the consideration of QBRA members when deciding how to cast their ballots on November 15. When candidates knock on your door to seek your support, you might want to ask one or more of these questions, which reflect some key issues that have arisen over the past three years:

1. How big do you want Qualicum Beach to grow? The current OCP says that the population of Qualicum Beach will grow by another 4,000 over the next ten to fifteen years. Is this too large, too small or just right?
2. The current Qualicum Beach Town Council voted to eliminate the development cost charges for developers of their property in our village centre. Should these charges be re-established by the next Council or should taxpayers continue to subsidize these costs in order to promote private development in our town?



3. The current Qualicum Beach Town Council voted to remove the height restrictions for buildings in the village centre. Do you think that the Town should have a limit on the number of storeys for buildings in Qualicum Beach or should buildings be as high as developers wish?
4. The current Qualicum Beach Town Council voted to extend the growth containment boundary, encompassing local agricultural land reserves. Should our local agricultural land reserves be protected or should we encourage developers to buy these lands, apply for their removal from the land reserve and develop them as a way to promote growth in Qualicum Beach?
5. The current Qualicum Beach Town Council voted to eliminate residents advisory committees on parks and recreation, the environment and the airport. Should our Town government seek the participation of interested citizens through advisory committees or should the Town Council, as an elected body, be left to make decisions on its own?
6. The Official Community Plan of Qualicum Beach was established through extensive consultation with residents. Should changes also require meaningful consultation or should the Town Council go ahead and make them because they were elected to govern?