

Codes of Practice Update

Imagine a typical outdoor storage yard – full of all kinds of interesting things. You may be picturing piles of treated lumber and stacks of galvanized metal pipes, old derelict machinery and equipment, and large drums with unknown contents. Maybe the storage yard you are imagining has stockpiles of sand and gravel, or bags of lawn fertilizer.

Now add some rainwater to this picture...



Runoff from outdoor storage yards may contaminate stormwater

Stormwater runoff from outdoor storage areas often contains contaminants such as sediment, nutrients, toxic materials, metals, and oils and grease, all of which could have a negative impact on the receiving environment.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program has identified the need to manage stormwater from outdoor storage yards and recycling facilities. Staff are currently working with municipalities and stakeholders to develop codes of practice for these sectors. The codes will outline the basic requirements for discharging stormwater to the municipal storm drainage system, including the installation of stormwater rehabilitation units, storage and containment for certain materials, spill response planning, and record keeping.



New code of practice for recycling facilities

The new codes of practice will be available for municipal adoption by August 2005. They will complement the four existing codes for automotive and parking lot operations, construction and development activities, streets and roads, and recreation facilities. All codes have been developed with assistance of the Georgia Basin Action Plan. If you have any questions, or would like more information on stormwater codes of practice, please contact Andrea Mercer at 360-3256 or stormwater@crd.bc.ca or visit our Web site at www.crd.bc.ca/es/environmental_programs/stormwater/index.htm

Bowker Creek

Working Beyond Boundaries

The Bowker Creek watershed is in transition. It has changed from a natural state to agricultural use in the 1800s to the current mix of residential, commercial and institutional uses. Over the years much of the original creek channel has either been straightened or enclosed in underground pipes. Today only about 2.5 kilometres are still above ground.

Take a stroll along Bowker Creek and you'll be surprised by what you might find. Although it drains one of the

most highly urbanized watersheds in the Capital Region, sections of the creek offer a unique retreat from the noise and traffic of the city and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

From its headwaters at the University of Victoria, the 8-kilometre main channel flows south through the Shelbourne valley, meandering through neighbourhoods in Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay before entering the ocean

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Bowker Creek

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near the Oak Bay marina. A short tributary flows out of the Cedar Hill Park and Golf Course. The creek feeds several wetlands and connects a number of existing parks, schoolyards and public facilities.

In 2003, the CRD Board approved the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan. Thanks to the support of staff, community members and elected officials in Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay, implementation of the plan is moving ahead. A watershed management plan coordinator was hired and a steering committee formed. In March 2004, the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative (BCI) was established.

The steering committee has identified the following key priorities for action in the watershed:

- create signage for each municipality
- develop an inter-municipal Master Drainage Plan
- improve communication about the watershed
- investigate the potential for a demonstration restoration project

Projects are being undertaken for protecting, enhancing and restoring important ecological, social and

economic values in the watershed. Future projects will include invasive species management, riparian plantings, stormwater management, and connecting communities and improving recreational opportunities by developing a greenway along the riparian corridor.

For more information, contact Lehna Malmkvist, Bowker Creek Initiative Coordinator, at lmalmkvist@crd.bc.ca or 360-3302 or visit the Bowker Creek Web site at www.bowkercreek.org



Courtesy of Henrich Design and Illustration



**Bowker
Creek**
URBAN
WATERSHED
RENEWAL
INITIATIVE

Upcoming Events

Bowker Creek Initiative Launch

Join us for the official launch and unveiling of four interpretive signs

- Saturday, April 2, 2005
 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - Spirit Garden (Newton Street and Richmond Road)
- Family fun, food and speakers!**

8th Annual Bowker Creek Clean Up and Rubber Duck Race

- Saturday, May 14, 2005
 - Oak Bay High School
 - Meet at 10 a.m. at east building parking lot
- Call 360-3302 for more information**

Gorge Waterway Initiative

The Gorge Waterway is an ecological jewel in the centre of our region. Many different organizations have been working to protect this resource. Recently, several of these groups agreed to work together on the community-driven Gorge Waterway Initiative.

The CRD Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program, along with over

twenty municipal, community and non-governmental organizations, is participating in this exciting new collaborative initiative. The groups are currently working to develop a common vision and goals, define the boundaries, and identify options for decision making. The initiative is completely community-driven and has received

some funding support through Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For more information on the Gorge Waterway Initiative, please contact Jody Watson, CRD Harbours and Watersheds Coordinator, at jwatson@crd.bc.ca or 360-3065.

Residential Watershed Pledge

Healthy Communities Create Healthy Waterways

By Jason Lasuik, Community Environmental Coordinator, Burnside Gorge Community Association

We all live in a watershed. As a resident of your community, you can help protect your local watershed by becoming a Community Eco-Partner and by taking the Residential Watershed Pledge to make a few environmentally friendly changes in your daily routine. Even a little less pollution at each home can make a big difference.

If you live in the Victoria area and are willing to take the pledge, the Burnside Gorge Community Association will provide you with a Community Eco-Partner house plaque or decal to recognize your efforts of improving our environment. Due to the high interest in this program, we now have the Residential Watershed Pledge available on-line at www.RestoreRockBay.com. To date, over 240 residents have pledged their willingness to make simple, but important changes around the home!

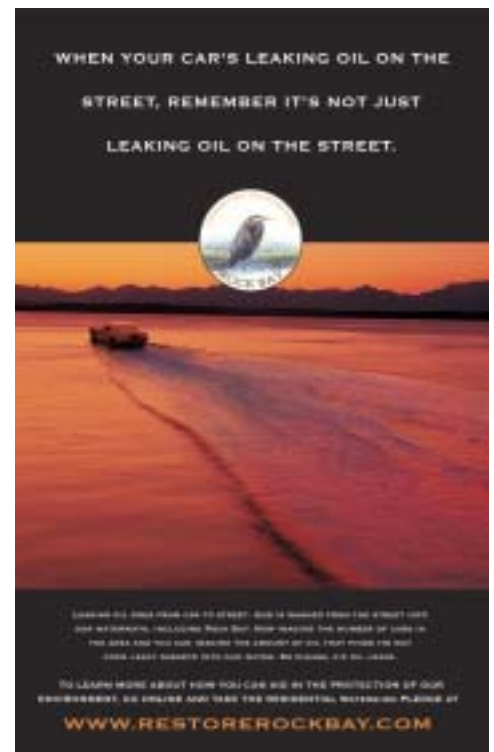
Why take the pledge?

Stormwater is run-off from residential, commercial and urban areas. Within your neighbourhood, a system of

storm drains and underground pipes has been designed to prevent water from flooding on paved (impervious) surfaces. Rainwater flows off roofs, decks, yards, driveways and roads before entering Rock Bay and the Victoria Harbour. This means that heavy metals, oils, fertilizers, antifreeze, pesticides, yard wastes, litter and animal feces from your neighbourhood end up in the Inner Harbour. This pollution is known as Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) because it enters a receiving environment from many different sources.

Environmental testing within Rock Bay has identified elevated concentrations of copper, lead, mercury, zinc, oils and fecal coliform. Collectively, small amounts of contaminants from individual residential homes and yards have led to a large pollution problem that may have negative effects on sensitive ecosystems, aquatic life and human health.

The residential pledge is divided into the following three sections: Cars and Roads, Lawn and Yard Care, and In



your Neighbourhood. Improving our environment depends on careful decisions in our home. By pledging to change a small aspect of your daily activities around the home, you will be taking a step towards improving the water quality of Rock Bay and the Victoria Harbour.

Make your pledge today. Check out www.RestoreRockBay.com

Stormwater Monitoring on Salt Spring Island

In 2003, Gary Holman, CRD Director for the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, retained the services of the CRD Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program to identify historical and existing stormwater monitoring programs on Salt Spring Island and determine ways to complement this work through CRD programs.

In 2004, CRD staff compiled background information about water quality monitoring activities in and around communal potable water supplies on the island, including

Blackburn, Cusheon, Maxwell, St. Mary and Weston lakes. Staff collected information from reports and maps and from verbal and written correspondence with local residents and stewardship groups. The results are summarized in the *Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Stormwater Quality Report – 2004*, which is available upon request from the CRD.

In 2005, monitoring activities will focus on St. Mary and Weston lakes. Compared to other watercourses on the island, these lakes have higher

potential for contamination due to land use activities and limited historical water quality monitoring. CRD staff will monitor stormwater flows entering the two waterbodies during wet and dry weather conditions for parameters that may indicate an impact on public health and aquatic life. If unacceptable contaminant levels are identified, staff will conduct upstream investigations to identify the source and work with the appropriate jurisdiction to ensure the contaminants are reduced or eliminated.

Program Partner: CRD Regional Source Control Program

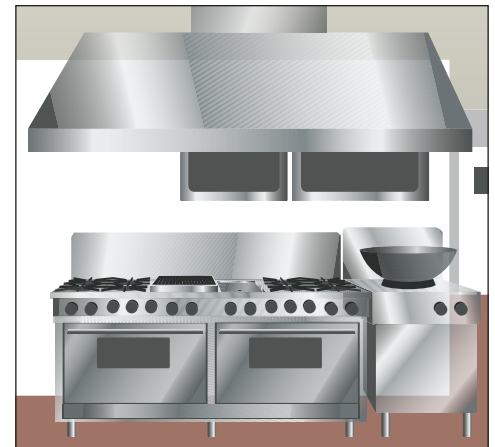
The CRD's Regional Source Control program (RSCP) is a pollution prevention program aimed at eliminating or reducing the amount of chemicals and other contaminants from being discharged to the sanitary sewer system by local businesses, institutions and households.

The Regional Source Control program also helps to protect stormwater quality and watercourses. In some cases, properly managed non-domestic wastewater can be discharged to a sewer instead of into storm drains and catch basins.

One specific non-domestic waste is wastewater resulting from the cleaning of restaurant kitchen equipment. The wastewater at the source is caustic and contains fats, oils and grease

(FOG). The wastewater is either discharged inside the building into the sanitary sewer or washed into a storm drain outside of the restaurant. The contaminants have a significant impact on both sanitary sewer lines and treatment works, and on stormwater quality and watercourses.

Cleaning kitchen equipment is a necessary task. Regional Source Control staff is working with local restaurant cleaning service providers to manage the waste properly. They are currently evaluating what requirements are necessary to reduce the impact of restaurant kitchen cleaning waste to the sanitary sewer in order to eliminate the practice of discharging the wastewater to the stormwater collection system.



Wastewater from kitchen equipment cleaning needs to be managed properly

For more information on the Regional Source Control program contact Henry Lee by e-mail at RSCP@crd.bc.ca

STORMWATERlinks

- CRD Environmental Services
www.crd.bc.ca/es
- Harbours Atlas
www.harboursatlas.ca
- Natural Areas Atlas
www.naturalareasatlas.ca
- Bowker Creek
www.bowkercreek.org
- Burnside Gorge Community Centre
www.burnside.city.victoria.bc.ca
- Residential Watershed Pledge
www.RestoreRockBay.com
- Georgia Basin Action Plan
www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/georgiabasin/index_e.htm
- Environment Canada
www.ec.gc.ca



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in partnership with:*



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FOR THE
GEORGIA BASIN

AU TRAVAIL
POUR LE
BASSIN DE GEORGIA