

March 2023

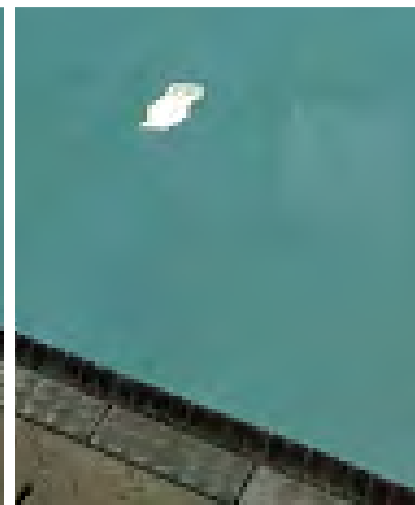
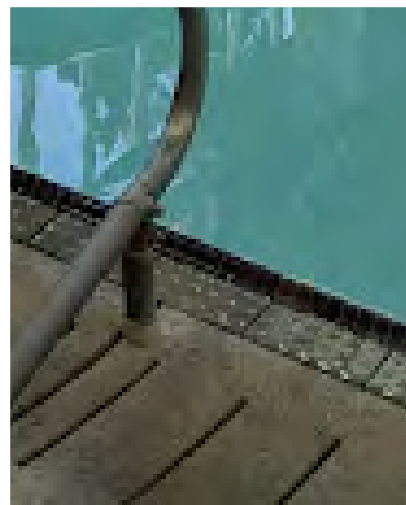
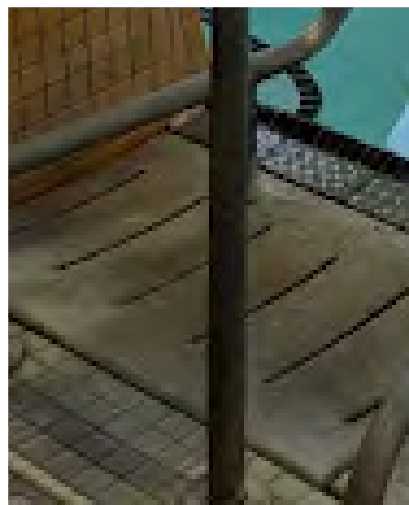
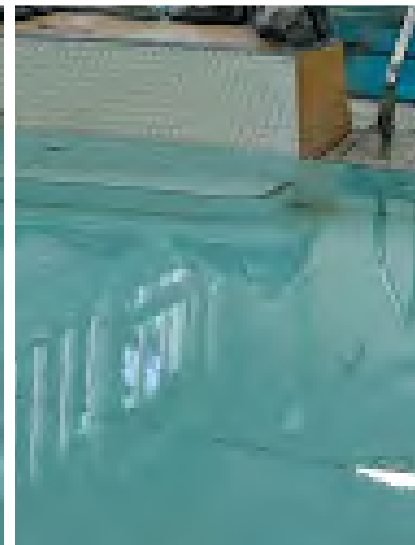
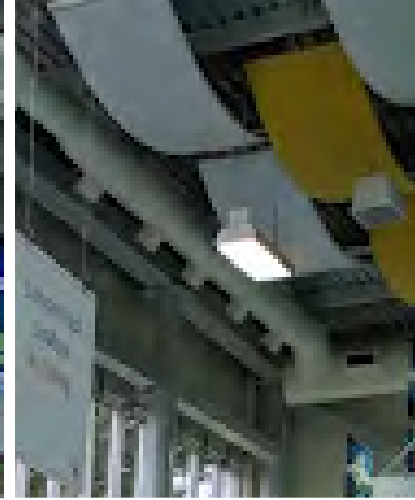
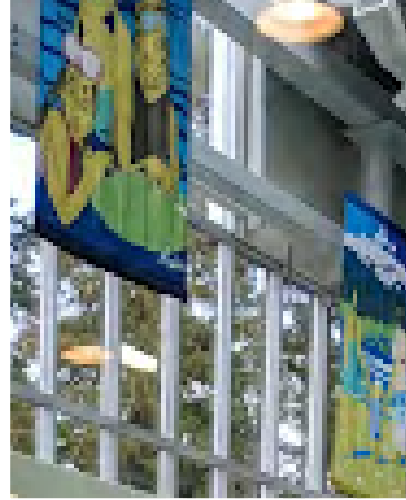
ENGAGEMENT REPORT

SWIMMING POOL LOCAL
SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT
BYLAW #899



Photo from:
www.ravensongwaterdancers.ca





Executive Summary

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board is considering changes to the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw (Bylaw #899). Bylaw #899 gives the RDN the authority to operate Ravensong Aquatic Centre in Qualicum Beach and recover the costs related to the facility. The Bylaw identifies the participants and identifies the funding model. Prior to making any changes to the bylaw. The RDN Board instructed Staff to implement a process whereby the residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach could provide input on the proposed changes.

There are **two proposed changes to the bylaw**; one relates to the participants and the other to the funding model.

Proposed Participants

- The proposed change is to add Electoral Area E to the Pool Service joining Electoral Areas F, G, H and the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach as a participant.

Proposed Funding Model

- The proposed change is to base the funding model on one-third usage, one-third property assessment and one-third population. This change would bring population into the funding model.

A varied and thorough program of communications was implemented to inform residents of the affected areas of the proposed changes to the Bylaw #899 and to encourage them to share their thoughts. The primary means of collecting input was through an **online survey** (note: not all respondents answered all questions). Respondents were also able to share their thoughts on a hard copy questionnaire and through correspondence (emails and written submissions).

About the Survey Respondents

- In total 796 responses were received.
- Over half (57% or 453) are 65 years and older.
- Over three-quarters (81% of 642) live in Electoral Area E.
 - » Parksville 6% (47)
 - » Qualicum Beach 5% (39)
 - » Electoral Area G 5% (38)
 - » Electoral Area F 2% (19)
 - » Electoral Area H 1% (11)

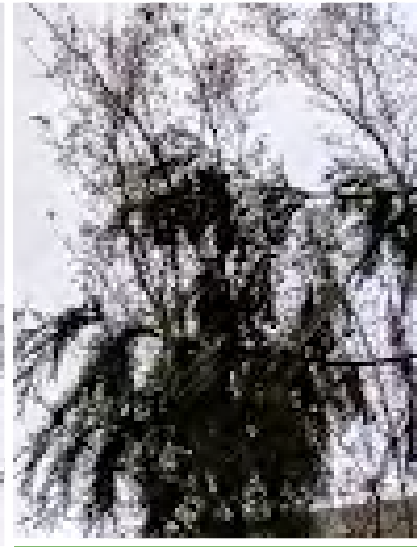
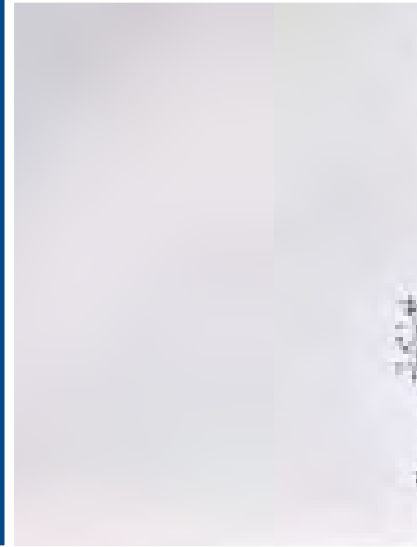
Conclusions

- A majority of respondents oppose the proposed funding model.
 - » Respondents from Electoral Area E are strongly opposed to the proposed change of funding model.
 - » A majority of respondents from the other participants (Electoral Area G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach) support the proposed change to the funding model.
 - Less than half of respondents from Electoral Area F supported the proposed change.
- A majority of respondents oppose the addition of Electoral Area E in the aquatics service (Bylaw #899).
 - » Respondents from Electoral Area E are strongly opposed to the inclusion of their Area in the aquatic service and that proposed change in Bylaw #899.
 - » A majority of respondents from the other participants (Electoral Area F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach) support the addition of Area E into the aquatic service.

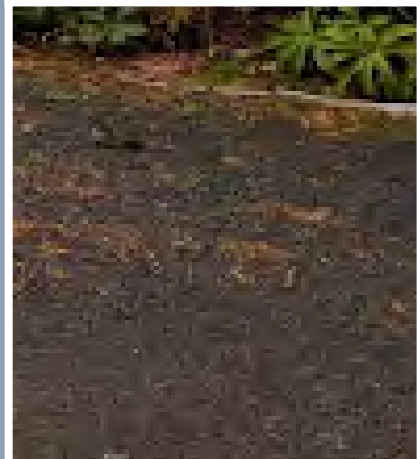


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1.0 INTRODUCTION



The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board is considering changes to the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw (Bylaw #899). Prior to making any changes to the bylaw. The RDN Board instructed Staff to implement a process whereby the residents of Electoral Areas F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach could provide input on the proposed changes. Based on the results of the resident input, the RDN Board would decide about if and how, it would proceed in amending the Bylaw #899.

1.1 About Bylaw # 899

Bylaw #899 gives the RDN the authority to operate Ravensong Aquatic Centre in Qualicum Beach and recover the costs related to the facility. The current version of the Bylaw identifies the participants and identifies the funding model. The Bylaw was established in 1993 at the time the pool was built.

Current Participants

The current participants in Bylaw #899 are Electoral Areas F, G and H along with the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. These participants pay for the operating and capital costs related to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

Current Funding Model

The current funding model is based on a formula of one-half usage and one-half property assessment. While the facility does generate revenues from bookings and admissions, this revenue is not sufficient to pay for all costs of operating the facility. Therefore, the participants contribute each year to cover all costs for Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

PARTICIPANTS

- Electoral Area F (*Coombs, Hilliers, Errington, Whiskey Creek, Meadowood*)
- Electoral Area G (*Englishman River, San Pareil, French Creek, Little Qualicum, Dashwood*)
- Electoral Area H (*Bowser, Qualicum Bay, Deep Bay*)
- City of Parksville
- Town of Qualicum Beach

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANT

- Electoral Area E (*Nanoose Bay*)



Photo from: Regional District of Nanaimo

Photo from: Regional District of Nanaimo

Current allocation model based on one-half usage and one-half assessment (excluding EA E)*			
Participant	2022 Average Residential Value	Residential Cost per \$100k Assessment**	Average Assessment***
City of Parksville	\$669,603	\$15.28	\$102.32
Town of Qualicum Beach	\$877,310	\$16.99	\$149.05
Electoral Area F	\$693,016	\$17.72	\$122.80
Electoral Area G	\$942,810	\$15.88	\$149.72
Electoral Area H	\$807,643	\$13.20	\$106.61

*This is the same information table as presented in the open houses. It refers to 2022 information.

**The residential cost per \$100K Assessment equates to the amount that each residential homeowner in the specified participating area would pay per \$100,000 of their property's net taxable value for their share of the pool service based on a one-half usage and one-half assessment.

***The average assessment equates to the amount that would be charged to the average residential homeowner on their property tax as calculated using the average residential value of the participation area in which they reside.

1.1.1 Proposed Changes

There are two proposed changes to the bylaw; one relates to the participants and the other to the funding model.

Proposed Participants: The proposed change is to add Electoral Area E to the Pool Service joining Electoral Areas F, G, H and the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach as a participant.

Proposed Funding Model: The proposed change is to base the funding model on one-third usage, one-third property assessment and one-third population. This change would bring population into the funding model.

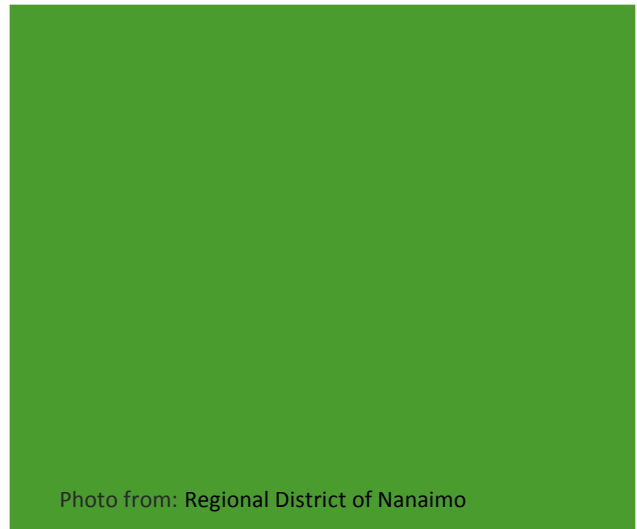


Photo from: Regional District of Nanaimo

Proposed allocation model based on one-third assessment, one-third usage and one-third population (including EA E)*			
Participant	2022 Average Residential Value	Residential Cost per \$100k Assessment**	Average Assessment***
City of Parksville	\$669,603	\$13.82	\$92.54
Town of Qualicum Beach	\$877,310	\$14.24	\$124.93
Electoral Area E	\$1,133,873	\$8.82	\$100.01
Electoral Area F	\$693,016	\$16.20	\$112.27
Electoral Area G	\$942,810	\$13.85	\$130.58
Electoral Area H	\$807,643	\$11.63	\$93.93

*This is the same information table as presented in the open houses. It refers to 2022 information.

*The residential cost per \$100K Assessment equates to the amount that each residential homeowner in the specified participating area would pay per \$100,000 of their property's net taxable value for their share of the pool service based on a one-third usage, one-third population and one-third assessment allocation.

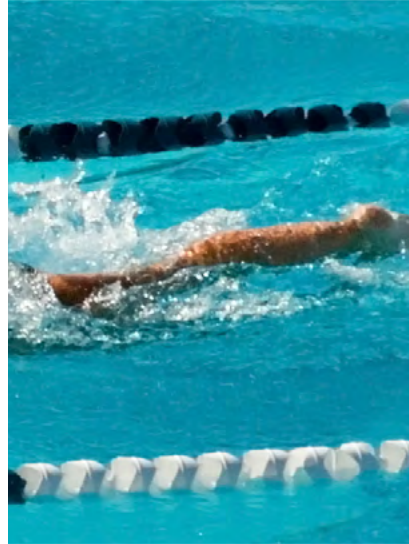
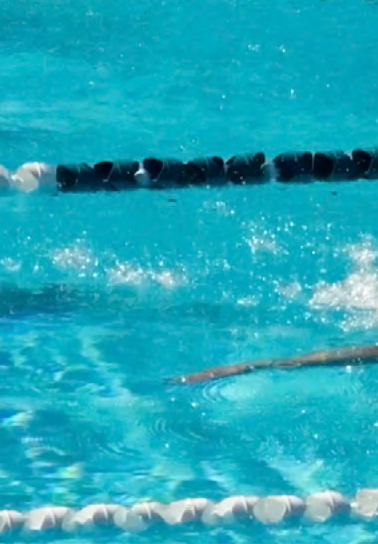
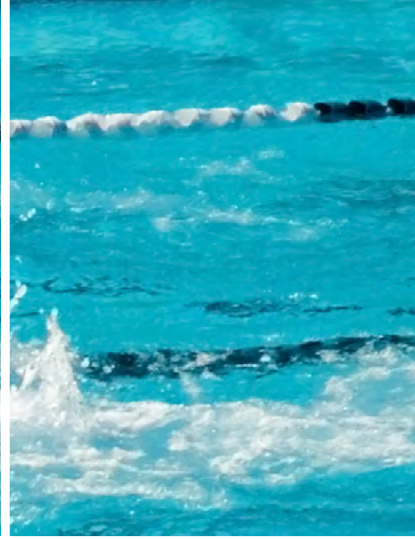
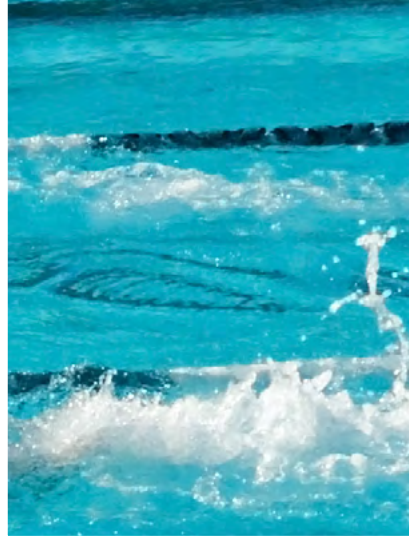
**The average assessment equates to the amount that would be charged to the average residential homeowner on their property tax as calculated using the average residential value of the participation area in which they reside.

1.2 About This Summary

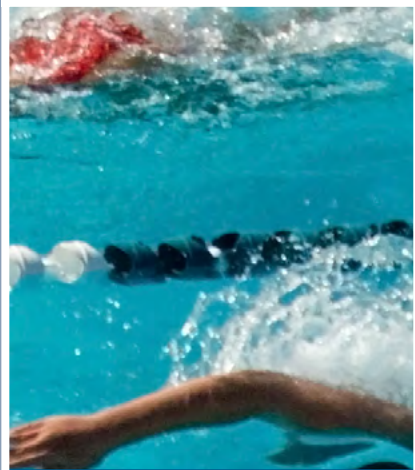
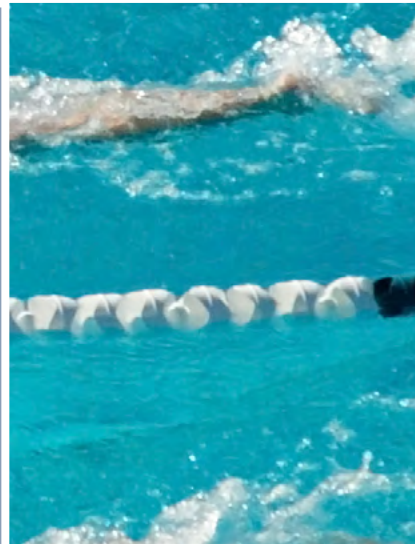
The RDN implemented an engagement plan (Appendix A) to inform residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach about the proposed changes to Bylaw #899 and to gather their thoughts about those proposed changes.

This summary describes the various tools utilized to inform residents of the Bylaw and engage them about the Board's proposed changes. The summary also presents the opinions of residents gathered throughout the process from both an online survey and correspondence (additional comments provided). This summary will be used by the RDN Board in its decision making about the potential changes to Bylaw #899 and to share with the residents what we heard.





2.0 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH



Recognizing the importance of this proposed Bylaw #899 change to residents and its potential impact, the RDN Board tasked Staff to develop an engagement plan to clearly define how and when the public were going to be asked for their input. Refer to Appendix A for the engagement plan. The engagement plan addresses means of sharing information about the proposed Bylaw #899 change and mechanisms to gather feedback from residents about the potential changes. The plan identifies the decision to be made, relevant background, risks and opportunities of engagement activities, key messages, as well as tools and techniques. The engagement plan aligns with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2)¹ spectrum of engagement and promises to the public. Once developed, the engagement plan was approved by the RDN Board.

To assist with the implementation of the engagement plan, the RDN hired the consulting firm RC Strategies. Firm personnel assisted in the design and implementation of communications and promotions materials; hosting of open house events; and survey design. Additionally, RC Strategies analyzed the survey findings and authored this What We Heard Engagement Summary.



RC Strategies (RC Strategies Inc.) is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm that works with regional and municipal governments on issues related to community. The firm has extensive experience planning and implementing public engagement processes related to recreation services and the financial impacts of provision. Many in the firm have received specialized training from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The firm has been responsible for engagement processes in innumerable communities including the following:

- Comox Valley Regional District
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Strathcona Regional District
- Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
- Kelowna
- Vernon
- Lake Country
- Vancouver



Photo from: www.facebook.com/RavensongAquaticClub

¹The IAP2 is an association of professional in the field of public participation. It is the preeminent organization advancing the practice of public participation globally. www.iap2canada.ca

2.1 Communication Initiatives

There were a number of means by which the public was informed of the proposed Bylaw changes and the survey. These means are described below.

2.1.1 Get Involved RDN

A primary means of sharing information with the public about the proposed changes to Bylaw #899 and the online survey was through the use of a Get Involved RDN project page (getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw). The project page included information about the Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899. (See Appendix B.) Visitors to the project page could also gather information through several other project page features:

- Read the FAQs;
- Watch brief videos that describe the proposed changes to the Bylaw;
- Click on important links that show past RDN Board discussions about the proposed changes to Bylaw #899; and
- View information panels that were utilized during the eight open houses.

The Get Involved RDN project page also included the email contact information for two key RDN project contacts.

- Heath Mahoney, Superintendent of Aquatic Services
- Dean Banman, Manager of Recreation Services

A listing of the six in-person open houses convened across the region as well as information about the two virtual open houses (including log in details) was also included on the project page.

Get Involved RDN!



2.1.2 Postcard

A postcard was developed and mailed to all residential addresses in the region. Using Canada Post's Neighbourhood Mail, postcards were delivered to mailboxes in Electoral Areas E, F, G, H and the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. In total 34,325 postcards were delivered. Refer to Appendix C to see the postcard.

The postcard stated that the Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899 was being reviewed by the RDN. It further identified the two changes being considered to the Bylaw #899. Recipients of the postcard were directed to visit the Get Involved RDN project page to complete an online survey; there was also a QR code that, when scanned, would directly take a person to the project webpage. A phone number and email address were listed; these could be used to direct questions or comments.

The back side of the postcard listed the locations for the six in-person open houses as well as the date and time for each. Log-in information was also provided for two virtual open-houses. It should be noted that some residents received their postcards after the first open house in Qualicum Beach had taken place, due to a Canada Post delivery delay because of weather. At that point there were five open houses yet to be convened as well as two virtual open houses.

2.1.3 Open Houses

Open Houses were held to share information with the public about the proposed changes to Bylaw #899. As well, the open houses provided opportunities for attendees to gain some clarity about the proposed changes. The Open Houses were structured with information displayed and available to accommodate the drop-in and come and go nature of this style of event. There was a sign-up sheet at the entry to the open house which was intended to learn the residency of attendees; people were not required to sign-in however due to privacy concerns. There was no program or structured talk for the event but members of the RDN project team were in attendance to answer any questions and to discuss the proposed changes to the Bylaw. Team members did not advocate a position on the proposed changes. This process was planned and was adhered to for every open house. Refer to Appendix D to see the open house panels.



RDN Open House

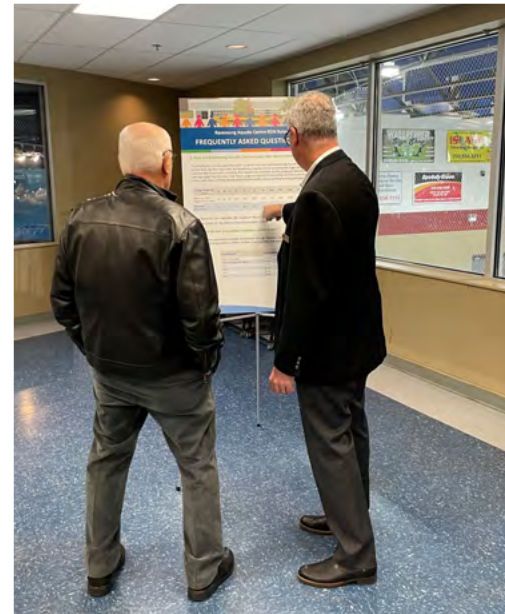
In total six in-person open houses were held from December 7, 2022, to January 18, 2023. They were held at locations throughout the region and all had the same hours - from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. In each instance, static display panels were available for attendees to view and project videos were played on screens. The videos briefly explained the proposed changes to the Bylaw. The open houses were all structured in the same manner including their duration and start and stop time. Residents were free to attend any of the open houses; they could visit multiple events as well.

Two virtual open houses were also hosted. Aligning with the in-person events, the virtual open houses ran from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The two virtual events were held on December 12, 2022 and January 9, 2023. The virtual nature of the open houses necessitated a slightly different format from the in-person ones. In the virtual sessions, RDN team members presented the information from the display panels to attendees. There also was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. For both virtual sessions, attendees were welcomed promptly at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation and discussion proceeded until attendees had no further questions. RDN team members then remained available until new attendees entered the virtual open house and the process restarted.



RDN Open House

Date / Time	Location	Estimated Attendance
December 7, 2022 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Rotary House, Qualicum Beach	5
December 8, 2022 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Oceanside Place, Parksville	5
December 12, 2022 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	5
December 14, 2022 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Bowser Legion, Bowser	0
January 4, 2023 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Nanoose Place, Nanoose	120
January 5, 2023 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Bradley Centre, Coombs	5
January 9, 2023 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	18
January 18, 2023 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	BCG, Parksville	30



RDN Open House

OPEN HOUSE OBSERVATIONS

The observations listed here are not intended to represent all discussion or commentary that occurred at the open houses (in-person and virtual). Rather the intent is to provide a sampling of the comments to offer some insight into the events:

- Some questions were posed about the development of a pool in Parksville. Related, there were questions about changes to Bylaw #899 and the addition of a new service in the event a new pool was developed in Parksville.
- Some attendees were critical of the proposed changes to the Bylaw #899 suggesting they would rather support being part of an aquatics service for a pool in Parksville.
- Particularly at the Nanoose Place open house, many attendees were anticipating a town hall style format in which there would be a formal presentation and the opportunity to ask questions and were critical that there was not.
- Also at the Nanoose Place Open House, some criticism of the process was received. There was some suggestion that the decision about the Bylaw #899 proposed changes is predetermined and that the process utilized was intended to minimize input from dissenters.
- There were some proponents of a change to a “user pay” funding model.
- While some attendees noted the complexities inherent in the information presented others felt the explanations offered by the RDN team were very helpful in their understanding.
- There was an appreciation expressed by some attendees for the opportunities to learn about the proposed changes through this format. Some others suggested that additional open houses should have been hosted in Electoral Area E.

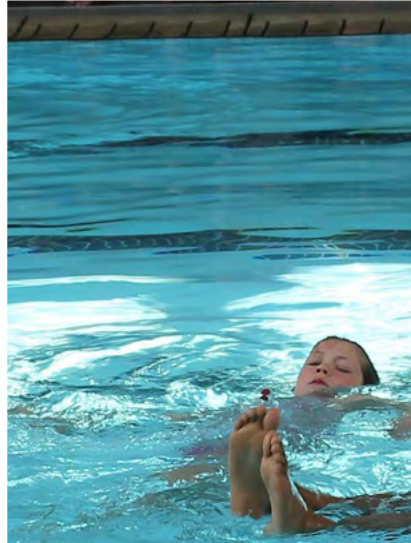
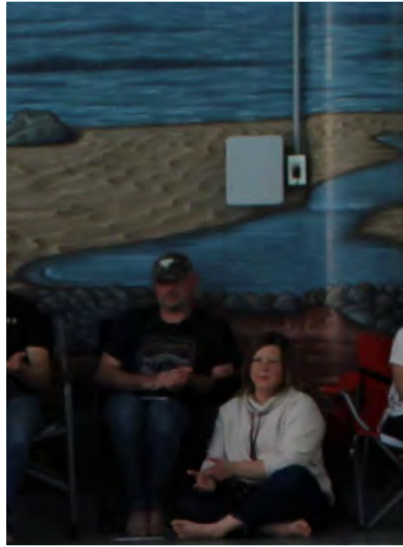
2.1.4 Other Communication Tools Used

There were a variety of other tools used including the following:

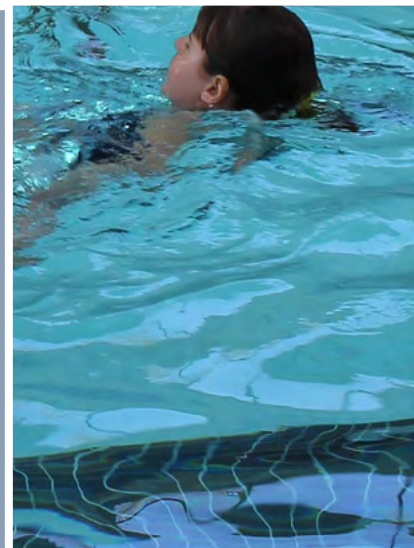
- RDN social media to promote the project overall, the events and survey
- Posters distributed around the region including at some community events (e.g. swim lessons, Winter Wonderland, Polar Bear Swim)
- Newspaper and radio advertisements
- RDN news release



RDN Open House



3.0 SURVEY



An online survey was used as the primary means of gathering feedback from residents regarding the proposed changes to Bylaw #899. The online survey was open from November 24, 2022, through to January 31, 2023. To access the survey, people were required to visit the Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899 project page on Get Involved RDN. Once on that page respondents registered themselves or signed in (if they were previously registered). Hard copy versions of the questionnaire were also available to be picked up at the open houses. As well, some residents requested a hard copy of the questionnaire be mailed to them.

The questionnaire was brief and aside from some questions about the respondent, it included two main questions: one about the proposed funding model and the other about the addition of Electoral Area E to the service. Refer to Appendix E to review the questionnaire. In total 796 responses were received.

3.1 Results

The survey findings are presented below and represent all responses gathered. It is important to note that not all questions were answered by all respondents; as such, the findings are representative of those who answered each question. The findings to the questions about the funding model, the participants, and promotions were further examined by residency. These subsegment findings are presented alongside the specific survey questions.

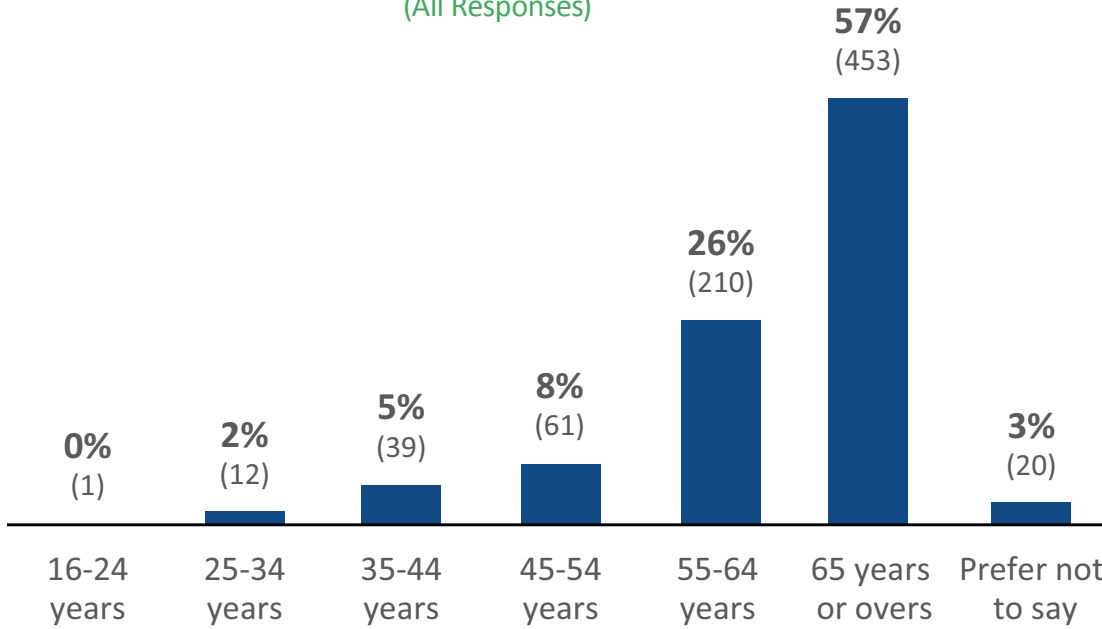


3.1.1 About the Respondents (796 respondents)

Over half of respondents (57% or 453) are sixty-five years or older with over three-quarters (83%) fifty-five years of age and older.

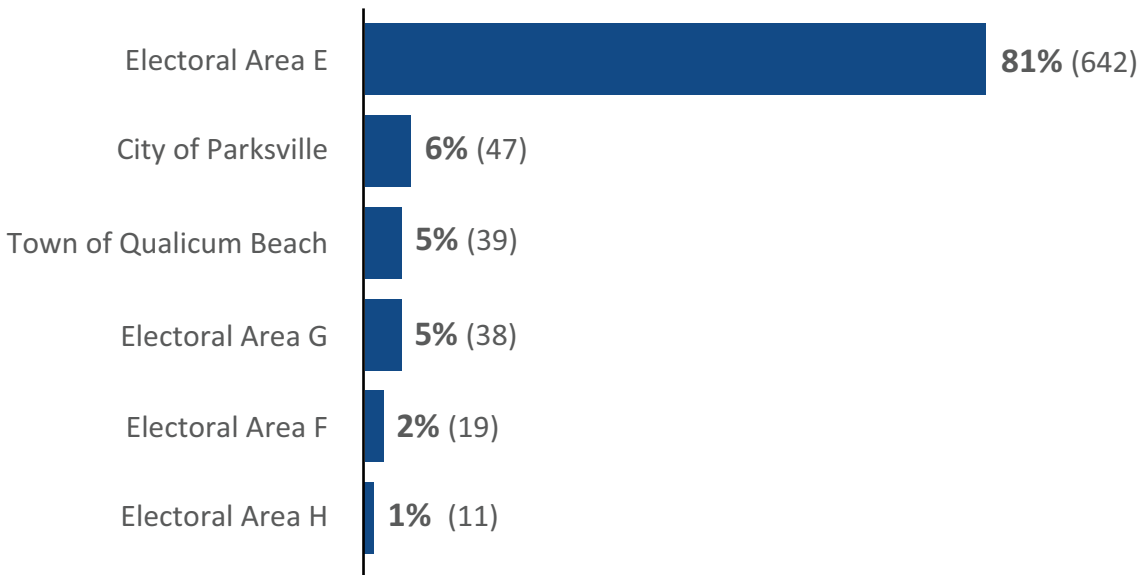
Age of Respondents

(All Responses)



Residency of Respondents

(All Responses)



3.1.2 Funding Model

The current funding model for Ravensong Aquatic Centre pool service for cost recovery is one-half (1/2) on the basis of the assessment of land and improvements and one-half (1/2) on the basis of the usage of the service. **Do you support a new funding model for cost recovery for the Pool Service?**

- Yes, I support a new cost recovery split by one-third (1/3) assessed value of land and improvements, one-third (1/3) population and one-third (1/3) percentage of usage of the service.
- No, I do not support a new funding model.
- I would support an alternative model.

As illustrated in the graph, two-thirds (66%) opposed the new funding model.

Do You Support a New Funding Model for Cost Recovery? (All Responses)

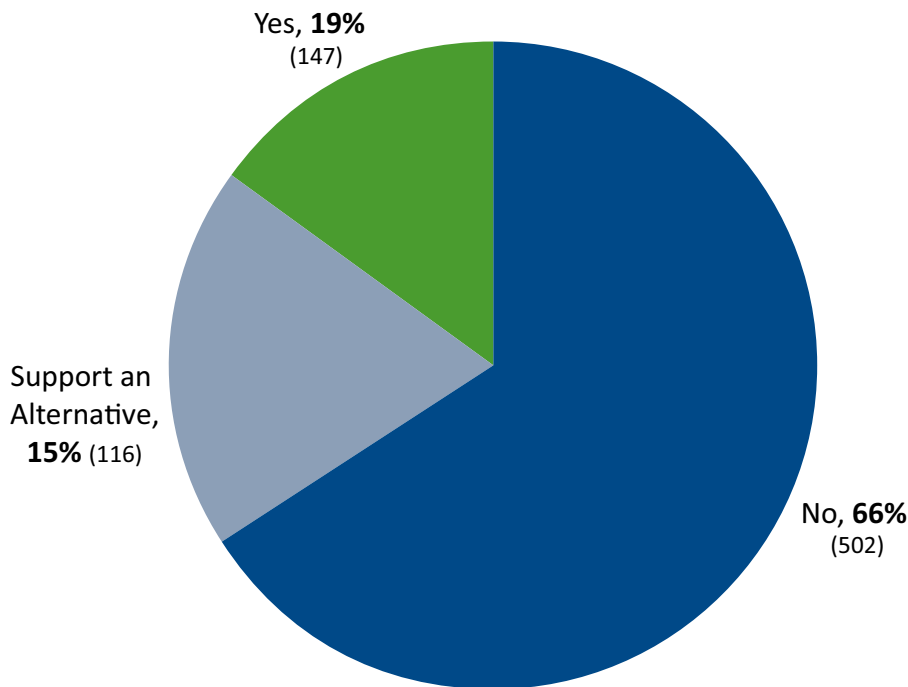


Photo from: www.rdn.bc.ca/ravensong-aquatic-centre

SUBSEGMENT ANALYSIS

Area E Respondents

- Yes 10% (59)
- **No 77% (469)**
- Support an Alternative 14% (84)

Area F Respondents

- Yes 37% (7)
- No 16% (3)
- **Support an Alternative 47% (9)**

Area G Respondents

- **Yes 58% (22)**
- No 24% (9)
- Support an Alternative 18% (7)

Area H Respondents

- **Yes 90% (9)**
- No 10% (1)
- Support an Alternative 0% (0)

City of Parksville Respondents

- **Yes 53% (25)**
- No 26% (12)
- Support an Alternative 21% (5)

Town of Qualicum Beach Respondents

- **Yes 66% (25)**
- No 21% (8)
- Support an Alternative 13% (5)

3.1.3 Addition of Electoral Area E

The current participants of the Ravensong Aquatic Centre pool service are Electoral Areas F, G, H, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach.

Do you support the addition of Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) to this service?

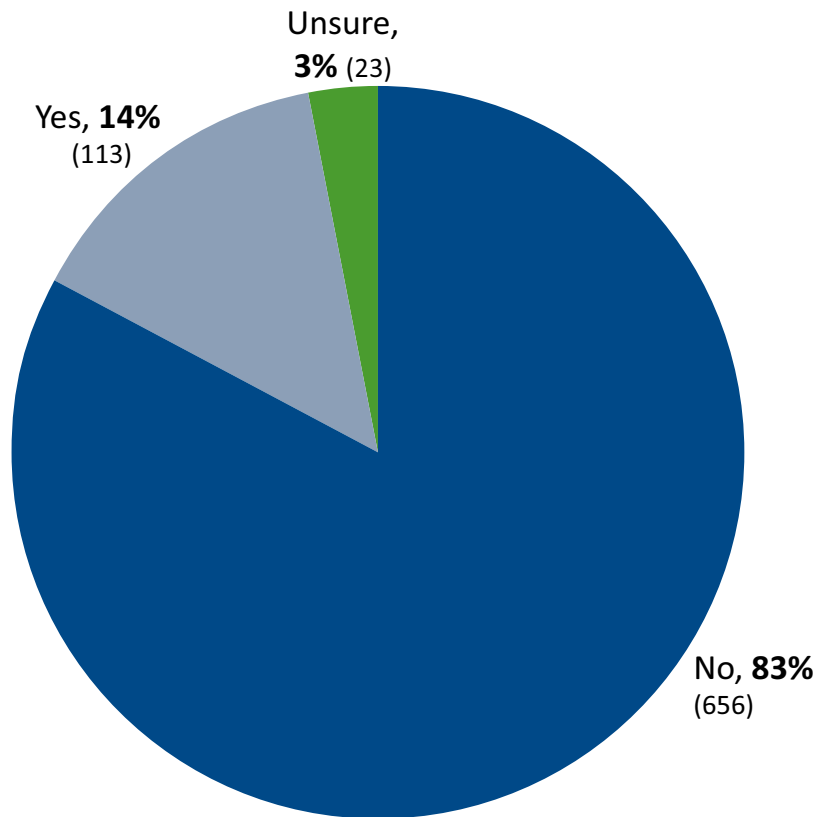
- Yes
- No
- Unsure

As presented in the graph, over three-quarters (83%) of respondents do not support the addition of Electoral Area E to the Ravensong Aquatic Centre pool service.



Do You Support the Addition of Electoral Area E to This Service?

(All Responses)



SUBSEGMENT ANALYSIS

Area E Respondents

- Yes 2% (11)
- **No 97% (621)**
- Unsure 1% (6)

Area F Respondents

- **Yes 58% (11)**
- No 37% (7)
- Unsure 5% (1)

Area G Respondents

- **Yes 65% (24)**
- No 16% (6)
- Unsure 19% (7)

Area H Respondents

- **Yes 82% (9)**
- No 18% (2)
- Unsure 0% (0)

City of Parksville Respondents

- **Yes 57% (27)**
- No 30% (14)
- Unsure 13% (6)

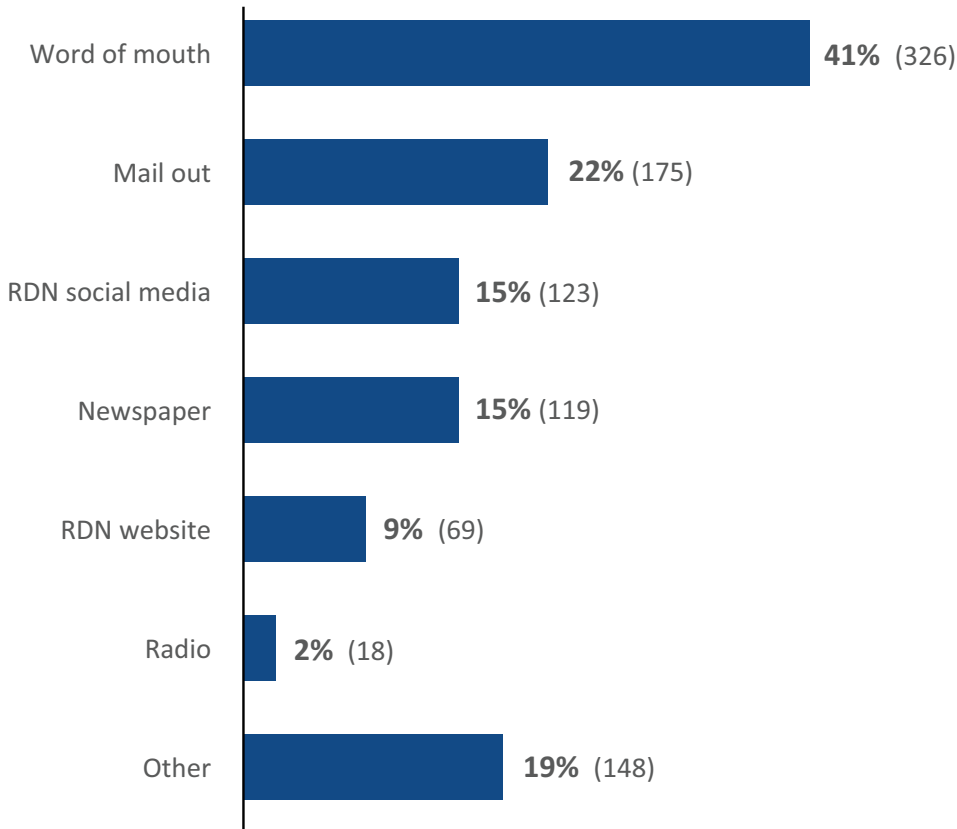
Town of Qualicum Beach Respondents

- **Yes 79% (31)**
- No 13% (5)
- Unsure 8% (3)

3.1.4 Promotions

Respondents were then asked how they heard about the project and the survey. Over one-third (41%) said they became aware through word of mouth while approximately one-quarter (22%) said the mailout was their information source.

How Did You Hear About the Project and Survey? (All Responses)



SUBSEGMENT ANALYSIS

Area E Respondents

- **Word of Mouth 48% (310)**
- Mailout 16% (102)
- RDN social media 15% (96)
- Newspaper 14% (87)
- RDN website 8% (53)

Area F Respondents

- Word of Mouth 0% (0)
- **Mailout 26% (5)**
- **RDN social media 26% (5)**
- Newspaper 11% (2)
- **RDN website 26% (5)**

Area G Respondents

- Word of Mouth 13% (5)
- **Mailout 37% (14)**
- RDN social media 21% (8)
- Newspaper 26% (10)
- RDN website 5% (2)

Area H Respondents

- Word of Mouth 18% (2)
- **Mailout 55% (6)**
- RDN social media 18% (2)
- Newspaper 27% (3)
- RDN website 9% (1)

City of Parksville Respondents

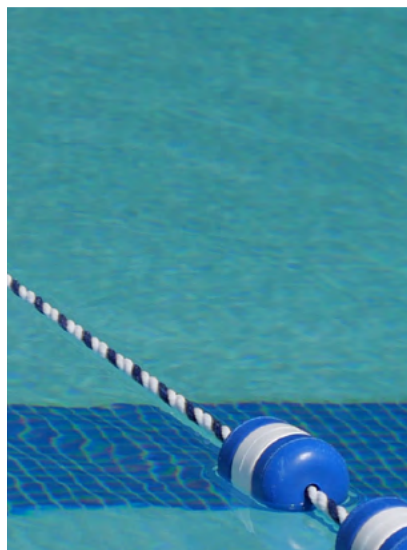
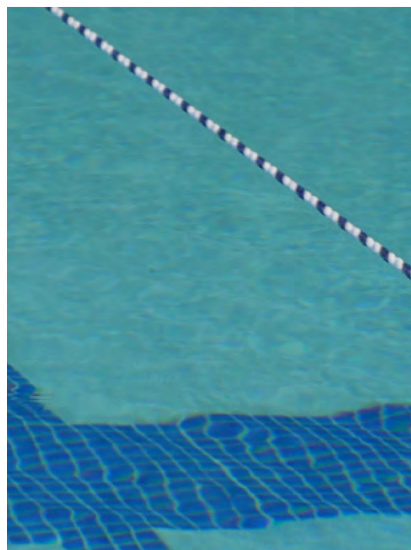
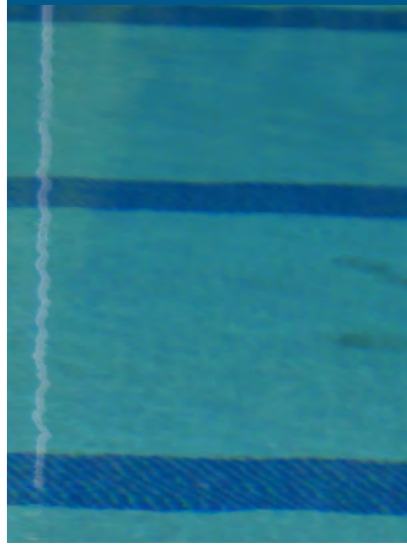
- Word of Mouth 9% (4)
- **Mailout 53% (25)**
- RDN social media 17% (8)
- Newspaper 19% (9)
- RDN website 9% (4)

Town of Qualicum Beach Respondents

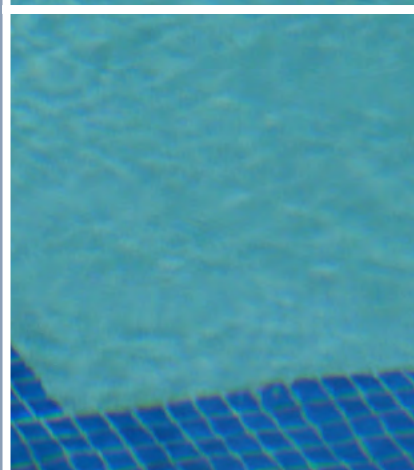
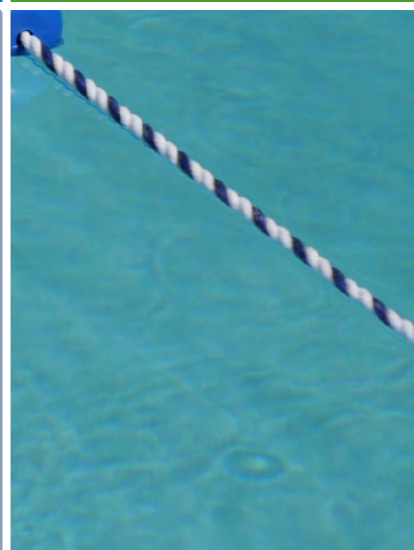
- Word of Mouth 10% (4)
- **Mailout 59% (23)**
- RDN social media 10% (4)
- Newspaper 21% (8)
- RDN website 10% (4)



Photo from: www.ravensongwaterdancers.ca



4.0 OTHER INPUT



Aside from providing a response to the survey questions, some residents shared other thoughts. Correspondance was received through emails and messages to the RDN Board Chair, RDN staff and through comments provided via the Get Involved RDN site. A few (3) hard copies of the questionnaire were submitted (which were entered online) that included some written comments. These comments are provided in Appendix F. Up to and including March 28, 2023, sixty-one items of correspondence were submitted. These raw comments are provided in Appendix G.

A summary of all the comments and correspondence is noted in the following bullets. These summary points weigh heavily against the proposed changes particularly as it relates to the inclusion of Electoral Area E in the service:

- Strong opposition to the inclusion of Area E in the service is expressed.
- A greater contribution from facility users is needed to fund the facility.
- The funding model should emphasize user pay.
- The catchment area for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre should not include Electoral Area E. Those residents live closer to Nanaimo.
- The funding model appears to be capitalizing on the higher assessment values in Area E. It appears like a “cash grab”.
- Area E was not involved in the original decision about the development of Ravensong Aquatic Centre in the 1990s. As such it should not be considered as a participant in the service now.
- The process employed by the RDN to consider changes to Bylaw #899 is not sound.
- The opportunities for residents to voice their concerns is very limited.
- Residents should have a direct say in any changes to the participants and funding model that affects them.
- Decisions made solely at the Board level do not seem fair.
- Some support was expressed for a new pool in Parksville; a facility in Parksville would be used to a greater extent than the one in Qualicum Beach.

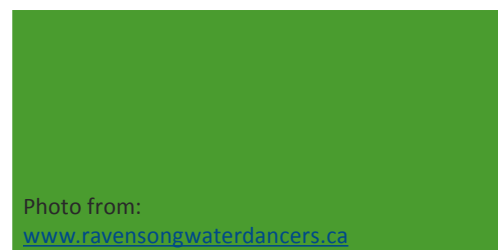
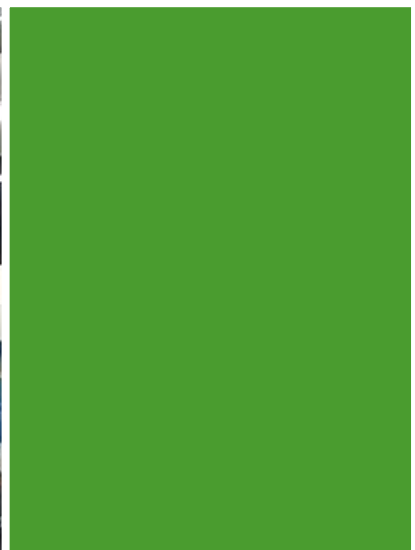
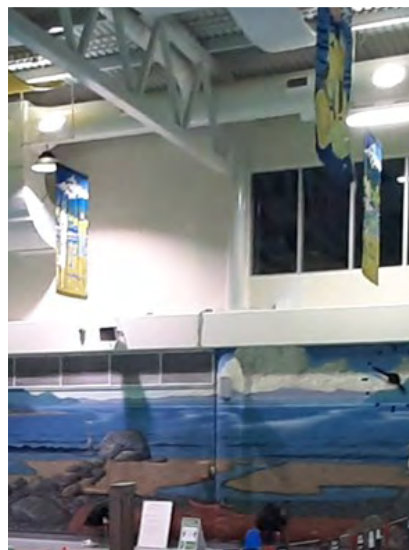
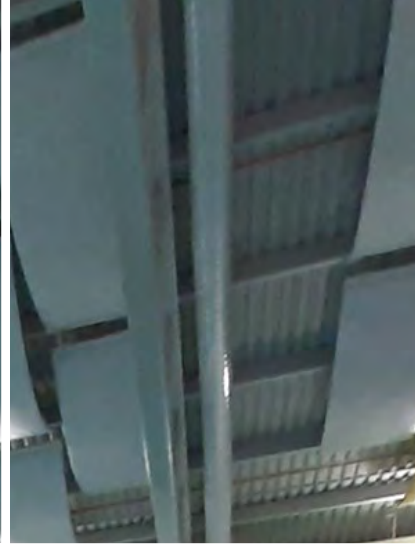


Photo from:
www.ravensongwaterdancers.ca



5.0 CONCLUSIONS



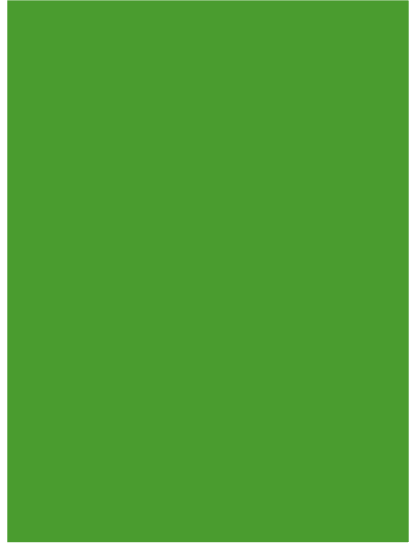
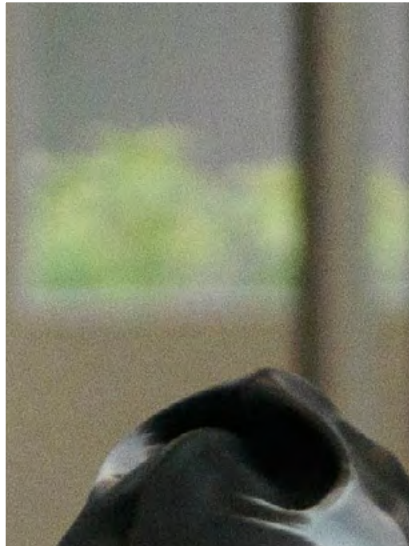
Some conclusions can be drawn from the activities and the survey findings.

- Residents of Electoral Area E were the most involved in this process.
- A majority of respondents oppose the proposed funding model.
 - » Respondents from Electoral Area E are strongly opposed to the proposed change of funding model.
 - » A majority of respondents from the other participants (Electoral Area F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach) support the proposed change to the funding model.
 - Less than half of respondents from Electoral Area F supported the proposed change.
- A majority of respondents oppose the addition of Electoral Area E in the aquatics service (Bylaw #899).
 - » Respondents from Electoral Area E are strongly opposed to the inclusion of their Area in the aquatic service and that proposed change in Bylaw #899.
 - » A majority of respondents from the other participants (Electoral Area F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach) support the addition of Area E into the aquatic service.

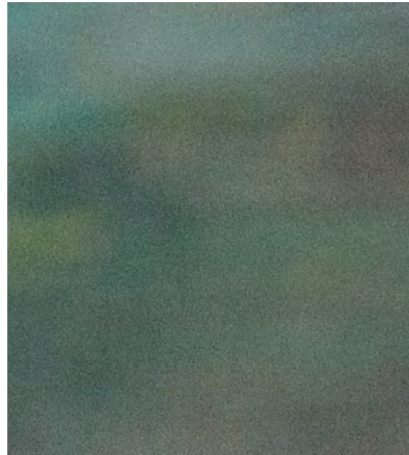
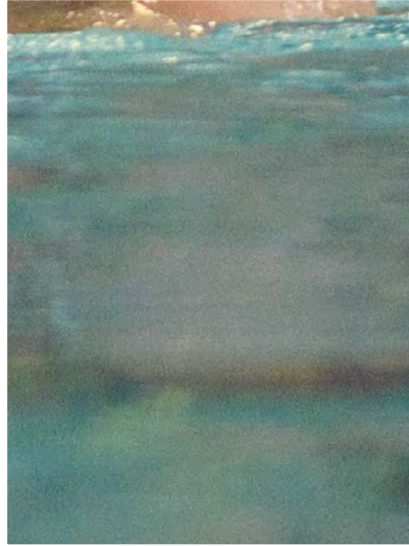


Photo from: Regional District of Nanaimo





APPENDICES



Appendix A: Engagement Plan



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Project Name: Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899

Date Engagement Plan Drafted: August 22, 2022

Date Engagement Plan Approved:

Check the levels of engagement applicable to your project based on the IAP2 Spectrum:

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower

Inform – To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Involve - To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. And that concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public influenced the decision.

Objective

To provide balanced and objective information to the residents of RDN Electoral Area's (EA's) E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach on the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899 Amendment and the implications of the two bylaw changes being considered by the RDN Board. The bylaw changes being considered are:

- Adding Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) as a participating area
- Changing apportionment of cost recovery to 1/3 assessment, 1/3 usage, 1/3 population based

To meet or exceed the public engagement standards set out in RDN Policy A1.23 for the involved level of the IAP2 spectrum for public engagement. To gather public feedback, work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are shared with the RDN Board for consideration and provide feedback on how the public input influenced the decision.

To provide the RDN Board the What We Heard Summary of the public engagement as directed in RDN Board resolution # 22-344:

1 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

That a referendum be held with public engagement, at the “involve” level of participation within the Board’s engagement policy, to amend the Regional District of Nanaimo District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment Bylaw No. 899, 1993 (Bylaw 899), to include Electoral Area’s E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach, based on an apportionment model of 1/3 assessment, 1/3 population, and 1/3 usage.

Decision

The RDN Board is considering changes to the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899. They would like the residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach to provide input on the following amendments that the Board is considering:

- Adding Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) as a participating area
- Changing cost recovery to 1/3 assessment, 1/3 usage, 1/3 population based

The public input will be shared with the RDN Board who will then determine if the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899 should be amended as currently directed by the Board or if, based on public engagement, the Board will provide alternate direction.

Key Topics

Amendments to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899:

- Adding Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) as a participating area
- Changing apportionment of cost recovery to 1/3 assessment, 1/3 usage, 1/3 population based

For the public to articulate and inform the RDN Board, relevant background information and unbiased knowledge on both the existing implications of Bylaw 899 and contemplated changes will need to be provided. Achieving this will be a crucial step prior to gathering input.

Relevant Background

June 14, 2022 - RDN Board Motion: *That a referendum be held with public engagement, at the “Involve” level of participation within the Board’s engagement policy, to amend the Regional District of Nanaimo District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment Bylaw No. 899, 1993 (Bylaw 899), to include Electoral Area’s E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach, based on an apportionment model of 1/3 assessment, 1/3 population, and 1/3 usage.*

July 26, 2022 - *That the Staff Report dated July 26, 2022, “Options for Public Engagement and Referendum for the D69 Pool Service and Expansion” be received for information.*

July 26, 2022 - *That the motion from the June 14, 2022, Board meeting be amended to be as follows; that a referendum be held to amend the Regional District of Nanaimo District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment*

2 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

*Bylaw No. 899, 1993 (Bylaw 899), to include Electoral Area's E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach, based on an apportionment model of 1/3 assessment, 1/3 population, and 1/3 usage. **DEFEATED***

Promise to the Public/IAP2 spectrum

The RDN will provide information and education to the public to ensure they understand the current bylaw and implications of changes being considered to the bylaw. Input will be collected on the two current changes being considered. This input will be shared with the RDN Board for their consideration. The input gathered, how it influenced the decisions made by the RDN Board and next steps will then be shared with the public.

Considerations

- The public's unfamiliarity of the procedural requirements and timelines to amend a bylaw.
- The complexity of understanding the impact on affected individuals that would result if one or both considered amendments are implemented.
- Timing given the October 15, 2022 local government elections and the public engagement blackout period.
- Winter conditions that may impact in-person public engagement.
- Desire of the RDN Board and community to advance to the construction phase of an expansion to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

Opportunities and Risks

Risks:

- Creating division or animosity among electoral area residents.
- Negatively affecting the decisions already made and those being contemplated for expansion to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.
- Creating confusion over the future borrowing bylaw for expansion to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

Opportunities:

- Continue involving all residents affected by the two amendments to Bylaw 899.
- Opportunity to address the long-standing need to review what areas should contribute to the funding of both operating and capital costs of Ravensong Aquatic Centre. To amend the bylaw if needed before the advancement of expansion to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.
- Removal of barriers to and encouragement of public participation.
- Mitigation of risk and leveraging of opportunities should occur by following the community engagement plan and retaining the services of an IAP2 certified consultant.
- Providing both in-person and virtual opportunities to engage in the project will help ensure providing input will be as accessible as possible to the public.



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Barriers:

- Timing soon after local government election.
- Winter conditions impacting in-person public engagement.
- Complexity of the project.
- Confusion over the connection to expansion to Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

First Nations & Stakeholder Interests and Tools

Local First Nations and staff from the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach will be informed prior to community engagement starting and as the project progresses by the RDN Manager of Strategy and Intergovernmental Services, the General Manager of Recreation and Parks and the CAO.

All residential taxpayers of Electoral Area's E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach are affected by RDN Board decisions related to amending Bylaw 899. Internally, the departments affected include Finance, Strategy and Intergovernmental Services, Recreation and Parks and Corporate Services. Regular project meetings will be held with all internal stakeholders and when required with external stakeholders as the project progresses.

Tools and Techniques

The project will have a Get Involved RDN page which will have all project related information including project timeline, FAQ, links to background documents, meeting agendas, minutes, video, ways to stay informed, ways to ask questions (they will be answered publicly), staff contact information and the survey to gather input on the two amendments being considered. A video to explain Bylaw 899, the two amendments being considered, the impact(s) of amending the bylaw and possible next steps will be created.

The RDN will promote upcoming in-person and virtual public information sessions and the online survey through a postcard sent via Canada Post to all residences in Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach, social media, posters around the region, print and radio ads, a news release and static displays.

RDN Directors will be provided with key messages related to the project and public engagement that can be used in their individual communications (social media, written columns, group emails) with area residents.

Pop up events and presence at community events (i.e. Winter Wonderland, public swim sessions and lessons, Polar Bear Swim, New Years Eve events, holiday craft fairs), to promote and direct where project information can be found and how to have your say by completing the online survey.

Graphic presentation boards for view at Ravensong Aquatic Centre, pop up events and open houses.

Eight public information sessions, six in-person and two virtual to share project information and encourage residents to provide their input by completing the online survey.

4 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Online survey to collect input – provide bylaw background information, the implications of each proposed amendment and ask respondents to confirm which area in the RDN they reside as well as two questions with quantifiable options given:

1. Should Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) be added as a participating area?
2. Should cost recovery be changed to 1/3 assessment, 1/3 usage, 1/3 population based?

Key Messages (3-5 Key Messages for media or target audience)

The RDN Board of Directors invites residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville Town of Qualicum Beach) to be share their thoughts on two amendments being considered for Bylaw 899 the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment.

Bylaw 899 gives the RDN authority to operate Ravensong Aquatic Centre and recover costs of both operating and capital items related to the facility.

Both amendments being considered to Bylaw 899 would have financial implications for all residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach should Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) be added as a participating area to the Pool Service (Ravensong Aquatic Centre). The RDN encourages all residents to participate in the community engagement phase of this project and provide their feedback on the following two questions prior to January 27, 2023.

1. Should Electoral Area E (NanOOSE Bay) be added as a participating area to the Pool Service (Ravensong Aquatic Centre)?
2. Should the cost recovery assessment for the Pool Service (Ravensong Aquatic Centre) be changed to 1/3 assessment, 1/3 usage, 1/3 population based?

Timeline

See attached project schedule.

Responsibilities

Tool/Task	Description	Responsible Party	IAP2 Spectrum	Budget	Date
Prepare for Public Engagement	Production of graphic material for information sessions, pop up	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services,	Inform/Involve	\$25,000 - \$30,000 estimate	Sept - Oct 2022

5 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Tool/Task	Description	Responsible Party	IAP2 Spectrum	Budget	Date
	events and printing including postcard, posters, display boards	Corporate Services, Finance			
	Spaces booked and supplies for pop up events and public information sessions for EA's E, F, G, H, City of Parksville Town of Qualicum Beach	Recreation Services	Inform/Involve	Venue costs (6 X \$500 estimate) Consultant and staff time	Sept - Oct 2022
	Create Get involved Page	Recreation Services	Involve	NA	Oct -Nov 2022
	Create video	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services, Corporate Services, Finance	Inform	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Sept - Oct 2022
	Draft online survey	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services Corporate Services, Finance	Involve	Part of prepare for public engagement consultant expense and staff time	Sept - Oct 2022
Promote project and upcoming public engagement	News Release to inform about the project and engagement opportunities	Recreation Services and Communications and Engagement	Inform	N/A	Oct-Nov 2022

6 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Tool/Task	Description	Responsible Party	IAP2 Spectrum	Budget	Date
events and online survey	Newspaper and radio ads, posters and social media	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services	Inform	3 monthly newspaper ads 2 standalone ads 2 radio ads Posters Social media – 1 boosted post \$2,000-\$3,000	Nov 2022 - Jan 2023
	Mail drop to all residences in EA E, F, G, H, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach to promote project, public information sessions and online survey	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services	Inform	\$9,000-12,000 to mail estimate \$4,000-6,000 to print estimate	Nov 2022
	Develop and share key messages and email info, Get Involved RDN page use and for Board members to share	Recreation Services and Communications and Engagement	Inform	N/A	Oct-Nov 2022
Hold In-person and virtual Public Information Sessions	One in-person event for each of the following areas: EA E, F, G, H, City of Parksville Town of Qualicum	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services, Corporate Services, Finance, Strategy	Inform	6 x \$500 = \$3,000 for venues Plus consultant and staff time	Nov. 2022 – Jan 2023

7 Community Engagement Plan - Amendment to District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

Tool/Task	Description	Responsible Party	IAP2 Spectrum	Budget	Date
	Beach (six total) Two virtual sessions	and Intergovernmental Services			
Online Survey	Gathering input on the bylaw amendment changes being considered	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services	Involve	N/A	Nov 14, 2022 – Jan 27, 2023
Create What We Heard Summary	Summarizing the survey input	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services	Involve	N/A unless consultant does and then only their time	Feb 2023
Present to the RDN Board the results of the public engagement	Provide a What We Heard Summary with the survey input	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services, Corporate Services	Inform		Mar– Apr 2023
Share the What We Heard Summary	Share with those that participated and advise of next steps based on Board direction	Third party contractor/ Recreation Services	Involve	N/A	Apr 2023

Budget Estimated \$65,000 to \$80,000.

Evaluation

Summary table showing Get Involved RDN page activity, attendance at open houses and number of surveys received. A summary of promotional materials distributed and media coverage received will be included.

Closing the Loop

A What We Heard Summary will be created sharing the input from surveys received. This will be presented to the RDN Board and then shared with those that participated in the public engagement through the Get Involved RDN page and newsletter to those that are connected to the page. When sharing with the public, we will also communicate the next steps.



Attachment 1

Engagement Plan

A What We Heard Summary will be created sharing the input from surveys received. This will be presented to the RDN Board and then shared with those that participated in the public engagement by posting it on the Get Involved RDN page and sending an enewsletter to those that are connected to the page. When sharing with the public, we will also communicate the next steps.

Media Relations

All media requests for interviews or quotes go through the Communications Coordinator who will either collect and relay a response from the relevant department's General Manager, the CAO, the Board Chair or a Board Director, or arrange for the designate to engage directly with the media.

Appendix B: Get Involved RDN Project Page

Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899



Thank you to Everyone who completed a project survey and got involved. **The survey and community feedback is now closed.** Survey results, community feedback from the open houses (both live and virtual) and additional comments received will now be compiled and presented to the Board.

The survey and Residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach - we want to hear from you! Two changes are being considered for the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw #899, which is how we fund Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

One of the two proposed changes is to go from the current funding model, one-half assessment and one-half usage, to a model based on one-third property assessment, one-third usage, and one-third population. The Regional District of Nanaimo Board has reviewed a variety of funding models and determined this approach to be the preferred model to pay for the pool service.

The second proposed change would add Electoral Area E as a participating area to the Pool Service. Residents of Electoral Area E – Nanoose Bay - currently do not pay into the pool service.

How can I get involved and learn more?

- Subscribe to this page to receive email notifications with news and updates
- Read the [FAQ's](#) that are updated regularly based on questions asked
- Watch our brief videos that explain the proposed changes
- Check out the [Important Links](#) to see past RDN Board discussions about the proposed changes to Bylaw #899
- See our [What's New](#) tab for general project updates

What's New

Survey

Questions & Answers

January 17, 2023 Update



Thank you for your time and effort participating in the review of Ravensong Aquatic Centre Bylaw #899.

We have hosted five in-person open houses and two virtual open houses. Our last open house is this Wednesday, January 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the BGC Parksville Family Centre, Lobby, 132 Jensen Ave. All Oceanside residents are welcome to attend.

If you have not yet completed our [survey](#), please do so before **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**.

Within the last few days, the following have been added to the [Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899 project page](#) based on what we have heard from residents:

- Video recordings of both virtual open houses held on December 12, 2022 and January 9, 2023
- [Staff report, minutes, agenda and video](#) of the May 10, 2022, RDN Board meeting where the bylaw amendment options and procedures were discussed
- Additional [FAQs](#) from residents and answers

We will continue to update the FAQs and add additional information as needed. Thank you to everyone who has registered to the project page, we will send an newsletter to those registered, sharing what we heard and next steps when they are available in the coming months.

REGISTER to get involved!

Open House Panels

 Open House Panels

FAQs

1. Where is the Ravensong Aquatic Centre?
2. What does Ravensong Aquatic Centre include?
3. What is the "District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw 899"?
4. What areas of the RDN and other municipalities are included in the Swimming Pool Local Service?
5. What does it mean to be "part of the service"? Does this involve operating and capital costs related to the Ravensong Aquatic Centre?
6. If I don't live in one of the areas or municipalities that is part of the service, can I still use the Ravensong Aquatic Centre?
7. What are the two changes to Bylaw #899 that are being considered?
8. How would the rates be calculated if the proposed changes to Bylaw #899 are made?
9. What are the property assessment rates and how are they used?
10. How are Ravensong Aquatic Centre usage rates determined?
11. Where do the population numbers come from?
12. Why does the RDN Board want to change the Bylaw?
13. Will residents of Electoral Areas F, G, H, City of Parksville, and Town of Qualicum Beach pay less if Electoral Area E becomes part of the service?
14. What is the process to amend Bylaw 899?
15. Why would I attend a community session or a virtual session if the information is available on the website?
16. There are plans to expand the Ravensong Aquatic Centre. Will that expansion be impacted by these amendments?
17. Why was there no ability to supply feedback to the pool funding survey?
18. I have watched some of the videos from the Board and Swimming Pool Select Committee meetings. Do all RDN Board members from areas that are not part of the funding for Ravensong like City of Nanaimo, get to vote and make decisions on this topic?

19. Can a current participant (City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, Electoral Areas F, G, H) in RAC Bylaw #899 get out of funding Ravensong Aquatic Centre and if yes how would that be done?

20. How does this affect Parksville's efforts to build a pool?

21. What is the purpose of the current survey, and how much weight does this have in the final decision? Or is it to decide to move forward and decide on participants and the process to be used?

22. Who decided/recommended that Nanoose should be included into the funding now, after almost 30 years, and why?

Important Links

[Regional District of Nanaimo December 14, 2021 Board Meeting](#)

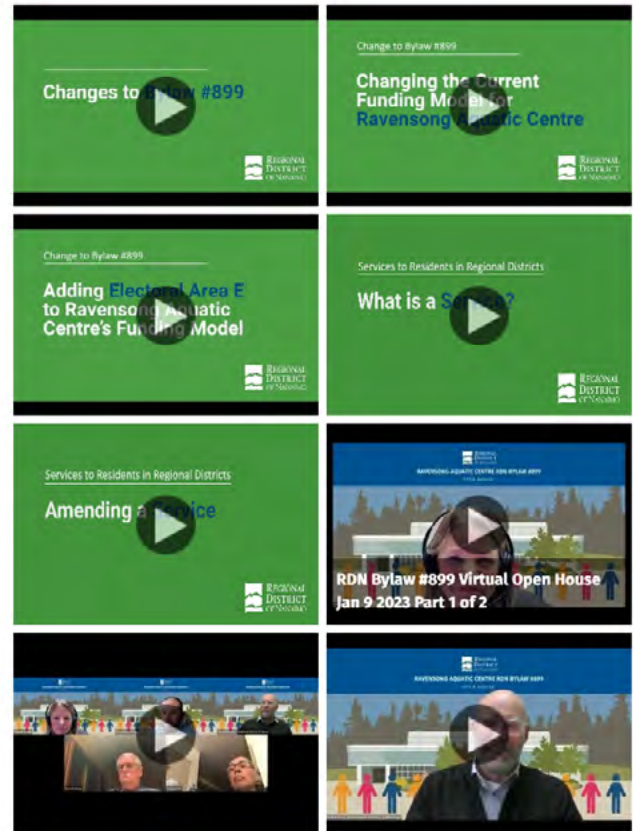
[RDN Board May 10, 2022 Board Meeting - Options and Voting Requirements to Change Bylaw #899](#)

[District 69 Swimming Pool Service Select Committee May 17, 2022 Meeting](#)

[District 69 Swimming Pool Service Select Committee June 7, 2022 Meeting](#)

[RDN Regular Board Meeting June 14, 2022](#)

Videos



[More..](#)



STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

Your email address...

SUBSCRIBE

10 members of your community are following this project

Who's Listening

Heath Mahoney

Superintendent of Aquatic Services
Regional District of Nanaimo



Email hmahoney@rdn.bc.ca

Dean Banman

Manager, Recreation Services
Regional District of Nanaimo



Email dbanman@rdn.bc.ca

Appendix C: Postcard



HAVE YOUR SAY

Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is reviewing District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment Bylaw #899. Bylaw #899 gives the RDN the authority to operate Ravensong Aquatic Centre in Qualicum Beach and recover the costs related to the facility. ***The changes would have financial implications for residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach.*** Residents of these areas are invited to attend an in-person or virtual open house to learn about the changes being considered and provide feedback via an online survey.

The two Bylaw #899 changes being considered are:

1. Change the cost recovery funding model to one-third assessment, one-third usage and one-third population-based from its current funding model of one-half usage and one-half assessment.
2. Adding Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) as a participating area.

Learn more and complete the survey at:
getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw

Any questions, please contact the RDN at:
250-248-3252, 1-888-828-2069 toll free or
recparks@rdn.bc.ca

For Open House details, please flip over.

Scan to go
to project
website



Get Involved RDN!



JOIN US

In-Person Open Houses

December 7, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Rotary House, 211 Fern Rd, Qualicum Beach

December 8, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oceanside Place Arena, Multi-Purpose Rooms, 830 Island Hwy W., Parksville

December 14, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Bowser Legion #211, 7035 Island Hwy W., Bowser

January 4, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Nanoose Place, 2925 NW Bay Rd, Nanoose Bay

January 5, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Bradley Centre, 975 Shearme Rd, Coombs

January 18, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
BCG, 132 Jensen Ave, Parksville

Virtual Open Houses

December 12, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom meeting at: bit.ly/pool-bylaw-dec-12 or join by telephone by dialing: +1-587-328-1099, when prompted enter meeting ID: 679 7330 5468 and passcode: 812003

January 9, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom meeting at: bit.ly/pool-bylaw-jan-9 or join by telephone by dialing: +1-587-328-1099, when prompted enter meeting ID: 640 3089 1258 and passcode: 302469

Complete the survey by **January 31, 2023**,
at: getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw

Get Involved RDN!

Appendix D: Open House Panels



Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is reviewing District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment Bylaw #899.

Bylaw #899 gives the RDN the authority to operate Ravensong Aquatic Centre in Qualicum Beach and recover the costs related to the facility. The changes would have financial implications for residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach.

The two Bylaw #899 changes being considered are:

1. Change the cost recovery funding model to one-third assessment, one-third usage and one-third population-based from its current funding model of one-half usage and one-half assessment.
2. Adding Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) as a participating area.

Learn more, ask questions and have your say:

In-Person Open Houses

- December 7, 2022**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Rotary House, 211 Fern Road, Qualicum Beach
- December 8, 2022**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oceanside Place Arena, 830 Island Highway W, Parksville
- December 14, 2022**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Bowser Legion #211, 7035 Island Highway W, Bowser
- January 4, 2023**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Nanoose Place, 2925 NW Bay Rd, Nanoose Bay
- January 5, 2023**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Bradley Centre, 975 Shearmer Rd, Coombs
- January 18, 2023**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
BGC Parksville Child & Family Centre, 132 Jensen Ave, Parksville

Virtual Open Houses

- December 12, 2022**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom meeting at: bit.ly/pool-bylaw-dec-12 or join by telephone by dialing: +1-587-328-1099, when prompted enter meeting ID: 679 7330 5468 and passcode: 812003
- January 9, 2023**, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom meeting at: bit.ly/pool-bylaw-jan-9 or join by telephone by dialing: +1-587-328-1099, when prompted enter meeting ID: 640 3089 1258 and passcode: 302469

Any questions, please contact the RDN at: 250-248-3252,
1-888-828-2069 toll free or recparks@rdn.bc.ca

Learn more about the project and complete the survey at: getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw



Scan to go to the project website



Get Involved RDN!

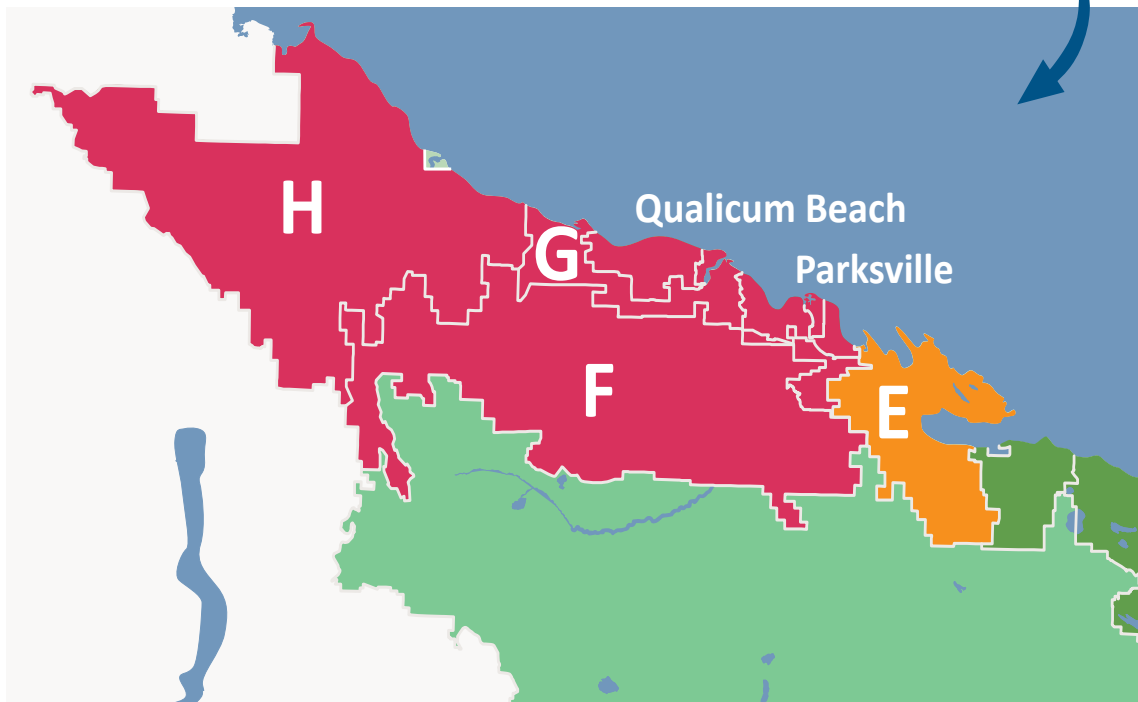


Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

WELCOME

Learn more, ask questions and have your say.

Show us where you live - add a pin to the map.



Scan to go to the project website and complete the survey



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Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

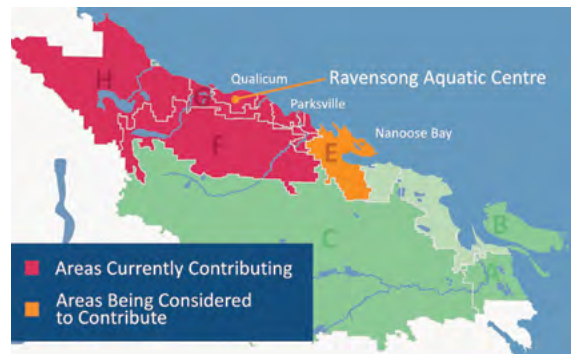
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

A. What is “District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw #899”?

The Bylaw was established in 1993 at the time the pool was built. It gives the RDN the authority to operate the pool and collect taxes and identifies the funding participants and the funding formula.

B. What areas within the RDN are included in the Swimming Pool Local Service?

Bylaw #899 identifies the funding participants: Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, Electoral Areas, F, G and H.



C. What are the two changes to Bylaw #899 that are being considered?

The **first proposed change** is to go from the current model of one-half assessment and one-half usage, to a model based on one-third property assessment, one-third usage, and one-third population.

The **second proposed change** would add Electoral Area E as a participating area to the Pool Service. Electoral Area E would then join Electoral Areas F, G, H and City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach.



Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

D. How would the rates be calculated if the proposed changes* to Bylaw #899 are made?

If the proposed changes to Bylaw #899 are made, the RDN would calculate how much each participating area would pay through taxes using the following:

one-third assessment – one-third of the amount of taxes would be collected based on the property values in each area that is participating in the service

one-third usage – one-third of the amount of taxes would be collected based on the usage of the facility by each area that is participating in the service

one-third population - one-third of the amount of taxes would be collected based on the population in each area that is participating in the service

For example, a participating area that has:

higher property values compared to other participating areas would pay more of the assessment portion towards the pool service

more residents using the pool service compared to other participating areas would pay more of the usage portion towards the pool service

a lower population compared to other participating areas would pay less of the population portion towards the pool service

Once it is determined how much each participating area must contribute based on the above, the information is sent to the Surveyor of Taxes. The amount each area residential homeowner in the participating area would be taxed is calculated by the Surveyor of Taxes based on property values.

*Currently, the participating areas fund the pool service based on a one-half assessment and one-half usage funding model.



Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

E. What are the property assessment rates and how are they used?

Property assessment data from BC Assessment is used to help calculate how much residential homeowners pay for a service in their area. The tables below show the amount residential homeowners would pay for their share of the pool service based on the current and proposed allocation models.

Table 1: Current allocation model based on one-half usage and one-half assessment (excluding EA E)

Participant	2022 Average Residential Value	Residential Cost per \$100K Assessment*	Average Assessment**
City of Parksville	\$669,603	\$15.28	\$102.32
Town of Qualicum Beach	\$877,310	\$16.99	\$149.05
Electoral Area F	\$693,016	\$17.72	\$122.80
Electoral Area G	\$942,810	\$15.88	\$149.72
Electoral Area H	\$807,643	\$13.20	\$106.61

Table 2: Proposed allocation model based on one-third assessment, one-third usage and one-third population (including EA E)

Participant	2022 Average Residential Value	Residential Cost per \$100K Assessment*	Average Assessment**
City of Parksville	\$669,603	\$13.82	\$92.54
Town of Qualicum Beach	\$877,310	\$14.24	\$124.93
Electoral Area E	\$1,133,873	\$8.82	\$100.01
Electoral Area F	\$693,016	\$16.20	\$112.27
Electoral Area G	\$942,810	\$13.85	\$130.58
Electoral Area H	\$807,643	\$11.63	\$93.93

*The residential cost per \$100K Assessment equates to the amount that each residential homeowner in the specified participating area would pay per \$100,000 of their property's net taxable value for their share of the pool service based on a one-third usage, one-third population and one-third assessment allocation.

**The average assessment equates to the amount that would be charged to the average residential homeowner on their property tax as calculated using the average residential value of the participating area in which they reside.



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Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

F. How are Ravensong Aquatic Centre usage rates determined?

The RDN does a survey every five years* to determine who uses Ravensong Aquatic Centre. Based on 2015 survey data, the first row shows the Ravensong Aquatic Centre proportional usage rates (%) of electoral area and member municipality residents. The second-row numbers are the proposed allocations based on the average usage from the two most recent usage surveys (2010 and 2015) with Electoral Area E added and other users (NA, LZ, Other) distributed proportionately among existing funding participants.

Usage Rate by Area	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	NA	PV	QB	LZ	Other	Total
Based on 2015 Usage Survey data	0	0	0	3.9	19.6	18.7	6.3	1.0	24.2	21.8	0.1	4.3	100
Proposed allocations*	0	0	0	4.6	18.1	18.3	7.2	0	26.2	25.7	0	0	100

NA = Nanaimo, PV = Parksville, QB = Qualicum Beach, LZ = Lantzville

*Due to COVID-19, the 2020 survey will take place in 2023

G. Where do the population numbers come from?

The RDN uses population numbers determined through Statistics Canada’s census. The 2021 Census determined the population of RDN member municipalities and electoral areas in Oceanside to be as follows:

Participant	Population
City of Parksville	13,642
Town of Qualicum Beach	9,303
EA E	6,765
EA F	8,216
EA G	8,109
EA H	4,291



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Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

H. What is the process to amend Bylaw #899?

The Local Government Act allows the RDN Board to amend a service establishing bylaw with the consent of at least two-thirds of the participants in the service. (for Ravensong Aquatic Centre, the participants are Parksville, Qualicum, Electoral Areas F, G and H).

As a result, in the case of adding a participating area to the service(s), the RDN Board may amend the service establishing bylaw in the following two ways:

With the consent of at least two-thirds of the participants in the service (including any proposed new participant) and Inspector of Municipalities' approval; or

In accordance with the requirements applicable to the adoption of the bylaw that it amends (such as a referendum or alternative approval process), and Inspector of Municipalities' approval.

NEXT STEPS

Let us know:

Do you support a new funding model for cost recovery for the pool service?

Do you support the addition of Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) to this service?

Complete the survey by January 31, 2023 at getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw

Scan to go to the project website and complete the survey



Survey Results:

A What We Heard Summary report will be provided with the survey results to the RDN Board for their review and to help them determine whether to proceed with changing the bylaw.

Once presented to the RDN Board, it will also be shared at getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw and emailed to those registered to this page directly.



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Appendix E: Survey Tool

Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

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Survey

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Swimming Pool Service RDN Bylaw #899

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board is proposing changes to Bylaw #899, the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment bylaw. Bylaw #899 is the bylaw that identifies which areas in Oceanside fund the Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

This survey is intended for RDN residents in the Oceanside area which includes Electoral Areas E, F, G, H, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. The responses you provide are valuable in the RDN's review of Bylaw #899. Please provide your answers by January 31, 2023. We request that you only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions about Ravensong Aquatic Centre Swimming Pool Service RDN Service Bylaw #899, please contact the RDN at: 250-248-3252 or 1-888-828-2069 toll free or recparks@rdn.bc.ca

Your participation in this engagement survey is voluntary. If you decide to participate in this survey, you may withdraw at any time. The personal information you provide is collected by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) under sections 26(c) and 26(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) for the purposes of engaging and consulting with the public. The RDN is using a Bang the Table engagement platform that stores the information in Canada. However, Bang the Table staff are located in the US and may access your user profile information to provide assistance at your request. Some of the questions allow for responses using open-text fields. To protect your privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include any information that could identify you or another person. Identifying information could include a person's name, address, email or phone number. Any personal information that is inadvertently included in the open-text responses will be deleted once the results of the survey are compiled. If you have any questions about the collection of your personal information, please contact Heath Mahoney or Dean Banman at hmahoney@rdn.bc.ca / dbanman@rdn.bc.ca or by calling 250-248-3252.

Indicate your age group:

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Under 16*
- 16-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65 years or over
- Prefer not to say

Note: *If under 16 a consent form must be collected by a responsible adult. Contact RDN Recreation at recparks@rdn.bc.ca for a consent form.

Where do you live? Identify which electoral area or municipality that you reside in:

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Electoral Area E (Nanosee Bay)
- Electoral Area F (Coombs, Hilliers, Errington, Whiskey Creek, Meadowood)
- Electoral Area G (Englishman River, San Pareil, French Creek, Little Qualicum, Dashwood)
- Electoral Area H (Bowser, Qualicum Bay, Deep Bay)
- City of Parksville
- Town of Qualicum Beach

Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

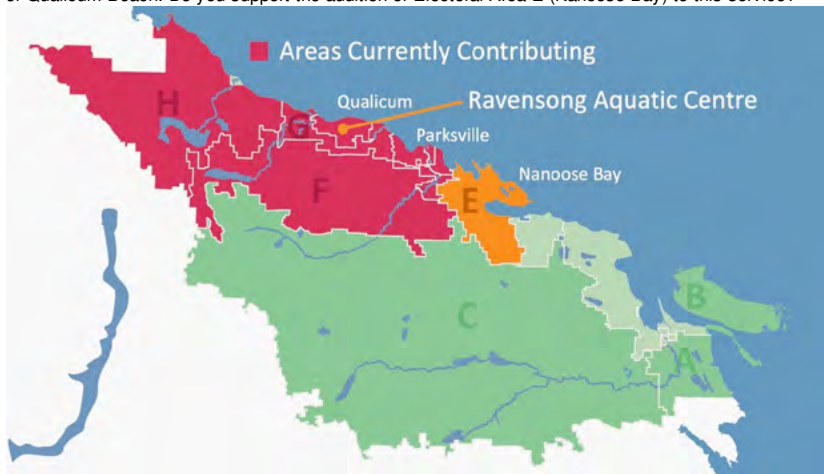
Get Involved RDN

The current funding model for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre pool service for cost recovery is one-half (1/2) on the basis of the assessed value of land and improvements and one-half (1/2) on the basis of the usage of the service. Do you support a new funding model for cost recovery for the Pool Service?

(Choose any 1 options)

- Yes, I support a new cost recovery split by one-third (1/3) assessed value of land and improvements, one-third (1/3) population and one-third (1/3) percentage of usage of the service.
- No, I do not support a new funding model.
- I would support an alternative funding model.

The current participants of the Ravensong Aquatic Centre pool service are Electoral Areas F, G, H, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach. Do you support the addition of Electoral Area E (Nanose Bay) to this service?



(Choose any 1 options)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Let us know how you heard about the project and this survey.

(Choose all that apply)

- Newspaper
- Radio
- RDN social media
- RDN website
- Mail out
- Word of mouth
- Other

Appendix F: Comments on Hard Copy Questionnaires

4th option pay for Ravensong from 2022 budget; 5th - Area E does not want pools. 6th Now parksville wants a pool. No pool!

RDN is focussed on carbon reduction...it is 60km return from Nanoose to Ravensong. I would burn \$10 of fuel to go to the pool and cause excess pollution to do so. As our land values are greater than all other areas those Directors who vote to increase taxes from Dist. E are basically doing a "tax grab"

This was a total waste of time, no engagement

Comments provided on the hard copy questionnaires had personal information removed (including name, contact information, and addresses). This aligns with the practice of the Regional District of Nanaimo and the collection of information through the survey.

The comments are presented in verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Appendix G: Correspondence

As per Regional District of Nanaimo practices, correspondence received includes the writers' name and community (where given). The comments are presented verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

A resident of Nanoose Bay for 25 years, I do NOT support the the proposed amendments to Bylaw *899 to include RDN Area E as a participant, or the proposed 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 population, usage and assessment funding formula.

Although I use pool facilities, I have never used the Ravensong pool facility. However, my family and our many out-of-town visitors visit Qualicum Beach frequently for many other reasons.

If you approve this tax grab our long history of spending thousands of dollars in Qualicum Beach at retailers, in the arts, at various services and in restaurants may shift to Nanaimo or other communities, simply because you will erode our fondness for Qualicum Beach. We will help you explain that to those Qualicum Beach tax payers.

I have used the pool-related facilities at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre many times and have taken many of our visitors of all ages there. Given the conveniently equidistant and very comprehensive facilities at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre it is not surprising that Nanoose Bay residents choose to go there rather than to Ravensong. Even an enlarged and more comprehensive Ravensong facility in Qualicum Beach would not make it more attractive to Nanoose Bay residents.

If people resident in Nanoose Bay choose to use the Ravensong facility they will do so and will pay daily use fees accordingly.

We also have the little pool at the Fairwinds Centre - and still most local residents choose the NAC for their pool experience.

I vehemently oppose this proposed initiative.

Respectfully
Richard Hudson

"Anne, congratulations on your role as Minister of Municipal Affairs. My wife and I moved from a townhouse in the Burnaby Deer Lake area to Nanoose Bay in late 2022. While living in our Burnaby townhouse, "local politics" was confined to our Strata Council and neighbourhood issues within a 2-block radius. Now that we have moved to the island, things have gotten out of hand. I hope you and/or Adam can explain some issues here that are unethical at least and illegal at worst.

Adam, I am writing to you in the hope you could explain why Nanoose residents are being forced to pay for Qualicum's Ravensong pool. As a former town councilor in Qualicum Beach, you might have some insights.

Do you think pools are luxuries that must be curtailed especially during economic downturns? Or, are they worth forcing people who are already overtaxed from their homes sooner rather than later?

Do you think it is ethical to deny Nanoose residents a chance to vote on something that less than 5% actually support?

If Qualicum can't pay for their own pool, why don't they increase their local tax base by allowing more people to move there? According to the latest census, Qualicum Beach grew their population less than every other community in Oceanside. Are they deliberately staying small and "quaint" knowing they can force other communities that are sprawling to pay for their infrastructure?"

Thanks for offering a survey. While you didn't ask, our opinion is that it is Parksville that needs a pool. We probably wouldn't object to being taxed for that because Parksville needs recreational facilities for the young families. Why not use the curling club building for a pool in Parksville? Lots of parking and attached to many other recreational facilities. EVERYONE we have spoken to supports this idea.

Thanks,

Ian McInnis
Nanoose Bay

By the way, taxing or funding for a pool, when most of us do not have Family Doctors is blindingly outrageous. Just like the proposal to renovate the museum when we have homeless sleeping on the streets.

As our elected officials, please get the priorities straight:

#1: Access to medical care

#2: Access to affordable housing

Recreational luxuries come after you have medical care and only when you have a warm and safe home!

Thank you,
Patricia

Dear Chair and Directors RDN

Re: Bylaw # 899

I vote against:

1) changing funding model

2) adding Electoral Area E to participating area

Area E in a referendum voted against participating in the Ravensong Pool project. If Area E's status is to be changed it should go to a referendum in Area E.

I tried to do your online survey but couldn't remember my password and couldn't figure out on your site how to change my password

Sincerely,

Alexandra Doyle
Area E - Nanoose Bay

Dear Directors of the Regional District of Nanaimo Re: Amendment Bylaw 899.02

I am writing with regard to the proposed Bylaw 899.02. In doing so, I want you to understand not only how strongly I feel in opposing this bylaw but also the reasons for my opposition:

1. There seems to be no evidence of a democratic process in devolving costs to Area E. In 1993 residents of Nanoose Bay voted by referendum not to participate in the construction and maintenance of the Ravensong Pool. Please will you explain why are we not being given the opportunity as a community to vote once again?
2. Only a small minority of users are Nanoose Bay residents. Most residents choose to use other pools rather than travel to Qualicum. Would you not agree that location may be the reason for this and reflect on the inappropriateness of imposing this bylaw on our community?
3. The apportioning of the proposed taxation seems totally inappropriate given the small number of Nanoose Bay property owners who actually use the pool. Only 3.9% of users are from Nanoose Bay. The proposal is to tax all property owners 12% of capital and operating costs. Would you truly consider this a fair apportioning of costs?
4. Oceanside has changed hugely in the past 30 years and markedly so in the past 20 years.

Parksville is now the most urbanised Oceanside community with ongoing dense construction. It therefore makes sense for it to be the centre for improved sports facilities. We are all aware there is now an ongoing discussion into building a much-needed recreational centre in the city. Ideally the Parksville proposal would be the obvious place to invest capital funds by locating a new pool there. It could comprehensively provide all the add-ons that would support a range of community needs. It would also demonstrate political, responsible and respectful foresight. Would you not consider the Parksville proposal to be the obvious place to invest capital funds by locating a new competition sized pool there?

Would you also consider this a better and longer term option than ploughing yet more money into an old pool that, although requiring some maintenance and upgrades, already well serves the small community in Qualicum.

This is a time of economic hardship. Nanoose Bay has many residents who have low or fixed incomes. Is this the time to impose an inappropriate, further and unwarranted financial burden? There is no shame in reviewing your proposal and, in the light of new information, re-thinking and rescinding bylaw 899.02.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Davies



Dear Heath :

Thank you for this information. Yes I, as a resident of Area E, do have some concerns.

I, like many other residents of Area E, attended the session at Nanoose Place on 4 Jan. I was expecting a presentation, to be followed by discussion. Instead, we were confronted by a number of boards, which showed the proposal to add Area E to the tax base for the Ravensong Pool - a facility that we did not want, were not consulted for, and which very few of us actually use. The 4 Jan event was information without engagement or consultation ! We were left with the feeling that Parksville & Qualicum just want our tax money - it raises the taxes of Area E and lowers everyone else's ! A fait accompli, without listening to the real concerns of Area E residents ??

Tony Eastham

Dear Mr. Banman & Mr. Mahoney

I understand you are the RDN staff contacts committed to ensuring that any emails or letters you receive will be sent to the consultants preparing the public engagement report for the RDN Board. We want to make you aware of the petition that myself and my committee prepared and published recently, in electronic format, on the "ipetitions.com" platform which is used for such purposes. We published it 5 days ago and currently have 387 signatures and 199 comments. I strongly encourage you to follow this petition and read the comments as they will give you a very good idea of the mood of the Electoral Area E property owners on this matter. I intend to print the petition once we have given it a bit more time and attach it to a presentation I will make, together with a delegation, to the RDN Board within the next month. You will see we are requiring signers to provide their addresses, which while you can not see them on the public petition for privacy reasons, I can see them and will be able to print them out as the "host" of the petition when I prepare for the presentation, so it will be clear where people that are signing reside.

The link to the petition is: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-unfair-taxation-of-nanoose-property-owners>

We will be promoting, through our various organizations in Nanoose, a direct letter writing and email campaign starting this week to have people express their thoughts and opinions to the Board and/or Ministry as appropriate in that manner as well.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require any clarification at this point.

Regards,
Shirley Vaux

Dear Mr. Mahoney.

I am sending this email over concern regarding the Ravensong Pool. I am an Area E resident and have never used the pool having resided in the area for 29 years. I like to use a pool but have not done so in a few years, when I did I used Fairwinds Rec. Centre. I would not even consider driving all the way to Qualicum and back in the Winter or any other time of the year to use the pool. For most residence in this area it would be at least a 50 Km. return journey or more. For our residents that would like to use the pool, they should pay an extra fee as Area E should not be participating in the maintenance or repair for Ravensong pool as we have not had the opportunity to have a referendum. It is very clear that some of the RDN Board want to have Nanoose Bay Area E pay for a facility that clearly isn't used by our Community. Naturally they want Area E to help lower their taxes in areas that use the facility. The fact that Areas that supported this pool by referendum in 1993 chose to support it. Well, Area E has never had that chance to have their say and now it is purposed that all areas have a referendum on the pool once again. Wait just a minute! This is NOT DEMOCRACY plain and simple. They voted on the pool in 1993 and they can continue to support it. Other areas in the RDN should not be allowed to force Area E in to paying for a facility used by SO few.

I am sure that in the future there will be a pool facility in Parksville and I'm sure by a fair and democratic manner Area E will be given an opportunity to have their say by a referendum at that time. I am also sure Area E would want to participate in such a facility. Do not try and include Area E in something we have not had our say in.

The survey did not give adequate opportunity for comments from Area E citizens. The surveys used to compile information is very outdated and has little validity in 2023.

Thankyou for ensuring my concerns are received by the Pubic Engagement Consultant.

Susan Rogers
Concerned Area E resident.

Dear Ms. Craig,

Re: Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw #899

We are residents of Area E, Nanoose Bay. As you are Board Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo, we must voice our disapproval of the proposed passing of Bylaw #899.

Our elected Director of Area E, Mr. Bob Rogers has clearly made the RDN aware that the residents of Nanoose Bay are generally not in favour of this action by the RDN. We support his position.

We object to the idea of adding Area E to the tax base just to help pay for Ravensong Aquatic Centre. Our area holds the highest 2023 Property Assessments in the region... how convenient for the Board to try to mandate us into the fold to pay for a pool two towns and 30 minutes away!

A decision of this magnitude should be made by the residents of Area E... NOT by a few Directors of the RDN. You are taking away our basic right to vote on this matter.

In today's economic and global uncertainty, we expect the RDN Board to exercise more fiscal responsibility. We desperately need more doctors, better policing, assistance for the homeless and handicapped along with more funds to educate our children and repair our infrastructure.

The Board needs to reset its priorities and give us back our right to vote.

Yours truly,
Tom and Shirley Brown
Nanoose Bay. B.C.

Dear RDN Directors,

I am writing to personally let you know I am not in agreement with Amendment Bylaw 899.02 proposing to add us to the funding of the Ravensong Pool in Qualicum Beach, thereby significantly increasing our property taxes for a service I do not use. The pool is far too distant from Nanoose Bay and I have never used it, nor has anyone else we know in this area. We here in Nanoose have other more viable options if we need to use a swimming facility, including private pools in both Fairwinds and Pacific Shores. These facilities are close and, taking into account the cost of travel from here to Qualicum for that pool, are more cost effective even after paying a membership fee. Another better option for people who do want to use pools would be to use Nanaimo pools so the trip can be multiple purpose allowing people to also pick up supplies, do grocery shopping, go to other appointments, and so forth. Living away from an urban centre, we always try to limit single purpose trips to other communities such as a trip to Qualicum Beach to use a recreation facility of any kind. It is just not reasonable or fair to tax us for the maintenance and capital costs for the Ravensong pool. If there is any charge at all it should be pay per use, not a tax.

I am asking you to do the right thing and rescind Amendment Bylaw 899.02.

Yours truly,
Donna Young
Nanoose Bay, B.C.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my unwavering opposition to the above stated amendment. It is my understanding that we are still living in a democratically elected country, with representatives that hold office whether at federal, provincial or municipal levels.

The approach of the RDN Board to ultimately decide favour to aid in the financing of an existing facility without even approaching the Electoral area, designated E, is rather an act of autocracy.

The Ravensong pool, as noted by a completed survey attests that participation in the use of that facility would be likened to a handful of participants from Electoral Area E.

Those members that made this decision as well as their consultants will continue to face the wrath of electors if this amendment is not rescinded. A public apology from all involved is the least I will be expecting.

Thank you for your continuing attention.

Marcel Lalonde
Nanoose Bay

Dear sir:

I am writing today to express my concern and opposition to the Ravensong Pool Amendment Bylaw 899.02 being considered by the RDN in respect to the funding of the Raven Song Pool facility in the Town of Qualicum.

In my opinion the design of this bylaw funding model and the proposed referendum seems flawed. There is a lack of logic and equity in it that I am surprised isn't obvious to most, especially our RDN staff and Area Representatives.

As I understand it, if this bylaw is put to a referendum, most of the affected areas and most of the substantial beneficiaries of the facility will be asked to pay proportionately less than they were, with the extra burden being tipped to the minority and marginal beneficiaries of the facility, area E tax payers. Where the majority have everything to gain, at the expense of the minority, who wouldn't vote for that? Perhaps only the minority, those in Area E.

My informal polling has most in my area using local private facilities such as in Fairwinds or migrating to Nanaimo, not Qualicum. If my informal polling is correct, doesn't it make sense that area E should be funding facilities in Nanaimo? And in which case should the funding formula be the same as that used for Gabriola Island and Cedar?

I am of the view the residents of area E be given real choice and participation in the matter rather than the coercive and inequitable plan that is in front of you.

I believe if the RDN follows through with this bylaw as currently designed, aside from adopting a plan with its obvious flaws, they are setting a dangerous precedent for future unequitable funding models within the district and the conflicts that will arise.

Regards,
Tom Bakker
Nanoose Bay

Dear Vanessa,

As resident of Nanoose Bay (Electoral Area E) I am writing to let you know that I am against being forced to pay for Qualicum Beach's Ravensong Pool.

Recently, I attended an Open House on this subject. When someone in the room of about 30 people asked for a show of hands from those willing to support Ravensong, only 1 person put up her hand. None of my friends and neighbours support it either. So, less than 5% of all Nanoose residents support this tax grab. If you don't believe me, hold a referendum here. The technology to do this is readily available. I am even willing to help.

If you too think Nanoose residents don't want this new tax AND you still proceed with it anyways, then you are doubling down on your ethics that got us here in the first place. I am not sure how a bylaw such as 899 (and 899.02 specifically) was even allowed to be tabled. It is an abuse of power.

The fairest way to pay for a pool is through user fees. If you still can't afford it and you think there is some public good in it, then articulate that AND ask the residents of Qualicum Beach to pay for it. The worst thing is to force non-residents to pay for it. If you tell yourself that I am already a ""resident"" of Qualicum Beach, please believe me when I tell you that I only go there a couple times a year. It is a 30 minutes drive from here; my wife and I both work and we only have 1 car. If you still force me to pay for Ravensong, I will boycott Qualicum Beach and every other Electoral Area that votes to make me pay for it. Don't play the residents of the Regional District of Nanaimo off against each other. It is bad politics.

When I want to swim, I go to the beach. If we all swam in the Salish Sea, maybe we would take better care of it.

Sincerely,

Ian McInnis
Nanoose Bay, BC

Electoral area E is closer to Nanaimo (for pool useage) than it is to Qualicum Beach)

- The estimated useage from Area E does not seem realistic given that there is a pool at Fairwinds
- The funding model being proposed appears to be an attempt to capitalize on the larger assessed values of property in Area E
- The proposed funding model may be workable (?) even if it doesn't include Area E
- Since the city of Parksville is contemplating the construction of a new pool, it would seem that this funding model will need further modification. This issue has to be included as changes are considered
- As I understand it, consideration is being given to twinning Ravensong pool
- If Parksville proceeds with their plans, what impact will this have on the twinning proposal for Ravensong
- I believe that costs should be covered by:
 - » Actual users of the facility
 - » Property value of the actual "catchment area" of potential users
 - » RDN investment in its own facility

Good afternoon - RDN, Board, Councillors, and Inspector of Municipalities-

I have listened & viewed so many of the past board meetings recently just to try and figure out what was happening with Ravensong Aquatic Centre RDN Bylaw 899. The Open House forums provided PowerPoint presentations, charts and studies, but there needs to be open communication – in person, providing an opportunity for questions and answers.

I was shocked to see how much time and money has been spent on this issue. I view this as a back door, under handed approach by a few Directors to getting what they want and Area E not having a say. This is how we got to this point. This approach does not build communities. Area "E" has been black marked for (comments made during board meetings)

- Not paying usage fees at the pool
- Not paying into the reserve fund
- Having not paid for the cost of the pool
- Not paying their fair share.

I would have paid into all of this had it included Area "E" in the vote and it PASSED. But back in 1993 Area E was EXCLUDED from voting. (a Board decision to get the outcome they wanted) If we had been included in the vote, the pool probably wouldn't have passed, and the pool would not have been built, and this wouldn't be an issue. We had no voice in the matter. So I don't appreciate the tone of some of the Board when they point a finger at Area E. Take a look, three fingers are pointing back at you. This issue has been discussed so much that even the board is questioning the next step.

I'm hoping the Board will make the correct decision and move on with business. This issue is really an issue that can have a very detrimental outcome if people feel like they have no say. I have always enjoyed being a part of the community and like the way we have a voice. Whether you agree with the voice, you owe it to Area E to have one. I have spent hours listening to yours.

This was a bad decision made by the Directors in 1993, Area "E" voice was muted then, don't make the same mistake now.

Yes, Ravensong Pool should be updated, but I can't see spending money on a big expansion when we are considering a pool in Parksville. Maybe the Board should spend time on this discussion instead of spending money and time on a bylaw change.

We respectfully request your support in overruling the proposed amendment to change Bylaw 899 which FORCES "Area E" to be a participant in the Ravensong Pool Service without Area "E" having an electoral vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darcie & Bryan Sander

Good afternoon

I am writing to only four and I hope that is sufficient to get my view heard on the taxation bylaw for the pool.

I live in Nanoose Bay, I have a pool membership at the Pacific Resort and I have the option of the Fairwinds Wellness centre if I wish.

I have not ever used the Qualicum Pool, and never will. Distance is a factor in my decision, a round trip is about 60 km for me and with the price of gas I would use about \$15.00 of gas every visit, plus the usage fee. If the tax is also added you can see why I would not support such a bylaw. It is the distance and also the time that would explain why only 4% of the usage count comes from Nanoose, and that percentage number alone should tell why so many are against the bylaw.

I am not sure how this bylaw came into being, who thought this was a good idea but it does come down to a simple cash grab. That is not how this should work. If a new pool was to be situated in the Parksville area that would be an entirely different matter.

Right now I would paraphrase something from our history
""taxation despite representation""

I do hope the sane voices are heard on this issue.

Regards
Glen Bonderud
Nanoose Bay, BC

Good afternoon,

We have attached a letter to be forwarded to Doug Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer as his contact information is unavailable to us. Dean Banman, Manager of Recreation Services is copied as he suggested that any feedback on the Open House could be forwarded to him. This letter pertains to the District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Establishment Bylaw #899 and addresses the disappointment Nanoose residents experienced at the Open House held on January 4th 2023. Our letter also reiterates the need for a formal referendum to be held for the Electoral Area E Electors. It is our understanding that our input provided through the 4-statement survey, the Open House and this additional submission sent directly to the RDN will be included in the final report to the Board. Thanks in advance for forwarding the email and letter to Mr. Holmes.

Additionally, we will also be following up with the Inspector of Municipalities.

Regards,
Ian and Sheila Cruikshank
Nanoose Bay, BC.

Hello Ms. Craig,

Thank you for your quick reply.

Yes, we filled out the survey a few weeks ago and attended an open house at Nanoose Centre earlier this month.

We must say, many of those who attended the open house were very disappointed and some... outright angry. Most thought there would be a formal presentation from the RDN followed by a question and answer period where everyone could hear each other's comments and concerns. To have this type of venue format, particularly for those residents in Area E who are being impacted the most, shows a complete lack of sensitivity or care about what we have to say. It seems like the RDN has already made up their minds and are just going through the motions to notify the community. We suspect this was chosen by design and feel it has done nothing but spawn mistrust.

The residents of Area E should be the ones voting on their participation in the Ravensong Aquatic Centre...NOT the RDN.

Tom and Shirley Brown

Hello Ms. Craig.

I am a permanent resident of Nanoose Bay. I have stayed fairly quiet on this issue until discovering that my taxes will be increasing by about \$250 per year. The Ravensong facility is so far from the Beachcomber area of Nanoose Bay, where I live, that there is no way I can imagine ever using this facility. My area of the RDN receives particularly low value for the taxes already paid because of the almost non-existent winter road maintenance, the generally poor condition of many asphalted road areas, and the fact that many of us perform maintenance/cleanup on large trees on RDN road margins adjacent to our properties. The alternative to performing this maintenance (for free) is to wait for inevitable wind and ice damage to the trees and to our properties.

The alternative to including Electoral area E in this project's "tax catch" is user-pay, and/or a less massive renovation. A blatant and naked tax-grab on an area whose members will never use the facility is not acceptable. Your council and committees have had some correspondence on this issue already. I have not seen much public response from the RDN. Please understand we are committed to changing this unreasonable, unfair change to the applicable bylaw.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rob Randall . Nanoose Bay.

Hello,

I oppose the proposed Ravensong Pool Amendment Bylaw 899.02.

I seldom go to Qualicum and I've never used the Ravensong Pool. Asking me to pay for it seems arbitrary and inequitable.

I am perplexed as to why this has even been proposed. Nanoose Bay residents do not consider Qualicum part of their community. If we can't access what we need in Nanoose Bay, we are much more likely to head into Nanaimo than venture north to Qualicum.

I believe if the RDN follows through with this bylaw as currently designed they are setting a dangerous precedent for future inequitable funding models within the district and the resulting conflicts that will arise.

Regards,

Barbra Sundquist

Nanoose Bay

Hello, Just a suggestion, why not charge extra for out of area residents like Nanoose, Parksville! These areas consist of at least half the users! I myself go 4-5 times a week to the 2:30 swim , (I live in Qualicum) many from outside the qualicum area and it is a very quiet time. no need for any extra pool space!! It's the morning exercise that is the issue! I have gone a few times and will not go again, During the covid time was great, sign up and limited users. The pool is a gem as it is please preserve it or just add on dig a hole by the civic centre join then; ta da its big.

Thanks for your time
Shurli Pincombe

Hello,

As a Nanoose Bay resident I do not agree to any tax participation for Ravensong Pool, or being forced to be a participant in Bylaw 899.02.

Ravensong is 60 km's (round trip) from my home, and it would take one hour of driving. I would never drive 60 km's to use any pool, or recreation facility.

It is irrational to think that a tax payer from Nanoose Bay should pay for the facilities in Qualicum Beach.

Regards,
Esther and Robert Reed
Nanoose Bay, BC

Hello,

I am a home owner and resident in the Nanoose Bay area – Electoral Area E of the RDN.

I understand that a presentation from concerned Area E residents is scheduled for the March 28, 2023 RDN board meeting. I am unable to attend the meeting, but would like to register my support of their opposition to the proposed Bylaw Amendment 899.02. I do not agree to any tax participation by Area E for the Ravensong Pool, or being a forced participant in Bylaw 899.02.

I have also signed the on-line petition against the proposed RDN Bylaw Amendment 899.02.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lance Hogarth
Nanoose Bay, BC

Hello,

We are residents of Qualicum Beach. We are retired and on a fixed income. We have read that one of the proposals for paying for the pool is to tax people based on their property values. We would like to tell you that we feel this is very unfair and is another expense that many of the retired people in our community cannot afford. Please base this tax on personal income. It is a much more equitable way to provide the pool funding. Having a valuable property often just means that the owners have more expenses...not necessarily more available income.

Thanks so much,

Terry and Merle Graff
Qualicum Beach, BC

Hello,

We live in Nanoose at 2001 Seahaven Rd. We both LOVE to swim. At various times in our adult lives, we've been involved in Masters Swimming, in Triathlon speed swimming classes, and have swam lengths just for the pleasure of it.

We have owned our property on Seahaven since 2002. To the best of my recollection, we have been to Ravensong ONLY ONCE. And that was when our boys were young and we were desperate for a rainy-day destination outside of the house.

Ravensong is just too far away. 20 minutes each way of highway driving for a 30 minute swim??? It's just not happening in our world. It takes too long, and it is environmentally irresponsible. And on that note, I find it ironic that RDN (which promotes itself as being environmentally forward) should suggest that it is reasonable for me to do so.

So, this is our note to express the displeasure of both of us at the proposed inclusion of Area E in the funding for Ravensong.

Yours truly,
Susan and Geoff Hyatt

p.s. We would be THRILLED to vote for and financially support a local pool, either in Nanoose or Parksville. Our secondary concern with the proposed inclusion of Area E in paying for Ravensong is that, by funding a pool in Qualicum Beach, there is an implied assumption that we are using it and thus there is no need for a pool closer to home. We cannot understand why there isn't a proposed pool in Parksville. Given that Parksville has more young families AND is making a push for diversified housing, it makes sense to keep Ravensong the way it is (with only necessary repairs as needed) and put in a 25+ meter pool in Parksville.

Hello,

I resent being told that I have to support the proposal.

I live in Nanoose Bay and have never used the Qualicum Beach pool.

I have used the Nanaimo pool.

It would be easy to determine what percentage of Nanoose Bay use the Ravensong pool.

A few years ago we were advised that a survey showed that only 4% of the Nanoose Bay population make use of Ravensong.

Why then should we pay for the use?

Make the users pay their fair share.

Thank you

Lewis Vermeulen

Hi - I have filled out the survey and it said to add comments to ""Who's Listening"" and it was vague to me how to get to someone and ended up here with you two. Please forward if necessary my personal comments as a resident of Nanoose Bay:

It is simply too far to go.

There is the pool at Fairwinds Wellness Centre for anyone who is in the Nanoose Bay ""E"" . I talked to many of the members on their view. Same opinion. It is not fair for us to be involved with Ravensong upgrades that we don't and won't go to.

We are roughly half way between Nanaimo & Parksville so anyone who wants to swim comes to this closest pool. You do NOT have to be a member to go swim there.

In particular people like myself who have mobility issues, it is completely accessible for ""us""and are part of this largely ""retirement community"" who go there; it is 2 minutes from my home.

With how much we are already taxed to death for and another raise in them this year, a) I have limited disability income, b) the price of gas, c) I am supporting my local community d) keeping my carbon footprint very small!

Honestly, what more can you ask for with a community like this way over here?

Thank you for listening - I do hope my comments are added to the decision makers considerations.

astewart

Hi Dean,

I attended yesterday's (January 9) virtual open house. Please convey my thanks to Colleen and the rest of your team for a job well done. And encouraging those of us with questions to follow-up with you or Heath. The following questions came to my little brain as I listened. Apologies if these have been answered elsewhere in the project documents.

For comparison, what is the funding algorithm, and who are the participating communities, for the Oceanside Arena?

For the 2/3 requirement, is it 4 or more of the six, one vote each? (QB, P, E, F, G, H), or does it need five of the seven RDN Directors of those areas (Parksville having two votes)?

FAQ #14 reads to me like approval could be reached if P, Q, G and H voted in favour of the two bylaw amendments. I am still confused as to if, when and why a referendum would be required and who would be eligible to vote on it and what exactly would the question be?

For your property assessment calculations, are the numerous 5+ acre estates that carry a token farm land valuation (e.g. \$5,000) factored in at their real value (about \$850,000 land only here in QB)?

Again, kudos to your team for what must be a tedious number of repeat sessions for you. The commitment to transparency is commended.

Gil Sampson,
Qualicum Beach

Hi Heath and Dean,

Can you please inform the survey consultant that I did the survey several weeks ago, well before the Open House in Nanoose, and completed it without having all of the information. I would send it myself however I do not see a contact method.

I would still vote No for Area E, however I would not have voted for either one of the funding formulas given what I know now.

I wonder how many others feel the same.

Thank you,

Rudi Widdershoven
Nanoose Bay, BC"

Hi,

I would have like to provide feedback on this proposal (in addition to survey) but the instructions at bottom of survey for adding feedback were unclear and I could not find where to add comments. A simple link would have been most appreciated and easier for most to use I am sure.

I will add my comment here - please forward to appropriate person.

In general I am very supportive of community projects and anything that provides services that encourage health and fitness is good for all.

However regarding the Ravensong pool proposal I have to disagree. I live in Nanoose and it is very, very unlikely that many id any Nanoose residents will travel to this pool for swimming. It is just not practical for area E.

I would rather see my tax dollars more aligned with those that actually will use these facilities.

TIA,
Ed Darte

I agree with xxxxx, unfortunately I can't attend that meeting. Even the survey that was sent out was flawed IMHO. I don't object to the Ravensong pool being updated per se. I just don't think that our area which has such a low per cent age of people that use it should be forced to pay for it. Perhaps user fees for those from our area who actually go there would be more appropriate.

Unfortunately, the survey didn't allow for options. If you support the idea but don't think we should be part of the funding solution you had no choice. The options offered predetermined that the pool would be paid for in some capacity by this local area and only offered that as a funding option.

This should have gone to a referendum with appropriate options so that we could have a legitimate say. This is still taxation without representation and is more likely taxation by coercion.

Jim Glassford

I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed amendment to Bylaw 899 which would include Electoral Area E as a participating area to the Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

I am a home owner in Area E in Nanoose Bay and I would view this as an extremely dangerous precedent and a tax grab. I do not think this facility serves Area E and Area E should not be part of any tax participation in the funding of Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

I have signed the petition against Bylaw 899.02 and I will be in attendance at the March 28th meeting.

Don Jeffers
Nanoose Bay, BC

I feel it is completely ridiculous to include Area E in funding for Ravensong as per Bylaw 889. Area E was deliberately not included in the original bylaw regarding funding for Ravensong nor have they been allowed to partake in any discussions regarding operating costs since the pool was opened. This Bylaw 899 is a slap in the face to Area E residents.

Harry Keen

I have attended a recent Open House and obtained information re the proposed changes to by-law #899. I have responded to your survey and read info on your website. As a 23 year resident of Area E I am strongly opposed to any changes to the current by-law #899. I have in the past used the Ravensong pool. It is a good facility, however, it does not meet the needs of Area E residents whose usage ranges from 3.8 % to 4%. I would support a pool in Parksville and know other .area E residents who would do the same.

Changes to the current by law are only the tip of the iceberg. Current upgrades to the lobby, offices and meeting rooms are estimated to increase our taxes by approximately \$100 a year. However, should a pool be built in Parksville Area E will in all likelihood want to include area E in their tax assessment. It makes no sense to amend a by-law #899 to have Area E residents support two pools. It is my understanding that should a pool not be built in Parksville, the Ravensong will plan a second pool. Parksville is the location best suited for a new pool. It has a growing population of young families and a larger population than Qualicum. It would also serve Area E much better. Asking us to pay for more at Ravensong is unacceptable. We know that should the by-law be amended, our annual taxes would increase by far more than the \$100 in the future.

AREA E WITH IS SMALL POPULATION , MINUSCULE USAGE AND ITS HIGHEST PROPERTY VALUES WOULD BE USED TO HELP REDUCE TAXES IN OTHER AREAS NOW AND IN THE FOREVER FUTURE. PLEASE DO NOT FORCE THE AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAW #899.

A referendum is needed to settle this matter. It should be voted on by Area E residents alone. Our wants and needs cannot be addressed by votes from the other affected areas. Area E is independent and should remain so until its residents choose to become part of the larger areas and municipalities.

Bev Watson

I have just completed the survey and felt it was woefully lacking in seeking information that should be considered when the RDN makes this decision.

I feel you should be considering why the people of area e are for or against this proposal I have been a resident of Nanoose for over 15 years. When I lived on the mainland I used our local pool 2 to 3 times a week. When I moved here, I was surprised that there was no pool in Parksville. I did find out that Pacific shores sold passes to their pool and my neighbour and I went there until they had financial problems and stopped allowing non owners to use their pool. Qualicum is too far to drive regularly to swim so swimming is no longer in my fitness plan. With rising gas prices this it is even more unlikely we could afford to drive that far for regular pool use. I have never been in the Ravensong pool in the 15 years we have lived here.

Thank you for your kind attention
Shelley Seniuk.

I hope that my user name says it all. Doctors, not pools. Why are we spending all this money and time and staffing on a pool, when most of us can't get medical attention? All these committees and government people spending my taxes on a pool? Outrageous and infuriating! This is as frustrating as that money that was almost spent redoing the Victoria Museum. Get your priorities straight please!

I just received a mail notification in regards to the proposed bylaw changes for the Ravensong funding model.

This was placed in my mailbox one week after the Parksville open house event had taken place. I then went on line to look for information on what "population based" funding actually means. It is not explained anywhere on your site. I suspect it will mean the tax payer funds two thirds rather than one half of the cost.

You also claim to have an FAQ page that is updated regularly. No link was provided so cannot browse the FAQ section.

Very poor communication model. I suggest you hire some people who can get the message out in a timely fashion!

Sincerely,

Colin Frame

I strongly oppose the passage of this Amendment.

On the surface this proposed plan to expand the tax base to meet the budget requirements of 'other' Communities within the RDN is seriously flawed and potentially a dangerous precedent. A 'user' pay model would be much more appropriate.

Today, I'm even more convinced that the proposed taxation changes are akin to a "Ponzi Scheme". At best it is a very slippery slope which will permit the imposition of taxation for ANY future expenditures by elected representatives who have ZERO accountability to me or my neighbours. I cannot vote for or against these "Representatives". They have absolutely no accountability to me or my neighbours. If I could vote or campaign against these representatives I certainly would. Today, it's the operations of the pool, tomorrow will it be the expansion of the Raven Song pool, an Ice Rink and/or "OTHER" facilities or services.

Indeed a potentially slippery slope to be treading on. This action highlights a more fundamental problem with the structure of the RDN whereby our single vote is so easily made irrelevant. Any time the RDN budget in far away Communities requires additional cash for their pet project will I have additional taxation imposed upon me and my neighbours? If this taxation model is allowed to go through will elected representatives who have no accountability to me "fix" their problem by expanding their tax base with the stroke of a pen?

This may be "legal" within the current structure and governance of the RDN but it feels very wrong!

Regards,

David Schock
Nanoose Bay

I strongly oppose the plan to tax Nanoose Bay residents to support Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

As Nanoose Bay residents for 24 years we have NEVER even considered going there. We use the great facility in Nanaimo.

Richard Hudson

I was of the understanding another pool is needed in this area because of the high usage. Does expanding the area to now include Nanoose not exacerbate this situation? What exactly does the new proposed plan mean dollar wise to the tax payers of Qualicum Beach. Does this mean the amount each household is taxed would be reduced? I would appreciate clarification. Many thanks.

Ellen Brown
Qualicum Beach

I wish to have the following text placed on the agenda for the meeting scheduled to debate and decide the sharing of Ravensong pool taxation.:

All directors will be aware that there is considerable concern on the part of Area E residents with respect to the proposed tax burden (Bylaw Amendment 899.02) on Nanoose Bay relating to the above proposed project. It has been determined that a very small fraction of Nanoose residents (less than 5%) currently use the existing facility in Qualicum Beach and there's very little likelihood that this level of participation will change, given the travel time to Qualicum Beach . The plan to impose full share taxation on Area E is not only unfair but is also illogical.

When taxation is not strongly linked to benefit, it most often generates political opposition and subsequent political action. When such a disjuncture occurs, perhaps even more importantly, it undermines faith in tax policy and encourages similar future decisions. In other words it can set an undesirable precedent, respecting unsound and opportunistic decisions.

The estimated cost for this project, notwithstanding the above concerns, is considerable. I hope that the estimate has been thoroughly vetted by peer review and quantity assessment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gearald Thompson, Nanoose Bay

I would like to be counted as not in favor. I am a Nanoose Bay tax payer

I'm hoping the Board will make the correct decision and move on with business. This issue is really an issue that can have a very detrimental outcome if people feel like they have no say. I have always enjoyed being a part of the community and like the way we have a voice. Whether you agree with the voice, you owe it to Area E to have one. I have spent hours listening to yours.

This was a bad decision made by the Directors in 1993, Area "E" voice was muted then, don't make the same mistake now.

Yes, Ravensong Pool should be updated, but I can't see spending money on a big expansion when we are considering a pool in Parksville. Maybe the Board should spend time on this discussion instead of spending money and time on a bylaw change.

We respectfully request your support in overruling the proposed amendment to change Bylaw 899 which FORCES ""Area E"" to be a participant in the Ravensong Pool Service without Area ""E"" having a electoral vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darcie & Bryan Sander

Ms Craig

I am writing regarding the RDN Bylaw#899. I am a Nanoose Bay resident and have owned property here since 1977 and lived here permanently since 2011. I have attended council meetings since we bought in Nanoose Bay. I know the history of the Ravensong Pool. The meetings are all online if one chooses to look. I feel the RDN is not being transparent with the electorate. Perhaps some directors should take the time to review the meetings re the pool to familiarize themselves with the history.

- Nanoose Bay has 13% of the region's population and 18% of the region's property assessment value. The 1/3 1/3 proposal of Bylaw #899 is neither fair nor equitable. Under this proposal Nanoose residents will be paying 12% of the cost of the renovations and ongoing maintenance. We all know the actual cost of these renovations will be much higher.

- In 2015 only 3.9% of usage of Ravensong was by Nanoose residents... down 19% since 2010.

Obviously if this bylaw goes to referendum we only have 13% of the districts population...a slam dunk! If the bylaw is mandated Electoral District E will have but one seat at the table....hmmm another slam dunk. Something doesn't smell right here!! I for one do not want to be any part of this manipulation.

Dianne Pettersen

Ravensong pool tax...the impending RDN bylaw change (bylaw899)

We object on being taxed for something that 97 percent of the Nanoose Bay residences do not use. We will strongly support financially, to fight this bylaw in court.

Lynn and Bill Moore, Nanoose Bay

Re: Rescinding of bylaw 899.02

We don't understand why the RDN seems to think it is now appropriate to include Electoral Area E in the tax grab for the Ravensong Pool Facility in Qualicum.

To our knowledge nothing has changed from the original vote in 1993. Nanoose is no closer to this facility than it was then and the residents of Electoral Area E are still, quite likely, amongst the least likely to use the pool. It is especially galling that other Electoral Areas, with arguably a much higher percentage of users, would benefit from a tax decrease as a result. 12% of the cost for 3.9% usage is not justifiable.

We're quite sure that the Nanoose area already has some of the highest tax rates in the District, so this has every appearance of going after the "fatted calf".

In addition, the estimated \$97.00 per million is based on today's dollars, like most projects in B.C. we feel confident in stating that it is rare for a project to come in on time & on budget, so at best this is a guesstimate. The 2021 vote to include Electoral Area E must be rescinded.

David & Candace Freestone
Nanoose Bay, BC

The new funding model for the aquatic centre is a tax grab by the town of Qualicum Beach from the residents of Nanoose Bay. There has obviously been a severe lack of planning and political supervision in the operation of the centre. There is no way that a public swimming facility should not have a robust preventative maintenance program. It is not the first pool to be built and operated. Did the facility supervision and Qualicum Beach politicians think the facility would maintain itself?

There has obviously been a serious lack of thought and oversight in the pool's operation, and the fault lies directly with the mayors and councils of Qualicum Beach. It would behoove aforesaid to finance the renovations and set facility prices to recover the costs. We have no desire to use the pool as it is too far from Nanoose Bay to be considered at all convenient. It is quicker for us to go to a pool in Nanaimo.

Please consider us as definitely opposed to the new funding model as it is unfair to the residents of Nanoose Bay.

Dalsin Morrison and Roxanne Bunyan
Nanoose Bay

The proposal that Nanoose Bay contribute unproportioned amounts of tax money should not go ahead as proposed. It should be based on current accurate data proportional to use.

It saddles the Nanoose Bay taxpayers to the direct advantage of the Qualicum Beach ratepayers.

If a referendum was held the Nanoose Bay ratepayers should be asked if they want to pay an unproportioned amount towards the pool.

The other option is to have the non resident users of the pool pay a greater amount than local ratepayers.

Chris Kwiatkowski Nanoose Bay

The survey does not allow comments. I put in supporting an alternative funding but was not given the chance to say what that was. I want 50%usage, and 1/4 the other 2

The whole "RDN" thing is confusing. I don't know the difference between RDN admin and Ravensong admin... seems there is ?? Overlap and one should know what the other is up to and what the other is spending money on?? RDN was all over this card mail out, and the feedback I submitted was sent by email to the address noted on the card, so why am I being told that you had nothing to do with the card mail out????? I doubt I was a single person who had duplicate mail out.... Maybe the only discerning (complaining, and crabby)recipient of duplicate cards in the mail. It takes time to submit a response and I did; others might not and just trash the duplicate mail out. All I know is it takes a tole on printing, paper(trees) postage, and my tax dollar, and now, my time to report the whole wasted mail out. I have no faith in the whole Ravensong Renovation process being lead by fiscally responsible people and processes!

Sincerely, Joan Clevelan Parksville

To all Members of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors:

We are writing to protest the implementation of Bylaw 899.02 and ask that it be rescinded for the following reasons:

1. It is undemocratic because it is being imposed on us without giving us a voice.
2. It is unfair to increase our property tax for a pool that we do not use because it is too far– 30 kms from our house.
3. Only 3.9% of users are from Nanoose Bay – 96.1% of users are from the other electoral areas. Therefore they should be asked to pay for the renovation and upkeep of the pool.
4. It is obvious that this is a tax grab and unfair. Electoral area E is being asked to pay 12% of the renovation and operating costs clearly because of the higher assessed values in this area. By including Electoral area E in the funding of the Ravensong Pool, the property taxes in the other areas will go down when they are the primary users. How is this fair?
5. The whole issue of an Aquatic Centre in District 69 should be reviewed. The RDN should be looking at the big picture. With a joint population of over 20,000 Parksville and Nanoose Bay have no pool. Yet the RDN wants to spent \$31M on a pool to serve a local area of around 9,000 people. They should do whatever it costs to do the necessary upgrades to the Ravensong Pool for safety reasons, and build a pool in the south end of Parksville so that 20,000 people can enjoy an important community recreational service.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Utterson and Henry Geraedts

Nanaimo

To All Members of the Regional District of Nanaimo

We are writing to you today to vehemently object to the taxation of the property owners in the area of Nanoose Bay (Electoral Area E) to subsidize the renovation and operational costs of Ravensong Pool in Qualicum Beach through Bill 899.02 and ask that it be rescinded.

*The reason that Nanoose Bay was not included in the referendum vote of 1993 establishing a swimming pool in Qualicum Beach through Bill 899 is as true today as it was in 1993. It is too far to travel (over 30 km) and so thus not used by Nanoose Bay residents.

*We were never included in that initial referendum but now we are arbitrarily included in the new tax for the renovation and expansion of the Ravensong Pool. How is this fair?

*3.9% of Ravensong Pool users surveyed in 2015 said they lived in Nanoose Bay. This is not to be confused with 3.9% of residents of Nanoose Bay using the pool. It is not the same.

*Fairwinds Wellness Centre has a pool that is well used by residents of Nanoose Bay and is paid through membership in the Wellness Centre (user pays).

*Even though the Ravensong Pool is not used by Nanoose Bay property owners and through the adoption of Bill 899.2, we will be taxed to provide for 12% of the renovation and operation costs which are estimated to be \$31,000,000. How is this fair?

*Taxes in support of Ravensong Pool from property owners in Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Electoral Areas F, G, and H will go down. How is that justified?

*We do not read the Parksville Qualicum Beach News nor do we listen to local radio so had no idea about the RDN Open Houses on this issue. If it wasn't for friends telling us, we would not have heard about Bill 899.02. Where was the communication plan for involving all the people of Nanoose Bay.

In our opinion this is a tax grab and unfair to the people of Nanoose Bay. Please vote against Bill 899.02.

Sincerely,

William and Sandra Rankin

To Whom it may concern,

This email to inform you of my objection to amending the by-laws to include Nanoose in the catchment area for improvements to this pool. This is extremely unfair since the distance to the pool in Qualicum is such that residents here would not use it, and in any event, we have our own pool facility at the Fairwinds Community Centre. Our taxes are already too high! And for what? We don't have sidewalks, street lights, snow plowing, street cleaning or sewer hook up and we already pay for water and garbage pick-up. And our particular street is only a lane allowing one car to pass at a time!

So please accept this email as my objection to this proposed tax grab from an area that will never use your pool.

Sincerely, Ian

Ian Gordon, CPA,CA
Nanoose, BC

Today I received in my mailbox a card inviting me to open house for meetings related to Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion/renovation. I received the exact same card last week; a duplicate. It does not bode well with the fiscal irresponsible duplicate mail out, and I doubt that I am the only one to have received the duplicate mail out. This wastefulness forces me to believe that the people in charge of this project are fiscally irresponsible and wasteful of tax payer money. No wonder the price of the expansion/renovation is so high. I am very much in favour of a Pool being built in Parksville, and that pool being operational, before the renovation/expansion and concomitant closer of Ravensong pool while the renovations happen. It seems no one is up front about how long the Ravensong pool would be out of commission, due to the renovations, and all the people in the area who rely on the pool facility for their sports/leisure/health and well being would be unable to access a pool. Regular commutes to Nanaimo or Courtenay would be not feasible for most of those who use the pool. It would be a huge disservice to youth and clubs of the area who rely on the pool as well as individuals. If the RDN is supposed to have an influence on the bigger picture, why have these discussions not been brought up and timelines for the pool operations coordinated to allow continuity of services available?

We are OPPOSED to the amendment to Bylaw 899.02, and think it should be Rescinded.
We don't agree that the residents of Area E should be taxed at all for a new pool that is 29km away from their home and it has been shown that very few residents from Nanoose bay use the current pool.
We feel very strongly that this is an unfair tax grab from our area for something that very very few of Nanoose bay residents would ever benefit from. Our taxes are high enough!
Please listen to the people from Area E and allow us our voice.

John and Brenda MacLean
Nanoose Bay

We are writing to express concerns and disapproval of the taxation of residents of district E for the construction of a pool which is too far from our homes. We are not opposed to paying our fair share for services and utilities we actually use. If this pool was to be located in Parksville, we could enjoy activities there, however Ravensong will be located two townships away. Hardly practical and hardly fair.

Moira and Terry Fisher
Nanoose Bay.

We would like to express our disbelief that Nanoose Bay Area E is going to be assessed on our taxes for a pool in Qualicum.

Nanoose Bay was never included in the building of the pool in the first place but it now appears that somebody has decided that our area is an easy cash cow for something that 3% at best might use. If Qualicum, Parksville etc can't afford it on their own it is not up to Nanoose Bay to cover their lack of funds. We who live in Fairwinds already have a pool so why would we and our neighbours at ages 70+ get in our cars and drive 45 minutes to go for a swim (never mind the price of gas involved) is beyond comprehension. Nanoose Bay also has some people just struggling to put food on their tables thus the reason a food bank was started for some residences in Nanoose, how will they cope with a tax increase. It is the same old thing, let's build/remodel something we can't afford, has anyone on council ever heard of live within your budget. If you can't afford it in your own area and need to start asking others to pay for it then we would suggest it doesn't get done until the people who it will best serve have the money to do so. Area E would be more than happy to pay more to use the pool on 'a pay as you use' basis. Our question is why is it not being put to a vote for just Nanoose Bay Area which is the farthest point from Qualicum and never was included in the pool in the first place, with two questions 1) who wants to pay more taxes for this project to go ahead. 2) who would use it.

If it passes after a vote (by Nanoose Residences only) then at least we got a say whether our taxes take a big hit to provide this renovation (if they are lucky 3% from Area E might use) it is considered the peoples Democratic right to vote on changes to government or policies.

We feel this sort of practice needs to be addressed at all levels of government and needed to be brought to your attention.

Yours truly,

Garnet & Barb Hunt

Why are users being excused from paying their fair share of one half when there is unequal opportunity for all payees to have access due to the location of the facility?'

Why are users being excused from paying their fair share of one half when there is unequal opportunity for all payees to have access due to the location of the facility?

LJDenning,

Why has there been no ""Public engagement"" for in person discussions/ hearings held? The open house did not provide that engagement/ format.

