

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2014



Community Hub in Saltair Re-established through Key Land Acquisition

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District has acquired the former Mt. Brenton Elementary School property in the heart of Saltair, re-uniting this 5.5 acre (2.2 hectare) property with the community's Saltair Centennial Park. Historically, these properties provided for a public gathering space, outdoor recreation and community gatherings within the core of Saltair, however in 2004 the school property was sold off to private interests. Recently, the former school property was offered for sale, and following several months of little interest and depreciating asking price, the regional district was able to secure the purchase for \$300,000 for the 5.5 acres and building; well below the appraised value.

"The acquisition of this key property, complete with a school building that now operates with a licensed day care, will provide capacity for the Saltair community's use of public space for activities, events and gatherings in the heart of the community", Director Mel Dorey, Electoral Area G - Saltair/Gulf Islands notes; "This land purchase will have lasting benefits to Saltair, providing sufficient public lands that can be planned and used over the short and long term as the community's interests and needs evolve."

No immediate actions are planned for the property other than the continuation of the leased use of the school building for a licensed day care. Engagement of community and local groups will be a priority to assess the level of interest and capacity for additional community use of the building and grounds as part of an expanded Saltair Centennial Park.

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