



Media Release

To: The Media

Subject: New Zoning Bylaw - Public Open House

In response to the adoption of the City's Official Community Plan (OCP), the City of Nanaimo is in the process of drafting a new Zoning Bylaw which, if adopted, will effectively rezone all properties in the City of Nanaimo.

A Zoning Bylaw determines what uses are permitted on a particular property and regulates the siting, height and density of buildings permitted on a lot. As the most direct method for regulating land use, the City's Zoning Bylaw can have a profound impact on the character of the City through regulation of the use and development of individual properties.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw includes a number of significant changes, including:

- Smaller residential lot size requirements.
- New Corridor Zones that, for the first time ever in a zoning bylaw for Nanaimo, will establish a minimum height and maximum setback requirement.
- Additional density rewarded to sustainable building practices.
- Increase the height and size for detached secondary suites, in order to permit a carriage house above a garage.
- The ability to include residential units on the same property as shopping centres.
- Urban agriculture will be encouraged by allowing urban food gardens in all zones.
- Many other changes which are summarized on the City's website at www.nanaimo.ca

As part of the public consultation process relating to the proposed bylaw, the City hosted four public open houses throughout the City during February. Approximately 120 individuals attended at least one of these open houses. Based on the feedback received during these open houses, a number of changes have been made to the proposed Zoning Bylaw. In order to allow Nanaimo residents and business owners another opportunity to review these changes and comment on the draft bylaw, the City will be hosting one additional open house:

2011-MAY-04
Beban Park Lounge
5pm to 8pm

This open house will allow those who were unable to attend the earlier open houses to learn about and comment on the proposed zoning changes, while those who attended the earlier open houses will have a chance to learn how the City has responded to the feedback received to date. More information regarding the proposed new Zoning Bylaw, including a copy of the draft bylaw and supporting documents, can be found online at www.nanaimo.ca.

**For more information about the proposed new Zoning Bylaw, please contact
Dave Stewart, Planner, at 250-755-4460, x4332**