

Regional Connections Newsletter

News and information from the Regional District

August 2025



Chief Woman Dancing mural enhances Similkameen Recreation Centre building

“Chief Woman Dancing” mural is a new feature on the exterior of the Similkameen Recreation Centre in Keremeos. The mural supports the Regional District’s goal of building collaborative relationships with syilx Okanagan and sm̓əlqm̓ix peoples and expanding programs that support the well-being of all residents.

Artist Sharifah Marsden partnered with the RDOS recreation team and collaborated with Similkameen Elementary Secondary School students to create the mural showcasing Indigenous culture.



Historic Adra Tunnel reopens after four decades



Adra Tunnel is open for public use. The 111-year-old tunnel is located on the Kettle Valley Rail (KVR) Trail above Naramata in Electoral Area “E”. For more than 40 years, Adra Tunnel, a century-old engineering marvel, was closed to the public.

At 485 metres in length, it is the longest tunnel on the trail and turns in a horseshoe shape, nearly 180 degrees in the mountain. The original Woodwackers, a community group from Naramata, supported the reopening in efforts and contributions to the KVR Trail. Adventure back in time and discover a local treasure.

For further information, visit the Adra Tunnel project page at rdosregionalconnections.ca.

RDOS pop-up offices coming to a location near you

RDOS pop-up offices will provide opportunities for senior staff to connect with residents from across the region. RDOS resource material, activity sheets, and refreshments will be available. Pop-up offices will take place from 12:00 to 6:00 pm.

- Monday, September 15, Similkameen Recreation Centre, 311-9th St., Keremeos
- Wednesday, September 24, Osoyoos Town Hall, 8707 Main St., Osoyoos
- Wednesday, October 8, Oliver Community Centre, 6359 Park Dr., Oliver
- Tuesday, October 21, RDOS Building Inspection office, Unit B, 162 Vermilion Ave., Princeton
- Wednesday, October 29, Eastgate Fire Protection Society Hall, 140 Airstrip Rd., Eastgate
- **More dates coming in spring 2026**



Automated Curbside Collection program launched

The Regional District has launched the automated Curbside Collection program. Due to the high volume of calls for support and cart change-outs, response time is delayed. Please be patient as these requests are managed. Your request will be addressed in the order it was received. Thank you for your understanding.

Ensure that carts are placed at the curb one (1) metre apart, with the lid closed, and waste not compacted inside the cart. For further information, please visit the project page at rdosregionalconnections.ca, call the Solid Waste Hotline at 250-490-4129, or email solidwaste@rdos.bc.ca.



Events and Initiatives

- RDOS Summer Recreation Guide: rec.rdos.bc.ca
- RDOS Fall Recreation Guide is now online, registration begins September 4
- RDOS closures: Monday, September 1; Tuesday, September 30
- Sage Mesa Water System Information Meeting
 - Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
 - Location: West Bench Elementary School, 1604 West Bench Drive

Scan the QR code
to view the RDOS
event calendar

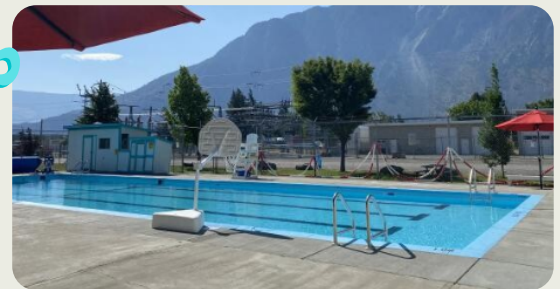


rdos.bc.ca

Kenyon Spray Park and Similkameen Community Pool



Summer Fun



For park information or to view the Similkameen Community Pool schedule, please visit rdos.bc.ca.

Elector approval obtained for corporate facility

The Alternative Approval Process (AAP) ended July 31, 2025, with the RDOS receiving elector approval for the purchase of a new corporate facility at 3547 Skaha Lake Road in Penticton.

The acquisition will allow the RDOS to consolidate three existing office locations into one centralized facility, improving operational efficiency and enhancing accessibility for residents across the region. The new building is planned to include a purpose-built Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and a dedicated space for RDOS board and committee meetings.



For further information, please visit the Alternative Approval Process project page at rdosregionalconnections.ca.

RDOS receives \$2.05 million grant towards universal metering

The Province of B.C. Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs has initiated a \$50 million pilot program. The program includes a fully funded, automated water meter installation and a research component to identify the value to communities.

The RDOS will receive approximately \$2.05 million for the pilot project. The deadline to complete the installation phase is March 2027. Faulder, Willowbrook, and Olalla are among 19 small, rural, and First Nations communities selected. This project will:

- *improve watershed management
- *improve the sustainability of local water systems
- *help identify the effectiveness of water restrictions
- *reduce operational costs of the water systems
- *assist in tracking leaks to the water system
- *aid residents in managing their water use

Community support

Big shout-out to volunteers, partner organizations, sponsors, and attendees for making a difference and supporting recent community events:

- Canada Day celebration, Okanagan Falls
- Willowbrook Volunteer Fire Department Open House
- Keremeos Fire Department Open House



Keremeos Fire Department
Open House



Willowbrook Volunteer Fire
Department Open House



Chief Clarence Louie, OIB,
Nancy Wigley, RDOS Recreation,
Matt Taylor, Area "D" Director

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA)

The RDOS is partnering with six municipalities, four local syilx Similkameen/Okanagan communities, and all Electoral Areas to complete a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) for each community. The HRVAs will inform local and regional emergency response plans, land-use policies, and climate adaptation initiatives across the RDOS. The project is grant-funded through the Province of B.C. and will take place over two years, from January 2025 to December 2026.



For further information, please visit the HRVA project page:

rdosregionalconnections.ca.

Watch the HRVA video on the RDOS YouTube channel:

youtube.com/@OkanaganSimilkameen.

FireSmart

Whether you are doing regular yard maintenance or making large-scale changes during renovations or landscaping, you can make choices that will help protect your home from wildfire.

Visit firesmart.rdos.bc.ca to download the [FireSmart Homeowner's Manual](#).



Visit firesmartbc.ca and preparedbc.ca for additional resources and information.



Electoral Area Directors

Electoral Area "A" - Rural Osoyoos
Director Mark Pendergraft, RDOS chair
250-485-2289

Electoral Area "B" - Cawston
Director George Bush
250-499-0376

Electoral Area "C" - Rural Oliver
Director Irwin Chahal
250-460-1319

Electoral Area "D" - Okanagan Falls
Director Matt Taylor
778-931-6080

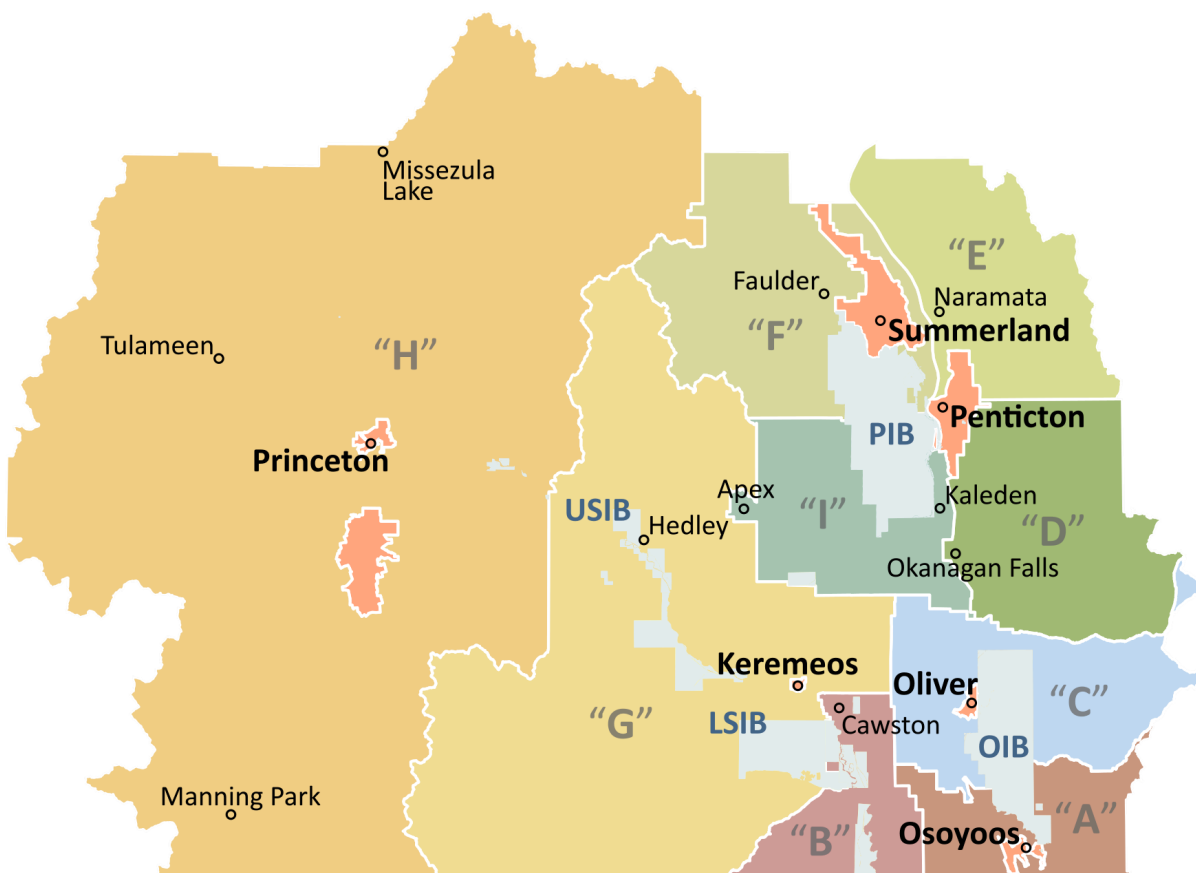
Electoral Area "E" - Naramata
Director Adrienne Fedrigo
250-460-0282

Electoral Area "F" - Greater West Bench, Rural Summerland, Okanagan Lake West
Director Riley Gettens
250-488-0246

Electoral Area "G" - Rural Keremeos, Hedley
Director Tim Roberts, OSRHD vice-chair
250-499-0900

Electoral Area "H" - Rural Princeton
Director Bob Coyne
250-582-9090

Electoral Area "I" (Skaha West, Kaleden, Twin Lakes, Apex)
Director Subrina Monteith
250-460-0723



You can find the latest updates and resource links
on the [Electoral Area News](https://rdos.bc.ca/electoral-area-news) page at rdos.bc.ca.



Receive RDOS notifications via email, text, or phone.

RDOS provides the following informational topics that you may subscribe to:

Subscribed	Name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Change Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sewer System Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Notifications Information about RDOS projects, meetings, and events.	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water System Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safety and Preparedness Advisories Informational notifications provided for awareness.	≡



Notifications can be sent to telephone landlines.

All Voyent Alert! users will automatically receive relevant emergency or critical notifications such as evacuation alerts or orders.

Log in to your account to update your topics, locations, and notification preferences.

Scan the QR code to learn more:



Register or log in: register.voyent-alert.com



Call RDOS Communications if you need assistance with your account.

250-490-4148

Why didn't I know about this? Let's work together to fix that.

Sign up

If you haven't already, sign up for **Voyent Alert!** at register.voyent-alert.com.

If you're already registered, please review your account settings.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via RDOS Regional Connections:
rdosregionalconnections.ca.

Follow the RDOS on social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#)

Hot Topics

Information and key dates
are posted on Hot Topics
and the Event Calendar at:
rdos.bc.ca.

RDOS Online
rdos.bc.ca

EOC: emergency.rdos.bc.ca
FireSmart: firesmart.rdos.bc.ca
Projects: rdosregionalconnections.ca
Recreation: rec.rdos.bc.ca

Be a Community Champion

Residents are encouraged to share information from the RDOS on neighbourhood notice boards, Facebook groups, and discussion forums. If you would like to become part of the Community Champions program, please contact RDOS Communications.

If you have questions or suggestions, please call or email the Regional District.