

Area “E” Director Newsletter

Information from the desk of Adrienne Fedrigo

May 2026

May Board Meeting Highlights

The RDOS Board of Directors focused on updates to development and housing policies (including short-term rentals and secondary suites), community safety measures, and infrastructure funding decisions, while advancing several bylaw and service improvements. Key discussions also emphasized cost management for services, environmental planning, and opportunities for residents to engage in upcoming regional initiatives.

- Short-Term Rental (STR) updates (affects Area “E”): The RDOS is streamlining the STR program, including moving toward simplified permits, updated fees, and a self-declaration model for health & safety checks. A local STR permit application in Area “E” was also deferred for further consideration.
- Cooling & Warming Centres available: RDOS has approved the use of Okanagan Regional Library branches as cooling and warming centres, giving residents accessible places to stay safe during extreme heat or cold events.
- Curbside collection cart fees remain in place: The Board supported keeping fees for larger (upsized) curbside collection carts, ensuring those producing more waste cover added costs and helping keep base fees lower for all residents.
- WildSafe education program continues: Funding was approved to continue local wildlife safety education, helping residents learn how to reduce conflicts with wildlife and improve community safety year-round.
- BC Ministry of Forest: Regional Forest Planning—public input open: The Ministry of Forest is conducting a new Forest Landscape Plan underway that will shape forest management, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat. Residents are encouraged to participate through surveys and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Naramata Farmers Market

I will be at the Naramata Farmers Market on June 17th 2026, with a booth. RDOS staff will be in attendance - CAO, Communications Manager, and Planning staff. Planning staff will have a



a laptop on site and will be able to answer land use questions that you may have.

The Naramata Farmers Market is Wednesdays June 3 - Sept 30 2026, from 4:00 - 7:00pm at Manitou Park

RDOS Regional Connections - Area E Projects



At this time Area “E” does not have any listed projects.

If you are interested in what other projects are happening in the RDOS this is a great resource.

rdosregionalconnections.ca

ADRA Tunnel

Capital improvements have been completed at the ADRA Tunnel. Included are picnic benches, seating areas, and signage. Bring a picnic, stay for a while and enjoy the scenery.

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Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

One Region Working Together

Secondary Suite Changes

www.rdos.bc.ca - [secondary suite changes](#)

The RDOS has adopted amendments to the Okanagan Valley Zoning Bylaw to modernize regulations around secondary suites, improving alignment with provincial direction, reducing administrative barriers, and supporting more flexible housing options across rural areas. Building on discussions at the May 21 Board meeting, these changes are part of a broader effort to streamline development approvals and increase housing supply, including removing size limits on suites, permitting them in duplexes, and expanding density allowances in several zones. These updates are intended to support multi-generational living, reflect recent BC Building Code changes, and make it favourable for property owners to add diverse and attainable housing options throughout the region.

- What is changing: The RDOS has updated zoning rules for secondary suites—removing size limits, allowing suites in duplexes, and expanding where they're permitted across more rural zones.
- Why it's happening: These changes align with updated provincial regulations and the BC Building Code, while supporting the Board's goal to streamline approvals and increase housing options.
- Who it affects: Property owners in rural areas will have more flexibility to add or modify secondary suites, potentially increasing rental and multi-generational living opportunities.
- Does this mean more short-term rentals (STRs)? These amendments are primarily about secondary suites and long-term housing supply, not a direct expansion of STR permissions (unless separate STR bylaws apply).
- Will this change neighbourhood character or density? While density allowances are expanded in certain zones, updates are intended to be consistent with rural character and managed through zoning.
- Is approval easier now? Yes—administrative barriers have been reduced, meaning a more streamlined process for adding suites, though permits and building code compliance are still required.
- Will this improve housing availability? The goal is to increase attainable housing options, including rentals and multi-generational living.
- Are there still regulations in place? Yes—building permits, health and safety codes, and zoning requirements still apply to ensure safe and appropriate development.

As stated on the RDOS website, "The update is also intended to increase housing availability, support multi-generational living arrangements, and provide greater flexibility for property owners."

Short-Term Rentals

There have been a few recent changes to the Short Term Rental Permits in the last few months. The key changes include:

- 1) Permits are now for a three (3) year period - this has changed from one (1)
- 2) Cost remains \$500, delegated or non-delegated applications are the same cost
- 3) Health and Safety checks are now self-declaration - no RDOS staff or private health and safety personnel will need to do an inspection of your space.

Reminder that Business Licenses are required for all bed and breakfasts, Agri-Tourism, Motels, and Hotels. The provincial registry is not a business license.

If you have any feedback about how the permitting process has gone this year, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Cenotaph Updates:

The Cenotaph at Manitou Park will remain untouched and in place. Upon inspection the granite that the monument is made of is not stable enough to be moved to a new location. There is concern that it will crumble if moved. A new cenotaph will be created at Wharf Park as a symbol of remembrance and collective gratitude for those who have lost their lives in service. It provides a focal point where communities can gather to reflect, honour sacrifice, and recognize the profound cost of conflict. Beyond commemorating the past, a cenotaph serves as a reminder of the values of peace, resilience, and unity. It connects generations, ensuring stories of courage and loss are not forgotten. By preserving memory in a shared public space, a cenotaph helps foster respect, reflection, and a deeper appreciation for the freedoms and responsibilities carried forward by those who remain.

June 17th - Naramata Market - 4:00 - 7:00 pm

June 20th - Wharf Park - 10:00 - 11:30 am

RCMP - Theft of Copper

The RCMP attended the RDOS Board of Directors meeting and cautioned that copper sprinkler heads are being stolen from agricultural properties, along with the tops of fire hydrants.

If you have exposed copper on your property, take steps to secure it and remain alert to these ongoing thefts.



Regional OCP Update

In May 2026, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Electoral Area Services Committee directed that Area E (Naramata) be removed from the draft Okanagan Valley Official Community Plan (OCP). This means Naramata will not be included in the proposed region-wide planning bylaw and will continue to be guided by its own recently adopted local OCP. For residents, this ensures that community-specific priorities, values, and land-use policies remain locally focused rather than incorporated into a broader regional framework. The decision provides greater flexibility for Area E to respond to local needs while future planning discussions continue.

This provides the community and opportunity to see how the Regional OCP is working for the Electoral Areas of A, C, D, and F. When the Area E OCP needs to be updated, the community can explore opting into the regional OCP at that time.

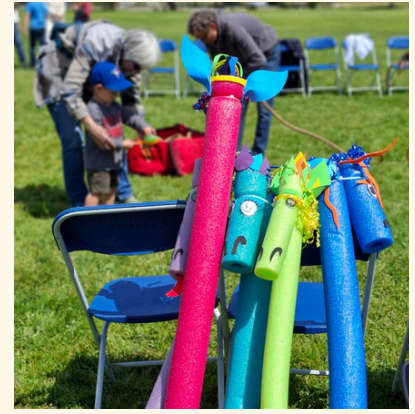
Mayday

The 103rd Naramata MayDay went off without a hitch. The weather was perfect, the Elementary school participants were prepared, PAC hosted a gourmet hotdog lunch, and the community showed their support.

This year's Naramata Ambassadors were Elliot Petrisor and Dorian Sutherland who enthusiastically delivered their speeches. Craig Henderson did an amazing job as the Master of Ceremonies and, as always, kept the crowd engaged. The dancers performed their weaves flawlessly and their dancing was wonderful. Audience members were chosen by the dancers to join them in a weave. Some audience participants had never done the dances before and others had performed years before.

Following the dances and ceremony, the decorated bike contest took place immediately afterwards. Many creative bikes were showcased. The crowd was then welcome to participate in traditional Mayday games - Tug of War, egg toss, and some new activities.

The event would not have been possible without the wonderful volunteers who dedicated a significant amount of time to making the event happen. A big thank you goes out to the following volunteers: Laurie Wheeler was instrumental in bringing the celebration together, with valuable assistance from Jeff Redden, Jacqueline Carlson, Janet Watts, Jen Moorehouse, Alice Hancock, Jan Ramsay, Kyza Henricsson, Laurianne LaFontaine, Deb Linton, Stewart Linton, Nicole Hackworth, Deanna Ryll and school staff Rebecca Marles, Courtnay Wheeler and Kim Wise. Also a huge thank you to the dancers that gave up many of their lunchtime recesses to learn the dances.



June & July - Upcoming Events Attending

RDOS Board Meetings

June 4, 18

July 2, 16

OBWB Board Meeting

June 2

Conferences

Planning Institute Conference- June 2-5

Keeping It Rural - June 10-12