

**Bylaw No. 725-3 and Bylaw No. 701-92**

**Electoral Area C Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 725**

**Applicable Policies**

**2.1 Water Quality of Shuswap Lake**

Shuswap Lake remains a relatively healthy aquatic environment. However, as the amount of development around the Lake intensifies, it becomes more susceptible to human contamination. Most properties have on-site septic systems. In proper conditions, these systems can adequately dispose of sewage; however when inadequate conditions exist, such as failed or saturated tile fields, it can lead to sewage leaching into groundwater or the Lake, causing serious contamination.

The mountains surrounding Shuswap Lake are formed of granite that results in a very low input of nutrients. Historically, Shuswap Lake has been very clear, with a high oxygen content owing to the low amount of organic matter. However, as a result of agricultural and human waste entering the groundwater, and the failure of some community sewer systems that discharge into the Lake, the nutrient levels have been increasing leading to unsightly and potentially hazardous situations. E. Coli has been detected in increasing concentrations in groundwater and levels of chloride, nitrates and sulphate have risen along the foreshore between Sorrento and Blind Bay. With clear evidence of deterioration of the Lake, the CSRD has renewed efforts towards sustainable, acceptable liquid waste management for the South Shuswap.

**2.1.1 Objectives**

- .1 To protect the water quality of Shuswap Lake and its watershed.
- .2 To maintain healthy aquatic and groundwater environments and protect people from contaminated water.

**2.1.2 Policies**

- .1 Regardless of the level or type of treatment, the discharge of liquid waste (human, agricultural, industrial) into Shuswap Lake, White Lake and other natural waterbodies is unacceptable. In the event that a sewer system is available, properties within the service area will be required to connect to the system.
- .2 Any new commercial, industrial, and institutional development must connect to a community sewage system. Existing residential development must connect to a community sewage system, when capacity is available.

The Regional District will:

- .3 Implement its Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP);

- .4 Assume control over private community sewage systems if the proper circumstances exist, and if there is support to do so from residents and the Provincial government, the users will fund the cost of operating and maintaining the system;
- .5 Investigate opportunities for one or more marine pump-out(s) to a land-based discharge system located away from the residential areas of Shuswap Lake;
- .6 Request the Interior Health Authority to prohibit any further use of dry wells for liquid waste management, and recommend that the Interior Health Authority continue to work with property owners towards replacement of these existing dry wells and failing septic systems as appropriate;
- .7 Work to enhance environmental awareness and promote activities that protect the water quality and natural aquatic habitat;
- .8 Use the full range of planning tools and regulatory measures to protect the watershed and water quality of Shuswap and White Lakes. These include zoning bylaws, development permits, building regulation, and, potentially, statutory covenants; and
- .9 Work with federal and provincial ministries and agencies, including the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP), to implement strategies that protect and enhance the quality of the lakes and streams of the South Shuswap.

### **3.1 General Land Use Management**

The policies of this Plan aim to protect the rural character of this area, yet allow modest growth in settled areas that are, or will be, serviced by community water and sewer systems. By directing growth to the Village Centre and Secondary Settlement Areas as shown on Schedule B Land Use Designations – Overview, and Schedule C Land Use Designations - Mapsheets, there will be less impact on the rural and natural areas of the community, thereby protecting natural habitat and preserving the area's highly valued rural character. This settlement pattern will also facilitate shorter vehicle trips, as well as encourage more walking, bicycling and the use of public transit.

#### **3.1.1 Objectives**

- .1 To be thoughtful and careful stewards of the lands and waters of the South Shuswap to allow future generations an opportunity to appreciate and benefit from wise choices made by today's elected decision-makers.
- .2 To manage growth by directing development and redevelopment in existing settled areas and to discourage development outside these areas.
- .3 To provide a clear separation between rural and non-rural lands to preserve both rural and non-rural lifestyle choices.

- .4 To prevent inappropriate uses of shorelines, especially in areas with high fish habitat values.
- .5 To support the growth and long-term viability of the agricultural industry in the South Shuswap.
- .6 To support forestry, mining and recreational uses provided they follow all Provincial regulatory requirements, and avoid conflicts with residential areas.
- .7 To work towards providing a range of housing types in the South Shuswap, principally within the Village Centre and Secondary Settlement Areas.
- .8 To provide for a range of commercial services within the Village Centre and Neighbourhood Commercial designations that meet the needs of South Shuswap residents and visitors.

### *3.1.2 Policies*

- .1 Land uses and activities that adversely affect safety, health, or liveability within Area C are not supported. Temporary use permits are not supported.
- .2 The Sorrento Village Centre, established on Schedules B and C, will accept much of the residential, retail and business development in Area C and will be connected to community water and sewer systems. Future development of a Balmoral Village Centre, at the northwest corner of the Balmoral Road/Highway #1 intersection, is dependent on approval from the ALC, as it lies within the ALR; this plan does not presume the ALC's position on the future uses of this land and does not support development pressure or speculation based on the plan's support of this area as a Village Centre as previous applications to exclude these ALR lands have been refused by the ALC.
- .3 Secondary Settlement Areas in the South Shuswap are established on Schedules B and C, as Blind Bay, Sunnybrae, White Lake and Eagle Bay.
- .4 Outside the Village Centre and Secondary Settlement Areas, new residential development is generally discouraged unless co-located with an agricultural use. Strip commercial development between these development areas is not acceptable.
- .5 Development will only be considered in areas with lower environmental values within the Village Centre and Secondary Settlement Areas, thereby allowing for the protection of areas with higher environmental values as well as agricultural lands.

- .6 Except as required to improve the health and safety of existing development, no public funds will be expended for the capital cost of extending water and sewer servicing to lands outside the Village Centre and Secondary Settlement Areas.
- .7 Agricultural uses on ALR lands are supported in all land use designations. Agricultural uses on non-ALR lands may be supported in all land use designations subject to compatibility with adjacent land uses and setbacks set out in the zoning bylaw.
- .8 As per the authority granted under the Local Government Act s.904 and s.905, consider creating an 'Amenity Policy' to guide developers making applications to the CSRD, and to assist staff and the Board in considering land use applications. The policy should detail a range of density bonusing alternatives and voluntary contributions that are of a community benefit such as parkland dedication, infrastructure development, affordable housing, and public facilities.
- .9 At the time of introducing zoning regulations to unzoned areas, existing uses and structures may be recognized in the zoning bylaw and that recognition will be considered as conforming to this OCP. New development, however, must conform to the policies and land use designations in this OCP.

### **3.8 Commercial**

#### *3.8.1 Objective*

- .1 To recognize existing commercial uses and provide for future commercial opportunities within the Secondary Settlement Areas.

#### *3.8.2 Policies*

- .1 Commercial development that is incompatible with the community, or would have unmitigated negative impacts on the environment, is not acceptable anywhere in the South Shuswap.
- .2 Large scale commercial development is not acceptable in the Secondary Settlement Areas or rural areas of the South Shuswap. Such development is directed to the Village Centre.
- .3 The Village Centre (VC) designation encompasses a broad range of commercial uses, including retail, food services, offices, business and personal services, community and health-related services, public and institutional uses, recreation, arts and cultural activities, highway commercial uses, personal, professional and financial services.

- .4 Neighbourhood Commercial (NC) is acceptable in Secondary Settlement Areas, allowing a limited range of retail, and personal, professional and community services that meet the daily needs of local residents. Housing above grade level commercial is also acceptable.
- .5 Existing Commercial (C), Tourist Commercial (TC) and Resort Commercial (RC) land use designations are recognized on Schedules B and C. New Commercial (C), Tourist Commercial (TC) and Resort Commercial (RC) may be considered in the Secondary Settlement Areas through individual redesignation and rezoning applications.
- .6 Existing Waterfront Commercial (WC) developments are recognized on the Schedules B and C. New Waterfront Commercial (WC) developments are not supported.
- .7 Small-scale Highway Commercial (HC) which caters to the travelling public, is acceptable along the Trans-Canada Highway, but not between the Village Centres.
- .8 Multi-unit residential development is encouraged to locate near major commercial developments within the Sorrento Village Centre, in order to help create a more walkable community and to provide a population base to support businesses.
- .9 All new redesignation and rezoning applications for commercial uses which would require additional sewer or water capacity and which are located in proximity to a community sewer system and a community water system must connect to that system.