

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT – SARATOGA BEACH AREA

July 26, 2019

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) understands the concerns being raised regarding the mosquito problem within the Saratoga/Miracle area of Electoral Area C. We empathize with residents this is not merely an inconvenience, it is affecting your ability to conduct everyday life and enjoy the beauty of your community.

The CVRD has no legal authority to apply mosquito control to the area and throughout the region - not just Miracle and Saratoga Beach neighbourhoods. Without a service set up with the authority to tax residents for a service, the CVRD has no expertise or the resources required. Several studies were completed the last few years to help as this fell within our permitted authority. The studies looked at potential breeding areas within the Miracle Beach and Saratoga Beach regions all of which would be helpful for those that manage the subject properties. The findings located various breeding sites with standing water present. As well it has been advised that climate related factors may also adjust the mosquito population including precipitation, temperatures and tide heights.

To try and assist with the issue, bat boxes were installed within the CVRD Driftwood Marine Park and they currently have resident bat populations present.

Affected residents are encouraged to undertake individual actions to reduce mosquito populations around their homes. Some simple measures include:

- Walk your property after a rain event and look for areas in the landscape that are not draining well. If you find puddles that remain for four or more days, regrade or fill in the area.
- Remove water-holding containers. Bird baths, non-chlorinated wading pools/footpaths, garbage can lids and pottery all will attract breeding mosquitos if left longer than two days.
- Replace water in bird baths and animal troughs twice per week.
- Clear clogged gutters, drains and ditches
- Store boats, canoes, wheelbarrows to avoid water collection.
- As well, homeowners can consider installing bat boxes and swallow nesting boxes to help reduce populations.

The CVRD is currently working with SAMBRA advocating for residents to senior level governments on potential solutions to the problem. The CVRD will continue to monitor the mosquito problem within the Saratoga/Miracle Beach area. Residents are encouraged to call 250-334-6000 or email communityservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca with concerns.