



## Council Meeting Highlights September 17, 2018

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### **Public hearing re: proposed boundary realignment for McPhedran property**

A public hearing was held on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment to realign boundaries at 28 McPhedran Rd. The amendment would better reflect the alignment of Nunns Creek, which bisects the property. This would increase the protected area along the creek by approximately 560 square metres and provide clarity for future land development. Council gave first and second reading to the proposed amendment at the Aug. 27 Council meeting.

### **New Twinning Society exchange students**

Mayor Andy Adams introduced Campbell River senior exchange students: Yuto Nagasaki, Dylan Whitt and Julie Matsuzawa.

Two Campbell River students (Grades 9 to 11) are selected annually to live in Ishikari and attend school for the year. Selection takes place in the late fall, with preparation and language lessons continuing until their departure for Japan the following August, when two Ishikari students arrive here.

Over the year, the students live with up to seven families for about seven weeks each.

Community involvement is essential to support the program, and the sister cities are extremely proud of this program's success.

### **Canada Day recap**

Campbell River Canada Day Committee chair, Carol Chapman, presented a slideshow that recapped Canada Day celebrations and thanked Council for their support of 2018 events.

### **Council considers Permissive Exemption from Taxation Amendment Bylaw**

Council gave third reading to Permissive Exemption from Taxation Amendment Bylaw, which moves a 100 per cent permissive tax exemption from the Campbell River Common mall to the portion of 1691 Island Highway, occupied by Total Change Christian Ministries. Council also removed permissive tax exemptions on 544 Dogwood Street South, 562 Dogwood Street South and 81 Dogwood Street. The removed exemptions include a residential apartment building that previously provided affordable housing for seniors, but was recently sold and is now privately owned for market housing, as well as some undeveloped land that is being held for future development by a local charitable organization. Property owners were notified when Council made policy amendments earlier this year that made these undeveloped properties ineligible for permissive tax exemptions. The amendment received first and second reading Aug.13.

### **Changes to Zoning Bylaw**

Council gave third reading and adopted amendments to the City's zoning bylaw, incorporating minor changes. The administrative update provides clarity to definitions and changes in references to relevant provincial and federal legislation, as recommended by the City's legal counsel. No zone designation is altered on any properties as a result of these changes.

An incremental review of the City's zoning bylaw is currently underway, with no significant amendments or changes to any zone designations to be proposed until 2019. Future proposed amendments could include further administrative changes to regulate issues such as shipping containers, residential ancillary building size/height, and "panhandle" lots.

At the Aug. 27 public hearing, several speakers presented concerns to Council about property-filling to change the grade and increased construction heights on properties that block views, especially in established neighbourhoods. Based on public feedback, staff confirmed that

additional wording was added in this administrative update to the definitions of original grade and original average grade to provide further clarity. Staff also confirmed that future amendments to the zoning bylaw could help further regulate the sensitive issue around viewsapes.

### **Advisory Committee and Council Procedure Bylaw amendments considered**

Council gave first and second reading to the Advisory Committee Amendment Bylaw and the Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw related to three new advisory committees.

The committees will focus on priorities related to community planning, environmental protection and healthy community, including public safety.

The bylaw amendments confirm terms of reference for the new advisory committees.

There are no mandate changes or term extensions for Campbell River City Council's other advisory groups (Airport Advisory Committee, Tourism Advisory Committee, Community Partnership Committee and Youth Advisory Committee).

### **Council endorses climate adaptation strategy support from ICLEI Canada**

Council endorsed the City's partnership with ICLEI Canada to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Campbell River. The City of Campbell River has been selected as one of eight local governments on Vancouver Island to receive support from ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability) to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy. This opportunity is made possible through funding ICLEI received from the Real Estate Foundation of BC to work with local governments on climate adaptation.

Participating in the ICLEI Canada program to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy is a timely opportunity that complements the City's sea level rise and asset management planning initiatives. The strategy will include assessing risks and developing actions to respond to climate change, including increased storm and extreme weather events, drought, flooding, sea level rise, emergency response, and impacts for infrastructure, habitat, parks and green space. The opportunity provides substantial value to the City, with significant external technical expertise and funding to support the strategy development.

### **City replacing small garbage collection truck**

As part of the City's 10-year fleet replacement program, the Parks Department will purchase a new small compacting waste hauling vehicle, from Rollins Machinery Ltd. valued at \$171,093. The truck will replace an existing 2003 vehicle and be used to collect trash from City bins located in parks, at bus stops and on downtown boulevards. It will also be used for public washroom maintenance and cleaning as well as miscellaneous waste pickup supporting other departments.

### **Council supports Rivercity Players Society's application for liquor licence**

Council supports the issuance of a Liquor Primary Licence that would allow the Rivercity Players Society to produce more events, workshops and host more rentals without requiring Special Event Permits. In July, the City mailed a notice directly to all properties within 100 metres of the site and received no negative feedback on the application.

### **City will participate in national Smart Energy Communities Scorecard Initiative**

The City of Campbell River has been invited to represent British Columbia in the national Smart Energy Communities Scorecard Initiative with QUEST Canada. The project is developing a tool to provide a standard for evaluating and benchmarking the policies and progress of communities in becoming Smart Energy Communities.

The benefits to the City include:

- The opportunity to participate in a national network of local governments creating a standardized scorecard for measuring and benchmarking the progress of communities in

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becoming Smart Energy Communities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while creating opportunities for economic development and emerging industries.

- A template for measuring Campbell River's progress in implementing our community energy and emissions plan.
- Further recognition as a leader in British Columbia and nationally in sustainability initiatives and climate action.
- Participation in a national network of leading municipalities recognized as Smart Energy Communities.
- The opportunity for City staff to contribute knowledge, expertise and gain insight from working with national leaders in local government, industry, utilities and the real estate sector on Smart Energy Community initiatives.

Based on Campbell River's leadership on climate action, energy conservation, renewable energy, and greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives, the City has been selected as the only municipality in B.C. – and one of nine communities nationally – to participate in the pilot program. Other communities selected to participate in the initiative include Yellowknife, Calgary, Grand Prairie, Inuvik, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Beaconsfield, Quebec and London and Markham, Ontario.

### **Economic Development update**

Campbell River's economic development strategic framework is structured around five categories: business retention and expansion, investor readiness, collaboration, opportunities, and communication.

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) meets regularly with investors and proponents as well as the City's tourism service provider Destination Campbell River, to identify opportunities and to market Campbell River. Economic Development participates in speaking engagements and marketing initiatives, and seeks new investors by attending sector specific events, cold calling potential investors and building relationships.

To support local business and entrepreneurship, the Modern Entrepreneur Workshops (introduced in 2017) have been expanded.

Freelance Fridays (introduced in late 2017), continued in 2018 to provide remote workers, professionals, and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to meet monthly for collaboration and knowledge sharing. Freelance Fridays are open to the community and the next meeting will be held on Oct. 5 at Campbell River Coworking in Tye Plaza.

Find information about all economic development workshops, events, and activities online at [www.facebook.com/campbellrivereconomicdevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/campbellrivereconomicdevelopment).

Find semi-monthly editions of *In the Spotlight*, the newsletter that provides economic development updates and shares the stories of local Campbell River businesses online at [www.campbellriver.ca/business-economy/resources/newsletters](http://www.campbellriver.ca/business-economy/resources/newsletters). Two more editions are coming this year featuring downtown Campbell River and local arts and culture businesses. Along with the newsletters, weekly blog posts are also shared on social media.

Earlier in the year, a request for proposals for the creation of a technology attraction strategy for Campbell River was issued. The strategy will evaluate how the existing technology sector can be expanded and how new technology-based companies, skilled technology workers and increased technology investment can be attracted to Campbell River. This strategy is expected to be developed by the end of October 2018.

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### **Council supports regional district grant application for group lodging supplies**

Council will send a letter of support for the Strathcona Regional District's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (ESS) for funding for group lodging supplies. People forced from their homes in an emergency may be directed to group lodging facilities when commercial lodging is either not appropriate or unavailable. Group lodging is a safe place where people can go to:

- sleep and eat
- receive specialized care, including multicultural services and transportation
- obtain health services such as first aid and emotional support.

Strathcona Regional District will also reach out to the other local governments in the SRD with a similar request.

### **Minister of Forests regarding future plans for Snowden Demonstration Forest**

Council received correspondence from the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, regarding future plans for Snowden Demonstration Forest. Minister Donaldson advised that BC Timber Sales currently has no plans to construct roads or auction timber sales within Snowden Forest's inner core until after such time as a multi-year long range management plan is developed for Snowden. Council had requested that road building and plans for sales be postponed until a public process for considering the values of the forest be part of developing a multi-year long-range plan, and BC Timber Sales has confirmed they will proceed with creating a plan that looks at resource management, ecological and recreation values for Snowden.

### **Provincial ministry update on proposed landfill**

The City continues to correspond with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (ENV) about a proposed landfill at 7295 Gold River Highway. The City has asked ENV to suspend issuing a draft Operational Certificate (OC) to Upland Excavating Ltd. until outstanding non-compliance issues with the existing permit have been addressed and the City is confident that the proposal poses minimal risk to the watershed.

Protection of the City's drinking watershed and the Quinsam River system is of paramount importance. The City's new drinking water supply, which currently serves 40,000 people, is the largest capital project in our history. The Campbell/Quinsam system is extremely important from a habitat, sport and commercial fishery perspective; the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has spent more than \$13 million to upgrade and re-fit the Quinsam Hatchery. Should the City become confident that the risks have been minimized to an acceptable level from a technical perspective, and once municipal zoning and development permits are in place, the City expects that ENV would inspect and administer the OC conditions in a rigorous and timely fashion once the landfill is in operation.