



Comox News

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q' a'

The Town of Comox Community Newsletter

Rotary promenade extension



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The Town of Comox has completed a conceptual design for the expansion and extension of the Rotary Promenade. The popular wooden promenade, which sits atop the Comox Harbour Breakwater, is a significant community asset, and its designed expansion is included as one of Council's Waterfront and Marina Enhancement priorities.

The conceptual expansion includes:

- the addition of four new 10 x 15 metre platforms extending towards Comox Bay,
- a 33 metre extension of the main walkway in a westerly direction,
- the addition of a new hexagonal timber frame observation gazebo at the end of the walkway extension.

- electrical upgrades to include provisions for vendors and festival related events,
- installation of fire suppression lines, and
- a dedicated area to accommodate portable restroom facilities.

Council's intent is to apply for grants in order to offset the costs of this project.

KinderGym family program

KinderGym is a free family drop-in program offered Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Gym A. The Community Centre received a grant from the Early Years Collaborative (United Way) to cover the costs of the program facilitator and use of facility and marketing materials.

Donations received from participants of the program are used to purchase new equipment, such as this exciting new climber. The kids love it! The spring session runs April 11 to June 27.



Municipal election year



2018 is another election year for local governments in BC, and preparations in the Town of Comox are well underway. Residents and qualified property owners will be voting for one (1) mayor, six (6) councillors and one (1) school district trustee this year. General voting day is Saturday **October 20, 2018** at the Comox Community Centre, 1855 Noel Avenue, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Note that general voting day is ONE MONTH earlier than in previous years.

Before you can vote, you must be registered. The Town of Comox will be using the Provincial Voter's List from Elections BC as the Town's list of registered electors. If you are register-

ed with Elections BC, you will automatically be placed on the Town Voter's List. To add or update your voter information, visit <http://elections.bc.ca> and select "REGISTER TO VOTE" or call 1 (800) 661-8683.

If you are not on the Provincial Voter's List and want to be listed on the Town Voter's List, you must ensure you are registered with Elections BC by Sunday August 12, 2018. After August 12, 2018, please contact Town Hall to discuss your voter registration options.

Remember that electors who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at the voting places, or those who expect to be out of town during all voting opportunities can request a mail ballot voting package.

For more information on the election process, please see <http://comox.ca/> and select "Municipal Elections" under the Town Hall tab.

Mobile Vendors permitted in parks

The Town of Comox now permits mobile vendors to operate in a few parks. A mobile vendor is a person who offers food or merchandise for sale from a vehicle or mobile cart.

Changes to bylaws that enable mobile vending in Town include:

- identifying park locations where mobile vendors are permitted;

- permitting a new short-term business licence to accommodate mobile vendors; and
- including a detailed list of operational guidelines, to ensure mobile vendors add a positive component to our parks.

For more information, see: <http://comox.ca/modx/mobile-vendors.html>.

Why no plastic bags?

The Town continues to receive inquiries from residents, asking why plastic bags are not permitted in the curbside recycling and organics collection programs. The following provides some clarification.

The Town switched from a "blue bag" to a "blue box" recycling program in 2007 in order to allow for easier processing (as bags would no longer need to be manually removed) and to increase participation. Residents were advised that they could also use other clearly labeled refuse containers for placing their recyclables at the curbside. As a result of the change, participation did indeed improve, with an increase of over 50% in recyclables collected between July 2007 and July 2008!

As global importers of recyclable material tighten their allowable contamination amounts, it is even more important now than ever to use alternatives to plastic bags when placing recyclables at the curb. If residents are concerned about the wind scattering material in open containers, or about the rain drenching and ruining the material, then please cover with a piece of ply-

wood (or other material) weighted down with a rock or brick. On particularly stormy days, residents could even save their recyclables for the following collection, as unlimited amounts are permitted each collection week (every other week).

The reasons for not allowing plastic (even "compostable" plastic) bags to be used with the curbside organics program are different. Firstly, it is next to impossible to decipher between a "compostable" and a "biodegradable" bag, making manual removal extremely difficult. Secondly, if plastic bags were permitted, and subsequently missed during the removal process, the result is not only an undesirable end product, with bits of plastic, but potentially gums up the sorting and mixing machines.

As an alternative to using plastic bags to line your food waste kitchen containers, try using newspaper, paper towel or purchased paper food waste liners. Another option is to layer or sandwich your food waste in between your yard waste in the same curbside container, which could eliminate the need for a liner altogether.



Transit changes

In 2014, the Comox Valley Transit Future Plan was adopted, with the implementation of a Frequent Transit Network (FTN) between Comox and Courtenay as a high priority. Phase 1 of the FTN was initiated in January 2015 with the implementation of route 34 (C2C Express), which included nine limited stop trips back and forth between downtown Comox and downtown Courtenay during peak morning and afternoon times.

Phase 2 of the FTN, in which feedback from the public was obtained last

December, is scheduled to be implemented this September. Phase 2 includes an additional 4000 transit service hours as well as two additional vehicles. Changes in Comox include:

- a new route 1 (Courtenay/Comox) that replaces the route 34 (CTC Express), providing convenient, reliable and frequent service between the Comox Mall and the Driftwood Mall in Courtenay;
- a new route 3 (Comox Local) that replaces the existing route 3 (Comox), largely following the same route as the existing

route 3 through Comox. An exciting new element with this route will be service along Beaufort Avenue between Ellis and Stewart Streets, providing stops near Church Street, at d'Estre Seniors Centre and at the Comox Library;

- a new route 4 (Driftwood) that replaces the existing route 4 (Comox), providing direct service along Dyke Road to the Driftwood Mall in Courtenay; and
- a new transit exchange, to allow for the imple-

mentation of the FTN and related changes to local routes. A two-bay exchange is proposed to be located on the east side of Port Augusta Street, south of the entrance to the Comox Mall.



New sponsored fire prevention vehicle



Comox Valley Dodge continues to support the Town by fully sponsoring a fire prevention vehicle. For the past seventeen years, Comox Valley Dodge has been providing Comox Fire with a high profile vehicle that is used daily for our many fire prevention programs. This year's vehicle, a Jeep Cherokee, replaces the Pro Star we had for the past three years.

Comox Fire Chief Gord Schreiner couldn't be more

pleased. In addition to the free lease, Waypoint Insurance has been providing free insurance for many years. This all adds up to a great contribution to our community with little to no cost to the Town.

The vehicle will greatly assist with fire prevention activities, such as attending many public events each year, delivering school-based and smoke alarm programs and assisting with the delivery of seniors programs.

Community Centre receives mural

The Community Centre has received a mural from the Comox Mall. Because of recent renovations at the Mall, the mural needed a new home. The painting is from a photo dated 1924.

It's now prominently displayed in the Community Centre lobby. Other similar murals from the Comox Mall went to the Comox Museum and Archives Society.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

Business regulation bylaw

The Town has adopted a new Business Regulation Bylaw that replaces the older version from 1985. Changes in the new Business Regulation Bylaw include the following:

- a new business licence renewal process, where business licences for those businesses that operation indefinitely are now valid until January 31 of the following year. Renewal letters will continue to be issued in December, with a new renewal due date of January 31;
- a new short term licence option has been established for eligible seasonal and temporary businesses. This includes mobile vendors, Christmas vendors, crafters, carnivals and trade shows, among others;
- enforcement provisions have been added, enabling stronger enforcement of the Bylaw regulations through municipal ticketing for such offences as operating without a business licence, failing to update business licence information or operating in a prohibited location; and
- a new fee schedule for business licences.

Harbourwood playground

Harbourwood Park is about to receive a new playground system, thanks in part to the generosity of the Comox Lions' Club. The new play system will replace the old playground that has been in place for over twenty years. Look for the new play system to be installed this summer.



Notices

Capital Projects open house

Don't miss our open house on upcoming capital projects and other Town Hall updates! The open house runs from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 23, 2018, and will be held in the Town's twin sail buildings located in Marina Park.

Please note that there will be no formal presentations; however, residents will have the opportunity to learn about capital projects and other updates as well as speak one-on-one with staff.

Tax notices

Tax notices will be mailed out soon. If you have not received your tax notice by May 31, please contact the office. More information on your property tax and utility rates will be provided with your tax notice.

Watering restrictions

The Comox Valley Regional District implemented changes to its watering bylaw to reduce consumption and make it easier for residents to comply with annual water restrictions. For details, see Stage 1 Watering Restrictions on our website.

Twin sail buildings



Spinnaker and Genoa, the Town's Twin Sail Buildings located in Marina Park, received an Award of Excellence and were named the Judges' Choice - Best Overall in the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board Commercial Building Awards!