



September 2017

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

Marina Park improvements



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Major improvements to Marina Park, as part of Council's strategic Downtown Vitalization and Marina Enhancement priority, have been completed. Council recently celebrated the construction of twin sail buildings along with a new splash park and playground.

At the official opening ceremony, Council gratefully acknowledged its many funding partners, who helped make the improvements possible: Western Economic Diversification Canada, Island Coastal Economic Trust, Community Infrastructure Program,

Comox Business in Action, Comox, Courtenay and Strathcona Sunrise Rotaries, Young Professionals of the Comox Valley and the Mayor's Cup Charity Golf Tournament.

Come down and enjoy the atmosphere!

Youth Achievement Awards

At the August 2, 2017 Regular Council meeting, Council presented awards to some special youth in our community. The Ray Crossley Youth Achievement Awards recognize youth who go above and beyond in their dedication and service to others, and who devote time and energy to making the Comox Valley more caring, dynamic,

beautiful, healthy and unique.

Congratulation to this year's recipients: Mr. Ethan Tansky, Mr. Judd Foster, Mr. Reid Cochrane, Ms. Lizzie Gummer and Ms. Taylor McEachnie. We're sure that you have inspired others with your example.



New lighting along the Marina walkway

Custom frame for fitness studio



Town of Comox staff designed and built a custom made frame (black frame with the red padding) that attaches to one of the Matrix machines in the Comox Community Centre's Fitness Studio. The removable add-on was inspired, designed and built in order to help a quadriplegic client who does not currently have use of his legs and only limited use of his hands.

Jill Nelson (pictured centre) stated recently, "I don't have the words to express how much you've made a difference in the life of one of my clients, and his road to recovery. Inspired by John Dove, and then built by Doug Pollard and Glen Cummings, he is now able

to come to Comox Rec with me, or with a family member or friend, and STAND UP at the pulley machine with the custom made standing frame that you built."

Jill of HI-FOCUS FITNESS also stated that this piece of equipment can help anyone else with a disability similar to her client's, and that another piece of equipment at the fitness studio that has helped his legs get strong enough to actually stand, is the NU-STEP.

Pictured with Jill and her client are Doug Pollard and Glen Cummings of the Town's Building Maintenance Department, who built the attachment for the Matrix machine.

Freedom of the Town award

In a very special ceremony August 7, 2017, the Freedom of the Town was conferred on former Council member John Marinus.

The tradition of granting Freedom to a Town or City dates back more than three centuries and is not given lightly. In fact, the conferring on former Council member John Marinus is only the eighth time that this honour has been bestowed by the Town of Comox since its incorporation 71 years ago.

While raising a family and operating a business in the Town, Mr. Marinus also

found time to serve his community. He was a member of the Comox Volunteer Fire Department for 37 years and a member of Town Council for 15 years. He is also a life member of the Comox Legion Branch 160, the Knights of Columbus, the Probus Club and the Rotary Club of Comox. He has selflessly contributed to numerous rotary projects and is passionate about community service. Council congratulates John, and expresses sincere appreciation for his efforts in the many activities and achievements in our Town.



Robb Avenue Phase 2

Work is nearing completion on the Robb Avenue Phase 2 project (between Church Street and Prichard Road). Leighton Contracting was awarded the project to reconstruct the road, upgrade storm, sewer and water utilities and install sidewalk on the south side.

Also, parking pullouts will be installed on the south side, which will eliminate the current practice of parking on the boulevard. Another major component of this project is the installation of flowering cherry and magnolia, to replace the flowering trees that had to be removed. Work is expected to be complete by the end of August.



Totem in Filberg Park



The Tla Wa Sints Guy U Las (Strength from our Ancestors) totem was originally commissioned by Comox Valley residents Gordon and Ivy Wagner as a gift to the Filberg Park. Created by carver Richard Krentz, it was raised June 19, 1994 and described by some

as a “magical event”. Recognizing and celebrating four families and their crests, the symbols represented the Puntledge (Thunderbird), two groups of the K’omoks (the whale and the grizzly bear) and the Eiksan (sun). After standing proudly for 23 years, the aging totem

has been placed in the ravine (in Filberg Park) to complete its life cycle. In keeping with tradition, the totem now serves as an evocative reminder of the spirit of the First Nations ancestors and that all things organic are eventually returned to the earth.

Zoning Bylaw

The Town has adopted a new zoning bylaw, incorporating many amendments since the last zoning bylaw was adopted, including some general housekeeping changes. Definitions for accessory use, dwelling unit and home occupation have been updated. As well, new definitions for balcony, bay window, deck, eaves, landing, patio, porch and veranda have been added. The changes mean that a residence can now have more than one home occupation, that noise generating mechanical equipment can now be located in a side yard in some cases, that projection allowances into required setbacks are now less, and that accessory building setbacks from single- and two-family dwellings have been removed.

Contributions towards homelessness

In 2015, Council resolved to contribute toward a new regional service to address homelessness, and offered to allocate \$30,000 per year towards the five-year plan developed by the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. For the past

few years, Council has been collecting fees to address homelessness as part of all new developments, and putting the funds into a reserve for future use.

Council has now authorized two grants towards the homelessness program. The

first, in 2016, was given to the Comox Valley Recovery Centre to help purchase a four-plex that would serve as transitional housing for women, and women with children, fleeing violence. This year’s grant of \$30,000 has been approved for the

Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society. The funds will be used by Dawn to Dawn to help purchase two small condominiums, which in turn will be rented out to families at below market rates.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
comox.ca

Boat launch etiquette

Use of Marina Park facilities has increased substantially, including the parking lot and boat launch areas. Please consider a few friendly reminders when using the boat launch:

- prior to backing down the boat launch, as well as prior to docking for haul-out, prepare your boat and equipment;
- use a spotter; If you are alone, do not hesitate to ask for help;
- when launching, secure your boat as quickly as possible and move it to the end of the dock if space permits. Park

your vehicle and return to your boat as quickly as possible;

- when using the boat launch, refrain from socializing when others are waiting; and
- when hauling your boat out, tie up then retrieve your vehicle as quickly as possible. Clip your boat on with the main strap and pull it out of the water carefully. Return to a designated parking area to prepare your boat and trailer for travel.

Your cooperation is appreciated by all using the boat launch.

Retirements and new staff

Faces at the Town have been changing! Recently, we have had to say goodbye to Mandy Johns, Recreation Director. Director of Finance, Don Jacquest, will also be leaving at the end of August. In their place, Ted Hagmeier (Recreation) and Clive Freundlich (Finance) have been

hired. Ted has been with the Town as Recreation Supervisor since 2014 and we are delighted to have him take on his new role. We are equally pleased to welcome Clive, who has a wealth of finance and IT experience.

We wish Mandy and Don the happiest of retirements!



Ted Hagmeier



Clive Freundlich

Notices

Bylaw dos and don'ts...

When starting a business, please DO obtain a business licence first. If your business licence application is denied, DON'T operate your business until you have first addressed the reasons why it was not approved. We have some cases where applicants were denied a business licence (due to incorrect zoning, refusal to obtain a building permit, etc.) and yet still chose to operate their business. In cases such as this, you can be fined each day that your business operates without a valid licence.

School Zones

The Town would like to remind parents that school zones are very busy areas during times that parents are dropping off and picking up students, and can be unsafe if the following parking and driving practices are not adhered to:

No parking

- in a bike lane
- on sidewalks or boulevards
- in front of or within 5 metres of fire hydrants

- across or within 6 metres of crosswalks
- across or within 6 metres of intersections and public entranceways
- in loading or bus zones, except as permitted by sign
- across or within 2 metres of private driveways
- within 6 metres of stop signs

Maximum speed limit of 30 kilometres

No U-turns where prohibited

This newsletter is a result of Council's initiative to increase communication with residents. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to see anything in particular in upcoming editions, please contact us.