

Colwood Connection

Inviting your involvement in decisions about our vibrant waterfront community.

April 2014

Exciting Projects in the Works!

Redesigning sidewalks, streets and trails. We're planning transportation improvements that will bring a new beauty and sophistication to our neighbourhoods while making them safer places to walk, cycle and enjoy.

Attracting new businesses, homes and jobs. Many new housing and commercial projects are underway in Colwood now. A new Economic Development Strategy will ensure we are thoughtful about attracting the right kind of development. We'll strengthen our business community and increase our tax base to allow for continued improvements throughout our City. This will give Colwood residents more reasons to live, work, shop and do business right here on the Westshore.

Look inside to see projects planned for your neighbourhood.

Planning the Colwood Resource Recovery Centre

Get up to speed on sewage treatment

Top 3 reasons Colwood is considering local sewage treatment

- 1 With only 25% of Colwood homes on sewers, it makes **economic sense** to build a small system that is sized to meet our community's current needs, and can be easily expanded as our community grows.
- 2 The CRD plan calls for an additional facility on the West Shore by about 2030. Colwood would just be building it earlier, but will also provide a **higher level of treatment** and be able to **distribute the energy** it generates to local buildings.
- 3 Colwood will have greater **control over costs** and **residents will have greater input** into creating a system that fits our community and benefits our environment.

Come to an Open House to learn more, ask questions and share ideas

On Wednesday, April 30, gather a few friends and neighbours and join us at this open house. Even if your home is not connected to sewers, this plan will have implications and benefits that you will want to know about. Hearing from residents in the early stages is the most important first step in our planning.

Please join us!

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
5pm to 8pm (drop in any time)
Colwood Pentecostal Church at 2250 Sooke Road

Can't make it to the open house?

Send us your questions anytime. Email info@colwood.ca, call us at 250-478-5999, drop in to City Hall, or hit up the website at www.colwood.ca. Your feedback will help create a successful plan.

Are you on facebook or twitter? Follow @CityofColwood for updates.

Help us save paper!

Get Colwood news by email
at colwood.ca/subscribe.

It's only a matter of time.

The recent devastating mudslide in Washington State is a poignant reminder that disaster could strike at any time. Is your family prepared?

The Regional Emergency Preparedness Fair happens at the Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre on Sunday, May 4. Take advantage of all the information available and have a conversation with the people you love about your emergency plans. Here's a quick discussion checklist:

- evacuation plan and meeting place
- using a fire extinguisher
- drop, cover and hold on
- basic first aid
- emergency supplies

Creating a vibrant Colwood Economic Development Plan Update

We're hard at work on an economic development strategy to strengthen our business sector and attract investment that will bring a new vitality to Colwood.

Hearing from the community: More than 50 local and regional stakeholders have been interviewed and 150 people have responded to a survey that provides valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges we face.

Assessing our current economy: A comprehensive analysis of our demographics, labour force and current industry trends is now complete. It clearly describes the types of businesses that are successful in Colwood now and where there are opportunities for other industries that would add value to our community.

Promoting our unmatched waterfront location and natural amenities: Colwood has exceptional economic potential with breathtaking ocean waterfront, abundant greenspace, old growth forests, several national historic sites and prime development sites. With excellent connectivity to larger urban centres and a youthful and upbeat community, we are well positioned for healthy and sustainable growth. This strategy will provide the impetus for new and creative ways to spread this message far and wide.

The economic development strategy will be complete this summer, setting Colwood's course toward a bright and prosperous future.

*Look for great things to come in Colwood
potential and a great spirit. We want you*

Fostering a safe and caring community.

Good neighbours rely on each other to lend a hand, keep an eye on kids and check on property when someone is away. In an emergency, you may be your neighbour's lifeline, or they may be yours. Get to know them!

Colwood City staff are another important neighbour who are on the job every day maintaining parks, doing fire and building inspections, working on roads and trails and meeting with people in the community. Consider them a neighbour who is looking out for you too. Read more about this at www.colwood.ca/citywatch.

Top 3 reasons to plan a block party

*Check out the
Block Party Guide
at Colwood.ca*

A fun get together with neighbours strengthens community connections for a safe, healthy neighbourhood.

1 Promote a safe and caring neighbourhood.

Neighbours who know each other look out for each other. They check in when things don't seem right and support each other in the event of emergency. It's especially helpful for kids and the elderly to know people are watching out for them.

2 Strengthen neighbourhood spirit.

You don't need a special reason to celebrate - just relax over a simple potluck or barbeque and some good music. Exchange stories about the history of your neighbourhood and ideas for the future while you and foster a sense of pride in where you live.

3 Increase the sense of belonging to community.

A block party encourages simple social connections that encourage healthy communities and healthy people. You may even find ways to share resources or interests like carpools, babysitting, gardening or walking groups.

Your neighbourhood

New places to go and ways to get there

By this summer, Colwood's new Economic Development Strategy and Transportation Master Plan will be finalized. (Watch for your opportunities to comment on the draft plans this spring!) These plans will be the foundation of our vision of creating vibrant neighbourhoods in Colwood.

With help from community members at open houses and through surveys, we have developed thoughtful plans for how each area in Colwood should look, feel and function.

Many of these are *long term plans* that will be built along with new housing and commercial developments planned in our area.



Colwood. This community has a wealth of amenities, huge potential for you to be involved in the positive changes to come. ”

~ Mayor Hamilton

Solar Colwood goes Regional

On April 1st, the Solar Colwood program expanded to provide financial incentives for solar hot water systems to homes and businesses throughout the Capital Region. This change, driven by Colwood staff, will allow more people to take advantage of grants of up to \$3000 through a Natural Resources Canada grant Colwood earned in 2009 to initiate the program. Read more at solarcolwood.ca.



Encouraging access to local food sources

With help from interested residents, we'd like to create a community garden at Colwood City Hall. Find out how you can get involved in planning, building and using the garden. You will find details at colwood.ca/communitygarden.

Also, residents can now enjoy fresh eggs from their own backyard hens. See 'Backyard Chickens' at www.colwood.ca.

Protecting our trees - call before you cut!

Trees are an important part of the Colwood landscape. The City monitors the removal of trees in areas designated as environmentally sensitive. Within these areas, even on private property, a permit or exemption is required from the City before a tree can be cut down. Exemptions can be obtained to remove hazardous trees.

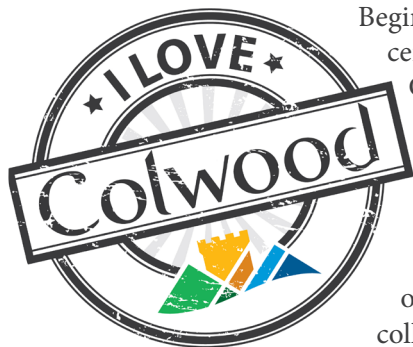
Contact the Colwood Planning Department to find out if you are within a designated area.



'I love Colwood' Selfie Contest

Send us a photo from your favourite spot in Colwood and WIN!

Whether it's a popular landmark like Fisgard Lighthouse or Hatley Castle, a park or trail where you love to wander, your favourite place to grab a bite, or just a quiet spot you enjoy—share it! Look for details on our website, twitter and facebook page.



Beginning in May, weekly winners will enjoy gift certificates from valued local businesses. The Grand Prize Winner will take home an iPad.

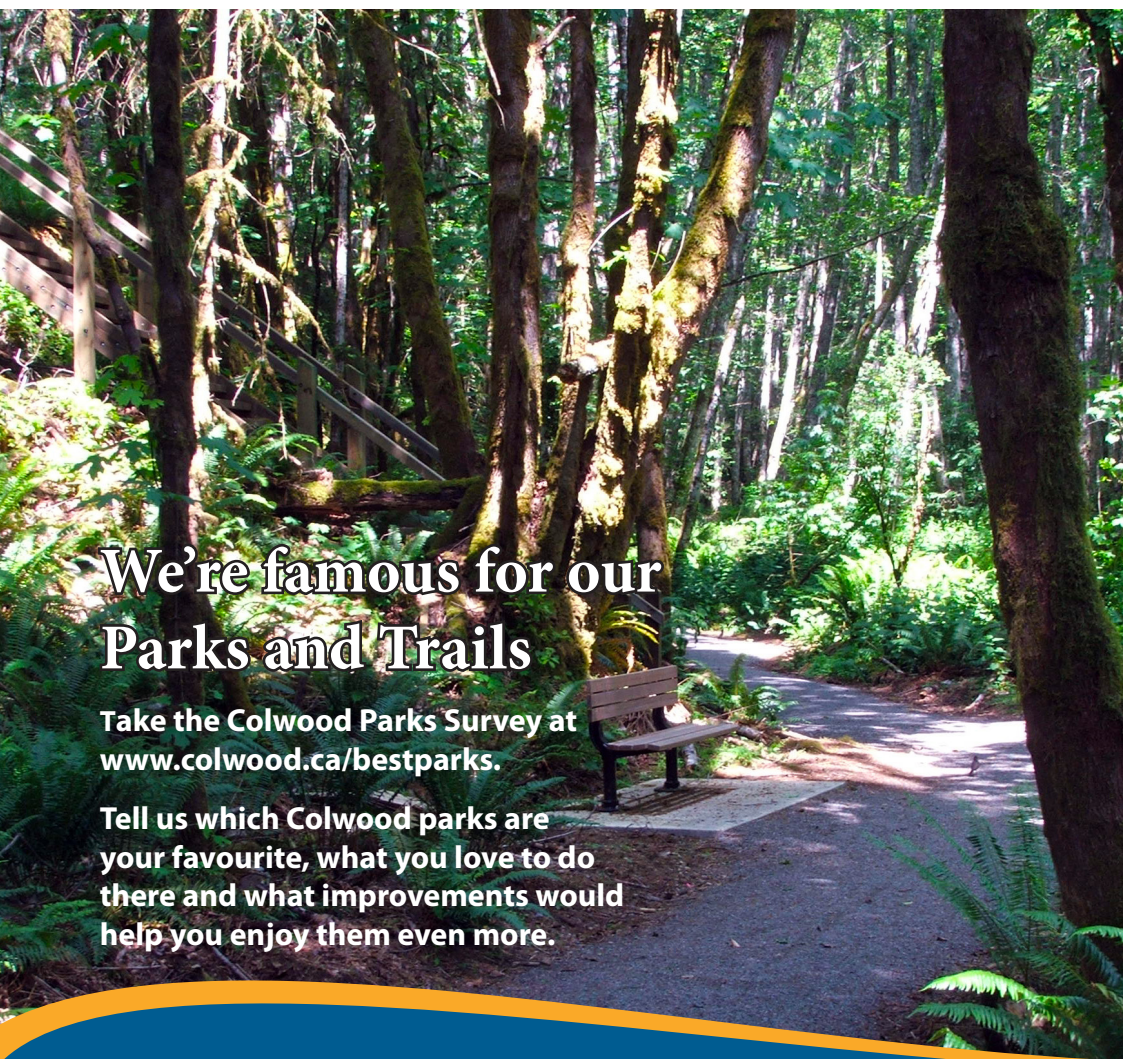
Think the "I love Colwood" bit is corny? We don't. We are truly proud of the beautiful setting we are blessed to live in and the quality of life we enjoy here in Colwood. We wear our hearts on our sleeves every day; sleeves rolled up in a collective effort to make Colwood the very best community it can be.

Know someone who goes the extra mile to help? Pay it Forward.

In the past year, Colwood Council has presented seven Pay it Forward awards to people in our community for good deeds, positive leadership and sharing their time and energy for the benefit of others.

You probably know some of them! Grade 3 and 4 students at Wishart Elementary, Grade 5 students at Ecole John Stubbs, and the Christmas Backpack Project, are just a few.

See all past recipients and nominate your own at www.colwood.ca/payitforward.



We're famous for our Parks and Trails

Take the Colwood Parks Survey at www.colwood.ca/bestparks.

Tell us which Colwood parks are your favourite, what you love to do there and what improvements would help you enjoy them even more.

Did you know?

You live in an award winning city!

Here are just a few of the honours Colwood has earned recently:

- Bloomingest Community
- Vancouver Island Green Business Cert.
- Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Award
- Top 100 Canadian neighbourhoods
- UBCM 2013 Community Excellence Award
- Climate and Energy Action Award
- W3 Silver Award winning website
- Role Model City for Disaster Resilience
- Canadian Solar Cities Award

Read more at colwood.ca.



We love to hear from you.

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions that make Colwood a vibrant, connected community that we all take pride in. Check your city website at colwood.ca for ways to share your ideas, and get involved.

Follow @CityofColwood on Twitter and Facebook too!

www.colwood.ca | 3300 Wishart Road | Colwood, BC | V9C 1R1 | 250.478.5999