

theColwoodConnection

December 2010

News and Information from Your City to You



Also in this issue:
Community Spirit
Secondary Suites
Basking in the Sun
Colwood Corners

Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Economic development vision drives integration of new state-of-the-art high school and post-secondary hub with regional performing arts and Coast Salish cultural destination

IMAGINE ... A new high school in Colwood, providing fresh new space for 1,100 West Shore students...right next door to a regional arts and cultural centre that provides space for performing arts, music, dance, visual arts and new media.

This is the vision for the school site at Royal Bay. Colwood and Langford Councils have been lobbying hard for new high schools at Royal Bay and Glen Lake, replacing the badly outdated facilities at Belmont. In addition, Colwood has been working with a variety of partners,

including the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and School District 62, to explore the development of a premier arts and cultural facility immediately next door, in cooperation with the federal and provincial governments and First Nations. This co-location will provide lots of shared benefits, as well as cost savings for both venues, and will be a tremendous economic boost for the whole region.

For more information, please contact the WestShore Chamber of Commerce at 250-478-1130.



Happy Holidays

Mayor Saunders, Colwood Council and staff wish you and your family a warm and wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

Community Spirit: Crossing Guard Sponsors

A HUGE THANK YOU! to our amazing school crossing guard program sponsors, who are helping to keep our kids safe. The business community has really stepped forward to support the three crossing guards for Sangster, Colwood and David Cameron elementary schools.

© **Thrifty Foods** has donated \$20,000 which is paying for the Colwood School crossing of Sooke Road for three years.

© **Windsor Plywood** again donated \$6,000 to pay for a crossing guard for Sangster School (Metchosin Road).

© **Westland Insurance** donated \$2,500 to support the David Cameron crossing (Veteran's Memorial Parkway).

© **Royal Bay Bakery** donated \$2,000, helping to pay for part of the costs for Sangster and David Cameron Schools.

© **CUPE Union Local 374** donated \$500 to support the David Cameron crossing (Veteran's Memorial Parkway).

Please show your appreciation by supporting these businesses. We are still looking for additional support for this community safety initiative. If you would like to contribute, please contact **Ross McPhee** at **250-478-5999**.

Suite Reminder ... Secondary Suite Registration Deadline January 7, 2011

If you have a secondary suite, you **MUST** register it. Suites built before July 1, 2009 can get a 'Class 2' permit, which means they do not have to meet current building code, if you register before 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 7, 2011**. Failure to register by this cut-off date means that your suite will have to comply with 'Class 1' permit regulations as well as current B.C. Building Code standards.

For information see **www.colwood.ca** or call City Hall at **250-478-5999**.



Colwood's collaboration with leading West Shore businesses to fund school crossing guards, demonstrates the character of our community. Businesses are the backbone of our community. We are fortunate to have businesses like Thrifty Foods, Windsor Plywood, Royal Bay Bakery and Westland Insurance, and the support of CUPE Union Local 374, which have all come together to help keep children and families safe at our school crossings.

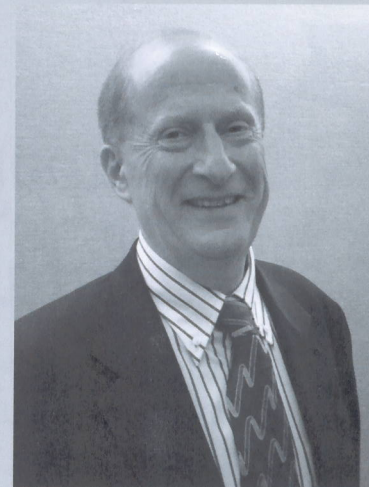
City News

Welcome Ross!

Colwood extends a warm welcome to our new Chief Administrative Officer, **Ross McPhee**. Ross comes to us from the City of Revelstoke, where he was closely involved in helping ensure the early successful development of the new Revelstoke Mountain Resort, a great economic driver for their region.

Ross is a lawyer, economist and planner, who brings with him many years of experience working with local governments in B.C. and Alberta while employed in both the public and private sector.

Earlier in his career, Ross worked as a lawyer in Colwood. In B.C. he has also lived and worked in Rossland, Campbell River,



Ross McPhee, Colwood's new Chief Administrative Officer

Vancouver, and Victoria. In his spare time (if he has any) Ross enjoys hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, and being back on Vancouver Island!

Former CAO Chris Pease is now enjoying a well-earned retirement.

More City News

Budget Meetings

Initial budget meetings are planned for **December 13, 2010** and **January 17, 2011**, please come along and provide your feedback. For more information and reports see www.colwood.ca

Sewer Oversight Committee

The sewer system and sewer charges have presented numerous challenges in recent years. The City is working hard to resolve these in a fair and equitable manner, and has set up a new Sewer Oversight Committee to encourage ample public input on these issues. The Committee includes members of the original Upstream Users Group and the public in addition to Council representatives. Check 'agendas' on the City's webpage for meeting dates and topics.

Pay it Forward

The Pay it Forward program recognizes youth in our community for their extraordinary deeds and efforts. The November winner was 10-year old **Austin Hall-Silvester**, for his huge fund raising efforts for Cystic Fibrosis and Cops for Cancer. Well done Austin! ***Do you know an extraordinary young person in our community who deserves recognition for their leadership?*** For more information, or to nominate a deserving youth go to www.colwoodpayitforward.ca

Volunteer Firefighters – A Fit For You?

Volunteer Firefighters are your neighbours, your co-workers and your friends. They are men and women of all ages and all walks of life who live close to you and respond to emergencies in Colwood. Every member is a dedicated trained professional with a high level of competency.

The Fire Department will be looking for new members and accepting applications in January of 2011. If you are interested in learning more or perhaps joining this amazing team, pickup an application form at the Colwood Fire Station or visit our website to learn more.

Colwood Fire Department reminds you that during a power outage the use of LED lights is a far better choice than candles. The Fire Department encourages our residents to review their means of auxiliary household lighting and to choose these safer forms of lighting rather than candles during prolonged power outage events.



Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

The Inter-municipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI) advocates for increased opportunities for persons with disabilities of all types in the West Shore. The committee includes representatives from Colwood, Langford, Metchosin, View Royal and Highlands. IACDI have built an Accessible Art Space at Esquimalt Lagoon and consult on important projects throughout the region. Everyone is welcome to join IACDI at meetings as well as help to determine which local trails and lookouts should be highlighted in the upcoming "Accessible Guide to the West Shore". See agendas on the City website or contact Colwood's representative at CouncillorDay@shaw.ca

Protecting our Parks

In September, Council considered a staff report that looked at the possibility of selling some parks and other City-owned lands. More than 60 people attended the meeting, and all who spoke were strongly opposed to selling of any park land. Council listened carefully to all of the comments, and as a result passed a motion that there be no further consideration of selling parks or dedicated greenspace.

"A little piece of heaven"

Colwood resident **Gerry Omsted** left something very special for all of us. Gerry's vision transformed a field of Scotch broom and other weeds alongside the Galloping Goose trail into Brittany Park—green space that all of the community can enjoy. A plaque recognizes Gerry's vision, as well as the amazing support from the many community members who contributed funds and 'sweat equity' into making this park a special place. As the plaque says, it's a "little piece of heaven".

Calling all volunteers

Want to get more involved? The City is looking for additional volunteers for the Colwood Heritage Commission and on the St. John the Baptist Church Management Committee. If you are interested in helping develop our archives or documenting pioneer stories we'd love to meet you. Please contact Barb at bcordeiro@colwood.ca

We also want to hear from people who are interested in joining our "Friends of Colwood Parks" initiative, and would be willing to help with removal of broom and other invasive plants in our parks. Please contact Louise at lgordon@colwood.ca

Help Stop Vandalism/Graffiti

Help us reduce acts of vandalism or graffiti in your neighbourhood! If you witness vandals committing damage/graffiti to property, please call the RCMP.

Learn more about how Colwood works.

Colwood's **Strategic Plan** provides a roadmap for how the city is implementing our award-winning **Official Community Plan**. Learn more about both of these important guiding documents when you visit the city's website at www.colwood.ca Play a part in our community vision.



Basking in the sun ...

Our city is on the map with Solar! Colwood was recently designated as a Solar Community by Solar BC, one of 32 such communities in British Columbia.

Do you have solar thermal hot water heating? The City is looking at ways to provide incentives to homeowners to upgrade their homes and save on energy costs with solar thermal hot water heating. If you have solar hot water heating and want to share your stories, or if you are interested in retrofitting your home with solar hot water heating, please email the City at solar@colwood.ca

New in Town

Adult Day Care Colwood's first private adult daycare will be opening soon on Kelly Road, the first of its kind in B.C. The Open Hearts Adult Day Care will provide a safe place for people with dementia, allowing their caregivers a temporary respite so that they can do the shopping, attend appointments or get much-needed time for themselves. There will be space for up to 10 adults, with care from trained professionals. For more information call Nicole Donaldson at 250-391-9827.

Colwood Corners Look for some redevelopment of the Colwood Plaza, perhaps as early as next summer. The first phase of this re-development will take place along the Sooke Road/Colwood Crescent area, with a new larger London Drugs building, new office/retail space and residential units. The maximum heights on the Sooke Road side will be five storeys, with a planned 25 storey residential tower at the back of the site.



Image courtesy League Assets

Latoria Road With the improving economy, several exciting new changes are planned along Latoria Road: ☉ A Red Barn Market will be opening at Latoria Walk next year ☉ A new residential/commercial development is planned for 591 Latoria, including a brew pub ☉ A new 27 unit townhome development is planned for 3580 Wishart Road (at Latoria), together with extensive restoration of Latoria Creek.

Other developments are in the planning stages; look for more to come.

Rapid Transit Update

BC Transit is moving ahead with plans for a rapid transit system from the West Shore to downtown Victoria. The West Shore portion will go along Goldstream Avenue and have dedicated lanes down Island Highway to the Six Mile area (there will still be two lanes of traffic plus a centre turning lane). From there, it will go to Uptown and then downtown.

Decisions yet to be made are: ☉ Should it be a rapid bus or a light rail system? **and** ☉ Should the dedicated lanes along Island Highway be along the outside of both of the traffic lanes (curb-side option) or have the transit lanes together on the Juan de Fuca side of the road (side-running option)?

BC Transit also wants to hear from residents and businesses. Watch for the Open Houses in the new year, or learn more when you visit www.transitbc.com/vrrt/

Bulldog GREEN Takes Recycling BEYOND the BLUE Box

Reduce household and business waste while you support student leadership when you visit Belmont's **Bulldog GREEN Recycling Depot** the 2nd Saturday of every month. Recycle styrofoam (including clean meat trays & take-out containers from food), soft plastics, foil-lined bags and snack bar wrappers ... and more! Visit their website for more: www.bulldoggreen.ca

ColwoodConnection is a publication of the City of Colwood. Colwood is committed to conservation, and is looking to reduce our community's ecological impact while keeping people connected. Get in touch with Mayor and Council and learn more about the City's committee structure at colwood.ca. You can also receive regular community event updates via email when you join the Colwood Community Place social network. Email info@colwoodcommunityplace.ca and ask to be added to the mailing list.

... and being prepared for winter weather safety

Snow and Ice Removal: To help the City of Colwood provide the best service, please avoid parking on the road during bad weather or when temperatures fall below zero. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed, and cul du sacs will not be serviced if cars are parked there.

Winter Drainage: Help us keep roadside catch basins clear by removing leaves from culverts and ensuring that surface drains are clear of mud and debris.

Private roadways are not maintained by the City. Snow and ice removal is the responsibility of the property owner. Please ensure that arrangements are made to maintain private roadways and drainage systems, particularly during the fall and winter months.

For more information please contact Colwood Public Works at 250-474-4133.

What's on Your Mind? What's on the Agenda?

City Hall (3300 Wishart Road) is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Agendas for upcoming Council and Committee meetings are posted on our website www.colwood.ca