



City of Revelstoke

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revelstoke.ca

May 28, 2020

Mayors Address to the Community

Good Morning Everyone,

As we are coming to the end of our second week of Provincial and Municipal re-opening we have great news coming out of Tuesday's Council meeting!

Livability has been a Strategic Priority of Council and a big part of livability is affordable housing. I am happy to report that Council approved two BC Housing development permits for exterior building envelope changes and upgrades to existing electrical and mechanical systems at Rivers Edge and Columbia Garden apartment complexes. These investments will greatly increase housing stock and the quality of housing in the community. Development Services has been working with the contractors to ensure the building permits and development permits were aligned so construction of the new façade will begin very soon.

Council approved a lease agreement with the Revelstoke Community Housing Society to allow for the construction of a 21-unit affordable housing initiative on City owned land located at 297 Humbert Street. This project will also contribute to affordable housing in the community.

The City is very excited to be in a position to inject some money into the local economy during these uncertain times. Two local construction companies were awarded contracts this week, Jake-Jay Construction Ltd, for the Lowertown project and Absolute Industries for the rehabilitation of our beautiful historic City Hall. The projects will begin in the coming weeks.

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES

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FINANCE

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(250) 837-2911
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The Revelstoke Golf Course received Council support to open all facilities including the driving range, putting green, pro-shop, clubhouse and restaurant as early as June 1st pending receipt of a Worksafe BC COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Council was thrilled to hear that the City of Revelstoke won the 2020 SILGA Community Excellence Award in the Economic Development category for Food Security. Initiatives included formation of farmer and chef networking groups, creation of a farmer's market and involvement in the development of the City's Official Community Plan. Kudos to Melissa Hemphill for the nomination and to all involved on the remarkable team effort.

Following steps taken by BC Parks and Recreations Sites, Williamson Lake Park & Campground received approval to start summer operations as set out in their COVID-19 Safety Plan. The operators will follow the provincial recommendations when processing campsite reservations.

Another good news story: Last Friday the province issued policy changes that will allow restaurants and service establishments to temporarily expand their service area from now until October 31, 2020. The Development Services department did a phenomenal job in getting this information to Council as quickly as possible so that local businesses do not have to face any delays by getting pre-approvals. The pre-approval will reduce processing time with both the City and Province as well as support local businesses to operate with defined social distancing requirements.

Council also had a great discussion on various ways to boost our economy and support all local businesses during this time. The discussion included a suggestion from Councillor Younker to close streets to accommodate outdoor business activities which was forwarded to the newly established Economic Recovery Task Force. I am proud of my fellow Councillors and staff for putting the needs of our entire community in the forefront!

Have you noticed the new educational COVID-19 related signage around town? Our hope is that it will act as a reminder, in these times of storefront and restaurant re-opening to continue to practice physical distancing and perform proper self-sanitization in order to protect ourselves and those at risk in our community. Don't forget about the parking restrictions which include time limits, we want to make sure those that have business to do in the downtown core are able to get in and out in a timely manner.

Great news Jack, staff will be opening City playgrounds on Monday June 1 so make sure mom and dad have plenty of hand sanitizer and keep your fingers out of your mouth! City staff will not be sanitizing the playground equipment throughout the day, so we encourage parents to bring their own sanitizer or use the washroom facility to wash hands frequently.

The Skatepark is also scheduled to open on June 1st – the City is working with the Columbia Valley Skateboard Association and the Stoke Youth Network to develop a skatepark monitor program. The monitors will be on site to educate the public on the general guidelines for skatepark use, in particular reminding individuals to practice physical distancing. In addition to the Skatepark, the Museum will also be opening to the public on Monday.

City Hall will be opening to the public with limited hours on Monday June 1st. We will be reserving the mornings for pre-arranged appointments for those more vulnerable and will be open to the public from 12-3 pm. For the protection of staff and visitor's additional safety precautions will be in place, please follow all signs and be patient.

Staff in the Finance Department are busy preparing tax notices for mail out as early as next week. Tax payments were previously deferred by Council from July 2, 2020 to September 2, 2020 amid the COVID-19 challenges. The Department is preparing guidelines and amending payment procedures that will encourage using a payment method that does not require a City Hall visit but are happy to make special arrangements and work with those that require assistance.

If you are looking to build this summer, please contact building@revelstoke.ca to book an appointment with a planner or building inspector. For all other inquiries, please contact admin@revelstoke.ca

We invited the public to submit questions for my address to the City's communications team at communications@revelstoke.ca. I enjoy giving the community these updates and answering questions so please keep the questions coming.

During this time of uncertainty with learning how to embrace our new normal, I encourage each and every one of you to be kind to your fellow community members and our visitors including those from out of province. The color of the license plate should not matter as our fears do not outweigh our humanity. We don't know their stories or why they are in Revelstoke but in these times, all that matters is that we extend kindness and support to everyone around us!

I encourage everyone to support local businesses as each puts their Worksafe Plan in place and start to reopen. As we continue to follow the Provincial Health Officer's directives to keep safe and healthy, remember to physical distance and again, please remember to kind!