



# City of Revelstoke

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June 25, 2020

## Mayors Address to the Community

Good Morning Everyone,

To start, I'd like to thank staff for the extra thought and effort that went in to providing a safe environment for our meeting. Council was able to conduct Tuesday's Council Meeting in Council Chambers with sanitization and physical distancing measures in effect.

Council reconsidered a resolution made on May 26<sup>th</sup> with respect to limiting campground registration at Williamson Lake Park and Campground to BC residents. The previous decision would negatively impact the local business operating the campground, so to support them, we have chosen to welcome out of province guests. City staff and the park operators have established protocols to encourage physical distancing through increased space between sites, limitations of the number of campers in the campground and heightened cleaning schedules.

Development Services had a number of items on the agenda, including a Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment that will allow for a café in Comprehensive Development Zone CD-06 which affects only one property located at 1300 Douglas Street, Alchemy Yoga Studio. In addition, Council reviewed and approved a development permit for form and character for a warehouse building at the Mt. Begbie Brewery site, as well as a development permit for form and character for the construction of a commercial building at 260 Highway 23 North. I am pleased to see development continue in our community during these unsettled times.

Get ready to see more amazing artwork in our downtown alleys with Phase II of the Art Alleries Project. The project does not have any impact on the City's financial plan and brings local artwork to the

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downtown core for residents and visitors to enjoy! Council approved installation of a copper/stainless steel piece entitled “A Simple Joy” by local artist Kyle Thornley at the Roxy Theatre; photographic images printed onto powder-coated aluminum panels entitled “A Friend of a Friend” by local photographer Bruno Long on the Revelstoke Dental Centre building; and “Canadian Pacific”, a pop art style stained glass triptych of a historic Selkirk Steam Engine in the windows of the Revelstoke Credit Union by another local artist Kelly Hutcheson, pending issuance of any required approvals and permits.

The Community Economic Development team, in conjunction with the Tourism Initiatives Committee, reviewed and re-distributed Resort Municipality Initiative funds previously approved in the Resort Development Strategy in an effort to provide local support and meet current community needs as a result of COVID-19.

More great ideas are coming out of the Recovery Task Force to support and aid our local businesses. During their meeting last week, members evaluated public engagement to make recommendations on street pilot projects. The Task Force recommended a phased approach to support Revelstoke’s historic and vibrant downtown economy including Phase 1 - communicating and promoting options for retail businesses and restaurants to increase capacity and maintain physical distancing recommendations; Phase 2 - a pilot project for “parklets” which will allow businesses to utilize street spaces to develop seating, waiting and/or display areas.

Just a reminder about the Recycle BC scheduled changes for your residential recycling curbside pickup and collection starting on July 1, 2020. Recycle BC will be distributing blue bins, yellow bags and recycling guides beginning on June 15, 2020. Check our [website](#) for updated schedules and more information. Remember, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, blue recycling bags will not be picked up.

As areas of the community open and get busier, it is so very important for all community members and visitors to continue diligence in physical distancing and proper hygiene – especially in high traffic areas such as our green spaces, playgrounds, Skatepark and Splashpad.

On another note, we have some significant engineering projects underway and I’ve been asked to remind area residents to keep out of

construction areas. While taking a shortcut to town through the roundabout site or cutting through the Lowertown construction area to get to the Splashpad might save five minutes, please consider the potential consequences and put your safety and the safety of the workers first.

Don't forget that payment options for property taxes now include online banking, in person at City Hall, mail a cheque or drop one off in our new secure drop box outside of City Hall – pay by September 2, 2020 to avoid penalties. Your Home Owner Grant can now be claimed online – visit the “I'd like to” section on our website then choose Claim the Provincial Home Owner Grant or email [ehog@revelstoke.ca](mailto:ehog@revelstoke.ca) with a photo of your completed grant application.

Canada Day will look a little different this year due to COVID-19. While Revelstoke won't have any organized events this year, I encourage you to get out and enjoy the community, or enjoy online celebrations complete with music, dance, comedy and virtual fireworks. You can also visit [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) for free downloadable Celebration Kits that include Canada-themed crafts, games, recipes outdoor activities and more. My wife and I plan to break out the BBQ or order in from one of Revelstoke's amazing restaurants and join the rest of the community for a Front Yard Feast. Find out more details on the Vibrant Revelstoke Facebook page.

As Premier Horgan announced yesterday, the Province is slowly opening to Phase Three of the BC's ReStart plan. With this has come the opportunity to welcome guests from neighbouring Provinces. Our Provincial Health Officer, Dr Bonnie Henry has given us these guidelines: Travel safely and respectfully and be mindful of where you go and what you do, respect your neighbours and the communities that you visit. We must maintain our foundational elements; physical distancing, clean hands and masks when we are not able to physically distance. To those who travel to visit us, be mindful of what BC residents have done together, bring your travel manners and when you arrive here in Revelstoke please follow The REVY RULES that

welcome you as well as guide you in ways to keep yourself and our residents COVID-19 free.

To those in our community who are planning to travel, please follow the Provincial Health Officer's four foundational rules: keep doing what you have been doing to keep yourself clean, be respectful with your travel and plan ahead, make sure communities are ready to welcome you and stay vigilant.

All the best for a great week ahead and remember to be kind and considerate of each other.