

Secondary Suites
Lagoon Bridge Update
Happy Birthday Colwood
City News and Events
Paying it Forward



Special Public Meeting June 22nd

Esquimalt Lagoon Bridge Update

Secondary Suites

Secondary suites (including those in accessory buildings) are now legal throughout Colwood, but you **MUST** register your suite with City Hall. Existing suites need a Class 2 permit (and must meet simple requirements, such as space for parking).

The cost to register suites is \$200 before July 1 or \$300 between July 1st and December 31st 2010. New suites need a Class 1 permit (\$200), and must meet the building code.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If your existing suite is not registered by December 31st, 2010, you will have to apply for a Class 1 licence, and your suite must meet the building code.

For more information see www.colwood.ca (click on **Planning**), call **250-478-5999**, or email planning@colwood.ca.

The Esquimalt Lagoon bridge has been closed to vehicles since January, a result of winter storms that eroded and seriously weakened the approaches. The city has heard from many who like the peace and quiet, and many others who are anxious for the bridge to re-open as soon as possible. The issue is challenging.

Thanks to kind donations of time, equipment, materials, and money from private citizens and property developers, the City will move ahead with repairs as soon as final approvals from the federal and provincial governments are received – hopefully later this month. However, these will be temporary repairs that could be washed out by next winter's storms.

To keep the bridge open, the City will have to find a more permanent way to limit erosion along this foreshore.

A public meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 22nd, 7 pm at Ecole John Stubbs, to consult with the public on this issue and provide information on coastal erosion processes and some of the options (*and associated costs!*) of slowing the erosion affecting the bridge and adversely impacting resident and business travel, public safety, and tourism opportunities for Colwood. Please join us for this event and provide your input on an important community infrastructure issue. Check www.colwood.ca for further information.

Colwood is Paying it Forward

The new **Pay it Forward** program recognizes youth in our community for their extraordinary deeds and efforts. Congratulations to all our winners so far! For a complete list of winners, or to nominate a deserving young person, please go to colwoodpayitforward.ca or join the Facebook page. This program is generously supported by the **Royal Bank, Colwood Firefighters** and **Crossroads Bar and Grill**.



Colwood: Green Learning University City

The City of Colwood has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Royal Roads University. As a result, over the last six months Colwood has been transformed into a dynamic living laboratory for Royal Roads' learners. The City is benefitting from the power and creativity of some great minds.

Students have taken on a variety of projects, like helping the city find its value-added marketing identity, or 'brand'. A creative and skilled group of over 70 Bachelor of Commerce students took on the challenge of selling Colwood to the world through a 'branding project'. They researched, brainstormed and engaged the community and visitors alike as they developed strategies to market the city and increase economic development opportunities that are consistent with Colwood's award-winning Official Community Plan. In December 2009, a day full of inspired presentations resulted in a host of great ideas and tourism development recommendations, some of which can already be seen in our "This is Colwood" campaign which kicked off this spring. Just a few months ago, environmental students created innovative 'wikis' about the many ways we can create a stronger and more sustainable community, and an MBA candidate from the Canadian Navy has just started work on an international marketing strategy for the city intended to build on the efforts started with the BCom cohort ... a meaningful circle of support that features real-world learning opportunities, and brings Colwood management consulting resources it needs, but cannot presently afford, worth almost \$100,000 to our city once all is said and done. A win/win/win for the city, the learners, and our home town post-secondary institution with a commitment to lifelong learning and a progressive triple bottom line.

Colwood is also encouraging **technology tourism** — bringing people here to try out and showcase new technologies, such as the Boydel sewage treatment test which **generated \$800,000 in local spending on Vancouver Island**. We are looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that support local employment and build opportunities for clean energy investments.

The City has drafted a **Community Energy and Emissions Plan**, which gained recognition from the Provincial Government as a model approach to measuring current emissions, and has passed community emissions reductions targets of 33% by 2020. And Colwood is walking the talk, having reduced the city's own greenhouse gas emissions by 22% between 2007 and 2010, which also generated significant financial savings.



BC's Minister of State for Climate Action, John Yap takes a moment to satisfy his curiosity about our super sustainable service truck, on a recent visit to learn more about Colwood's success in reducing our municipality's greenhouse gas emissions. The City has reduced GHG by 22% since 2007 by making smart shifts like this one, going electric to service our over 50 local parks!

City News

Do I Need a Permit?

YES! If you are a business (including home-based businesses) operating in Colwood, you need a **Business Licence**.

YES! If you want to modify or improve the boulevard in front of your house (e.g., putting in irrigation or a parking area), you need a **Right-of-Way Permit**.

YES! If you are building or extending your home, or adding an accessory building (workshop, garage, etc.), you need a **Building Permit** or a **Development Permit**.

For more information please contact City Hall at 250.478.5541 or see www.colwood.ca (click on **Applications and Permits**).

University on the Lookout for Local Student Housing

Royal Roads University is expanding its reach and attracting more students from around the world who are in need of convenient and affordable local accommodation. Their housing needs vary in length from 2 to 12 month periods, depending on the nature of the student's academic program.

Do you have a secondary suite or other rental lodging that would help to keep RRU students closer to their campus (*ideally within walking or biking distance*)? If so, RRU wants to hear from you. **Please contact Karmell. Preston@royalroads.ca**

More City News

Celebrating Colwood's Silver Jubilee

The City of Colwood turns 25 years old on June 24th, and celebrated at the Mother's Day Paint-in at Royal Roads University with a cake, community displays, and JDF Pathfinders' guided walking tours through Hatley Park, past heritage points of interest, and working artists and artisans along the trail to the neighbouring Coast Collective Art Centre at Essencia.

Colwood is in good company, with other anniversaries this year, including Fisgard Lighthouse (150 years old), the Canadian Navy (100 years old), Colwood Women's Institute (100 years old), and Royal Roads University (15 years old). Congratulations all!

Getting Our House in Order

An enormous amount of work has been going on behind the scenes with staff and council to get our fiscal house in order, and while we aren't out of the woods yet, significant progress has been made and our community is in much better financial shape. Over the past two years we have reduced costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars by eliminating eight full-time jobs, delaying expenditures (such as road maintenance) and minimizing expenses wherever possible. We have placed much tighter controls on spending, while working on several fronts to replenish our diminished reserve funds.

We will continue to be frugal and are exploring new revenue opportunities. We are also finding creative ways of managing with less while marketing our city as a great destination for investment by new businesses and residents alike.

The Hole Story

Indicative of the global financial downturn is the 'Silkwind Hole' on Wale Road—dug for a high-rise building that has yet to be built. The developer is required to re-fill the area beside Wale Road before the winter to protect the road and enable us to build sidewalks and cycling lanes.

Critical Software Upgrade

New core financial software—replacing a system that was more than 30 years old—has been a great success. The City now has improved accounting and reporting procedures, resulting in our 2009 audit being completed in record time (six months earlier than for the previous year). This system change, coupled with other administrative streamlining, made Colwood the second-fastest municipality in the region to complete its audit. Work is now underway to improve tracking systems so that we can process permits and other requests more quickly and smoothly.

School Pedestrian Safety - Crossing Guards

Thanks to generous donations from Thrifty Foods, Windsor Plywood, the David Cameron School PAC and RONA, school crossing guards are currently available at all three designated locations. A huge THANK YOU! to these businesses for their caring support for neighbourhood children and families. The *Safe Routes to School Committee* is working to find ways to keep kids safe – if you'd like to volunteer with this group, please contact allofmoss@telus.net.

Our Parks are Looking for Friends

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee is looking for volunteers willing to join occasional park clean-ups or invasive species removal events, or even help to set up a "Friends of ... Park" group. If you'd like to be notified of upcoming events, email Louise at lgordon@colwood.ca and tell us which park you'd like to support. Thanks for your help!

Help Document Colwood's Heritage

We're celebrating 25 years since incorporation, but of course we're older than that! There is room for a few more volunteers on the Colwood Heritage Commission and on the



St. John the Baptist Heritage Church
by Colwood staffer Jim Dodd.

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. Contact Barb at bcordeiro@colwood.ca

Colwood Community Place

...is a local living network to help people discover ways to live more locally and more sustainably. colwoodcommunityplace.ca provides a hub to connect people to local events and initiatives that support a vibrant culture and diverse local economy. Go on-line or visit their team at the Colwood Farmers' Market from now until late September. On-line or in-person, you can find out how to recycle items that don't go in your blue box, look for local 'green' businesses or arts, culture and heritage connections. Be sure to visit the Happy on the West Shore page to find out about values-based leadership, genuine wealth, and how personal and business ethics can play a more intentional role in our transformation to a more sustainable culture.

Colwood Community Place founder Cindy Moyer recently received a **CRD Ecostar Award** for her leadership work with Climate Action West Shore and the WestShore Chamber of Commerce, which created Colwood Community Place in collaboration with the City of Colwood.

Events and Activities

Colwood Farmers' Market, Wednesdays until September 22nd, 4-7pm, JDF Recreation Centre (nr Library) colwoodmarket.com

Esquimalt Lagoon Bridge Meeting, Tuesday, June 22, 7pm, Ecole John Stubbs
Canada Day Celebrations, Thursday, July 1, Fort Rodd Hill & Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites. parkscanada.gc.ca/fortroddhill

Coast Collective Art Centre 3221 Heatherbell Road, features an art gallery, gift shop, art classes and special community cultural events throughout the summer. coastcollective.ca

New in Town

At **West Shore Parks and Recreation** **WildPlay** opened last November, and is proving to be a popular local attraction with kids and adults alike Work is underway on the expansion of the **JDF 55+ Seniors' Centre**, and an expansion of the fitness facility will get moving thanks to a federal government grant.

Royal Roads University is well underway with the construction of a new academic building being built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards.

Colwood is proud to welcome **Cockrell House**, Canada's first shelter for homeless veterans, providing housing and support to gain new skills and re-enter the workforce.

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.



Draft versions of the Colwood Community Green Map have been taken to various public events, like the Mothers' Day Paint-in at Royal Roads.

Colwood Community Green Map

Earlier this year, Colwood Community Place held a series of interactive 'mapping happenings' to help people discover Colwood's most loved places and favourite stories. The result is a 'green map' of the City that highlights wonderful community resources like heritage sites, trails, forests, viewpoints, art spots, restaurants, and more. The map also shares a few of the special stories of the natural and human history of the community we call home. In addition to project funding through Colwood Community Place, our Green Map is also generously supported by the **Realtors of Greater Victoria**. Look for the map this summer and use it to discover the natural treasure in your own backyard. To reserve your copy, contact info@colwoodcommunityplace.ca.

Hellos and Goodbyes

After 25 years as the City's Director of Planning, **Simon Lawrence** has retired to the quiet life. We will miss him!—and warmly welcome **Alan Haldenby** who is moving up as our new Director of Planning. A new planner will be hired to complete the team.

The Finance Department has been extremely productive this year. We welcome baby Aria, daughter of Director of Finance **Adia Mavrikos**, and baby Juliet, daughter of Deputy Director of Finance **Jennifer Reed**. Congratulations!

The City deeply regrets we will be losing our wonderful Chief Administrative Officer, **Chris Pease**, to retirement at the end of September. We will be hiring a new CAO to fill Chris' very big shoes.

Contacting the City of Colwood

Colwood City Hall is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at 3300 Wishart Road. You can drop by, call 250.478.5999, or email generalinquiry@colwood.ca

Regular Council meetings are the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 7pm (except in July, August and December).

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

What new businesses should we be trying to attract to Colwood? What services are we lacking? What can the City do to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or help community members do the same? Share your thoughts on these and other topics at generalinquiry@colwood.ca and/or visit colwoodcommunityplace.ca and take the survey. Council and committee agendas are listed near the front door of at City Hall, in the Sunday Times Colonist (*Classified Section*) and on the city website www.colwood.ca