

October 26, 2010

Facebook Site Launched for City's Sustainable Official Community Plan

Sustainable Campbell River has launched a Facebook site.

"The Facebook site adds another dimension to reaching out to the community," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "People plugged into Facebook can keep current through regular postings and comments by community members. And people who've moved away can watch what's happening in Campbell River."

The Facebook site complements the Sustainable Campbell River website. People with Internet access who aren't signed up on Facebook can monitor updates at www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca. At this website, people will find background information, a calendar of events, an online survey and a promotional video. As of mid November, summaries of this month's stakeholder workshops will be posted. Workshops so far have focused on: agriculture and food systems, urban design and development, economic development, waste systems, the environment. The last workshop, on community energy and emissions, will take place Oct. 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Sportsplex.

Campbell River's Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP) will be the City's most comprehensive policy document, designed to meet community goals around the environment, economic development, energy use, agriculture, housing, land-use planning, infrastructure, transportation, water and waste management and key social aspects of our community like healthy living, arts and culture.

Between the Facebook site and the website, the City wants to maintain a dynamic online presence that will encourage public input. *"Strong public insight will allow us to achieve the best possible plan for our community's future,"* the Mayor says.

In another effort to gather feedback, earlier this week, the City launched a youth photo contest. "Past, Present, and Future" will capture youth opinion in six topic areas: transportation, character and form of the city (including downtown, architecture and the landscapes) the environment, social and cultural development, waste reduction and agriculture. One winner will be chosen from the 11-14 age category and another winner from the 15-19 age category. Winners will receive their choice of a \$100 gift certificate to Mount Washington or the movies. The "Past, Present and Future" photo contest closes Nov. 12, 2010. Winners will be announced at the Sustainable Official Community Plan Story Telling Forum in November. More info at: www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca.

The City's SOCP development is being guided by a steering committee, in conjunction with community partners from the Campbell River Indian Band, the Cape Mudge Indian Band and the Homalco First Nation. Funding partners include: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia, Comox Strathcona Waste Management, BC Hydro, The British Columbia Real Estate Foundation, the Campbell River Arts Council and the City of Campbell River.

Planning efforts happening in the same 10-month timeframe include the development of: a planning and governance strategy with the three local First Nations communities; an Agricultural Plan and Strategy; a Community Energy and Emissions Plan and a Master Transportation Plan.

– 30 –

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