

July 25, 2012

City launches free public Wi-Fi service at the Campbell River Community Centre

Free wireless Internet service is now available in the Campbell River Community Centre.

This service makes it possible for people at the community centre to access the Internet free-of-charge on their laptops, smartphones, or personal digital assistants (PDAs) while in the building. This service, also known as a “hotspot,” involves offering free Internet access over a wireless local area network.

“We’re offering this free service to enhance the customer experience at the Community Centre,” says Michele Sirett, the City’s recreation supervisor.

“Free Wi-Fi service is common in municipal buildings in other communities and offers people another reason to drop in at the Community Centre, and we think it will be especially useful for parents who are waiting for children participating in programs,” Sirett adds. *“Free Wi-Fi will also be useful for instructors and people renting spaces, who’ve told us they need Internet access for presentations.”*

“All content will be filtered, and there will be no access to inappropriate sites,” says Warren Kalyn, the City’s information services manager. *“Users should also be aware that the City is not in a position to troubleshoot connectivity issues, and that with public access, data being sent is not encrypted.”*

To log in to the service, users simply search for “Available Wireless Networks” on their laptop, PDA or smartphone. Select “CRCC hotspot” from the list of available wireless networks. Users must accept the disclaimer page and enter a password provided by the front counter staff.

North Island Communications will provide the equipment, installation and on-going support for this service.

Dave Emery, owner and president of North Island Communications Inc. said they are happy to be involved. *“We are pleased to help bring wireless access to the Campbell River Community Centre and value the opportunity to align with the City on this, and on future strategic partnerships.”*

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