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### **Downtown revitalization adds more outdoor seating, celebrates second CR Live Streets**

The City of Campbell River has added another outdoor seating area as part of its Refresh Downtown program, with a new parklet at Stonehouse Teas on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

This parklet is the most recent downtown addition based on community feedback gathered through surveys and consultation events in 2016. That feedback led to a series of easy-to-complete projects, event programming and beautification efforts that add to a vibrant atmosphere in the city core.

*“Feedback from the community has been very positive, and people are genuinely excited to see these initiatives,”* says Mayor Andy Adams. *“CR Live Streets continues to be popular, and combined with the very successful Thursday Night Concert Series, and improvements to the Tidemark Square, we’re showcasing and celebrating the downtown cultural district.”*

To complement the new paint on the Tidemark and Regional Library buildings, the program funded maintenance including tree pruning, landscaping, pressure washing, and refurbished bollards. This follows the light canopy installed in 2016. The spruce-up transformed the Tidemark Square into an event space that hosted the popular music and food themed Kick-Off for this year’s CR Live Streets, and served as a space for children’s activities during August events.

In its second year, the CR Live Streets event series again drew hundreds of people downtown for evening entertainment and festivities on four Wednesday evenings in July and August.

Chalkfest transformed Shoppers Row into a canvas, and brought families together to have fun and be creative, with 119 art entries displayed along the street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> avenues.

The Show on the Row movie night turned the street into a cinema, with approximately 350 people in attendance.

The Evening Market anchored this year’s program and featured live music, driftwood sculpture, and more than 35 food and artisan vendors. This event drew the largest crowds of the 2017 program and involved the participation of a many downtown businesses.

*“Small initiatives build momentum and encourage people to see downtown as a place to work and shop, and as a destination for entertainment, events, food and socializing,”* says Brian McLoughlin, the City’s long range planning clerk technician, who coordinates the Small Initiatives Program. *“We’re listening to the community, improving spaces, and hosting events that bring more people downtown to showcase its potential.”*

The new outdoor seating at Stonehouse Teas is operated by the café owner, and remains open for public seating. The parklet provides a space for pedestrians to gather and socialize in a way that makes the street more lively and interesting. The City is also working with the Downtown Business Improvement Association to increase the number of bistro chairs and tables available for pedestrians to enjoy along Shoppers Row.

With the success of this year’s program, the City is set to expand the program for 2018, and plans to add an additional event to the CR Live Street series.

For more information about Refresh Downtown and the Small Initiatives Program or to share your ideas contact the Community Planning and Development Services Department at 250-286-5727 or email [refresh@campbellriver.ca](mailto:refresh@campbellriver.ca)

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