

June 14, 2017

Diggin' the CRadvantage!

City installing municipal high speed internet downtown this month

Watch for signs temporarily re-routing traffic and pedestrians downtown as the City installs a fibre optic cable underground to support a high speed internet service called *CRadvantage*.

"While we are installing a fibre optic cable underground in the downtown core, people should expect some temporary disruption," says Warren Kalyn, the City's information technology manager. *"We are advising nearby businesses of the timing for work taking place, and doing our best to minimize any dust and noise. We thank everyone for their patience."*

Expect minor delays June 19 through 27 as traffic is reduced to single lane from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the area of 11th Ave., Cedar St., Beach St., Alder St. and St. Ann's Rd. to install the new cable. Alternative routes are recommended during this time.

"CRadvantage is the first municipal broadband service on Vancouver Island. Campbell River is stepping out with this service to spur the local economy with affordable enterprise level internet access," says Rose Klukas, the City's economic development officer. *"CRadvantage will help retain existing businesses and attract and support technology and creative sector entrepreneurs. For high-tech operations that employ designers, programmers and software engineers, competitively priced, high speed broadband is simply expected. And Campbell River's beautiful, convenient location with exceptional quality of life is very attractive."*

While large centres have ready access to information and communication technology through pre-installed, shared infrastructure (at a considerably reduced cost), less populated communities pay far higher costs for access to a service provider's broadband Internet. Open access broadband networks allow multiple Internet service providers to use municipally owned broadband infrastructure to provide services to businesses. The City of Coquitlam has the oldest open access broadband network (QNET) in BC and currently has seven companies, including some of the larger telecom providers, providing services through their network. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission supports the expansion of a competitive market in Canada and encourages the growth of smaller wholesale service providers.

Since 2009, Campbell River has been working to attract digital industries to diversify the local economy. The City has an extensive fibre optic network installed in the downtown core and, along with an Island Coastal Economic Trust grant of \$50,000, has invested an additional \$373,000 to expand the network and integrate commercial buildings and strategic development areas. CRadvantage's enterprise level Internet in the downtown core will provide equal bandwidth for high speed upload and download scalable to one gigabyte. Income generated through lease fees from private sector service providers will help fund future expansion phases.

Find more details on the construction project at <http://www.campbellriver.ca/city-services/capital-improvement-projects>. Find more information, including updates on planned network expansion at [CRadvantage.com](http://www.campbellriver.ca/CRadvantage.com).

Questions? Please contact Rose Klukas at 250-286-5738.

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Contact:

Warren Kalyn, Information Technology Manager

250-286-5769

Rose Klukas, Economic Development Officer

250-286-5738
