

August 25, 2009

City to Conduct Watershed Clean-up, Reminds Residents to Help Maintain Water Quality

The City of Campbell River in partnership with BC Parks and NVI Mining will conduct a Community Drinking Watershed Clean-up day on Saturday, August 29th, 2009. The clean-up will remove waste that has been dumped around John Hart and McIvor Lakes.

The City has also begun monitoring the drinking watershed for illegal dumping of garbage and will increase enforcement efforts, including cleaning up and investigating illegal dumping.

“We have a watershed that produces some of the highest quality untreated water in the world,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *“Keeping this source as clean as we can, minimizes costs associated with the need for more advanced water treatment and provides future generations with a valuable untainted water source.”*

Residents are also encouraged to report any illegal dumping to the City of Campbell River at 250-286-5700 or via email at water.wise@campbellriver.ca, providing license plate numbers if possible.

“We can usually find evidence within the garbage itself that helps determine who it belongs to,” says Ron Neufeld, the City’s general manager of operations. *“I have heard that some people think it is too expensive to take a load of garbage to the landfill, but the \$2,000 fine for illegal dumping is much more expensive than what people pay at the landfill.”*

Waste found illegally dumped is often yard waste, which is detrimental to the natural environment in several ways:

- It is directly linked to the spread of invasive species that threaten native plants
- It changes the acidity of the area and upsets the natural balance of the forest decomposition cycle
- It can cause leaching of excess organic matter into the water supply, causing algal blooms and poor water quality

“With the City’s seasonal yard waste program in place, residents have a much better option for dealing with their yard waste,” Neufeld emphasizes. This year’s fall curbside yard waste pick-up runs from October 5 through November 27. (Visit www.campbellriver.ca for more information.)

For more information please, visit the City of Campbell River web site at www.campbellriver.ca.

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Contact: Ron Neufeld, General Manager Operations

250-286-5765