

July 11, 2011

City's Technical Watershed Committee plans summer events

Waterfest, a watershed protection celebration event to raise awareness about responsible public recreation in the drinking watershed, is scheduled for Saturday, August 20 at McIvor Lake. And the third annual Watershed Clean-up Day is slated for Saturday, August 27.

These dates were booked at the City's June Technical Watershed Committee (TWC) meeting, where representatives shared updates of water protection efforts over the past few months.

The TWC is a diverse group of stakeholders and agencies who cooperatively work toward long-term protection of the City of Campbell River's drinking water source.

Ministry of Environment representative, Rosie Barlak, gave an overview of the water quality assessment and objectives report for John Hart Lake and McIvor Lake that, when finalized, will be made available to the public on their website (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/wq_objectives.html).

The City's water education contractor, Luisa Richardson, updated the committee on the public watershed tours she developed and coordinated for drinking water week.

"Everyone who went on the tour was shocked and very disappointed to see the illegal dumping of garbage and yard waste into an area where we get our drinking water," Richardson said. "We need to encourage the public to be responsible with their garbage, and oddly enough, the landfill is very close to the site."

The committee agreed that these tours will help to raise awareness of the key human-caused problems around John Hart Lake: illegal dumping and motorized traffic in bogs, streams and sensitive areas.

The City will expand its regular education program by offering these tours to all middle and high schools in the area.

The City of Campbell River's TWC participants include the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Ministry of Forests and Range, BC Parks, Strathcona Regional District, Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, TimberWest and NVI Mining Ltd. The water source for the City of Campbell River is a 1,822 square-kilometre watershed that includes significant water bodies such as John Hart Lake, McIvor Lake, Lower Campbell Lake, Upper Campbell Lake and Buttle Lake.

Learn more about the City of Campbell River's drinking water at www.campbellriver.ca under Residents.

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Contact: Jennifer Peters, Utilities Manager

250-286-5730