

January 3, 2011

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## **2010 Highlights from City's Technical Watershed Committee**

A diverse group of stakeholders and agencies continues to oversee drinking water protection in Campbell River and provides the following highlights of its 2010 efforts.

- Installation of new signs in the John Hart and McIvor lake areas indicating the location of the watershed protection area
- Success of the annual watershed clean-up event and participation of the member organizations
- BC Hydro's dam safety upgrades to maintain source water reliability
- Education events including a festival to educate and celebrate our drinking watershed, presentations in schools, displays at community events, as well as recreation and beach visits during the summer
- Mapping of all authorized and unauthorized trails near the John Hart Reservoir to provide a comprehensive list of lake access points
- Continued water quality monitoring, and a new initiative in early 2011 will see the installation of new equipment within the John Hart Reservoir to provide real-time water quality information

The City's Campbell River Technical Watershed Committee meets semi-annually to review and provide recommendations on activities, land use management, best management operating procedures, development standards, public education and issues that could affect water quality in the community's drinking watershed. Participants include government agencies such as the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Ministry of Environment, as well as private property owners, BC Hydro, TimberWest and NVI Mining Ltd.

*"We support the collaborative approach taken by this committee to continue to reduce risks in the watershed,"* said VIHA Supervisor of Health Protection, Dwayne Stroh. *"Our continued diligence toward watershed protection will help to ensure sustainability of the high quality of water that exists today."*

*"The City of Campbell River is pleased with the ongoing work and commitment of this important committee,"* said Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *"This Watershed Committee has been in place for approximately 10 years, and it is helping us maintain our world-renowned drinking water quality."*

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. In addition to properties within City boundaries, the City also provides water to Area D of the Strathcona Regional District and the three local First Nations communities.

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