

July 18, 2013

Cash for trash: Campbell River to receive funding support for hosting landfill

The City of Campbell River will receive more than \$1,000,000 to compensate for hosting the regional landfill.

An agreement approved July 18 between the City and the Comox Valley Regional District, which supports the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board, will pay the City \$50,000 per year for five years to compensate for the social, environmental, and economic impact related to the regional landfill on Argonaut Road.

The agreement also includes \$175,000 funding for landfill road improvements related to construction of a retaining wall to extend current landfill capacity. Additional funding of \$870,000 will be provided for future road upgrades or other projects of community benefit.

“The host community benefit agreement is a model used across Canada and in other BC communities to balance the impacts that a local community may experience in hosting a waste management facility against the advantages received by the region,” explains Councillor Mary Storry, who holds the Council portfolio for public works.

After a host community agreement between the Village of Cumberland and the CVRD that awarded Cumberland for hosting a regional landfill was signed earlier this year, the City of Campbell River and Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) staff and elected official representatives began meeting to negotiate a host community agreement for the Campbell River Waste Management Centre (landfill).

“Waste from Gold River, Cortes Island, Quadra Island and Sayward has been coming to the Campbell River Waste Management Centre for many years,” adds Councillor Larry Samson, who holds Council’s environment portfolio. *“With landfill closures coming soon in Zeballos and Tahsis, more waste will travel to and/or through the Campbell River site.”*

The agreement takes effect retroactively on July 1, 2013 and expires on August 1, 2018.

The five-year term of the agreement reflects current projections that the landfill will be at capacity and closed within that time frame. Construction of a retaining wall at the Campbell River landfill will begin later this summer once the agreement is finalized. In the event that the landfill site is still active on January 1, 2018, options for a new, renewed or extended agreement will be discussed.

“Signing of a host community agreement enables the CVRD to proceed with construction of the retaining wall at the landfill, which is time sensitive due to the weather window for construction,” explains City Manager Andy Laidlaw. *“This agreement provides the City with financial compensation for hosting the regional landfill, including road improvements, and an annual contribution. As well, by transferring ownership of the retaining wall encroachment area to the CVRD, the CVRD will assume liability and responsibility for the wall and adjacent roadway.”*

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