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City introduces Land Use web videos and a new comic series

Handbooks, videos and a new comic series – they're all part of the City of Campbell River's efforts to make land use regulations and permitting processes easier to understand.

Following the recent introduction of a new handbook on preparing development permit applications, the City of Campbell River will soon release four short videos for homeowners. Each video presents an overview of a different land use topic and answers frequently asked questions about when land use permits are required.

"Too often we see homeowners finding out after the fact that they needed a permit for something. These videos will help raise awareness about what people need to keep in mind, and hopefully prompt people to check in with the City before starting a project," says Ross Blackwell, the City's land use services manager.

The videos tackle four areas that generate inquiries:

- Zoning requirements for detached sheds and shops
- How to locate services such as sewer and water
- Carrying out construction near watercourses
- When a building permit is needed and how to get one

Also in the works, a comic series that will be published in City Currents, featuring Luke (Land Use Knowledge Expert), whose tips for homeowners will also address frequently asked questions. There will be an initial series of 12 cartoons, all done by local artist Peter Davies, also known as Pete the Pen.

Councillor Ryan Mennie, chair of the Advisory Planning and Environment Commission hopes that the videos and comic series will make it easier for people to understand what they need to do when thinking about development on their property. *"It's a way of getting the message out to people who might not be familiar with the City's processes,"* Mennie says. *"We want it to be as straightforward as possible."*

"It's always best for homeowners and developers to know all the City's requirements at the earliest stage. These videos give a great starting point for finding out more," adds Ricardo Araya, an engineer with the City of Campbell River.

"The videos will answer some simple commonly-asked questions," agrees Chris Osborne, a City planner. *"The underlying message is to come in and talk to us before you begin because every site and every project is different."*

The videos can be viewed on the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca) under Planning-Building-Development. The City plans to produce more videos in the future.

For more information, please contact the Land Use Service Department at 250-286-5748.

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