

August 22, 2013

Free wireless Internet coming to Campbell River commercial areas

At its August 13 meeting, Campbell River City Council directed staff to negotiate an agreement with Shaw Communications that will see the delivery of free wireless Internet access in Campbell River's commercial zones.

The agreement will allow Shaw to install radio transmitters on City property to create wireless hot spots through Shaw's Go WiFi. Preliminary design for the project provides coverage to Campbellton, Willow Point, downtown along Shoppers Row and 11th Ave. and the airport as well as the City's Dogwood Operations Centre (providing coverage for nearby Merecroft Village), Community Centre and Sportsplex. Additional points proposed for free wireless Internet access are: Discovery Pier, Robert Ostler Park, Dick Murphy Park, Rotary Beach Park, Frank James Park, McCallum Park, Centennial Pool, Willow Point Park and the Sportsplex.

"We do not yet have a timeline for project completion, and the coverage areas may grow or shrink as locations are investigated for radio installation," says Laura Ciarniello, the City's general manager of corporate services. "Once installed, this service will allow people with mobile digital devices to access e-mail, view websites, view maps, update social media and search the Internet for information."

The City will provide access to City-owned utility poles and municipal buildings in return for Shaw providing "guest" access for public Internet use, limited to 500 megabytes per month on downloads. Support for this service will be the sole responsibility of Shaw Communications.

Once the agreement is in place the city is expected to receive a one-time funding of \$200 per access point to cover incidental costs over a five-year term, anticipated to be \$18,400.

This service has been offered to several municipalities throughout Canada, and wireless radio frequency emissions are considered well below Canadian and international safety limits.

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