

February 26, 2015

City and community partners clean up Campbell River estuary

An area of the Campbell River estuary that had become an unauthorized storage area for derelict boats, abandoned wharves, floating debris, logs and garbage has been cleaned up thanks to the commitment of a number of community partners.

Over the weekends of Feb. 13 and 20, the City, with the assistance of the Tyee Club, Van Tine & Associates and Dick Sumner, successfully removed these items from the estuary's south shore. The Campbell River Indian Band and Comox Strathcona Waste Management also provided support to complete the cleanup.

"It is wonderful to see the community come together with the City to do this important work," says Mayor Andy Adams. "The cleanup will result in significant benefits to the environment and fisheries resource."

The Campbell River estuary is located in the heart of the community and is particularly significant to the biological and cultural history of the river. The City's Estuary Management Plan was adopted in 1996 to de-industrialize this important habitat.

In 2014, City staff conducted an extensive, but unsuccessful search to find the owners of boats and other floating items. Attempts to involve other levels of government to assist in the cleanup failed due to lack of funding and uncertainty around jurisdictional responsibility.

In recognition of the critical role that the estuary plays to Campbell River, City Council committed up to \$10,000 from the 2014 Council contingency budget to lead the efforts to remove and appropriately dispose of the debris.

For additional information on the Campbell River estuary and to view the Estuary Management Plan, please visit the City's webpage at: <http://www.campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/green-city/environmental-protection/campbell-river-estuary>.

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