

April 9, 2018

Big Rock Boat Ramp upgrades planned for this summer

Long-anticipated upgrades to the popular Big Rock Boat Ramp are planned to start in June 2018. This project will bring important improvements to the widely-used community facility, creating a safe and more accessible boat launch.

This summer's upgrades include all of the in-water upgrades, such as improvements to the breakwaters and installation of a floating ramp system. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans requires that construction be completed during designated fish protection windows from mid-June to October, which would require the closure of the boat ramp during that period.

"This project is important to many people and we're glad to see it moving forward," said Mayor Andy Adams. "Valuable input from community user groups and many years of assessment have led to the design plan – one that will result in an enhanced in-water area and many years of improved enjoyment for visitors and residents of the city."

Future Big Rock Boat Ramp improvements would involve upgrades to the upland areas at the facility, including the parking area and neighbouring park. Concepts for this future work at the boat ramp will be developed through 2018/19 during design preparation for the Highway 19A project. The timing of this work will be determined by Council in future.

"The potential for timing the upland work at the boat ramp in conjunction with the sewer and highway upgrades in this area helps reduce costs and disruption along the route because construction that affects that portion of the roadway will occur over the same stretch of time," the Mayor added.

"The City of Campbell River is committed to delivering improvements that are in line with the vision of local residents and will continue to work with the community as the project moves forward," said deputy city manager Ron Neufeld. *"This project will result in decades of improved access and services at the boat ramp – and we thank everyone for their patience while this work is underway."*

Other boat ramp operators in the Campbell River area have been advised of the anticipated closure and are ready for additional activity this summer. For more information on alternative boat launch options, please visit www.campbellriver.ca/bigrockboatramp.

This project is part of a larger waterfront improvement project, which includes three key upgrades to the city's southern entrance to downtown taking place between 2018 and 2020. Also underway this summer is construction for a portion of a waterfront sewer upgrade.

Community groups and area businesses have been invited to meet with the City at open houses this month. Others interested in participating or learning more about this and other infrastructure construction work planned this summer along Hwy 19A are welcome to join at the Maritime Heritage Centre April 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. or April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information on this project and others underway this summer, visit www.campbellriver.ca/construction

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Contact: Ron Neufeld, Deputy City Manager

250-286-5765