

PARKSVILLE OCP PROCESS BEGINS

PARKSVILLE, BC: An important and exciting initiative is now underway that needs input and involvement from the citizens of Parksville. On September 9, the City of Parksville launched a review of its Official Community Plan with a start-up workshop with staff and Council. The purpose of the OCP review and update is to create a strong vision and strategic direction for a bright and sustainable future for all residents in Parksville.

An OCP is an important document that sets direction for growth, transportation, housing, services and infrastructure while considering health, diversity, the natural environment, climate change, and the local economy. This review will be an open and inclusive process that actively engages the community in meaningful discussions on these and other issues in order to develop a long-term vision for our future, and a means to achieve it. The City's OCP process, called *Parksville Plan 2020: A Vision for Our Future*, provides an opportunity for residents to speak up and describe how they want to live, work and play in Parksville over the next ten years.

Many community workshops will be held over the next year. The first public OCP event is a series of workshops called, "Create Our Future". The workshops will be held on October 27, November 4 and November 8 in which speakers will describe what the City of Parksville faces in terms of achieving greater social, economic, ecological and cultural sustainability in a changing world. Residents will be engaged in thoughtful discussions on a number of key topics in order to evoke ideas about what matters most to them. The workshops will be held at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre, 132 Jensen Avenue East. Two sessions each day have been provided for convenience; residents should plan to attend one session only. To reserve a space at a workshop, residents should RSVP; by phone 250 954-3066 or by email to parksvilleplan2020@parksville.ca.

Wednesday, October 27	3 to 5 pm (presentation at 3.30 pm) 5 to 7 pm (presentation at 5.30 pm)
Thursday, November 4	3 to 5 pm (presentation at 3.30 pm) 5 to 7 pm (presentation at 5.30 pm)
Monday, November 8	3 to 5 pm (presentation at 3.30 pm) 5 to 7 pm (presentation at 5.30 pm)

The purpose of these workshops is to raise awareness of the OCP review and to ensure the broadest possible participation of our citizens and stakeholders. We encourage everyone to attend to share their thoughts on the issues they are most concerned about. We need strong public input and awareness to produce the best possible plan.

The City will launch an OCP review website at the end of October which will include notices of the many community meetings, a survey and videos, as well as the results of the many community events and workshops planned for the next year. Future events will include a special youth engagement forum that will explore the issues that are most important to Parksville's young generation.

All events are intended to widen the discussion at the start of a thorough process to build our community's identity and set a clear path to the future. Please consider attending, and please pass this information on to your friends and contacts who would like to speak up.

Information about the OCP process is available on the City's website at <http://parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=340>.

For more information:

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