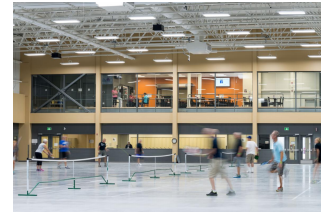


Your City eNews!

August 4, 2021



Engage with Us!

Parksville Aquatic and Recreation Centre

On behalf of the City of Parksville, a team of public engagement specialists from HDR Corporation will lead public consultation events over the next few months to discuss the proposed Parksville Aquatic and Recreation Centre or multiplex. Consultation will help gauge the community's interest in a new facility, identify potential programs and amenities and help determine a suitable site for the multiplex.

HDR's consultation approach will now prioritize which features and amenities the community would like to see at an ideal site. The Despard Avenue location is no longer an option for the multiplex. HDR has engagement opportunities planned for residents this summer and fall. We hope you will engage with us.

Popup Engagement - Wednesday, August 18

HDR team members will hand out informational postcards at various locations in Parksville, listening to comments and suggestions from residents about the proposed multiplex. Nothing formal, just an opportunity to share your thoughts on the project with HDR.

The HDR team will set up shop at Thrifty's shopping centre from 11 am to 2 pm. That evening, you will find them from 5 to 8 pm near the waterfront in the Parksville Community Park; along the waterfront walkway and at the gazebo.

- **Thrifty's shopping centre** **11 am to 2 pm**
- **Parksville Community Park** **5 to 8 pm**

Other engagement opportunities will include a hybrid in-person and virtual public presentation and listening session in late August, youth engagement in early October, and in-person public workshops in late October.



Get Involved

HDR will also be distributing newsletters with project updates, upcoming

events, responses to frequently asked questions, and more. To sign up, send an email to HDR@parksville.ca. You may also submit your comments, thoughts, or ideas about the Parksville multiplex to HDR@parksville.ca. Please note that comments received by HDR will be shared with the City of Parksville to assist with decision making and will form part of the public record.

letstalkparksville.ca/parksville-aquatic-and-recreation-centre
HDR@parksville.ca

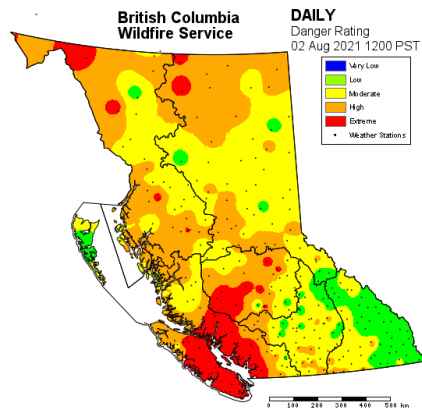


EMO Supports BC Wildfire Situation

As a result of wildfires in BC, Emergency Management Oceanside (EMO) is providing support to the province and affected residents.

EMO emergency support services volunteers have physically deployed to assist evacuated residents in the central interior and our volunteers are ready to assist evacuated residents remotely through the Emergency Management BC online portal system.

With resources committed to other parts of the province, EMO still has capacity to support local residents should the need arise. At this time, through our emergency support services program, we are providing support to a person who has large animals displaced by the wildfires. This support is being provided in the Oceanside region on behalf of the province. Emergency Management Oceanside is ready and prepared to provide group lodging support to our residents as well as those evacuated from anywhere in the province should the need arise. Our volunteers are trained and available to set up group lodgings when it becomes necessary.



In response to the hundreds of wildfires burning in BC, the province declared a state of emergency on July 20. The forecast continues for hot and dry conditions in the southern part of the province as well as the interior.

Emergency Management Oceanside is a partnership between the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach to provide emergency support and disaster services to residents of the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area. Information about emergency services in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area as well as information about being a volunteer with EMO, please refer to emergencyoceanside.ca



Stage 3 Water Conservation Critical to Demand

Our summer is continuing to be unseasonably warm and extremely dry. Please continue to voluntarily reduce water consumption. Efforts by our residents to conserve since Stage 3 came into effect

have made a difference. With no rainfall expected anytime soon, adhering to watering restrictions as well as proactive water conservation is critical to maintain water supply for fire protection, essential household use and environmental flows in streams. We continue to monitor demands daily and appreciate the efforts of residents to voluntarily conserve.

Stage 3 restrictions, the same as stage 2, enable residents to choose where they wish to cut back. Residents are asked to voluntarily conserve discretionary outdoor water use such as the watering of lawns. Should we not see reductions in consumption, it will be necessary to implement stage 4, a comprehensive watering ban which prohibits all outdoor watering, filling of pools, and washing of vehicles.

The City is a partner in the [Team WaterSmart](#) program. Check out the [WaterSaver contest](#) and lots more WaterSmart news and conservation ideas.

Are You Wildfire Ready?

A province wide state of emergency which came into effect earlier this month is in response to ongoing wildfires burning across BC. The province previously declared states of emergencies linked to fires in 2003, 2017 and 2018. There are currently 266 wildfires burning in the province, with 43% burning out of control.

British Columbia is experiencing an extremely active and catastrophic wildfire season and emergency preparedness officials are encouraging us all to be prepared to protect yourself and your family. Wildfires can spark



anywhere at anytime, forcing people to be away from home for an extended period. Vancouver Island has not seen the same devastation from wildfires as many other areas in the province; however, these events along with any natural disaster can happen in our own backyard and without notice.

Wildfires that burn in areas away from houses or infrastructure can have ecological benefits to the landscape; however, those that burn out of control near urban areas can cause devastating damage to homes, businesses, and vital infrastructure. If you live in an area at risk of a wildfire, please refer to the BC Wildfire status [website](#). It is important to take time to get ready; be better prepared by understanding what to do [before](#), [during](#) and [after](#) a wildfire. These links provide information that will help you understand the stages and how you can protect your health and safety.

[Wildfire Preparedness Guide](#) will help you prepare your household, protect your property and understand what to do if there is risk of wildfire.

Connect with BC Wildfire Service

By phone

Report a wildfire: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on a cell

Fire information line: 1 888 336-7378

Burn registration line: 1 888 797-1717

Online

Twitter: [@BCGovFireInfo](#)



Parksville Campfire Ban

Until further notice, all open burning, including campfires, beach fires and fireworks, are prohibited in the Parksville Fire Protection Area to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. This ban applies to open fires of any size, campfires, fireworks, sky lanterns, tiki torches, and burning barrels and does not apply to cooking stoves using gas,

propane or briquettes, or to portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating using briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, that are not capable of producing a flame longer than 15 centimetres.

To report a fire contact:

- Fire emergency (threat to lives/property) 911
- Open fire Parksville Fire Protection Area 250 248-3242
- Beach fires (RAPP line) 1877 952-7277
- Wildfire 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on a mobile

BC's Restart Plan – Step 3

Step 4 could come into effect as early as September 7 and for now, Step 3 is as follows:

- Return to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings.
- Increased capacity for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, with safety plans.
- No group limit for indoor/outdoor dining; liquor services restrictions lifted; nightclubs and casinos can operate with capacity limits and safety plans. Limited indoor spectators at events and outdoor events up to 5,000 or 50% capacity whichever is greater.
- Although masks are no longer mandatory. When visiting City Hall, please continue to wear a mask and respect distancing.



Things to know...

Memorial and Hirst Avenues Upgrades Project

Anticipated Memorial and Hirst Avenues upgrades will soon become a reality with construction set to begin this fall! The City recently awarded the construction contract to Knappett Industries to complete work on this project. A well-coordinated plan will be developed addressing continued access to businesses and residences, tree protection and construction staging. For more project info and updates visit [Let's Talk Parksville](#).





Upgrades for Lions Ventureland Playground

Earlier this year, through the British Columbia Tourism Dependent Communities Fund, the City received a grant award for \$315,000 for improvements to the Lions Ventureland playground. As well as the new equipment, this funding allows for rubber resurfacing of the same play area. More info on this exciting project is available [here](#).

Career Opportunities

Due to internal promotions, our engineering department is looking for new members. If you enjoy a fast-paced environment, consider joining our team of highly motivated engineering technologists. The City is also seeking a manager of finance.



Grant-in-aid Program

Info about the City's fall grant-in-aid applications is now available; deadline is 4 pm on September 1. Non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services fields are eligible to apply. Information on the program, policy, instructions and application may be obtained from City Hall or from the [website](#).



Have you seen these nests in trees?

Our parks staff want you to know that these are not tent caterpillars; these are actually fall webworms.

Fall webworms are a native moth in this region. They make a similar nest as tent caterpillars but with a couple of differences: the nests appear later in the season, and the nests expand so that the caterpillars can feed inside the protective nest, causing little lasting damage to the trees.

There are a couple of tools to get rid of fall webworms from trees:

- One method that is used for tent caterpillars is to spray a biological insecticide - actually a bacteria - called BTK. This bacteria is sprayed onto the leaves on which the caterpillars would then feed.
- Another potential solution is pruning them out of the tree. That being said, unless the webworms are pruned out at the beginning of the season when the nests are still small, this option is generally more stressful for the tree than having the leaves consumed. Leaves will always grow back in the spring.

So, although the webs in the trees might look like they are causing stress for the trees, they generally don't cause lasting damage and are more of an aesthetic issue than a tree health issue. Fall webworms on City trees will be left in place to be taken care of by Mother Nature. More info about fall webworms available [here](#).

August 18	Proposed Multiplex Engagement with HDR
September 6	Labour Day (offices closed)
September 8	Council Meeting
September 20	Council Meeting

Attending Council Meetings

Please note, there are no Council meetings in August. Starting with the September 8 meeting, the public is welcome to attend in person. Meetings are held in the Forum, Parksville Civic and Technology Centre starting at 3 pm. Meetings are also webstreamed live and archived from our [website](#).

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073

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