

District of Invermere Newsletter

Mayor Taft's Message

Greetings,

Finally, Winter has left Invermere and the Columbia Valley, although this year was a great one for the Whiteway and all of the Winter activities, it is nice to see some sun and warmer weather return!

With the return of warmer weather, we will soon have the business of summer and the beaches in Invermere will once again be full.

Based on local and visitor feedback, as well as general societal changes and with the upcoming legalization of recreational marijuana, Invermere council has decided to take a look at the topic of 'public smoking'. We are looking for your feedback regarding a proposed bylaw which would restrict smoking (anything) in public parks and pathways.

We will also be looking for input regarding short term rentals and in late summer and early fall, future land uses in Athalmer.

Best wishes for a sunny and productive Spring!

Survey Question

Smoking Regulation Bylaw

Visit www.facebook.com/District-of-Invermere

OR

www.invermere.net

SMOKING REGULATION BYLAW

The District of Invermere, with the support of the Interior Health Authority and the BC Cancer Agency, has drafted a bylaw to prohibit smoking in certain public areas. The intent is to prohibit smoking in all public parks, sports facilities, buildings and trails and pathways within the community. The District is seeking your input through a simple survey on our Facebook page and at www.invermere.net.

Please ensure you provide us your opinion regarding smoking in these key public spaces. For more information, please contact Chris Prosser, Chief Administrative Officer at 250-342-9281 or at cao@invermere.net.

RAY BRYDON PARK

The tradition of enjoying the natural space alongside Toby Creek with our favourite furry four legged friends has been formally recognized by Council and is set to be opened as a dog friendly park space in the spring of 2018. The dog friendly pedestrian / non- motorized park will be named Ray Brydon Park, dedicated to Ray Brydon who was a true community leader through business involvement, service club volunteer efforts and his commitment as a multi term Councillor. Ray enjoyed the park area frequently with his family and canine companions and regularly brought forward ideas for this area.

The District applied for and was granted a licence for non- motorized recreation beside Toby Creek south of the Panorama Bridge in Athalmer. The Recreation area is approximately 18ha, 45 acres in size and in concert with stream bank and access improvement work for flood protection has improved approximately 3.5 kilometers of old access roads into terrific walking trails winding through a spruce, willow and cottonwood forest along the Toby creek corridor.

Complimenting the path system, additional park improvements which will be in place this year include establishing a formal parking / staging area along Panorama Drive, park signage, placement of a seasonal fully accessible restroom in the parking area, waste / recycle containers, benches and picnic tables. All of these improvements promise to make the park experience just that much better!

So, put on your hikers, round up your friends and take a peaceful stroll in the new Ray Brydon Park. It won't take long to appreciate and enjoy the areas natural beauty and diversity, a truly great addition to the Districts public park spaces. See you there!

EVENTS

Follow Invermere BC Events on Facebook. Invermere BC is a busy year-round destination. Don't miss out on an event ever again! Search events, post your own, and interact with the District of Invermere Events Coordinator. District of Invermere Events include Movies in the Mountains, Valley Appreciation Day, Oktoberfest, Poutine Palooza, Light Up, Snowflake Festival, Coffee Fest and more!!!

Movies in the Mountains takes place every Monday evening in July and August, at dark in Pothole Park. This is a free event. Movies in the Mountains will Kick off this year on Monday July 2nd, 2018. Look out for a great line up of movies for summer 2018!

The Invermere Farmers and Artists Market takes place downtown Invermere every Saturday from 9 am-1 pm. June 16th - September 8th. The Farmers Market has a new website www.invermerefarmersmarket.com. Make it, Bake it, Grow it, Raise it!



Short term rentals

The District is beginning to see an increase in the number of residential homes listed on sites like Air BnB and VRBO. These short term rentals can provide both an impact and benefit to neighborhoods and communities.

The District is starting a public consultation process to collect residents views on short term accommodations within the community. Currently, regulations are in place within the R-3(A) located in Pineridge Mountain Resort to permit short term rentals. All other zones, the use is not permitted.



Short term rental accommodation typically consists of a single-family home, townhouse or condominium that is rented, in its entirety, on a daily or weekly basis to tourists accessing a specific area amenity (Lake Windermere, golfing or Panorama). What distinguishes short term rental accommodation from other forms of tourist accommodation including motels, hotels and bed and breakfasts, is the fact that the units are rented without onsite management or supervision.

Although short term rental accommodation provides an alternate revenue source to home owners, opponents argue that it does so at the expense of the neighborhood integrity. The following issues have been raised by residents in other resort communities:

- Erodes the continuity and sense of community in established neighborhoods – residents no longer know their neighbors;
- Alters the primary use of the home from residential to commercial – no permanent presence in the neighborhood;
- Creates additional traffic and noise – with occupants in holiday mode;
- Functions without anyone responsible on site – unlike bed and breakfasts, motels, hotels or hostels;
- Occupants do not share the same concern for the neighborhood as permanent residents viewed as simply a place to stay rather than a neighborhood to respect;
- Reduces the supply of units available for permanent residents of Invermere – both in terms of rental accommodation and fee simple ownership;
- Unfair competition for tourist accommodation within the community given short term rental accommodation may not pay commercial taxes, pay business licencing fees or any development fees.

Resort communities are implementing a number of approaches in an attempt to regulate short term rental accommodation and are continuing to review the zoning approach in dealing with this use. But it appears that fundamentally, communities are choosing to regulate and licence the operations to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency within the accommodation sector.

The District would like you to share your experiences and perspective on Short Term Rentals within your neighborhood. Tell us what you see on those long weekends and let us know what the impact is on the enjoyment of your property. A short survey is available at www.invermere.net. The information will be invaluable in assisting us in developing a plan to move forward to address short term rentals. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Prosser, Chief Administrative Officer at cao@invermere.net or 250-342-9281.

Wildlife

The bears are back!

April and May are the months we start to see evidence of bears waking up and looking for food. You might start to see evidence, like scat or footprints, if you're out hiking. The District wants to keep bears wild – it's safer for humans, and it's better for the bear in the long run. Providing bears with a food source is illegal. It creates a dangerous situation for both humans and bears. However, this might happen in less obvious ways than simply offering up food to a bear.

Keep your garbage inside or in a bear-resistant container. Bears can get into structures that aren't made of steel, so don't keep your smelly garbage in a wooden or plastic shed or other enclosure. If you don't have a certified bear-resistant container, your garbage should be stored in your garage or your house until collection day. Do not place your garbage can outside the night before pickup. Bylaws No. 1360 & 1426 both refer to proper storage of wildlife attractants.

Other items that could attract bears and other wildlife include fruit trees and bushes, hummingbird feeders and regular birdfeeders, soiled BBQs, unmanaged compost, pet or livestock food, and bee hives. Please be extra vigilant about these items from April to December.

WATERSMART

We care about our water!

Invermere has reduced its indoor water consumption by 20% since 2013! We're proud of this, but also recognize there is more work to do. We've recently set a goal for reducing our outdoor water consumption by 20%. Please help us work toward this goal by following the "twice a week" watering restriction and by not over-watering (your lawn doesn't need more than 1 inch per week). If you need some help or input on how to efficiently irrigate your lawn, contact the District for a free water-use assessment! We'll show you how to check for leaks, take a quick soil analysis and help you calculate watering time requirements. You can also reduce your water consumption by using native plants in landscaping plans and collecting water in a rain barrel.

Interested in where and how Invermere gets its drinking water? We've got lots of information on Invermere's water quality and quantity, as well as surface and groundwater source protection, at www.invermerewater.ca.

Have you experienced water issues such as discoloured water or odour? If so, email info@invermere.net with the date, time, address & the issue.

Thank You