



CITY CONNECT



YOUR ACTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DO YOUR PART, BE BEAR SMART

It's a sad truth, but one we all should hear. In 2018 seven black bears were put down by local conservation officers due to their risk to humans. However, this "risk" is one we created and the seven lives lost are ones we are responsible for. Our valley's beautiful black bears are dedicated to one thing and one thing only – food. They live to eat and eat to live, so the lure of our urban garbage, bountiful fruit trees and unattended pet food is too tempting for a bear to resist. Carelessly stored garbage, birdfeeders, pet foods and barbecues are open invitations for bears. And while bears can't change their behaviour, we can.

As one of eight communities in BC designated as an official Bear Smart Community, we are committed to the prevention of human-bear conflict.

Steps to Being Bear Smart

There are simple steps we can take to protect our families and neighbours while ensuring the well-being of our valley's black bears:

- harvest your fruit trees as soon as they ripen
- feed your pets and store their food inside
- clean barbecues immediately after use
- keep your garbage in a bear-proof enclosure
- equip your garbage cart(s) with animal resistant hardware

One of the most common mistakes which can easily be changed is garbage carts being placed at the curb-side the night before pick-up. This action puts the garbage in reach for bears and they learn to come back to it again and again. In accordance with City bylaws, garbage carts are to be placed out the morning of pick-up only.

Animal Resistant Hardware

You can further prevent bears and other animals from accessing your garbage by equipping your cart(s) with animal resistant hardware which can be ordered through the City's public works department.

Once ordered, your name will be added to a list and within two to three weeks, your cart(s) will be retrofitted with clip mechanisms. Simply unlock the clips when you roll your cart to the curb for your scheduled pick-up.

The cost for this retrofit is currently free of charge and the price of your garbage collection service does not change with the addition of the animal resistant hardware.

Call (250) 720-2840 to order your hardware today.

To report a bear encounter where public safety is at risk call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).



In an effort to increase citizen engagement, the City will be holding council meetings at 2 p.m. on a trial basis. The City will also be launching a new streaming service that embeds video of council meetings on the City's Facebook page and website, making it easily accessible on your desktop and mobile devices. Shaw Cable will continue to air the meetings on Shaw channel 4. To stay abreast of City business and council meetings, join us on Facebook @cityofportalberni.

Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship

March 15 - June 8, 2019 at the Alberni Valley Museum

In the cold, high Arctic, two ships and their crews vanished during an ill-fated search for the Northwest Passage. What happened to the ships and their crews? This has been one of the highest profile maritime mysteries in Canadian history, until now.

Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship unlocks the mysteries of this ill-fated 1845 expedition. Rich with drama, adventure, and tragedy, the exhibit features original artifacts which tell the fascinating story.

The Alberni Valley Museum, in partnership with the Canada Science and Technology Museum, is proud to be one of only two venues in BC selected to host this fascinating journey into Canada's past.

Watch for exciting events and programs offered during the exhibit's showing and take the opportunity to discover the stories behind explorer Sir John Franklin's doomed expedition.



DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Port Alberni is launching three initiatives aimed at improving, protecting and enhancing our community. These include the Security Enhancement Program, Graffiti Removal Program and Façade Improvement Program. Follow our Facebook page @cityofportalberni for details on the launch of these exciting initiatives.

Security Enhancement Program

Launching soon, this program consists of a City approved matching grant to a maximum of \$1000 (by reimbursement) for security enhancements to local businesses (commercial properties).

The grant program will focus on:

- video surveillance;
- exterior lighting; and
- deadbolts/door locks.

Applications will be available online and at the development services reception desk in City Hall.

Graffiti Removal Program

Helping clean up Port Alberni, the City will soon be launching a new program to assist property owners with graffiti removal.

The program involves the documentation of graffiti violations per the City's bylaw and options for property owners to:

- 1) receive a voucher from the City for one free can of paint and a brush to paint over the graffiti; or
- 2) receive a \$200 fine and be charged by the City for the hiring of a contractor to remove the graffiti.

Façade Improvement Program

The City and Community Futures are once again offering the Façade Improvement Program to assist property and business owners with revitalizing their storefronts.

Matching grants – up to a maximum of \$5000 – will be made available for commercial buildings across the city to:

- strengthen local businesses;
- improve the physical appearance of commercial districts; and
- enhance the character and vibrancy of our community.



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