



## CITY CONNECT



## 7 SUCCESS STORIES 2017

Looking back on 2017 the City of Port Alberni's Mayor, Council and staff achieved a great deal that helped put us on the path to a renewed sense of who we are as a town. This feature looks back on the projects and programs that helped make 2017 a successful year for the City and its citizens.

### 01 Funding Our New Wastewater Treatment Facility

The City of Port Alberni's wastewater treatment facility, which is roughly 70 years old, requires upgrading in order to meet new federal wastewater treatment standards. To help pay for these upgrades and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers, city staff have been pursuing grant opportunities. In 2017 the City received a 6.9 million dollar grant from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. Combined with grants received in previous years, the City has now received a total of 18.1 million dollars for this project.

### 02 Fresh Faces For Port Alberni Businesses

The City of Port Alberni, in partnership with Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot, established a Façade Improvement Program in 2016. This program assists property and business owners with improving the physical appearance of their buildings. In 2017 a total of 15 businesses took advantage of this program that invested more than \$150,000 into facades on a matching funds basis.

### 03 Building Up a Piece of History

The McLean Mill Historic Park is an ever-growing all-season park nestled in a beautiful west coast forest setting. Owned by the City of Port Alberni and operated by the McLean Mill Society, this property has something for everyone and has become a hotspot for tourists and locals alike. After only one year of operation under a new governance structure, the City is proud to announce that the park turned a profit in 2017 and created 30 new jobs for the Alberni Valley. For more information on the McLean Mill Historic Park, visit [www.mcleanmill.ca](http://www.mcleanmill.ca).

### 04 A Year of Truth and Reconciliation

To foster relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Alberni Valley, the City created a Reconciliation Committee comprised of local First Nations, community members and an appointed council member. This committee is responsible for investigating and reporting on actions to help strengthen relationships, increase cultural awareness and understanding, and support the building of a welcoming and inclusive community.

### 05 50 Years Together

In October 2017 the City of Port Alberni celebrated its 50 year union between Alberni and Port Alberni.

### 06 Open For Business

The year 2017 saw substantial growth in Port Alberni's business sector with 110 applications for new business licenses and 445 renewals of existing business licenses. This gives us a grand total of 555 licensed businesses in Port Alberni – an increase of 20% from 2016!

### 07 Big City Problems

In December 2017 the Committee of the Whole, key stakeholders and members of the public met to discuss 'Big City Problems' in Port Alberni. A number of actions arose from that meeting including increased RCMP foot patrols, the distribution of an emergency contact list to businesses in affected areas and the establishment of the Nuisance Building Working Group. In 2018 Council will continue to consider further steps to help build a safe, vibrant and welcoming community for all to enjoy.

## #EXPLORE PORTALBERNI

### #exploreportalberni

The City of Port Alberni is looking to create positive discussions around town by challenging audiences to get out and explore the region. Help showcase the beauty of your backyard by capturing your moments and sharing them with us on Facebook (@ExplorePortAlberni), Twitter (@ExploreAlberni), and Instagram (@ExplorePortAlberni).



### MyCity Signup

Get your next utility bill delivered straight to your inbox with MyCity Port Alberni. Signing up for a MyCity account is free and provides you with 24/7 secure online access to information regarding your City of Port Alberni accounts such as taxes, utilities, dog licenses and business licenses. Visit [www.portalberni.ca/mycity](http://www.portalberni.ca/mycity) to sign up today.

### Trash Talk

If you get confused about what can and cannot be recycled or when your collection day is, you are not alone. Check out the City of Port Alberni's online waste collection tool and get clarity around responsible waste disposal. With this tool you can:

- Search specific items to find out where to take them
- Find your garbage and recycling collection schedule
- Set collection day reminders (email, phone call, text message and Twitter)
- Get answers to those trash questions you often ask yourself

Take the guesswork out of your disposal habits and make responsible choices with your trash. Go to [www.portalberni.ca/garbage-recycling](http://www.portalberni.ca/garbage-recycling) for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In the Alberni Valley we produce 16,000 tonnes of garbage each year – that's enough garbage to fill the Multiplex two and a half times!



### 2018 Budget

The budget process for 2018 is in full swing and the City of Port Alberni wants to hear from you. Please join us at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2018, to participate in an eTown Hall Budget Meeting.

While the event takes place in Council Chambers at City Hall (4850 Argyle Street), the e-format means that comments and questions will be received from those attending the meeting, as well as those viewing from the comfort of their home.

The meeting will focus on the City's 2018 draft budget and provide community members with an opportunity to voice their opinions, suggest new ideas, and ask questions of Council. The feedback provided at this meeting will help inform the City's budget and give direction regarding the services that residents and businesses want and need. For further information on the 2018 budget and to get involved in the eTown Hall, visit [www.portalberni.ca/budget](http://www.portalberni.ca/budget).



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