



# CITY CONNECT

*a newsletter highlighting services, projects and other information from the City of Port Alberni*



## Burn wood? Make sure your wood-burning stove meets the new regulations

As of May 31, 2017 all wood stoves in Port Alberni must be CSA / EPA-certified

Recognizing the link between wood smoke and health issues for many residents, a new regulation is set to take effect this spring targeted at reducing winter time air pollution in Port Alberni. An amendment to the City's Solid-Fuel Burning Bylaw, passed in 2012, requires that all woodstoves not meeting the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certification be removed by May 31, 2017. With wood smoke from home heating being a considerable source of air pollution, the new regulation is intended to reduce the known health impacts from wood smoke, including heart attacks, strokes and asthma attacks. Older adults, children and people with heart, vascular or lung disease are the most at risk from exposure to this type of pollution.

For better or worse, woodstoves are built to last and typically outlive many other household items, such as refrigerators or washing machines. But just like your car, better technology and design have made new advanced-combustion wood stoves more fuel efficient and far less polluting. Certified wood-burning appliances are estimated to reduce outdoor emissions by as much as 90%, are up to 20% more fuel efficient, and can also reduce emissions inside the home as well.

To assist homeowners with making a transition to a new CSA / EPA-certified woodstove or other cleaner technology, a "change-out" program providing up to \$400 in financial assistance is available. Coordinated by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD), the Woodstove Exchange Program provides a \$250 rebate and a \$150 retailer discount on a first-come, first-served basis for a new certified wood, pellet or gas heating appliance. Residents interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to call the ACRD at 250-720-2700.

With clean air being everybody's right

and everybody's responsibility, the new regulation follows on the heels of the City's recent restriction on backyard burning. While campfires are still permitted, the burning of grass, leaves, brush and other waste is now restricted, with residents being encouraged to take this material to the landfill for proper composting and disposal. The City reminds all wood-burning residents that good burning techniques are also an important part of reducing air pollution. Firewood should be seasoned by splitting and stacking it in the spring, with good air circulation and protection from the rain.

While the exact number of woodstoves in Port Alberni is not known, the Alberni Valley Air Quality Council is conducting a survey to get a better sense of woodstove usage in the community. Watch for the canvassers in your neighbourhood and visit the Air Quality Council Facebook page for more information.

If you have any questions regarding the new regulation please give us a call at 250-723-2146 or email us at: [citypa@portalberni.ca](mailto:citypa@portalberni.ca)



During winter months, clear sunny days and any time after the sun goes down are the worst times to burn as the atmosphere's ability to disperse the smoke is very poor.



Tiny particles in wood smoke can negatively affect both you and your neighbours health. Wood smoke can also increase the risk of heart and asthma attacks, particularly with older adults, children and people with lung or heart disease.

### Did You Know

Research estimates 70% of smoke from chimneys can actually reenter your home and your neighbour's home.



Stoves operated properly can increase heat output by up to 15%.

# Get Active This Winter!

Check out these and other great recreation programs in the Winter Leisure Guide, available online at [www.portalberni.ca/programs](http://www.portalberni.ca/programs) or pick up a copy at Echo Centre, AV Multiplex or City Hall



## Family Day - Monday, February 13, 2017

Enjoy a day of fun with your family with FREE rollerblading, skating, museum discovery, and swimming on Monday, February 13th.

Family Rollerblading 11:00am - 1:00pm at Glenwood Centre

Family Skate 12:00 - 2:00pm at AV Multiplex

Museum Discovery 3:30 - 5:30pm at AV Museum

Family Swim 6:30 - 8:00pm at Echo Aquatic Centre



## Teen Skate Nights

Friday Night Skates

8:30pm-10:00pm @AV Multiplex

January 13, 20, February 3, 17

Grab your BFF, mittens, and scarf and join us at the Multiplex. Ice skates, the latest tunes, games and prizes are all part of the fun!

## Community Grants Announced for 2017

City Council approves \$41,000 in support for over 30 local community organizations

At its December 12 meeting, City Council approved over 30 grants valued at more than \$40,000 to support not-for-profit organizations in Port Alberni. Council endorsed the Community Investment Program recommendations for 2017 submitted by the Grants Review Committee, a citizen's advisory committee appointed by Council.

The Community Investment Program is an initiative of the City of Port Alberni to help develop and support arts, culture, recreation, and other community services. By supporting the work of organizations throughout the community, the City works to achieve its social, economic and cultural goals for its residents. The program also builds capacity within the community to

improve the quality of life by broadening residents' access to recreational, social and cultural opportunities that might not otherwise be available.

The grants include the provision of both in-kind services, such as City facility rentals, utilities, event tents, and bus tickets, and the



provision of cash grants. The 2017 allocation of \$41,792 is made up of \$27,268 of in-kind support and \$14,524 of direct funding. Recipients include the Alberni District Fall Fair, Art Rave, Port Alberni Friendship Center, Port Alberni Orchestra and Chorus

Society, the Salmon Festival, Royal Canadian Legion, Special Olympics, Spirit Square Farmers Market, Toy Run, Alberni Valley Track and Field, and the Community Arts Council.

Council also supported the committee's recommendation to provide an additional \$3,096 for youth related activities and programs.

If you're a member of a local community group that could benefit from a small grant or other support, please contact Echo Centre at 250-723-2181 to learn more about the Community Investment Program. The deadline for applications for grants distributed in 2018 is October 13th with a workshop for interested organizations in April.

## Be in the Know About Snow

It's that time of the year again, when the temperatures drop and snow starts to fall

Although we live in a coastal rainforest, snow is a fact of life in Canada. The only question is how much, and when.

While we can't stop it from snowing, we can take steps to prepare. The city's Public Works Department has the responsibility for maintaining, in a safe and passable condition, approximately 153 km of paved streets within the City of Port Alberni. During snow events our resources can be stretched, so to accomplish this task in the most cost-effective manner possible we prioritize our work based on considerations such as traffic volumes, transit routes, and emergency response. Typically, main streets and corridors are completed first, followed by collector (secondary) streets and then residential areas. This ensures

that traffic can access such facilities as schools, the hospital, and the central business area.

Residents can assist with our snow clearing efforts by doing a few simple things like not pushing snow back onto the road after clearing snow from their sidewalks and driveways, avoiding parking on city streets to help the ploughs do their work, and clearing snow and ice off sidewalks that abut their properties or are on their properties.

The City may plough either to the curb or to the center of the street and we recognize that at times either of these scenarios can create an inconvenience to residents. Unfortunately, we can't clear residential sidewalks, alleys and remove snow placed in your driveway entrance as it's just too costly and time



consuming to use additional people and equipment to perform this.

We try to keep a good balance between levels of service and expenditures by continually trying to improve our service with minimal or no increase in cost. If you have questions regarding our snow clearing efforts, please give us a call at 250-720-2840.