

The Gibsons Way

headlines from the Hall

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CONTACT US:



P: 604-886-2274
F: 604-886-9735



474 S. Fletcher Rd
Gibsons, BC



PO Box 340
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0



info@gibsons.ca



www.gibsons.ca

Public Input on Gibsons Pool Options

As part of the implementation of the Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the SCRD has been considering options to improve the current Gibsons Aquatic Facility, including repairs to the existing facility and/or constructing a new facility on the same site, or adjacent to, the Gibsons Community Centre (GACC). Council has advised the SCRD that the Town would entertain the addition of an aquatic facility to the GACC, provided that the SCRD has proven support for this option through consultation with the communities of Elphinstone, West Howe Sound, Gibsons and Roberts Creek.

While this consultation process is happening, as part of its 2014 budget process, various improvements/upgrades are expected to be conducted at the existing pool this year. For more information on the Gibsons Pool, please go to: www.scrd.ca/Gibsons-and-District-Aquatic-Facility

Residential Garbage Contract Award

Council awarded a new two year contract for the collection of curbside residential garbage to Direct Disposal Corp of Sechelt.

The new contract begins March 1st and will result in a \$33 per year increase to the existing garbage collection and disposal fee.

Sunshine Coast Housing Committee

The Year One review of the Sunshine Coast Housing Committee was presented to Council on February 4th, 2014.

To support the significant contributions the Committee has been making to support affordable housing on the Coast, Council moved to continue co-funding the Sunshine Coast Housing Committee as part of the budget 2014 preparations.

Water and Sewer Rates

Council is continuing the work begun in 2013, adjusting water rates to ensure financial sustainability. Water rates in 2014 will increase 10% (15% in 2013) and other adjustments to achieve rate equity will also be made.

Council also reviewed the work of consultant, JP Joly, with regards to long term funding of sewer infrastructure. The total replacement value of the sewer utility was \$37.5 million and includes 38.3 kms of sewer pipe. Council has made the decision to begin planning for future asset replacement and as such will raise sewer rates by 9% this year followed by incrementally smaller rates in future years.

Asset Management

Council has been asking:

What assets do we own? What condition are they in? When will they need to be replaced? How much will it cost?

Their goal is to ensure that we can manage our assets efficiently and effectively while collecting appropriate taxes and user rates to cover the costs. This has resulted in the adjustments noted above that will ensure we can responsibly operate, maintain and ultimately replace our water and sanitary infrastructure for now and in the future.

Community Energy Emissions Plan

Council is looking at ways to reduce Green House Gas emissions and save money for residents of Gibsons.

On February 4th, 2014, Council referred the Community Energy and Emissions Plan to the consultants of the OCP Update project for the purpose of assisting in setting a Green House Gas reduction target and to ensure the OCP update includes a number of initiatives aimed at reducing Green House Gas emissions.

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