

The Gibsons Way

headlines from the Hall

Volume 12 - March/April 2017



GIBSONS COUNCIL:

Mayor

- Wayne Rowe

Councillors

- Stafford Lumley
- Charlene SanJenko
- Jeremy Valeriote
- Silas White



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Message from Mayor Rowe

In backyards and on balconies all over town, Gibsons residents who planted bulbs last fall are enjoying the rewards of their efforts; after a stretch of rather dismal winter weather, the first spring flowers are a welcome sight, inspiring many to begin projects they could only plan, though not implement, during those long grey months.

Similarly, your Town maintains a list of priority projects, so we are well-positioned to maximize any 'seed funding' that comes our way. I'm pleased to advise you that recently, we received news of just such funding: two key projects, designed to improve our natural and engineered infrastructure, will receive funding from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, a joint program of the governments of Canada and British Columbia. The Town of Gibsons is very appreciative of these funds, which will enable us to plan the restoration of creeks and ponds that provide vital storm water services, and to replace aging water mains thereby increasing the resiliency of our water distribution system. Here are a few details of each project.

A grant of \$618,420 (Federal) and \$408,157 (Provincial) will provide 80% of the funding required for work within the Town's Water Infrastructure Renewal Program, allowing us to replace water mains identified as priorities because they have reached or exceeded their expected service lives. This will reduce the Town's risk of pipe failure, while improving capacity to address existing and future fire flow needs for Lower Gibsons. Council will examine these projects in the near future to determine the feasibility of incorporating road improvements in the areas where mains are being replaced, to maximize the benefits of this grant.

The second grant (\$150,000 Federal/\$99,000 Provincial) will enable progress on the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP), focused on protecting our Eco-Assets.

Rather than traditional engineered solutions such as pipes to deal with stormwater from future developments in Upper Gibsons, the Town is using a sequence of both natural assets and constructed assets. These include the use of neighbourhood ponds; the use of playing fields to help manage infrequent emergency storm events; the construction of a new Whitetower pond behind the municipal pool; increasing the capacity of existing ponds; and making improvements to Charman Creek that will enable the creek to carry away stormwater, while improving the environmental health of the creek. Other components of this grant include a management plan for Goosebird Creek; updates to the Town's environmental and geotechnical development permit areas; updates to our stormwater management bylaws; and community engagement, especially important in a town such as ours which treasures its environment.

These, and a number of other projects on our municipal agenda, guarantee that 2017 will be a busy year in Gibsons. I encourage you to stay informed on our progress by visiting the Town's website and Facebook page, as well as attending Council meetings and public information sessions.

J. Wayne Rowe, Mayor

More Details on the Water Infrastructure Renewal Grant

Total grant amount: \$1,236,840
Total water main replacement: 1.6 kms

This grant will fund water main replacement in the following areas:

- Gibsons Way between North Road and Hicks Lane
- N. Fletcher from Gibsons Way to School Road
- Gower Point Road from Winn Road to Aldersprings Road

Council will be examining these projects in the near future to determine if it is feasible to incorporate road improvements in these same areas to maximize the benefits of these grant funds.

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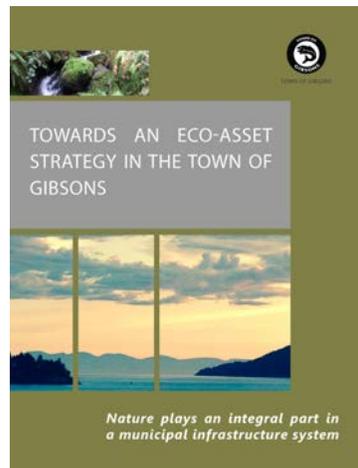
Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Grant

The ISMP Update and Implementation project focusses on Eco-Assets and includes seven project elements:

- ISMP update;
- Whitetower pond design;
- Brothers Park pond design;
- Charman Creek plan;
- Permitting updates;
- Goosebird Creek plan;
- Bylaw updates.

The ISMP Update will include engagement with residents regarding assets, levels-of-service and affordability.

The Town's 2008 ISMP is due to be updated. This document provides background for subdivision standards, replacement pipe sizes to deal with drainage, drainage policy updates. The ISMP will be based on current water quality and quantity objectives and will draw heavily on the Town's Eco-Asset Strategy.



Communities on the Move

At the April 18th Council meeting, Council endorsed the Communities on the Move Declaration, an initiative to create smart, fair and healthy transportation options for all BC communities. This BC Healthy Living Alliance initiative is guided by the following vision statement:

We envision that in 10 years, across BC – in communities small and large, it will be easy, safe and enjoyable to get around, whether by walking, biking, ride-sharing, by public transit or in a wheelchair. We want to see the provincial government making progressive investments that support active, connected and healthy communities.

By endorsing this declaration, Council is acknowledging that transportation is an integral part of the Town's Strategic Planning for the future.

Rather than relying on traditional engineered solutions (pipes) to deal with stormwater from future development in Upper Gibsons, the Town is looking at a chain of both natural assets and constructed assets that mimic natural features to address the Town's stormwater needs in Upper Gibsons.

This includes the use of neighbourhood ponds, the use of playing fields for infrequent emergency storm events, the construction of a new Whitetower pond behind the pool, increasing the capacity of the existing ponds and a plan for making improvements to Charman Creek that will enable the creek to convey stormwater while improving the environmental health of the creek.

Additional components of this grant project include a management plan for Goosebird Creek; updates to the Town's environmental and geotechnical (flooding) development permit areas; Stormwater Management bylaw updates; and community engagement.

Art and Play Garden

On March 21, 2017 Council approved a Licence to Occupy to Huckleberry Coast Daycare Society to develop and maintain an Art and Play Garden on the lands immediately to the south of the Arts Building located at 464 South Fletcher Road. Currently Huckleberry operates a Daycare in the Arts building from September through June each year for pre-school aged children.

The Society will develop and maintain the Art and Play Garden adjacent that features a quarry area with big seating stones, a sandy beach area that includes a sand play feature and, a dock area with pallets near a water tap. When not in use by the daycare, the Art and Play Garden will be available for public use. Keep an eye on that area as it unfolds this Spring.

