

The Gibsons Way

headlines from the Hall

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2014 Budget

Budget has been discussed throughout the last quarter. Council has determined the operational and Capital priorities for 2014 resulting in a 5.23% increase for the "average" residential property and a 6.8% increase for the "average" commercial property.

In recognition of our aging infrastructure and minimal reserves, a contribution to reserves for future asset replacement is included these increases.

Strategic Investment in Harbour

After contributing financially for many years to the maintenance and operation of wharfs and piers (Ports Function) located throughout the Coast, the Town, working cooperatively with its regional partners, who agreed to allow Gibsons to withdraw from that function, will be investing in improvements in the Gibsons harbour area.

The 2014 budget includes \$30,000 that will help fund environmental and engineering planning efforts for Phase 2 of the proposed harbour expansion plan. The work will be managed by the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority (GLHA).

Last year, GLHA successfully completed Phase 1 of the expansion by overseeing the design and installation of the drive-on float that supports commercial fishery and shipping and receiving of goods needed throughout the Coast.

IGNITE Gibsons

FUSE community Work Hub is coming to Gibsons for a seven-week enterprise accelerator class run by Simon Fraser University.

IGNITE 2014 is focused on the food and agricultural entrepreneurial spirit on the Coast. Classes will take place at the Gibsons Public Market where food related concepts will be developed. Those concepts are a cannery, a plant-based nutrition education centre, an artisan sorbet maker, a green grocer and a local food and farm tour and festival.

The Town of Gibsons supported the initiative by agreeing to receive the funds from granting organizations and by contributing funding through the Grant-in-Aid program. For more info visit: www.fuseworkhub.ca

Coast Car Co-op - Up & Running

As one of the success stories from the first IGNITE program, the Coast Car Co-op is successfully operating out of their new office in Gibsons.

The membership based, car share service provides 24/7 access to vehicles on an hourly basis, without the hassle and cost of ownership. The Town of Gibsons has partnered with the Co-op by becoming a member and providing parking space(s) for the Co-op cars.

The Town is also exploring the opportunity to recognize car co-op services as an alternate option for developers to meet their parking requirements under the Town's Development Services Bylaw. Visit www.coastcarco-op.ca for more info.

Building Bylaw Changes

Council approved changes to Town Building and Plumbing bylaws to:

- include Current climate data to inform architects and designers about items such as expected snow load and rainfall amounts
- eliminate sprinkler requirements for duplexes as the BC Building Code already addresses this issue
- increase the "value of construction" threshold that triggers the need for sprinklers in existing buildings to ensure that small construction projects, with a value of less than \$ 100,000, would not be burdened with the additional cost of sprinklers, and
- update application fees to reflect the current cost of providing building inspection services

Bliss Café Improvements

Council approved a Development Permit for the expansion of the Bliss Café in the Bank of Montreal building on Gibsons Way/Mahon Road.

The addition will increase indoor seating to accommodate the clientele of the café and maintain the look and feel of the existing building and the new building currently under construction.

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