

The Gibsons Way

headlines from the Hall

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In this issue:

- Gibsons Landing Harbour
- George Hotel Application
- 2014 AVICC Convention
- 2014 Grants of Assistance

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- Gerry Tretick

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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.

George Hotel Application

The Town is following a rigorous review process of The George proposal. On April 1st, Council endorsed the form and character of the proposal and requested a zoning amendment bylaw be drafted.

Also, Council is awaiting the following information:

- An independent review of the proposal's geotechnical investigation by a geotechnical engineer selected by the Town, and a hydrogeological review of the proposal by Waterline Resources, the cost of which is to be covered by the applicant
- A report on the economic benefits for the Town of the proposed development, followed by a Special Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to consider the economic impacts and viability of project
- A report on the provision of affordable housing and community amenities as required for rezoning applications for higher density

We anticipate further reports will become available this summer.

Nature in Municipal Infrastructure - 2014 AVICC

Town staff was invited to present at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention on April 12th, 2014. The Town of Gibsons has recognized, formally and in practice, that nature and the ecosystems services that it provides are a fundamental and integral part of the Town's infrastructure system.

The Town is blessed with valuable natural assets such as the Gibsons Aquifer; three major creeks that are a major part of the rainwater management system; and a foreshore area, still mostly natural that protects the area from sea activity. Other natural assets include forested areas, green space and soil.

Natural assets are considered cheaper to operate; can last indefinitely if properly managed; are carbon neutral, and in some cases can be carbon positive.

Gibsons is also creating sub-categories in asset lists and financial statements to include Eco-Assets and implementing a strategy to manage these assets specifically.

Ultimately, the Town's goal is to move from simply maintaining infrastructure to a service delivery model, where those services are delivered by the smallest number, the most natural, most energy-efficient, and the most reliable municipal assets, that cost the least to operate over the long term.

2014 Grants of Assistance

At their April Council meeting, Council awarded \$14,800 in grants to 18 organizations that had applied for funding under the Town's Grant of Assistance policy.

The remaining 25% of available grant funding (\$5,200) will be distributed for applications received by September 15th.

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